

Welcome to Göteborg and the draw for the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship in Sweden!



An extra warm welcome – and congratulations – to the seven countries who made it through the play-offs: Belarus, England, Finland, Germany, Italy, Serbia and Spain. Qualifying for the UEFA Under-21 Championship is one of the most difficult tasks in the world of sport. Winning a qualifying group is not enough – you also have to eliminate one more opponent in a two-legged affair, home and away, in order to make it through.

The play-off matches were full of drama, and all were very tight and tough encounters. Finland qualified after penalty kicks, Spain needed a goal in extra time, while Germany secured their spot in the dying seconds of the return leg!

The evenly contested matches were proof of the high standard of European top-level football today. Standards have been raised considerably, making competition intense – which is good for the quality of the game. This makes the finals in Sweden next summer extremely interesting. All eight participating nations have players of the highest European calibre.

194 days remain until the first match of the 2009 UEFA Under-21 Championship in Sweden. Preparations are well under way, and expectations are high in our host cities Göteborg, Halmstad, Helsingborg and Malmö.

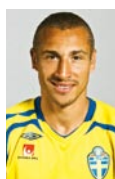
This evening will decide in which host cities, and also when, the different teams will play – we wish all of you the Best of Luck!



Björn Ahlberg
*Chairman, Org. Committee
Swedish FA*



Karl-Erik Nilsson
*Tournament director
Swedish FA*



Ambassador Henrik Larsson:
“Sweden is at its most beautiful in June”

The ambassador for the UEFA Under-21 Championship – Henrik Larsson – made his Under-21 debut for Sweden on 5 May 1992. Sweden played Poland in Nyköping, winning 2–0.

“That was more than sixteen years ago, but I still remember it. Wearing the national team jersey and facing the best opposition is a big thing for all players. I don’t think it’s any different today. All players coming to Sweden in the summer are established and successful players, so it’s going to be a very exciting tournament to follow. Our guests will be coming to Sweden at its most beautiful, around Midsummer. The pitches will be in perfect condition – so welcome here!”



*From left to right:
Gabriel Agbonlahor, England,
Mario Balotelli,
Italy and Bojan
Krkić, Spain.*

We hope to see them in Sweden next summer!



Photos: Bildbyrå





Play-off results and the seven victorious teams

Fourteen of Europe's best teams faced off in a two-legged play-off, aiming to take one of the places at the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship. These are the teams that successfully contested the play-offs, and reactions from the seven sides involved.

Austria–Finland	3–3 (2–1, 1–2) Finland through after penalties
Turkey–Belarus	1–2 (1–0, 0–2)
Wales–England	4–5 (2–3, 2–2)
Germany–France	2–1 (1–1, 1–0)
Switzerland–Spain	3–4 (2–1, 1–3 – after extra time)
Italy–Israel	3–1 (0–0, 3–1)

BELARUS



Igor Shitov, right-back, Belarus:
A feeling of indescribable happiness! I have no words to describe what has happened. It was very difficult in the first game but we believed in success until the end."

1 Pavel Chesnovski	FC Vitebsk
2 Nikolai Osipovich	FC MTZ-RIPO Minsk
4 Igor Shitov	FC Torpedo Zhodino
3 Aleksandr Martynovich	FC Dinamo Minsk
5 Aleksei Yanushkevich	FC Torpedo Zhodino
14 Aleksandr Volodko	FC BATE Borisov
6 Sergei Gigevich	FC Dinamo Minsk
9 Sergei Kryvets	FC BATE Borisov
18 Andrei Chukhlei	FC Dinamo Minsk
15 Mikhail Sivakov	FC BATE Borisov
10 Dmitri Komarovski	FC Naftan Novopolotsk
Substitutes	
22 Artyom Gmelko	FC Lokomotiv Moskva
16 Aleksandr Sachivko	FC Minsk
13 Igor Maltsev	FC MTZ-RIPO Minsk
11 Mikhail Afanasiev	FC Amkar Perm
7 Vladimir Yurchenko	FC Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast
8 Aleksei Kuchuk	FC Kuban Krasnodar
17 Alexander Gavriushko	FC Dnepr Mogilev

Coach Yuri Kurnenin

ENGLAND



Stuart Pearce, coach, England:
I don't think from a mental or physical standpoint another team in Europe will give us the problems the Welsh did over two legs. I'm very, very proud of my team. They keep setting benchmarks for each other and it's an honour to work alongside them."

1 Joe Hart	Manchester City FC
2 David Wheeler	Middlesbrough FC
6 Michael Mancienne	Chelsea FC
5 Steven Taylor	Newcastle United FC
3 Jamie O'Hara	Tottenham Hotspur FC

10 Mark Noble	West Ham United FC
8 Tom Huddlestone	Tottenham Hotspur FC
4 Lee Cattermole	Wigan Athletic FC
7 James Milner	Aston Villa FC
11 Adam Johnson	Middlesbrough FC
9 Gabriel Agbonlahor	Aston Villa FC

Substitutes

13 Thomas Heaton	Cardiff City FC
12 Andrew Taylor	Middlesbrough FC
14 Martin Cranie	Charlton Athletic FC
15 Fabrice Muamba	Bolton Wanderers FC
16 Matthew Derbyshire	Blackburn Rovers FC
17 Raizer Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur FC
18 Adam Lallana	Southampton FC

Coach Stuart Pearce

FINLAND



Markku Kanerva, coach, Finland:
This was a historic achievement. We didn't give up and believed in ourselves despite being two down. Patience was the key. Every player was fully focused on the task and I can only praise them. We have a team full of heroes."

1 Tomi Maanoja	AIK
3 Jukka Raitala	HJK Helsinki
4 Jonas Portin	FF Jaro
5 Tuomo Turunen	FC Honka Espoo
14 Joni Aho	FC International Turku
7 Kasper Hämäläinen	FC TPS Turku
8 Mehmet Hetemaj	Panionios GSS
6 Tim Sparv	Halmstads BK
17 Juha Hakola	FC Flora Tallinn
16 Mika Ojala	FC International Turku
11 Jarno Parikka	HJK Helsinki

Substitutes

12 Anssi Jaakkola	AC Siena
2 Ville Jalasto	FC Honka Espoo
9 Timo Furuholm	FC International Turku
10 Nicholas Oturu	FC Honka Espoo
13 Pyry Kärkkäinen	FC Lahti
15 Aleksandr Kokko	FC Honka Espoo
18 Jussi Vasara	FC Honka Espoo

Coach Markku Kanerva

GERMANY



Matthias Sammer, sporting director, Germany:
"We are through to the finals, that's the most important thing."

1 Manuel Neuer	FC Schalke 04
3 Sebastian Boenisch	Werder Bremen
35 Jerome Boateng	Hamburger SV
2 Andreas Beck	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
29 Daniel Schwaab	SC Freiburg
38 Benedikt Höwedes	FC Schalke 04
19 Eugen Polanski	Getafe CF
17 Mesut Özil	Werder Bremen
9 Ashkan Dejagah	VfL Wolfsburg
14 Aaron Hunt	Werder Bremen
37 Kevin Schindler	FC Hansa Rostock

Substitutes

12 Florian Fromlowitz	Hannover 96
22 Marc Kruska	BV Borussia Dortmund
36 Niko Bungert	1. FSV Mainz 05
39 Toni Kroos	FC Bayern München
27 Gonzalo Castro	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
23 Daniel Halfar	DSC Arminia Bielefeld
11 Rouwen Hennings	FC St. Pauli

Coach Dieter Eilts

ITALY



Pierluigi Casiraghi, coach, Italy:
Our victory was clear and deserved. We had several players missing but we proved we can count on a large and competitive squad. Playing in the finals in Sweden will be a great experience for these guys."

1 Andrea Consigli	Atalanta BC
2 Marco Motta	Udinese Calcio
3 Paolo De Ceglie	Juventus FC
5 Lino Marzoratti	Empoli FC
6 Domenico Criscito	Genoa Cricket and Football Club
4 Luca Cigarini	Atalanta BC





- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 | Antonio Candreva | AS Livorno Calcio |
| 8 | Piermario Morosini | Vicenza Calcio |
| 11 | Ignazio Abate | Torino FC |
| 9 | Mario Balotelli | FC Internazionale Milano |
| 10 | Davide Lanzafame | US Città di Palermo |

Substitutes

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12 | Salvatore Sirigu | AC Ancona |
| 13 | Salvatore Bocchetti | Genoa Cricket and Football Club |
| 14 | Francesco Pisano | Cagliari Calcio |
| 15 | Francesco Bolzoni | FC Internazionale Milano |
| 16 | Davide Di Gennaro | Reggina Calcio |
| 17 | Pablo Daniel Osvaldo | ACF Fiorentina |
| 18 | Robert Acquafresca | Cagliari Calcio |

Coach Pierluigi Casiraghi



SERBIA

Slobodan Krčmarević, coach, Serbia:

Over the past few years our U21 team has been very successful and we are duty-bound to continue that."

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Željko Brkić | FK Vojvodina |
| 15 | Nemanja Pejčinović | FK Rad |
| 4 | Nenad Tomovic | FK Crvena Zvezda |
| 2 | Marko Jovanović | FK Partizan |
| 6 | Nikola Gulan | ACF Fiorentina |
| 3 | Ljubomir Fejsa | FK Partizan |
| 7 | Milan Smiljanić | RCD Espanyol |
| 17 | Nemanja Matić | MFK Košice |
| 18 | Marko Milinković | MFK Košice |
| 10 | Dušan Tadić | FK Vojvodina |
| 9 | Rade Veljović | FK Vozdovac |

Substitutes

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 12 | Bojan Šaranov | OFK Beograd |
| 14 | Milan Vilotić | FK Čukarički |
| 11 | Milan Perić | FK Partizan |
| 8 | Vladimir Bogdanović | FK Crvena Zvezda |
| 5 | Radosav Petrović | FK Partizan |
| 13 | Dragan Milovanović | FK Borac Cacak |
| 16 | Tomislav Pajović | FK Čukarički |

Coach Slobodan Krčmarević



SPAIN

Juan Ramón López Caro, coach, Spain:

This was an epic triumph for us and it will serve to make us stronger ahead of next summer's tournament in Sweden. I'm very satisfied with the team's efforts; they gave their all to get this win."



Photo: Jussi Eskola/Finlands Football Association

Jubilant Finnish players surround their goalkeeper Tomi Maanoja, who made two decisive saves in the penalty shoot-out against Austria.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Sergio Asenjo | Real Valladolid CF |
| 3 | Miguel Torres | Real Madrid CF |
| 4 | Gerard Piqué | FC Barcelona |
| 5 | Chico | UD Almería |
| 2 | César Azpilicueta | CA Osasuna |
| 6 | Raúl García | Club Atlético de Madrid |
| 7 | Sisi | RC Recreativo de Huelva |
| 8 | Javi García | Real Madrid CF |
| 10 | Juan Mata | Valencia CF |
| 9 | Bojan Krkić | FC Barcelona |
| 11 | Jurado | RCD Mallorca |

Substitutes

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 | Roberto | RC Recreativo de Huelva |
| 12 | Roberto Canella | Real Sporting de Gijón |
| 14 | Sergi Busquets | FC Barcelona |
| 15 | Miguel | Club Atlético de Madrid |
| 16 | Mario Suárez | RCD Mallorca |
| 17 | Jonathan Pereira | Real Racing Club |
| 18 | Xisco | Newcastle United FC |

Coach Juan Ramón López Caro





Successful season for Under-21 players in Sweden

Host nation Sweden, jointly coached by Jörgen Lennartsson and Tommy Söderberg, completes the lineup. For their last match of 2008, the following players took to the field to face a Netherlands B team in Waalwijk on 19 November. Sweden won the match 3-0.



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 Johan Dahlin | Trelleborgs FF |
| 2 Mikael Lustig | Rosenborg BK |
| 3 Mattias Bjärsmyr | IFK Göteborg |
| 4 Rasmus Bengtsson | Trelleborgs FF |
| 5 Emil Johansson | Hammarby IF |
| 6 Gabriel Özkan | AIK |
| 7 Rasmus Elm | Kalmar FF |
| 8 Albin Ekdal | Juventus FC |
| 9 Emir Bajrami | IF Elfsborg |
| 10 Pontus Wernbloom | IFK Göteborg |
| 11 Ola Toivonen | Malmö FF |

Substitutes

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 12 Pär Hansson | Helsingborgs IF |
| 13 Erik Lund | IFK Göteborg |
| 14 Per Karlsson | AIK |
| 15 Pierre Bengtsson | AIK |
| 16 Denni Avdic | Elfsborg |
| 18 Guillermo Molins | Malmö FF |
| 19 Gustav Svensson | IFK Göteborg |
| 20 Rawez Lawan | AC Horsens |



Photos: Bildbyrå

The Swedish season ended on 9 November, and after the 30 rounds of matches one definite conclusion can be drawn: many of the potential Under-21 players had a terrific season. Ola Toivonen of Malmö FF and Rasmus Elm of champions Kalmar FF were particularly successful.

Top scorers		Goals
1) Patrik Ingelsten,	Kalmar FF	19
4) Ola Toivonen	Malmö FF	14
17) Pontus Wernbloom	IFK Göteborg	8
20) Johan Oremo	Djurgårdens IF	7
Sebastian Rajalakso	Djurgårdens IF	7

Assists		
1) Rasmus Elm	Kalmar FF	10
	Henrik Larsson	Helsingborgs IF
9) Ola Toivonen	Malmö FF	7
13) Emir Bajrami	IF Elfsborg	5
	Rasmus Jönsson	Helsingborgs IF
		5

The Swedish Under-21 players were highly effective for their clubs the past season. Clockwise from top left: Ola Toivonen, Pontus Wernbloom, Emir Bajrami, Rasmus Elm.

UEFA European Under-21 Championship Previous host nations and champions

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 2007 Netherlands: | NETHERLANDS |
| 2006 Portugal: | NETHERLANDS |
| 2004 Germany: | ITALY |
| 2002 Switzerland: | CZECH REPUBLIC |
| 2000 Slovakia: | ITALY |
| 1998 Romania: | SPAIN |
| 1996 Spain: | ITALY |
| 1994 France: | ITALY |

The Netherlands were crowned champions on home soil after defeating Serbia in the final of the 2007 UEFA European Under-21 Championship.



Photo: UEFA

