

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2016/18 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Italy

Renzo Barbera - Palermo

Friday 24 March 2017
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group G - Matchday 5



Albania

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS



Head coach

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Head coach

Gian Piero Ventura

Date of birth: 14 January 1948

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: FS Sestrese Calcio, USD Enna, SSDU Sanremo, USD Novese

Coaching career: UC Sampdoria (youth), ASD Albenga, ACD Rapallo Ruentes, Virtus Entella, Spezia Calcio, US Centese, US Pistoiese, ASD Giarre Calcio, Venezia FC, US Lecce, Cagliari Calcio (twice), UC Sampdoria, Udinese calcio, SSC Napoli, ACR Messina, Hellas-Verona FC, AC Pisa, FC Bari, Torino FC, Italy

- Born in Genoa, Ventura started his playing and coaching careers in the youth system of Sampdoria. As a midfielder he made nine appearances for Sicilian outfit Enna in Serie C, the highest level he played at.
- Began coaching in the Sampdoria academy in 1976 and worked for several teams in the lower divisions before finally making his Serie A debut more than two decades later after leading Cagliari to promotion in 1998. He had done the same the previous season with Lecce, only to be replaced by Cesare Prandelli before the campaign started.
- He continued to move between posts in Serie A and Serie B, but his stock rose considerably after he replaced Antonio Conte at Bari ahead of the 2009/10 season. Ventura guided Bari to tenth place with a club record 50 points in Serie A, drawing twice against José Mourinho's FC Internazionale Milano and defeating Juventus 3-1.
- In 2011 he accepted the call from Torino, then in Serie B. "I could take a mid-table team in Serie A but trying to take Torino back to Serie A is the real libido," he famously said. He not only achieved that but also led the Granata into Europe. Under Ventura, Torino reached the UEFA Europa League round of 16 in 2014/15 after a memorable 3-2 win at Athletic Club.
- After becoming the trainer with most consecutive games on the Torino bench (217), third overall behind Luigi Radice and Emiliano Mondonico, Ventura was announced as Conte's successor as Italy coach in June 2016.

Gianni De Biasi

Date of birth: 16 June 1956

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: Treviso FC, FC Internazionale Milano, AC Reggiana 1919, Pescara Calcio, Brescia Calcio, US Città di Palermo, Vicenza Calcio, Bassano Virtus 55 ST

Coaching career: FC Pro Vasto, Carpi FC 1909, Cosenza Calcio, SPAL 1907, Modena FC, Brescia Calcio, Torino FC (three times), Levante UD, Udinese Calcio, Albania

- Served apprenticeship as an academy coach and on the lower rungs of the Italian football ladder before making his name overseeing back-to-back promotions at Modena – guiding them from the third division to Serie A in 2002. It ended a 38-year absence from the top flight.
- Helped Modena survive first season among the elite before moving to Brescia, where he stayed two years before embarking on a tumultuous spell at Torino in 2005.
- Arrived with Torino picking up the pieces after bankruptcy and exceeded expectations by steering them back to Serie A in his first campaign, only to be replaced by Alberto Zaccheroni three days before the start of the next term. He was reappointed within seven months, leading the Granata to safety.
- Spent 2007/08 at Levante, winning plaudits despite relegation, then returned for a third stint at Torino with five games of the season remaining and saved them from relegation again. Sacked that December, he had a two-month reign at Udinese in 2009/10 before finding more constancy as Albania boss.
- A one-time midfielder with a handful of top-flight playing campaigns under his belt, De Biasi was installed in December 2011 as successor to Josip Kuže. He signed a new deal running until the end of UEFA EURO 2016 qualifying in November 2013, and promptly led the team to the finals for the first time, Albania only narrowly missing out on the last 16 in France after a memorable win against Romania in their final game.

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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