

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2016/18 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Switzerland

Stade de Genève - Geneva

Saturday 25 March 2017
18.00CET (18.00 local time)

Group B - Matchday 5



Latvia

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS



Head coach

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Legend

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Head coach

Vladimir Petković

Date of birth: 15 August 1963

Nationality: Swiss

Playing career: FK Sarajevo (twice), FK Rudar Ljubija, FC Koper, FC Chur 97 (twice), FC Sion, FC Martigny-Sports, AC Bellinzona (twice), FC Locarno

Coaching career: AC Bellinzona (twice), FC Malcantone Agno, AC Lugano, BSC Young Boys, Samsunspor, FC Sion, SS Lazio, Switzerland

- Started his career in midfield with Sarajevo, losing in the 1983 Yugoslavian Cup final but featuring twice as his team took the 1984/85 league title, the only major honour of his playing days. Moved to Switzerland in 1987, playing for second-tier Chur and then ascending to the top flight with Sion in 1988/89; returned to the second division to represent Martigny, Bellinzona and Locarno.
- Petković hung up his boots in 1999, aged 36, following a season as player-coach at Bellinzona. Then led Malcantone Agno to promotion from the third division in 2002/03 before becoming the first coach of AC Lugano – successors to FC Lugano.
- Rejoined Bellinzona in October 2005, steering them to the 2007/08 Swiss Cup final, where they lost 4-1 to FC Basel 1893, but consolation came two weeks later as victory in a relegation/promotion play-off against FC St Gallen gave Bellinzona a Super League berth.
- Was appointed Young Boys coach in August 2008, guiding them to second-placed finishes in his first two campaigns in charge as well the 2008/09 Swiss Cup final. After short spells in charge of Turkey's Samsunspor and Sion back in Switzerland, was named Lazio coach in June 2012 and won the Coppa Italia in his first term in Italy, also helping the side to seventh position in the final standings.
- Left in January 2014 after being anointed Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld's successor, taking the reins after the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Promptly guided his charges to UEFA EURO 2016, where they lost to Poland in the last 16.

Marians Pahars

Date of birth: 5 August 1976

Nationality: Latvian

Playing career: FK Pārdaugava, Skonto Metall FC, Skonto FC (twice), Southampton FC, Anorthosis Famagusta FC, FC Jūrmala

Coaching career: Skonto FC, Latvia Under-21s, Latvia

- Born in the village of Chornobai in central Ukraine, he moved to Latvia – his parents' homeland – while young and undertook his football education in Riga before making his senior debut at Skonto in 1995. He won the league title in each of his first four seasons, and the double in three of them.
- Transferred to English Premier League outfit Southampton in 1999, where the diminutive forward became a firm fans' favourite. Known as the 'Latvian Owen' after England striker Michael Owen, he spent seven successful years with the Saints, despite a succession of injuries.
- After a year with Anorthosis, lifting the Cypriot Cup, Pahars returned to Latvia and Skonto, ending his career at Jūrmala in 2009. He accepted a role as assistant to Aleksandrs Starkovs at Skonto the following year.
- Skonto claimed the 2010 championship and Pahars replaced Starkovs at the helm the next year. His first term in the hot seat brought the Latvian Cup and a runners-up finish in the First Division, though Pahars soon left as Skonto were suffering off-the-pitch problems.
- Pahars was out of football for just two months before taking charge of Latvia's U21 side. His tenure lasted a solitary game as Starkovs' unexpected decision to step down as senior team boss in summer 2013 prompted the younger man's immediate promotion on a contract until 2018.

Legend

Competitions

Club competitions

UCL: UEFA Champions League
ECCC: European Champion Clubs' Cup
UEL: UEFA Europa League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UIC: 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

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
L: Lost
Nat.: Nationality

pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
Pld: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
Y: Booked
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
N/A: Not applicable

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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