MATCH PRESS KITS

Spain

Stadio Città del Tricolore - Reggio Emilia
Thursday 27 June 2019
21.00CET (21.00 local time)
Matchday 4 - Semi-finals

Last updated 26/06/2019 03:45CET

Match background

Legend
Match background

While Spain have been regular participants in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship semi-finals in recent years, France are in the last four for the first time since 2006.

- Four-time champions Spain recovered from an opening 3-1 defeat by Italy to finish top of Group A on three-way head-to-head records thanks to wins against Belgium (2-1) and Poland (5-0). France won their opening two matches, defeating England 2-1 and Croatia 1-0, but had to settle for second place in Group C, and a place in the semi-finals as the best runners-up overall, after a goalless draw against section winners Romania on matchday three.

Previous meetings

- This is the sides’ eighth European U21 Championship meeting – and a first in almost 18 years – with Spain having won four of the previous seven to France’s single victory. That sole French success did come in the most recent fixture, however, a 3-0 triumph in Brest in September 2001 with Djibril Cissé opening the scoring.

- The game in Spain, in March 2001, had ended 1-1. France went on to reach the 2002 final tournament, eventually finishing runners-up to the Czech Republic; Spain failed to qualify.

- Spain had come out on top in the 1994 third-place play-off between the sides, Óscar García scoring both goals in a 2-1 win after Pascal Nourna had put France in front.

- That result continued Spain’s fine form in matches against France. They had recorded a win (1-0 away) and a draw (0-0 home) in qualifying for the 1992 finals and won 3-1 both away and home in the 1986 quarter-finals as they went on to lift the trophy for the first time, Txiki Begiristain scoring in both legs.

- Recent friendlies between the sides have proved more even, Spain winning 2-0 in Benidorm in February 2008 before a 3-2 France success in Reims in March 2011. A friendly in Caen last autumn ended in a 1-1 draw, Mikel Oyarzabal’s penalty giving the visitors a tenth-minute lead after Moussa Niakhate had fouled Alfonso Pedraza. Jean-Philippe Mateta was set up by Dayot Upamecano for a 79th-minute equaliser.

- The teams at the Stade Michel-D’Ornano on 19 November 2018 were:
  **France**: Bernardoni, Ballo-Touré, Niakhate, Upamecano, Mukiele (Amian 78), Tousart, Sissoko (Guendouzi 63), Reine-Adélaïde (Ikoné 72), Terrier (Mateta 63), Saint-Maximin (Coco 79), Bamba.
  **Spain**: Unai Simón, Jorge Meré, Angeliño (Rafa Mir 76), Unai Núñez, Palencia, Jorge Sáenz, Fabián Ruiz (J Pozo 90), Oyarzabal (Cheikh Diop 77), Pedraza (Olmo 62), Soler (Fernández 90), Mayoral (Aarón Martín 78).

- Malang Sarr was in the France side that beat Spain 4-2 in the European U19 Championship elite round on 27 March 2018.

- Lucas Tousart, Moussa Dembélé and Marcus Thuram were all second-half substitutes in the France side that lost 2-0 to Spain in the 2015 U19 EURO semi-final. Antonio Sivera, Aarón Martín, Jorge Meré, Jesús Vallejo, Mikel Merino, Dani Ceballos, Borja Mayoral and Pedraza were in the Spain line-up.

- Jonathan Ikoné set up France’s equaliser in a 1-1 U17 elite round draw against Spain in March 2015; Upamecano also featured for France with Dani Olmo in the Spanish side. Jeff Reine-Adélaide was an unused France replacement.

- Olivier Ntcham and Dembélé were second-half substitutes as France beat Spain 3-2 in a U17 elite round game in March 2013.

Form guide

**Spain**

- Spain are in the semi-finals for the ninth time – and the fourth in the last five editions of the competition. Their record is W7 L1, with victories in the last five:
  - 1984 Yugoslavia W 3-0 aggregate (1-0 away, 2-0 home)
  - 1986 Hungary W 5-4 aggregate (1-3 away, 4-1 aet home)
  - 1994 Portugal L 0-2
  - 1996 Scotland W 2-1
  - 1998 Norway W 1-0 (aet)
  - 2011 Belarus W 3-1 (aet)
  - 2013 Norway W 3-0
  - 2017 Italy W 3-1

- This is Spain’s seventh appearance in the U21 final tournament since 1998, and a fifth in the competition’s last six editions. They have only failed to get past the group stage once in those seven participations, in 2009, and have reached the final in each of their last three, lifting the trophy in 2011 and 2013.

- Spain were also champions in 1986, and runners-up in 1984 and 1996.
• This time Spain qualified by finishing top of Group 2, winning nine of their ten qualifying fixtures with 31 goals scored and ten conceded.

• Defeat by Germany in the 2017 final ended Spain's ten-match unbeaten run in competitive U21 matches (W7 D3); the opening loss to Italy at these finals was only their third in their last 24 European U21 Championship games (W18 D3), the other in qualification at home to Northern Ireland on 11 September 2018 (1-2).

• Spain have won 16 of their last 19 matches at the final tournament (D1 L2); the matchday one defeat by Italy was their first in the group stage since a 2-0 reverse to England on 18 June 2009.

• The 5-0 defeat of Poland on matchday three equalled Spain's biggest win in the U21 final tournament, and was the fourth time in their last ten matches, qualifying included, they had scored five or more goals.

• Coach Luis de la Fuente, who succeeded Albert Celades in July 2018, led Spain to the 2015 UEFA European Under-19 Championship title in Greece with a squad including Sivera, Simón, Meré, Merino, Pedraza, Ceballos and Mayoral.

France
• This is France's sixth U21 semi-final, with their record W2 L3:
  1988 England W 6-4 aggregate (4-2 home, 2-2 away)
  1994 Italy L 0-0 (3-5 pens)
  1996 Italy L 0-1
  2002 Switzerland W 2-0
  2006 Netherlands L 2-3 (aet)

• That 2006 defeat by eventual champions the Netherlands was France's most recent appearance in the final tournament before 2019. This is just their third appearance in an eight or 12-team finals; they finished as runners-up on the other occasion, in 2002.

• Champions in 1988, France finished third in 1996 and fourth two years earlier, also reaching the quarter-finals in 1982, 1984 and 1986.


• This time round, Sylvain Ripoll’s team won their first nine fixtures, drawing the last 1-1 at home to Slovenia, to win qualifying Group 9 by 12 points. They qualified with two games to spare, their final tally of 28 points the highest recorded by any team.

• The draw with Slovenia ended France’s 11-match winning run in competitive internationals, going back to a 1-0 loss in Ukraine in September 2016. That is France’s sole defeat in their last 22 European U21 Championship matches (W17 D4).

• The matchday three draw against Romania was the first group game in the U21 finals France had failed to win; they recorded three victories in both 2002 and 2006 before their two successes at this tournament.

• Upamecano, Reine-Adélaïde and Ikoné were all in the France squad that won 2015 U17 EURO.

• Paul Bernardoni, Tousart and Thuram were all members of France's 2016 European U19 Championship-winning squad, Tousart scoring in the 4-0 final victory against Italy.

Links and trivia
• By reaching the semi-finals, France have qualified for the 2020 Olympic Games – their 13th appearance in the tournament, and the first since 1996. They were gold medalists in 1984.

• Spain will be appearing in their 11th Olympics next summer; they won the gold medal at the Barcelona Games in 1992.

• Aarón Martín has been a Mainz team-mate of Mateta and Niakhate since August 2018.
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Legend

:: Squad list
No: number  DoB: date of birth  Qual: qualifying  FT: final tournament  Pld: played  Gls: goals  Overall U21: all-time qualifying and final tournament data

:: Match officials
Nat: nationality  DoB: date of birth

Under-21: Total matches officiated in the UEFA European U21 Championship including all qualifying round matches. Matches as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in all UEFA competitions including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

:: Group statistics/Tournament schedule

:: NOTE: All-time statistics
Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out.

Competitions

Club competitions

UCL: UEFA Champions League
ECC: European Champion Clubs' Cup
UEL: UEFA Europa League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UIF: UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup
CONFCUP: FIFA Confederations Cup
FRIE: Friendly internationals
U21FRIE: Under-21 friendly internationals
U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship
U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship
U16: UEFA European Under-16 Championship
U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship
U18: UEFA European Under-18 Championship
WWC: FIFA Women's World Cup
WEURO: UEFA European Women's Championship

Competition stages

F: Final  GS: Group stage  (aet): After extra time
GS1: First group stage  GS2: Second group stage  pens: Penalties
3QR: Third qualifying round  R1: First round  og: Own goal
R2: Second round  R3: Third round  P: Penalty
R4: Fourth round  PR: Preliminary round  agg: Aggregate
R16: Round of 16  QR: Qualifying round  AP: Appearances
R32: Round of 32  1QR: First qualifying round  Comp.: Competition
1st: first leg  2QR: Second qualifying round  D: Drawn
2nd: second leg  FT: Final tournament  DoB: Date of birth
PO: Play-off  ELITE: Elite round  ET: Extra Time
Rep: Replay  3rdPO: Third-place play-off  GA: Goals against
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament  GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
G: Goals for  gg: Match decided by golden goal
W: Won  L: Lost
Y: Booked  Nat.: Nationality
R: Sent off (straight red card)  N/A: Not applicable
D: Drawn  Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
Spain - France
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Statistics

-: Denotes player substituted
*: Denotes player sent off
+: Denotes player introduced
+/ -: Denotes player introduced and substituted

Squad list

D: Disciplinary
*: Misses next match if booked
S: Suspended

Overall: Total appearances in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament only

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