

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2016/18 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Albania

Elbasan Arena - Elbasan

Saturday 2 September 2017
18.00CET (18.00 local time)

Group G - Matchday 7



Liechtenstein

Last updated 05/09/2017 13:34CET

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
06/10/2016	QR (GS)	Liechtenstein - Albania	0-2	Vaduz	Jehle 12 (og), Balaj 71

	Qualifying								Final tournament				Total					
	Home				Away													
	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Total																		
Albania	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	2	2	0	0	4	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	2	0	4

Squad list

Albania

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
-	Alban Hoxha	23/11/1987	29	Partizani	-	1	0	0	0		
-	Etrit Berisha	01/03/1989	28	Atalanta	-	4	0	0	0		
-	Thoma Strakosha	19/03/1995	22	Lazio	-	2	0	0	0		
Defenders											
-	Ansi Agolli	11/10/1982	34	Qarabağ	-	4	0	0	0		
-	Andi Lila	12/02/1986	31	Giannina	*	4	0	0	0		
-	Frédéric Veseli	20/11/1992	24	Empoli	*	2	0	0	0		
-	Mërgim Mavraj	09/06/1986	31	Hamburg	*	5	0	0	0		
-	Arlind Ajeti	25/09/1993	23	Crotone	-	1	0	0	0		
-	Elseid Hysaj	02/02/1994	23	Napoli	-	6	0	0	0		
-	Berat Xhimshiti	19/02/1993	24	Benevento	*	5	0	0	0		
-	Iván Balliu	01/01/1992	25	Metz	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Azdren Llullaku	15/02/1988	29	Tobol	*	2	0	0	0		
-	Hysen Memolla	03/07/1992	25	Hajduk Split	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
-	Jahmir Hyka	08/03/1988	29	San Jose Earthquakes	*	4	0	0	0		
-	Migjen Basha	05/01/1987	30	Bari 1908	-	3	0	0	0		
-	Odise Roshi	22/05/1991	26	Akhmat	*	6	0	0	0		
-	Amir Abrashi	27/03/1990	27	Freiburg	-	3	0	0	0		
-	Burim Kukeli	16/01/1984	33	Sion	*	5	0	0	0		
-	Ledian Memushaj	07/12/1986	30	Pescara	*	5	1	0	0		
-	Valon Ahmedi	07/10/1994	22	Maribor	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Liridon Latifi	06/02/1994	23	Puskás Akadémia	-	1	0	0	0		
Forwards											
-	Armando Sadiku	27/05/1991	26	Legia	-	3	3	0	0		
-	Eros Grezda	15/04/1995	22	Osijek	-	1	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Christian Panuci	12/04/1973	44		-	0	0	0	0		

Liechtenstein

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
-	Peter Jehle	22/01/1982	35	Vaduz	*	6	0	0	0		
-	Claudio Majer	23/03/1996	21	Balzers	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Thomas Hobi	20/06/1993	24	Balzers	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
-	Franz Burgmeier	07/04/1982	35	Vaduz	*	6	0	0	0		
-	Daniel Kaufmann	22/12/1990	26	Vaduz	-	4	0	0	0		
-	Daniel Brändle	23/01/1992	25	Balzers	-	2	0	0	0		
-	Seyhan Yildiz	30/04/1989	28	Balzers	*	1	0	0	0		
-	Ivan Quintans	15/10/1989	27	Eschen/Mauren	-	1	0	0	0		
-	Max Göppel	31/08/1997	20	Vaduz	*	5	1	0	0		
-	Andreas Malin	31/01/1994	23	FC Dornbirn 1913	-	2	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
-	Martin Büchel	19/02/1987	30	Unterföhring	-	5	0	0	0		
-	Mathias Sele	28/05/1992	25	Eschen/Mauren	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Nicolas Hasler	04/05/1991	26	Toronto FC	*	5	0	0	0		
-	Sandro Wolfinger	24/08/1991	26	BCF Wolfratshausen	-	3	0	0	0		
-	Sandro Wieser	03/02/1993	24	Reading	-	4	0	0	0		
-	Aron Sele	02/09/1996	20	Balzers	-	1	0	0	0		
-	Fabio Wolfinger	11/05/1996	21	Langenthal	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Dennis Salanovic	26/02/1996	21	Rapperswil-Jona	-	6	0	0	0		
-	Livio Meier	10/01/1998	19	Balzers	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Jens Hofer	01/10/1997	19	Dudingen	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
-	Philippe Erne	14/12/1986	30	Balzers	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Luca Ritter	29/10/1997	19	Eschen/Mauren	-	0	0	0	0		
-	Yanik Frick	27/05/1998	19	Perugia	*	4	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	René Pauritsch	04/02/1964	53		-	6	0	0	0		

Head coach

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.

René Pauritsch

Date of birth: 4 February 1964

Nationality: Austrian

Playing career: ASK Voitsberg, Grazer AK (twice), Donawitzer SV Leoben, Red-White Rankweil, SV Frohnleiten

Coaching career: USV Eschen/Mauren, AKA Vorarlberg, SC Austria Lustenau (assistant), Liechtenstein (youth), Liechtenstein

- Enjoyed a modest playing career, making a total of 35 Austrian Bundesliga appearances for Graz and Leoben in addition to spending time in the lower leagues with Voitsberg, Rankweil and Frohnleiten.
- His sole top-flight goal was a decisive one – the winner for Leoben in a 2-1 victory against Kremser SC on 3 November 1990.
- Began coaching at Eschen/Mauren before returning home to Austria to lead Vorarlberg and, subsequently, work as assistant at second-tier Austria Lustenau under Heinz Fuchsbichler.
- Took charge of Liechtenstein's youth teams in 2008, eventually stepping up to succeed Hans-Peter Zaugg at the helm of the senior national side in late 2012.
- Enjoyed some early success in his new role, guiding Liechtenstein to 1-1 home draws against Latvia and Slovakia in his first two competitive fixtures.

Match officials

Referee	Sergei Lapochkin (RUS)
Assistant referees	Aleksei Lebedev (RUS) , Aleksei Lunev (RUS)
Fourth official	Mikhail Vilkov (RUS)
FIFA Match Commissioner	Sergei Ilyich (BLR)
Referee observer	Ioannis Tsachilidis (GRE)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Sergei Lapochkin	28/04/1981	0	22

FIFA World Cup matches involving teams from the two countries involved in this match

No such matches refereed

Other matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Competition	Stage reached	Home	Away	Result	Venue
14/11/2014	U19	QR	Albania	Portugal	1-4	Parchal

Competition facts

The Week of Football concept enables fans around the world to enjoy the very best action from the European Qualifiers – which will determine UEFA's representatives at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup comprises nine groups of six teams, with matches played on a home-and-away basis.

Qualifying takes place under the 'Week of Football' concept, introduced ahead of the UEFA EURO 2016 qualifying campaign, in which games are spread out from Thursday to Tuesday, shining the spotlight on more teams on the road to the finals in Russia. Moreover, thanks to the Week of Football, at least 43% of matches will be played on weekends, giving fans a better chance to follow the action on television, in the stadiums and on UEFA.com.

Kick-off times will be set mainly at 18:00CET and 20:45CET on Saturdays and Sundays and at 20:45CET for Thursdays, Fridays, Mondays and Tuesdays. In double-header matchweeks, sides will play on Thursday/Sunday, Friday/Monday or Saturday/Tuesday. Each day of the Week of Football will feature eight to ten games.

The nine group winners will qualify directly for the final tournament. The eight best runners-up will contest play-offs to decide the last four qualifiers for the finals.

The 13 qualifiers then join hosts Russia in the finals to make it 14 UEFA member associations represented.

How qualification works

The other confederations have the following qualifying berths:

Africa: 5

Asia: 4.5

North and Central America and Caribbean: 3.5

Oceania: 0.5

South America: 4.5

Match-by-match lineups

Albania

FIFA World Cup - Qualifying round

Group G

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	6	5	1	0	21	3	16
Italy	6	5	1	0	18	4	16
Albania	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
Israel	6	3	0	3	9	12	9
FYR Macedonia	6	1	0	5	8	13	3
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	1	24	0

Matchday 1 (06/09/2016)

Albania 2-1 FYR Macedonia

Goals: 1-0 Sadiku 9, 1-1 Alioski 51, 2-1 Balaj 89

Albania: Berisha, Hysaj, Xhimshiti, Agolli, Sadiku, Gashi (60 Memushaj), Kukeli, Xhaka, Mavraj, Hyka (67 Roshi), Abrashi (60 Balaj)

Matchday 2 (06/10/2016)

Liechtenstein 0-2 Albania

Goals: 0-1 Jehle 12 (og), 0-2 Balaj 71

Albania: Berisha, Hysaj, Xhimshiti, Llullaku (69 Çikalleshi), Kukeli (44 Basha), Mavraj, Aliji, Hyka, Balaj, Roshi, Abrashi (46 Lila)

Matchday 3 (09/10/2016)

Albania 0-2 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Diego Costa 55, 0-2 Nolito 63

Albania: Berisha, Lila, Lenjani (46 Aliji), Hysaj, Xhimshiti, Agolli, Memushaj (68 Basha), Xhaka (75 Hyka), Mavraj, Balaj, Roshi

Matchday 4 (12/11/2016)

Albania 0-3 Israel

Goals: 0-1 Zahavi 18 (P), 0-2 Einbinder 66, 0-3 Atar 83

Albania: Berisha, Hysaj (79 Çani), Xhimshiti, Agolli, Memushaj, Llullaku (57 Hoxha), Kukeli, Xhaka (82 Manaj), Mavraj, Balaj, Roshi

Matchday 5 (24/03/2017)

Italy 2-0 Albania

Goals: 1-0 De Rossi 12 (P), 2-0 Immobile 80

Albania: Strakosha, Lila (77 Sadiku), Hysaj, Veseli, Agolli, Basha (96 Latifi), Memushaj, Kukeli, Çikalleshi, Arlind Ajeti, Roshi (87 Grezda)

Matchday 6 (11/06/2017)

Israel 0-3 Albania

Goals: 0-1 Sadiku 22, 0-2 Sadiku 44, 0-3 Memushaj 71

Albania: Strakosha, Hysaj, Xhimshiti, Memushaj, Sadiku (70 Çikalleshi), Kukeli (82 Veseli), Hyka, Mavraj, Aliji, Roshi (53 Lila), Abrashi

Matchday 7 (02/09/2017)

Albania-Liechtenstein

Matchday 8 (05/09/2017)

FYR Macedonia-Albania

Matchday 9 (06/10/2017)

Spain-Albania

Matchday 10 (09/10/2017)

Albania-Italy

Liechtenstein

FIFA World Cup - Qualifying round

Matchday 1 (05/09/2016)

Spain 8-0 Liechtenstein

Goals: 1-0 Diego Costa 10, 2-0 Sergi Roberto 55, 3-0 Silva 59, 4-0 Vitolo 60, 5-0 Diego Costa 66, 6-0 Morata 82, 7-0 Morata 83, 8-0 Silva 90+1

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Göppel, Kaufmann, Rechsteiner (71 Yildiz), Büchel, Wieser, Burgmeier, M. Büchel (83 Gubser), Hasler, Salanovic (77 Wolfinger), Polverino

Matchday 2 (06/10/2016)

Liechtenstein 0-2 Albania

Goals: 0-1 Jehle 12 (og) , 0-2 Balaj 71

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Göppel, Kaufmann, Büchel, Wieser, Burgmeier, Oehri, Gubser (59 Frick), Hasler, Salanovic (73 Kühne), Polverino (46 Rechsteiner)

Matchday 3 (09/10/2016)

Israel 2-1 Liechtenstein

Goals: 1-0 Hemed 4, 2-0 Hemed 16, 2-1 Göppel 49

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Göppel, Kaufmann, Rechsteiner, Büchel (88 Salanovic), A. Christen, Wieser, Burgmeier (81 Kühne), M. Büchel, Gubser (75 Frick), Hasler

Matchday 4 (12/11/2016)

Liechtenstein 0-4 Italy

Goals: 0-1 Belotti 11, 0-2 Immobile 12, 0-3 Candreva 32, 0-4 Belotti 44

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Kaufmann, Rechsteiner, Büchel, A. Christen, Wieser, Burgmeier, M. Büchel, Oehri, Salanovic, Polverino

Matchday 5 (24/03/2017)

Liechtenstein 0-3 FYR Macedonia

Goals: 0-1 Nikolov 43, 0-2 Nestorovski 68, 0-3 Nestorovski 73

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Göppel, Malin, Rechsteiner (78 Wolfinger), Büchel, Burgmeier, M. Büchel (83 Sele), Gubser, Hasler, Salanovic (87 Brändle), Frick

Matchday 6 (11/06/2017)

Italy 5-0 Liechtenstein

Goals: 1-0 Insigne 35, 2-0 Belotti 52, 3-0 Éder 74, 4-0 Bernardeschi 83, 5-0 Gabbiadini 90+1

Liechtenstein: Jehle, Göppel, Rechsteiner, Burgmeier (68 Wolfinger), M. Büchel, Malin, Gubser, Hasler, Salanovic (59 Brändle), Frick, Polverino (87 Quintans)

Matchday 7 (02/09/2017)

Albania-Liechtenstein

Matchday 8 (05/09/2017)

Liechtenstein-Spain

Matchday 9 (06/10/2017)

Liechtenstein-Israel

Matchday 10 (09/10/2017)

FYR Macedonia-Liechtenstein

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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