

Technical Report



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CHAMPIONSHIP



UEFA European Under-19 Championship
Final round - Romania 2011

INTRODUCTION

CONTENT

Introduction	2
The route to the final	3
The final	4
Technical topics	6
Talking points	10
Winning coach	12
The UEFA technical team	13
Team analysis: Belgium	14
Team analysis: Czech Republic	15
Team analysis: Greece	16
Team analysis: Republic of Ireland	17
Team analysis: Romania	18
Team analysis: Serbia	19
Team analysis: Spain	20
Team analysis: Turkey	21
Results	22

The tenth European Under-19 Championship finals were the first to be staged in Romania and the third UEFA tournament to be staged in the country – the previous two having been the 1998 Under-21 finals (won by Spain) and the 1962 international youth tournament which was the forerunner of UEFA's Under-18 and Under-19 competitions. The Spaniards were the only team in the 2011 final tournament to have taken part in the 2010 finals. France, the champions on home soil a year earlier, had been eliminated by Greece; Ukraine, the 2009 champions, failed to record a win in the elite round qualifiers; and Germany, champions in 2008, were eliminated by Turkey. By taking the Under-19 title for the fifth time in a decade, Spain earned the right to keep the trophy.

The Romanian hosts successfully staged the final tournament at four modestly sized venues within a 20km radius of Bucharest, with stadium capacities ranging from 450 to 3,700. Whereas the stadiums in Berceni and Chiajna were venues for club football, the venues in Baftea and Mogosoaia were football centres built and run by the Romanian Football Federation. Kick-off times were in the evening and nine matches were offered to a pan-European television audience by Eurosport, in addition to coverage of specific games by TV networks in the competing countries. The fixture list suffered a modification when, on the opening matchday, the Spain v Belgium game had to be abandoned after just over quarter of an hour (with Spain leading 1-0) due to a violent thunderstorm. The match was replayed (from 0-0 and in its entirety) the following day.

The two finalists, Spain and the Czech Republic, also topped the tournament's fair play rankings.

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THE ROUTE TO THE FINAL



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With England, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands among the illustrious absentees, the Spaniards, silver medallists in 2010, might have started as clear favourites, had their squad not been distorted by call-ups for the U-20 World Cup in Colombia. Even so, the Spaniards were the only team able to relax on the third matchday, having scored eight goals and taken six points from their opening two matches in Group B. The other seven teams started their final matches harbouring hopes of reaching the semi-finals of an evenly matched tournament in which the four semi-finalists proved to be the teams which had won their opening fixtures.

In Group A, the Romanian hosts took the lead in their opening game against the Czechs but conceded three goals after the break and failed to find the net again during the subsequent two matches, despite creating clear chances against the Greeks and Irish. The latter had made a strong start by beating Greece 2-1, leaving Leonidas Vokolos lamenting his side's lack of concentration when defending set plays. This aspect improved during their 1-0 victory over the hosts, which gave them the challenge of beating the Czechs in their final game to reach the last four on the basis of six points and a head-to-head advantage. The Czechs had come back from 1-0 down to beat the Irish and, in a tense showdown against the Greeks, they did not relax until they scored the only goal after 70 minutes. The result meant that the Republic of Ireland's goalless draw with the hosts – the only one in the tournament – was sufficient to usher Paul Doolin's side into the semi-finals.

Their opponents were Spain who, with top spot in Group B already in their pocket, rotated their squad for the final game against the Turks – and were soundly beaten 3-0. It was scant consolation for Kemal Özdes' side, who had taken only point from the opening two games. Four points put them level with Serbia but, as Dejan Govedarica's team had beaten them 2-0 on the opening day, they were sent home by head-to-head criteria. The Belgians also travelled home. Marc van Geersom's side, impressive during qualifying, was rated among the dark horses in the race for the title but their cause was undermined by having to play substantial segments of two games with

ten. Once their keeper had been dismissed after only 13 minutes of the replay against Spain, it was uphill all the way, even though they came back momentarily to 1-1. They did likewise after going 1-0 down to Turks and Serbs but a brace of 1-1 draws was not enough. The Serbs, after their counterattacks had earned victory against the Turks, were shell-shocked when Spain scored three during the first half-hour of their second game. In the decisive match against Belgium, they were forced to rely on deep defending to secure the vital point.

The Serbs had a recurrence of their nightmare in the semi-final against the Czechs, going 3-0 down in 19 minutes. To their credit, they fought back to 3-2 before the break but, after pushing forward in search of the equaliser, were punished during added time and went down 4-2 with heads held high. The other semi-final was less tense as a contest. After a spirited start, the Irish morale was deflated by a stunning goal from Spanish winger Gerard Deulofeu and, once forced to open up, the Irish conceded four more. The two semi-finals had produced 11 goals – and a confrontation in the final between Czechs and Spaniards, the tournament's highest-scoring teams.

Czech midfielder Adam Janos looks happy to have beaten disappointed Romanian midfielder Patrick Walleth to a high ball during the opening game in Chiajna



THE FINAL

Paco pounces – Spain celebrates



Pavel Kaderábek stretches back as far as he can but Spanish defender Jon Aurtenetxe, in a more comfortable posture, beats the Czech No6 to a high ball

If he wasn't breathless, he should have been. The man who has presided over Spain's most successful era (current world and European champions) had flown from Rio de Janeiro following the FIFA World Cup draws on Saturday afternoon, to watch his women's Under-17 national team lift the European Championship trophy, the next day, in Nyon, Switzerland. Just 24 hours later, Ángel María Villar Llona, president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), was in a packed stadium in Chiajna, Romania, to see if his Under-19 boys could emulate their big brothers in the Under-21s, who had triumphed a month earlier at the UEFA finals in Denmark. In what turned out

to be 120 minutes of intense action and high drama, the Czech Republic and Spain went head to head in a final which was destined to leave many short of breath before the trophy was finally lifted.

Right from the start, Jaroslav Hřebík's youngsters made it clear that they were ready to spoil *La Rojita's* summer party. Operating a well-disciplined 4-4-2 formation, the boys in red tried to hold a high back line, maintain a compact unit, and put pressure on the ball in order to stop the Spanish having a leisurely build-up from the back. The approach was brave and positive, and forced those in all-white to play an unusually high number of long forward passes, mixed with the inevitable second-ball mentality. However, if the aim was to stretch the opposition and create space in the midfield, then the tactic was generally unsuccessful because the Czechs had a plan, and restriction of space was clearly

their No1 priority – a few long balls over the top were not going to disturb them structurally or mentally.

Long diagonals, however, were a different matter, and the Spanish showed promise by bringing their wingers into the game with this particular ploy. Spain's coach, Ginés Meléndez, taking part in his 11th UEFA youth final (four of them as head coach) had retained his tried and tested 4-2-3-1 system, but the front four were encouraged to change positions sporadically. Middle-to-front schemer and captain, Pablo Sarabia, caused some anxiety in the Czech defence during his spells on the right wing, both from crosses and dribbling movements, but there was never a real goal threat during this early phase of the game. At the other end, the Czechs were impressive with their combination play down the left and with one particularly good free-kick delivery from the right. The match was played at a hectic pace, on a somewhat bumpy pitch, but neither side looked like breaking the deadlock despite their individual quality and collective awareness.

The second half began with the Czechs pushing forward. The system and the style remained the same, even though a change had been made to their central midfield just before the break – Martin Sladký replacing Roman Polom. However, the first good effort on goal came from Spain's Álex, a long-range effort from the edge of the penalty box. The same player had been booked a few minutes earlier and took his frustration out on the ball. A powerful header from Czech captain Jakub Brabec went just wide of the post, following a corner from Pavel Kaderábek on the right. It was a precursor of something more significant. Ladislav Krejčí intercepted the ball in midfield, took a short pass from team-mate Martin Sladký, and proceeded to run for 30 metres, with the ball apparently tied to his left foot, before shooting from the edge of the box – the shot went like an arrow between two Spanish defenders, goalkeeper Edgar Badía and his left-hand post. With 52 minutes gone, the Czechs had the lead and the psychological breakthrough.



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Spain introduced Paco Alcácer up front and this would turn out to be of major significance. The top scorer in last season's Under-17 tournament was quickly into predator mode and came close following a cutback from flying right winger Gerard Deulofeu. Then, young Paco missed a glorious opportunity, following a brilliant cross from the left by Pablo Sarabia. Thereafter, a header, the result of a corner, went narrowly over the bar. The Czechs remained disciplined, determined and fully concentrated, while the Spanish struggled to find depth and central penetration. Spain's captain was replaced in the 78th minute by midfielder Juan Muñoz in search of new inspiration, but a series of Czech corners intensified the pressure on the Latin side.

Yet, with five minutes remaining, Spain equalised. A corner on the left was cleared straight to Rubén Pardo and, without hesitation, the No6 drove the ball back into the danger area. With Czech goalkeeper Tomáš Koubek's view blocked by three players, the ball was redirected into the net off the knee of Spain's centre-back Jon Aurtenetxe. Suddenly, the momentum was with those in white, but they couldn't add to their tally and after 93 minutes the game was still locked at 1-1.

With the start of the extra time, the Czech players regained their composure, and within seven minutes had also regained the lead. The ball was won on the left, just inside the Spanish half of the field, and Ladislav Krejčí raced into the penalty box pursued by four opponents, rather like a fox being chased by the hounds. The Czech

No13 evaded the challenging pack and cut the ball back into the path of team-mate Patrick Lácha, who finished with aplomb as the Spanish goalkeeper charged towards him. The Czechs were back in control and Spain were in need of a hero.

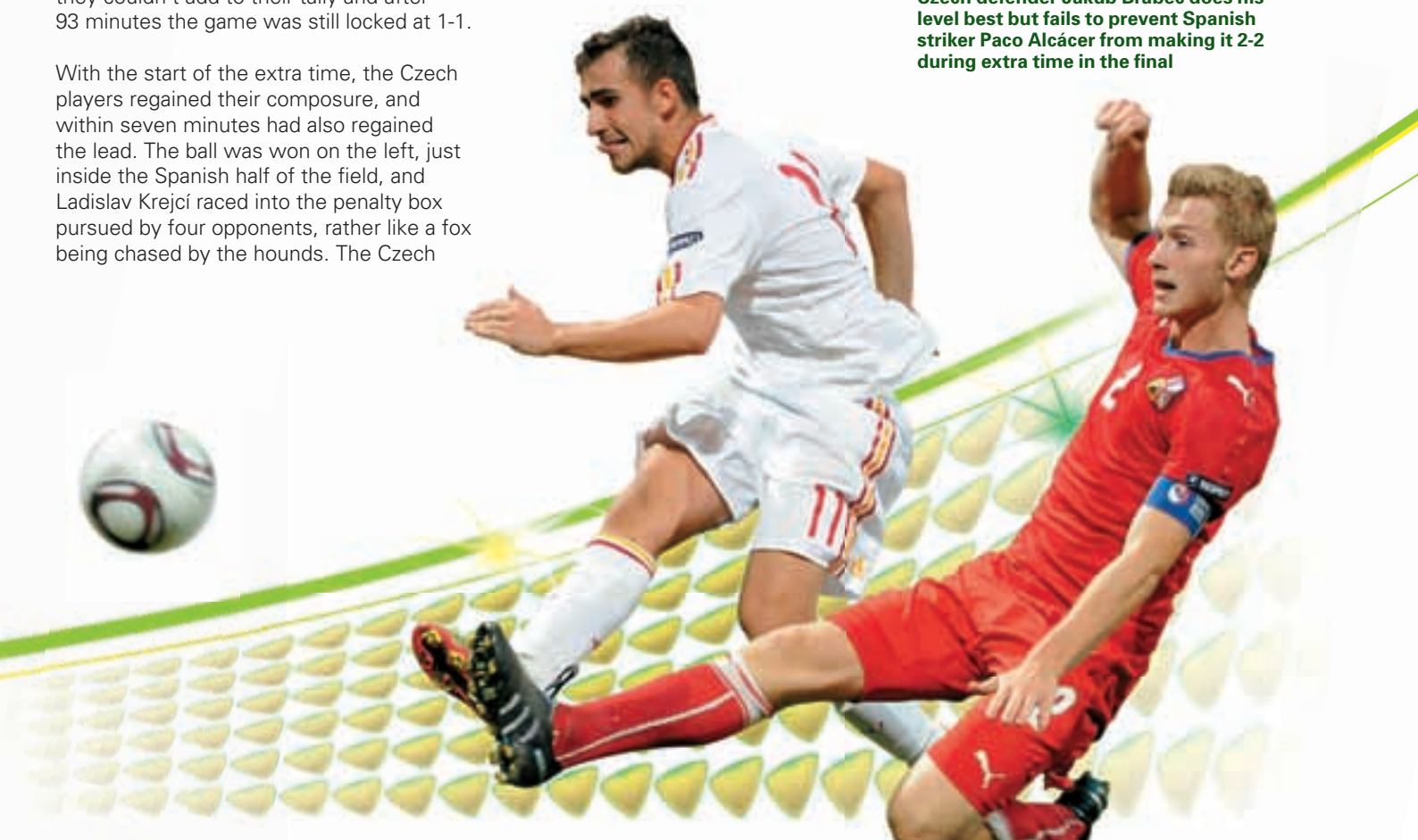
The youngest player in Ginés Meléndez's squad, Gerard Deulofeu, was lively on the right wing, but it was the second-youngest, Paco Alcácer, who finally made the difference. With 108 minutes on the clock, a four-man, one-touch combination move through the middle created the opportunity and Paco pounced on it – a brilliant control and finish brought Spain back on level terms. The "losing lead phenomenon" came into play, with the team coming from behind, in this case Spain, gaining a psychological boost, while the opposing team, the Czechs, suddenly became anxious. Five minutes remained of extra time when the hero appeared, and it was Paco again. This time, the Valencia youngster controlled a beautifully angled pass from midfielder Rubén Pardo on his chest, and without hesitation dispatched the ball into the net past a helpless Tomáš

Koubek in the Czech goal. Before anyone could draw breath, the game was over and Spain, 3-2 victors, had won the Under-19 title for the fifth time in ten years – an achievement that entitled them to keep the UEFA trophy.

When the final whistle blew, the Czech players collapsed where they were standing – transformed in an instant from fit young athletes into motionless figures, prostrate on the pitch. The Spanish danced and hugged, re-energised by the thrill of winning. Meanwhile, a proud president, Ángel María Villar Llona, was taking a deep breath as he prepared for his journey the next day to Colombia for the FIFA U-20 World Cup – once again in search of silverware for a Spanish national team.

Andy Roxburgh
UEFA Technical Director

Czech defender Jakub Brabec does his level best but fails to prevent Spanish striker Paco Alcácer from making it 2-2 during extra time in the final



TECHNICAL TOPICS

At the 2010 final tournament in France, the majority of teams opted for 4-3-3 or, to a lesser extent, variations on 4-4-2. The two finalists on that occasion were, however, France and Spain – the two sides which operated on the basis of a 4-2-3-1 structure. At the 2011 tournament in Romania, seven of the eight finalists adopted, at some stage, the 4-2-3-1 formation. But the words “at some stage” represent an important codicil given that, at some stage, six teams also lined up in 4-3-3 formation. In other words, the previously favoured system was still popular but, at the same time, there was a clear transition towards 4-2-3-1 during a tournament where structural flexibility was one of the salient features. The silver medallists from the Czech Republic were the exception in sticking to a 4-4-2 formation throughout the tournament, while the other seven teams made structural changes match by match. Even the Spanish who, though they ultimately triumphed with their habitual 4-2-3-1, experimented with variations on 4-3-3 during the match they lost against Turkey, switching from one screening midfielder in a 4-1-2-3 to a double screen in a 4-2-1-3 when chasing the result.

Elsewhere, the Greeks, Irish and Romanians switched from 4-3-3 to 4-2-3-1 for their final group games, with Serbia doing likewise for their semi-final against the Czechs and the Irish lining up in 4-1-4-1 formation in their semi-final against Spain. Anecdotally, the Belgians acquitted themselves well during the long periods in their opening two games when they were reduced to ten – operating in two different systems. Overall, the tournament demonstrated that, at this



Czech No5 Tomáš Kalas gets into top gear in an attempt to stay with Spain's livewire winger Gerard Deulofeu

youth development level, players are being equipped for roles in different structures. At the same time, the trend towards 4-2-3-1 – which had been one of the outstanding features of the Under-17 finals two months earlier – had implications in terms of the patterns of attacking play.

A PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION

One of the talking points for the technical observers stemmed from the view that team structures are one thing and team philosophies something else. Adopting the same formation as Spain was not opening automatic gateways to the Spanish style of play. The common denominator in Romania – and at the vast majority of youth development tournaments in recent years – was the zonal back four. The differences crept in further up the pitch.

Spain's interpretation of the 4-2-3-1 theme was to assign attacking priorities to four players and to entrust defensive work to a block of six. Other teams adopted a

different approach, preferring to minimise risks and to defend with eight or nine outfielders. The difference, evidently, affected the modus operandi of the wingers/wide midfielders who operated in areas of the pitch that did not fall far short of the “box to box” definition.

Teams also had varied philosophies in terms of pressing the opposition. Despite operating different systems, the Czechs and Spaniards successfully used high pressing – their readiness to throw players forward offering them sufficient strength in numbers to effectively press in advanced areas. The Turkish team also set out to pressurise the Spanish back four in their final group game but the general picture was one of teams rapidly dropping off to form a compact defensive block, to draw the opposition forward and, as soon as the ball was regained, to launch counters – something the Serbs did to great effect, scoring both their goals in this way during the decisive opening victory against Turkey.



DEFENCE TO ATTACK

The technical observers remarked that transitions from defence to attack had also been well coached, with approximately one-third of open play goals derived from successful transitions. The trend towards ball-playing goalkeepers was illustrated during the tournament, where the keepers not only covered wide areas to offer support to the back four but also had an important role to play in sensibly distributing the ball from the back. The long clearance was a rarity. The general emphasis, among all the teams in Romania, was to play out from the back with positive possession moves – a feature which has modified the job descriptions not only of goalkeepers but also of the members of the back four, now expected to possess enough technical qualities to perform roles in move building.

The same applied to the central midfielders, who were important components in establishing the personality of the team. The tournament highlighted the need to search for the right balance between defensive and attacking qualities, allied with the ability to control the direction and tempo of attacking play and to offer support to the frontrunners. The technical observers commented, “at Under-19 level, it’s already apparent that the central midfield roles require tactical maturity and good reading of the game.” The talking point is the extent to which playmakers are now fielded in the deeper screening roles rather than further up the park.

HEADING FOR EXTINCTION?

Fifteen games, 1,380 minutes of football... and no headed goals. Apart from contrasting with the 2010 final tournament, where almost 15% of the goals were headers, this statistic offers opportunities for discussion on the use of the wide areas and a trend away from the traditional attacking formula of looking for the byline and delivering high crosses. In Romania, the emphasis patently

shifted towards combination moves in the wide areas, allied with the use of lone strikers whose physique was not always in line with time-honoured images of the target man. When crosses were delivered, the tendency was for them to be played hard and low across the penalty area in the area where defenders find them hard to deal with. Indeed, Spain’s two own goals against Turkey came in this way, with crosses either being diverted into the net by a defender or generating rebounds which can offer dividends to attackers. Own goals apart, only three of the tournament’s 46 goals were of the cross and finish variety. As a basis for debate, this can be added to data gathered at the 2011 Under-17 finals in Serbia where, as in Romania, none of the open-play goals were headers.

THE DEAD BALL

In Romania, 24% of the goals were derived from set plays – a figure totally in line with the (declining) 2011 results in the UEFA Champions League and the Under-17 final tournament. However, shades of meaning can be drawn. Of the seven set-play goals scored during the group phase in Romania, six hit the net on the opening matchday – suggesting that, even at youth development levels, future opponents are closely studied and the surprise element is rapidly eliminated. Coaches are rapidly adopting the view that set-play moves which have been rehearsed on the training ground may only be valid for single use in any given competition.

Turkish midfielder Servan Tastan looks optimistic about his chances of cutting the ball past Belgian midfielder Tom Pietermaat during the Group B game in Baftea



TECHNICAL TOPICS

Four of the set-play goals were penalties (none were missed during the final tournament). One was awarded in response to a late tackle, one for handball and two for shirt pulling. The teams had been informed at pre-tournament briefings that shirt pulling would be a target offence for the match officials – something which was welcomed by coaches with the proviso that the crackdown should be uniformly applied.

The return on corner kicks was relatively low. During the final tournament, only four goals could be traced back to corners – even somewhat charitably if Spain's normal-time equaliser against the Czechs in the final is included. The corner had been cleared, but was then driven back into the box where a central defender (who would in all probability have not been there if it had not been a corner-kick situation) deflected the shot into the net. The tournament yielded a total of 176 corners, from which the success rate, in terms of goals, was 1 in 44.

Only three goals stemmed from free-kicks – and none were struck directly into the net by dead-ball specialists.

Further analysis of the set-play goals reveals that the two republics – Czechs and Irish – were the set-play specialists, with the former scoring five times from dead-ball situations and the latter twice. In other words, two of the eight finalists accounted for a few decimal points short of 64% of the set-play goals.

COMBINATIONS AND COUNTERS

Of the 35 goals scored in open play, 22 (63%) stemmed from patient, elaborate build-ups against well-positioned defensive blocks. The statistic is maybe unsurprising, bearing in mind that Spain supplied 35% of the goals scored during the final tournament. The efficiency of the Spaniards' passing game is reflected by the fact that they accounted for 40% of the goals which resulted from elaborate build-ups. Spain's ability to break down well-organised, compact defences was

illustrated during the semi-final against the Irish when, although the goals had different complexions, all five were initiated with patient approach work, followed by a switch of play in the final third. The first two were prime examples of high-quality combination play and individual creativity when it came to finishing. In both cases, the Spaniards found the net from relatively long range, finding space around the edge of the box when the Irish opted to defend deep. When trailing on the scoreboard, the Irish adopted a higher line – and the Spanish team immediately showed tactical awareness by exploiting the space left behind the Irish back four. The importance of striking at goal from areas around the box was highlighted during a group phase in which five goals were scored from direct shots outside the box and two more resulted from following through and converting rebounds.

Of the 35 goals scored in open play, 13 (37%) stemmed from quick counterattacks. The Czechs, the Serbs and the Spaniards were the most effective when it came to regaining possession and launching productive counters. They jointly accounted for 12 of the 13 goals scored in this way. During the group phase, Serbia used the fast break as their main attacking weapon but, when 3-0 down in the semi-final against the Czechs, they fought back with two excellent goals based on combination play, allied with individual finishing skills from their No9, Djordje Despotovic. They illustrated the importance of equipping players to blend counterattacking skills with the techniques of building more patient attacking moves when the opposition has had time to assemble their defensive block. Movements in the final third proved to be crucial, with the most successful teams able to combine possession-orientated build-ups with high-tempo combinations in the danger area. High-speed combinations – some of them in counters when the ball had been won via high pressing – accounted for 46% of the total number of open-play goals.



With eyes and mouth open, Spanish midfielder Rubén Pardo takes the ball past a lateral challenge by Eoin Wearen during the semi-final victory over the Irish



WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

The overall goal tally was one higher than the 2010 total of 45, although the distribution of the goals was palpably different. The group phase produced significantly fewer goals than the 2010 tournament in France (30 compared with 35), whereas the knockout games in 2011 yielded 16 goals compared with 10 – helped, obviously, by the extra half-hour of play in the final. The fact that, in Romania, the 46 goals were fairly evenly spread over the course of games suggests that fatigue – normally associated with a flurry of late goals – was not a major factor. Indeed, the final quarter-hour of each half proved to be the least prolific period. Of the four goals scored during additional time at the end of the 90 minutes, three were provided by Spain and the other was registered by the Czechs who, apart from three goals in the opening 19 minutes of the semi-final against Serbia, scored only one other goal during the first half – and that was in the 44th minute.

Excluding the three goals scored during extra time in the final, the percentage split between the first and second half worked out at 44:56 and 35% of the goals hit the net during the first 15 minutes of each half.

Minutes	Goals	%
1-15	8	17
16-30	7	15
31-45	4	9
46-60	7	15
61-75	7	15
76-90	6	13
90+	4	9
Extra time 91-105	1	2
Extra time 106-120	2	4

Decimal points account for the missing 1%

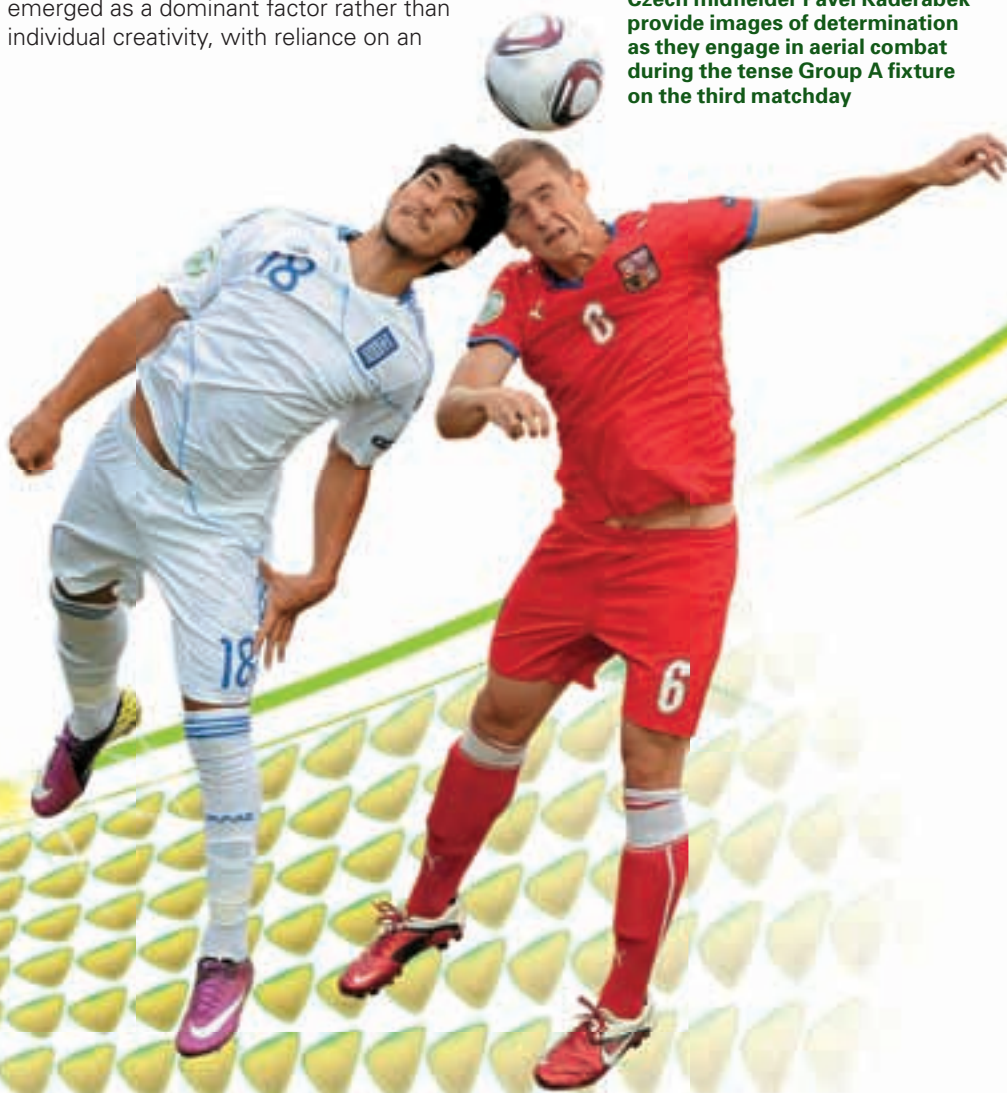
TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS

Despite the general lack of preparation time, the final tournament in Romania was notable for its collective, rather than individual virtues. The coaches reported “no major innovations” and highlighted the importance of paying attention to detail in every step of the limited preparation periods and during the final tournament. They also stressed that the trend appears to be towards establishing a clear playing philosophy in line with the main characteristics of each nation and then to offer players in youth development squads as much international exposure as possible, in terms of allowing young players to come to terms with the physical and mental requirements at top level. The Under-19 competition was unanimously regarded as a crucial stage of youth development.

In Romania, the emphasis was clearly on building balanced, well-organised units, with the result that general teamwork emerged as a dominant factor rather than individual creativity, with reliance on an

individual playmaker now becoming a rarity. Solo skills tend to focus on the ability to receive the ball and retain possession in reduced spaces and, in terms of goalscoring, only one of the 46 goals could clearly be attributed to an outstanding individual effort. At the top end of the senior game, it is often the soloist who makes the difference – raising debating points about the importance of developing and encouraging solo skills at youth development levels in addition to focusing on collective virtues. One of the factors highlighted by the coaches in Romania was that the final tournament represented the closure of a two-year cycle – many of them going home to reflect on results and progress made during the entire period rather than focusing exclusively on the results obtained during the final tournament itself.

Greek No18 Dimitris Kolovos and Czech midfielder Pavel Kaderábek provide images of determination as they engage in aerial combat during the tense Group A fixture on the third matchday



TALKING POINTS

PERFECT TIMING?

What if? As a breed, coaches are usually too pragmatic to spend time asking rhetorical questions. But some of the finalists in Romania could be pardoned for muttering a few polite enquiries of the “What if I’d had all my best players?” variety or “What if I’d had more time to prepare the team for such an important upward step on the youth development ladder?” When asked to reflect on the final tournament in Romania, most of the coaches expressed opinions about the timing of the event. In 2011, the finals took place between 20 July and 1 August which, give or take a day or two, has been the habitual slot in recent years.

For the coaches, the dates can throw down a logistical gauntlet. In most countries, they coincide with clubs’ pre-season preparations, with apparently minor variations that, nevertheless, have an impact on fitness, with the players from later starting leagues (such as Spain or Turkey) at a disadvantage. Many of the 2011 finalists’ coaches had been obliged to design their preparations around situations where players had resumed club training a matter of days before the trip to Romania. For the coach, this raises issues about workloads on the training pitch and performance levels during a tournament where the requirement is to play a minimum



Spanish striker Alvaro Morata exerts some high pressure on Belgian defender Dino Arslanagic during the early stages of the rescheduled Group B game in Mogosoia

of three games in seven days and a maximum of five in twelve.

Even coaches who had been able to organise preparation programmes sometimes had to deal with situations

where, with crucial UEFA Champions League or UEFA Europa League qualifiers already in the diary for July, clubs made requests for key players to be returned to them in the middle of the preparation period for Romania.



Another factor has to be permed into the equation – even though the cliché about being able to prove anything with statistics comes into play. Statistically, 25% of the players at the final tournament in Romania had already been recruited by clubs in other national associations. The statistic “tells a lie” in the sense that the presence of the Irish squad (17 of whom were playing their football outside the republic) distorts the figures. But, even excluding the Irish, the fact remains that 15% of the other seven Under-19 squads had already left their countries of origin. The coaches reported greater reluctance among foreign clubs when it came to releasing players for preparation camps. They tended to be made available on the eve

Irish midfielder Sean Murray looks anguished as Greek defender Kostas Stafylidis gets his head to the ball during the opening game in which the Irish took three points



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CHAMPIONSHIP
Romania 2011

of the tournament and therefore arrived in Romania without having taken part in the preparation work undertaken by the rest of the squad. It goes without saying that the youngsters already recruited by foreign clubs tended to be the key players.

Having outlined the problems, the challenge for the coaches was to propose solutions. The starting point for debate was whether dates in late May/early June might offer advantages in terms of ensuring that the final tournament is played by the best players in the best possible physical condition. Some felt that moving the final tournament closer to the qualifying matches in the elite round would also offer greater continuity in terms of preparing squads for the finals and obviate some of the need for pre-tournament preparation camps. By coincidence, the Women's Under-19 tournament is now being moved from late May/early June to dates in July. The talking point is whether it would be beneficial to move the men's tournament in the reverse direction?

EUROPE VERSUS THE WORLD?

Is it inevitable that success has a price? The question was first highlighted during the 2007 Under-19 finals in Austria, when the hosts, Portugal and Spain were obliged to compete without key players – who were representing their countries at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Canada. It seemed a heavy price to pay for sustained success, bearing in mind that the 2006 finals had served as a World Cup qualifying contest. This time round, Europe's 2010 finals were the qualifiers and, as it happened, the Spaniards

were the only one of the European quintet at the 2011 U-20 World Cup in Colombia to also qualify for the 2011 European Under-19 final tournament. It meant that they travelled to Romania with five players missing and, at a coaching level, with difficulties that obliged Ginés Meléndez to take the reins of the Under-19 side while Julen Lopetegui and Luis Milla were on duty in Colombia. Spain's success in Romania served to cloud the issue. But the question related to an ongoing situation is: What can be done to make the international calendar more manageable?

HOME ADVANTAGE?

There is conflicting evidence. The 2009 and 2010 final tournaments had been won by Ukraine and France respectively – playing on home soil. But, prior to that, the search for a winning host at this level takes us all the way back to the 1996 Under-18 finals in Besançon, when Gérard Houllier's French side took the title. In 2011, the Under-19 and Under-17 final tournaments highlighted the issue, with the coaches of Romania and Serbia respectively admitting that their teams lacked big match international experience as a result of having qualified automatically as hosts and therefore been exempted from the qualifying rounds. The challenge for the coaches – with budgetary factors sometimes exerting an influence – is to design a preparation programme which

has enough cutting edge to provide serious testing opportunities for the squad. One suggestion was for the hosts of the finals to organise a tournament involving teams eliminated in the elite round – maybe even the three best runners-up. Is this a viable proposition? What is the best way for the host nation to prepare youth teams to compete on even terms with the very best?

HOW MANY IS ENOUGH?

A debating point linked to the question about the timing of the final tournament relates to the size of the squads. If the finals are staged when most countries are in pre-season mode and workloads have to be very carefully calculated, how many players should, in an ideal world, be available on the bench? In Romania, only two outfield players – both defenders – went home without playing any football (along with six of the eight reserve goalkeepers). Would increasing the size of squads lead to more unused players? Or would it allow coaches to share workloads more evenly and offer tastes of international football to more players? At this age level, is there an argument for expanding squad sizes beyond 18?

Serbia's Filip Malbasic concentrates on finding a way to thread the ball through a maze of Turkish legs when challenged by Sezer Özmen and No6 Örfan Güllü



WINNING COACH

Meléndez's memorable medal



While the Spanish players celebrate victory in the final, the first reaction from their coach, Ginés Meléndez, is to salute his Czech counterpart Jaroslav Hřebík

Ginés Meléndez is not the sort of coach who would like to be judged on his collection of medals. But the gold medal he received in Romania had special value. Superficially, it may have been a reward for 4 victories and 16 goals in 5 games. But it had deeper significance. It may well have signalled Ginés's *adiós* to the role of head coach. The winner's medal could therefore be regarded as a much-warranted recompense for a decade of work with Spain's youth development teams – a sector where he has acquired guru status.

Alongside Iñaki Sáez and Juan Santisteban, Ginés was a member of the coaching family which, under the presidency of Ángel María Villar Llona, laid the foundations for sustained Spanish success at every level. An enthusiastic and unflagging standard-bearer for the philosophies and values which have become the hallmarks of Spanish football, his approach to coaching has been based on the ability to transmit these ideals to generation after generation and, as he always insists, to put the development of the human being ahead of the development of the footballer and to put education ahead of results. But the results have come. The victory in Chiajna was his fourth taste of success at Under-19 level – and an unexpected one. As coordinator of the country's age-limit teams,

he was pressed into action in Romania by the fact that, simultaneously, Spain was competing in the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Colombia.

The challenge was not only that of taking over the squad at the 11th hour but also filling the gaps left by the key players who were heading for Colombia. He was prompted to draft in members of the Under-17 squad which he had led to the final of the 2010 tournament in Liechtenstein and two of them – striker

Paco Alcácer and 17-year-old winger Gerard Deulofeu – proved to be decisive elements in the final. Team building was further hampered by the lack of opportunities for pre-tournament friendlies and preparation boiled down to a brief get-together at the national training centre in Madrid prior to departure for Romania. Plans were further disturbed by the thunderstorm which led to the opening match being abandoned and rescheduled for the following day.

In Romania, Ginés remained faithful to his policy of giving all squad members a taste of football – with six points from two games allowing him to rotate his squad for the final group game against Turkey. A 3-0 defeat also gave him an opportunity to remind his players of basic concepts after a game in which, as he admitted, “we were not ourselves and we were not united”. The reiteration of values helped the players to find the mental strength and collective belief which stood them in good stead during the tense final against the Czech Republic.

Typically, Ginés's first reaction after the final whistle in Chiajna was to embrace the Czech coach, Jaroslav Hřebík. Over the years, he has been as generous in his support for his coaching colleagues as for his young players, while his UEFA photo album also includes images of him leading Team Europe into action against Africa at the 2007 UEFA-CAF Meridian Cup or watching the 2011 Under-17 finals in Serbia as a member of UEFA's technical team. His move to another role within the Spanish federation meant that receiving a medal in Chiajna was a golden handshake to one of the most influential figures in youth development.



Gold medal round his neck, Ginés Meléndez is happy to lift the trophy and share another Spanish success with his players

THE UEFA TECHNICAL TEAM



UEFA's technical team at the final tournament in Romania was formed by two highly experienced observers: Ross Mathie of Scotland and Jarmo Matikainen of Finland. They also received help from Ginés Meléndez (who was a UEFA technical observer at the 2011 Under-17 finals) and Marc van Geersom (half of the technical team at the Under-19 finals in 2010), who were in Romania as head coaches of the Spanish and Belgian teams.

Jarmo Matikainen made his debut for the Finnish FA in 1999 as head coach to the women's age-limit teams, also acting as technical director from 2000 to 2009. He played many roles within the FA coaching team and led the women's Under-19s to two European final tournaments and the FIFA U-20 World Cup in 2006. He left to join the Football Association of Wales just after acting as UEFA technical observer at last year's Under-19 finals.

Ross Mathie of Scotland was a member of UEFA's technical teams at the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Under-17 finals before heading to the Under-19 tournament in Romania. Ross has been at the Scottish FA since 1981 and has led Scotland's Under-18, Under-16 and Under-15 sides, in addition to the Under-17 team that he took to the European Championship finals in Turkey in 2008.



Ross Mathie has Jarmo Matikainen on his right and UEFA's technical director Andy Roxburgh on his left as they line up for the technical team photo at the stadium in Chiajna

TOP SCORERS

6	Alvaro Morata	Spain
3	Paco Alcácer	Spain
	Tomás Prikryl	Czech Republic
2	Djordje Despotovic	Serbia
	Tomás Jelecek	Czech Republic
	Juanmi Jiménez	Spain
	Patrik Lacha	Czech Republic
	Anthony O'Connor	Republic of Ireland
	Pablo Sarabia	Spain

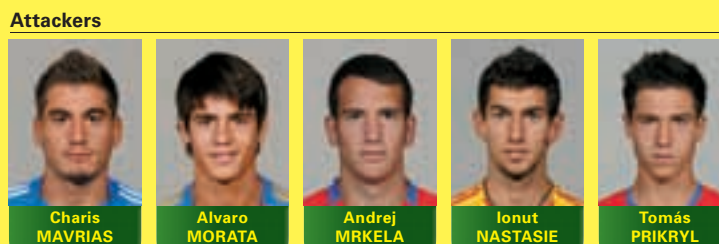
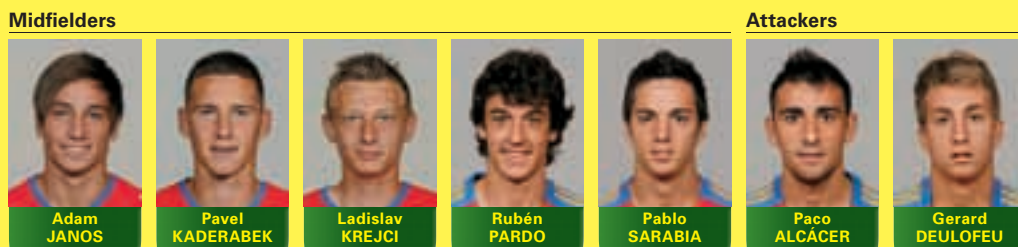
TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

No	Name	Country
Goalkeepers		
1	Edgar BADIÁ	Spain
1	Stephanos KAPINO	Greece
1	Tomás KOUBEK	Czech Republic

Defenders		
2	Jakub BRABEC	Czech Republic
2	Daniel CARVAJAL	Spain
3	Sergi GÓMEZ	Spain
13	Tomás JELECEK	Czech Republic
5	Tomás KALAS	Czech Republic
4	Ignasi MIQUEL	Spain
2	Pierre-Yves NGAWA	Belgium
3	Kostas STAFYLIDIS	Greece

Midfielders		
10	Kostas FORTOUNIS	Greece
6	Orhan GÜLLE	Turkey
6	Jeffrey HENDRICK	Republic of Ireland
4	Adam JANOS	Czech Republic
6	Pavel KADERABEK	Czech Republic
13	Ladislav KREJCI	Czech Republic
6	Rubén PARDO	Spain
10	Pablo SARABIA	Spain

Attackers		
11	Paco ALCÁCER	Spain
17	Gerard DEULOFEU	Spain
7	Charis MAVRIAS	Greece
7	Alvaro MORATA	Spain
7	Andrej MRKELA	Serbia
7	Ionut NASTASIE	Romania
14	Tomás PRIKRYL	Czech Republic





BELGIUM



COACH

Marc VAN GEERSOM
(10.11.1949)



“Our strength was the organisation of a complete team in which everyone fought for each other. The big problem was playing with 10 against Spain and Turkey and you could see the difference in attack when we had 11 against Serbia. It rounded off a good year for us. We only lost to Spain and won or drew the other matches. I’m proud to have worked with the squad for two years. Now we start again – that’s the life of a youth coach.”

No	Player	Born	Pos	ESP	TUR	SRB	G	Club
1	Koen CASTEELS	25.06.1992	GK	13*	S			KRC Genk
2	Pierre-Yves NGAWA	09.02.1992	DF	90	90	90		R. Standard de Liège
3	Dino ARSLANAGIC	24.04.1993	DF	14*				LOSC Lille (FRA)
4	Laurens DE BOCK	07.11.1992	DF	90	90	90		KSC Lokeren
5	Jannes VAN STEENKISTE	17.02.1993	DF	90		90		Club Brugge KV
6	Tom PIETERMAAT	06.09.1992	MF	90	90	90		KV Mechelen
7	Marnick VERMIJL	13.01.1992	DF		90	90	1	Manchester United FC (ENG)
8	Jore TROMPET	30.07.1992	MF	90	83	8		KSC Lokeren
9	Maxime LESTIENNE	17.06.1992	FW	77	67	90		Club Brugge KV
10	Thorgan HAZARD	29.03.1993	FW	66		62		RC Lens (FRA)
11	Paul-José MPOKU	19.04.1992	FW		83	25		Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG)
12	Thomas KAMINSKI	23.10.1992	GK	77+	90	90		KFC Germinal
13	Jonas VERVAEKE	10.01.1992	DF		90	90	1	KV Kortrijk
14	Franco ZENNARO	01.04.1993	DF		7	82		R. Standard de Liège
15	Hannes VAN DER BRUGGEN	01.04.1993	MF	90	7	65		KAA Gent
16	Florent CUVELIER	12.09.1992	MF	90	90		1	Stoke City FC (ENG)
17	Igor VETOKELE	23.03.1992	FW	13	42*	S		KAA Gent
18	Alessandro CERIGIONI	30.09.1992	FW	24	23	28		Lommel United

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Belgium v Serbia



- 4-3-3 with flexibility of individual roles according to team needs
- Well-structured team with discipline, patience and tactical awareness
- Deep defensive block; solid back four, very good in 1 v 1 situations
- No16 influential; captain, midfield leader with defensive and attacking abilities
- Good transitions and counters; quick, accurate passing build-ups
- Purposeful possession with good mix of short and long passing
- Strong mentality, team ethic, self-confidence; played to strengths



CZECH REPUBLIC



COACH

Jaroslav HREBIK
(16.12.1948)



“
Our game is based on high energy, pressure and physical activity. It was a pity the final went to extra time as we were unable to sustain the game we'd played in the second half. Before the final I asked the players how they'd have reacted if, before the tournament, they'd been told they'd reach the final and play against Spain. They thought it was great. I told them the same before extra time. But they were crying at the end – and then there's nothing you can say.”

No	Player	Born	Pos	ROU	IRL	GRE	SRB	ESP	G	Club
1	Tomás KOUBEK	26.08.1992	GK	90	90	90	90	120		FC Hradek Králové
2	Jakub BRABEC	06.08.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	120	1	FK Viktoria Zizkov
3	Jakub JUGAS	05.05.1992	DF			1	1			FC Tescoma Zlin
4	Adam JANOS	20.07.1992	MF	89	77	89	90	120		AC Sparta Praha
5	Tomás KALAS	15.05.1993	DF	90	90	90	90	120	1	Chelsea FC (ENG)
6	Pavel KADERABEK	25.04.1992	MF	90	90	90	89	120		AC Sparta Praha
7	Martin KRAUS	30.05.1992	MF	1	35					Bohemians 1905
8	Martin SLADKY	01.03.1992	MF	90	55	S		84+		FC Viktoria Plzen
9	Jiri SKALAK	12.03.1992	FW	69	45*	1	41	79	1	AC Sparta Praha
10	Antonin FANTIS	15.04.1992	MF	1		1	1	18		FC Banik Ostrava
11	Patrik LACHA	20.01.1992	DF		45+	89	49	41	2	FK Teplice
12	Tomás JELECEK	25.02.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	120	2	FC Slovácko
13	Ladislav KREJCI	05.07.1992	MF	90	90	90	90	120	1	AC Sparta Praha
14	Tomás PRIKRYL	04.07.1992	FW	89	90	89	89	102	3	SK Sigma Olomouc
15	Vojtech HADASCOK	08.01.1992	FW	21					1	FC Slovan Liberec
16	Jakub ZAPLETAL	30.03.1992	GK							FC Tescoma Zlin
17	Martin HALA	24.03.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	120		SK Sigma Olomouc
18	Roman POLOM	11.01.1992	MF		13	90	90	36*		AC Sparta Praha

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Czech Republic v Spain



- 4-4-2 with strong defensive unit backed by good goalkeeper
- Central defenders Nos 2 and 5 prepared to push forward with ball
- Effective interchanging by strikers Nos 11 and 14 posed problems for defences
- Good use of diagonal passing to wide midfielders
- Wide midfielders Nos 6 and 13 disciplined in attack and defence; good reading of game
- Technical ability in all departments; fitness permitted sustained high pressing
- Variation in dangerous set plays well rehearsed on training ground



GREECE



COACH

Leonidas VOKOLOS
(31.08.1970)



I was happy with our efforts and we left with our heads held high. We paid a price for missing chances and for lapses of concentration at set plays during the first match against the Irish. But it was the end of a good year for us. We went to Romania with a small group of players who'll be the basis of the 2012 squad and we gave our absolute best – which is the most important thing. If you try your best, you can't blame yourself for not getting results.

No	Player	Born	Pos	IRL	ROU	CZE	G	Club
1	Stefanos KAPINO	18.03.1994	GK	90	90	90		Panathinaikos FC
2	Nikos SKONDRAS	16.11.1992	DF					Asteras Tripolis FC
3	Kostas STAFYLIDIS	02.12.1993	DF	90	90	90		PAOK FC
4	Anastasios LAGOS	12.04.1992	MF	90		67		Panathinaikos FC
5	Ioannis POTOURIDIS	27.02.1992	DF	90	90	90		Olympiacos FC
6	Panagiotis STAMOGIANNOS	30.01.1992	DF		17			Olympiacos FC
7	Charis MAVRIAS	21.02.1994	MF	90	79	75		Panathinaikos FC
8	Kostas KOTSARIDIS	12.06.1992	MF	45+	73	23		Olympiacos FC
9	Anastasios BAKASETAS	28.06.1993	FW	35	69	90		Asteras Tripoli FC
10	Kostas FORTOUNIS	16.10.1992	MF	90	90	90	1	1. FC Kaiserslautern (GER)
11	Nikos KARELIS	24.02.1992	FW	55	21	6		Ergotelis FC
12	Kostas KALDELIS	22.03.1992	GK					Olympiacos FC
13	Vasilios BOUZAS	30.06.1993	MF		11			Panionios GSS
14	Nikos MARINAKIS	12.09.1993	DF	72	90	90		Panathinaikos FC
15	Kostas ROUGKALAS	13.10.1993	DF	90	90	84		Olympiacos FC
16	Dimitrios DIAMANTAKOS	05.03.1993	FW	45*		15		Olympiacos FC
17	Georgios KATIDIS	12.02.1993	MF	90	90	90	1	Aris Thessaloniki FC
18	Dimitrios KOLOVOS	27.04.1993	MF	18	90	90		Panionios GSS

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Greece v Czech Republic



- 4-2-3-1 with twin screening midfielders; overlapping full-backs
- Play built from back; emphasis on midfield combinations, fluent passing
- 6/4 split in defensive/attacking priorities; good combinations between front four
- Physically strong in 1 v 1 situations; compact defending; high team ethic
- No10 created most dangerous moves, combining with No7 and striker No9 or 16
- Wide players making well-timed movements to offer diagonal passing options
- Dangerous set plays; high-quality left-footed deliveries by No5



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



COACH

Paul DOOLIN
(26.03.1963)



“ We were on our knees at times and it was a fantastic effort from everybody to reach the semis. For most of our group – me included – it was the first time we’d qualified and we learned valuable lessons. Losing to Spain was our only bad result in 13 matches and it was a great learning curve. If someone had told me, when I took over in October, that we’d reach the semis, I would have accepted that – though if they’d told me we’d lose 5-0 I might have thought otherwise! ”

No	Player	Born	Pos	GRE	CZE	ROU	ESP	G	Club (English unless stated)
1	Aaron McCAREY	14.01.1992	GK	90	90	90	90		Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
2	Matthew DOHERTY	16.01.1992	DF	90	90	90	S		Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
3	Derrick WILLIAMS	17.01.1993	DF	80	90		90		Aston Villa FC
4	John EGAN	20.10.1992	DF	90	90	90	90		Sunderland AFC
5	Anthony O’CONNOR	25.10.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	2	Blackburn Rovers FC
6	Jeffrey HENDRICK	31.01.1992	MF	90	90	90	90		Derby County FC
7	Samir CARRUTHERS	04.04.1993	MF	90	90	74	62		Aston Villa FC
8	John O’SULLIVAN	18.09.1993	MF	85	57	90	90	1	Blackburn Rovers FC
9	Kevin KNIGHT	13.02.1993	MF		13	34	19		Leicester City FC
10	Conor MURPHY	11.11.1992	FW	79	26	64	45*		Bray Wanderers FC (IRL)
11	Anthony FORDE	16.11.1993	MF	90	90	90	90		Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
12	Kane FERDINAND	07.10.1992	MF	5	33				Southend United FC
14	Eoin WEAREN	02.10.1992	MF			16	28		West Ham United FC
15	Sean MURRAY	11.10.1993	MF	90	77	56	71		Watford FC
16	Sean McDERMOTT	30.05.1993	GK						Arsenal FC
17	Declan WALKER	01.03.1992	DF						Wrexham FC (WAL)
18	Joseph SHAUGHNESSY	06.07.1992	DF	10		90	90		Aberdeen FC (SCO)
19	Connor SMITH	18.02.1993	FW	11	64	26	45+		Watford FC

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Republic of Ireland v Czech Republic



- Very well-organised 4-3-3 with single screening midfielder
- High-tempo game with extensive use of long passes and diagonal switches
- Well-balanced midfield triangle of Nos 6, 7 and 8; No6 the influential catalyst
- Compact defensive block; quick to shut down spaces in defensive third
- Good use of flanks, especially diagonal passing to right
- Great positional discipline; tactically aware of playing to strengths
- Commitment and team ethic essential weapons in collective play



ROMANIA



COACH

Lucian BURCHEL
(20.03.1964)



We didn't lack anything in terms of attitude but we made basic mistakes. We tried to play attacking, spectacular football and probably deserved more goals. Maybe we had certain problems of confidence and concentration, but I was happy that the players managed to increase the quality of their football game by game. We wanted to do well and perhaps we lost sight of other objectives. But I have to express gratitude to the fans who really got behind us.

No	Player	Born	Pos	CZE	GRE	IRL	G	Club
1	Laurentiu BRANESCU	30.03.1994	GK	90	90	90		Juventus (ITA)
2	Ionut PETELEU	20.08.1992	DF	5*	I	I		FC Delta Tulcea
3	Lucian MURGOCI	25.03.1992	DF	90	90	90		FC Otelul Galati
4	Sebastian REMES	19.01.1992	DF	90	90	90		Honvéd FC (HUN)
5	Adrian AVRAMIA	31.01.1992	DF	90		90		FC Politehnica Iati
6	Romario BENZAR	26.03.1992	MF	90	90	90		FC Viitorul Constanta
7	Ionut NASTASIE	07.01.1992	FW	90	62	90		FC Steaua Bucuresti
8	Alin CARSTOCEA	16.01.1992	MF	67	90	S		FC Viitorul Constanta
9	Mihai ROMAN	31.05.1992	FW	90	45+	62		FC Universitatea Craiova
10	Nicolae STANCIU	07.05.1993	MF	90	90	90	1	FC Unirea Alba Iulia
11	Tiberiu SEREDIUC	02.07.1992	FW	90	90	S		CS Otopeni
12	Radu CHIRITA	08.05.1992	GK					CSM Vilcea
13	Patrick WALLETH	27.01.1992	MF	23	70	1		FC Ingolstadt 04 (GER)
14	Costinel GUGU	20.05.1992	DF	13	90	45*		FC Universitatea Craiova
15	Enghin AMET	19.07.1992	MF		20	90		CS Juventus Bucuresti
16	Florin ILIE	18.06.1992	DF	72+		45+		Unirea Alba Iulia
17	Sebastian CHITOSCA	02.10.1992	FW		28	89		FC Ceahlăul Piatra Neamt
18	Cristian GAVRA	03.04.1993	FW		45*	28		FC Viitorul Constanta

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Romania v Republic of Ireland



- 4-2-3-1 with back four kept compact throughout games
- Good collective movement to shut down spaces in midfield
- Emphasis on technique with patient build-ups through midfield
- Good balance, interchanging between screening midfielders Nos 15 and 6
- Attacking variations through middle and wide areas
- Good width supplied by No7, with No17 offering options for switches of play
- Pressure on hosts = anxiety in front of goal; chances created but not taken



SERBIA



COACH

Dejan GOVEDARICA
(02.10.1969)



There were certain situations when the team dropped deeper than we had planned to do and, in two of our four games, we conceded three goals in the opening 20 minutes. That obviously made life difficult for us but, the second time in the semi-final against the Czechs, we did really well to fight back. The tournament was a big success for us and reaching the semi-final was a tremendous achievement. We didn't quite have the strength to go further but it was invaluable experience.

No	Player	Born	Pos	TUR	ESP	BEL	CZE	G	Club
1	Nikola PERIC	04.02.1992	GK	90	90	90	90		FK Macva Sabac
2	Jovan KRNETA	04.05.1992	DF	1		31			FK Crvena zvezda
3	Marko PETKOVIC	03.09.1992	DF	90	90	59	90		OFK Beograd
4	Filip MALBASIC	18.11.1992	MF	64		12	80		FK Rad
5	Uros COSIC	24.10.1992	DF	S	90	90	90		PFC CSKA Moskva (RUS)
6	Milos JOJIC	19.03.1992	MF	90	90	S	17	1	FK Teleoptik
7	Andrej MRKELA	09.04.1992	MF	89	45+	78	76	1	FK Rad
8	Darko BRASANAC	12.02.1992	MF	S	45*	90	90		FK Partizan
9	Djordje DESPOTOVIC	04.03.1992	FW	14	24	90	90	2	FK Crvena zvezda
10	Goran CAUSIC	05.05.1992	MF	90	90	90	90		FK Crvena zvezda
11	Nenad LUKIC	02.09.1992	MF	S	90	90	73		Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1936 (BUL)
12	Spasoje STEFANOVIC	12.10.1992	GK						FK Teleoptik
13	Aleksandar PANTIC	11.04.1992	DF	90		90	90		FK Rad
14	Nikola TRUJIC	14.04.1992	FW	26	45+	89	14	1	FK Teleoptik
15	Uros VITAS	06.07.1992	DF	90	90	90	90		FK Rad
16	Aleksandar PESIC	21.05.1992	FW	76	66		10		FC Sheriff (MDA)
17	Ivan ROGAC	18.06.1992	MF	90	45*	1			FK Rad
18	Danilo KUZMANOVIC	04.01.1992	DF	90	90				Djurgårdens IF (SWE)

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Serbia v Czech Republic



- 4-2-3-1 with strong back four defending with high line
- High-tempo game with emphasis on combination play
- Quick transition into defensive block when ball was lost; rarely pressed high
- Emphasis on drawing opponents forward; counterattacks a major weapon
- Effective use of wide areas; positional discipline to give passing options
- 6/4 defence/attack split with three players supporting the lead striker
- Motivated team with spirit and mental resilience when trailing



SPAIN



COACH

Ginés MELÉNDEZ
(22.03.1950)



There were some weaknesses in our game because we hadn't played a single preparation match. We weren't ourselves against Turkey but we played a fantastic semi-final against the Irish. The final was a test of our mental strength because it is easy to lose composure when you're twice trying to come back from a goal down and time is running out. It was a fifth Under-19 title for us, so it was a moment of happiness for the players but also for the coaches, the federation and our president.

No	Player	Born	Pos	BEL	SRB	TUR	IRL	CZE	G	Club
1	Edgar BADÍA	12.02.1992	GK	90	90		90	120		RCD Espanyol
2	Daniel CARVAJAL	11.01.1992	DF	26	90		82	1		Real Madrid CF
3	Sergi GÓMEZ	28.03.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	120		FC Barcelona
4	Ignasi MIQUEL	28.09.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	120		Arsenal FC (ENG)
5	Jon AURTENETXE	03.01.1992	DF	90	90		90	120	1	Athletic Club de Bilbao
6	Rubén PARDO	22.10.1992	MF	90	90	19	90	120		Real Sociedad de Fútbol
7	Alvaro MORATA	23.10.1992	FW	90	90		90	120	6	Real Madrid CF
8	Alex FERNÁNDEZ	15.10.1992	MF	90	32	71	90	55*		Real Madrid CF
9	Borja GONZÁLEZ	25.08.1992	FW		16	90				Club Atlético de Madrid
10	Pablo SARABIA	11.05.1992	MF	90	81	45+	66	78	2	Real Madrid CF
11	Paco ALCÁCER	30.08.1993	FW	40		45*	10	66+	3	Valencia CF
12	Albert BLAZQUEZ	21.01.1992	DF	64		90	8	120		RCD Espanyol
13	Adrián ORTOLÁ	20.08.1993	GK			90				Villarreal CF
14	Jonas RAMALHO	10.06.1993	DF			90				Athletic Club de Bilbao
15	Juanmi JIMÉNEZ	20.05.1993	FW	50	58	45*	90	54*	2	Málaga CF
16	José CAMPAÑA	31.05.1993	MF		90	90		65+		Sevilla FC
17	Gerard DEULOFEU	13.03.1994	FW	61	74	45+	80	120	1	FC Barcelona
18	Juan MUÑIZ	14.03.1992	MF	29	9	90	24	42	1	Real Sporting Gijón

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Spain v Czech Republic



- 4-3-3 or 4-2-3-1 with positional permutations, strong squad
- Possession-oriented game based on outstanding levels of technique
- Effective mix of crisp, short passing and diagonal switches to wings
- High standard of fitness; ability to control the tempo of the game
- Adventurous full-backs supporting fast, skilful wingers
- Support striker No10 influential in supplying defence-splitting passes
- Ball winning triggered by immediate, intense pressure in attacking third



TURKEY



COACH

Kemal ÖZDES
(10.05.1970)



We were sad because we didn't always show the spectators how we could play. But I was happy with the improvements among my players during the time we spent together. We achieved the goals we had set ourselves at the beginning of the campaign but I'm sorry we failed to crown our achievements. It would have been fantastic to have a rematch with Spain in the final because I thought we were the best two teams in the tournament. These players will advance to the Under-21s and Turkish football's future is bright.

No	Player	Born	Pos	SRB	BEL	ESP	G	Club
1	Ömer KAHVECI	15.02.1992	GK	90	90	90		Bucaspor
2	Okan ALKAN	01.10.1992	DF	71	45*	S		Fenerbahçe SK
3	Kamil CÖREKÇİ	01.02.1992	DF	90	90	90	1	Bucaspor
4	Furkan SEKER	17.03.1992	DF	S	90	90		Besiktas JK
5	Sezer ÖZMEN	07.07.1992	DF	90	90	90		Besiktas JK
6	Orhan GÜLLE	15.01.1992	MF	90	90	90		Gaziantepspor
7	Ömer Ali SAHINER	02.01.1992	FW	90	90	78		Konya Torcu Sekerspor
8	Gökay IRAVUL	18.10.1992	MF	90	76	71		Fenerbahçe SK
9	Muhammet DEMIR	10.01.1992	FW	I	I	83		Gaziantepspor
10	Engin BEKDEMIR	07.02.1992	MF	58	40	90		FC Porto (POR)
11	Nadir CIFTCI	12.02.1992	FW	S	90	12		Portsmouth FC (ENG)
12	Aykut ÖZER	01.01.1993	GK					Eintracht Frankfurt (GER)
13	Sefa BASIBUYUK	18.10.1993	DF	90	90	90		Çorumspor
14	Berkay OZTUUVAN	05.02.1992	MF	32		7		Fenerbahçe SK
15	Atinç NUKAN	20.07.1993	DF	90				Besiktas JK
16	Servan TASTAN	20.05.1993	MF	S	50	19		FC Metz (FRA)
17	Ali DERE	29.09.1992	FW	90	45+	90	1	Konyaspor
18	Hasan SARI	21.01.1992	FW	19	14			Trabzonspor AS

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill
Two goals were own goals scored by Spain's Jonas Ramalho and Sergi Gómez

Turkey v Spain



- 4-2-3-1 with No6 as the influential, more creative of two screening midfielders
- Game structure based on combination play with good off the ball movement
- Physically strong back four; compact defensive block
- Emphasis on high-tempo play with good pressing in all areas of pitch
- Team structure aimed at using full width of pitch with diagonal switches
- Well-organised, disciplined team; all aware of defensive obligations
- High levels of fitness, mental strength and team spirit

RESULTS

GROUP A

20 July 2011

Romania – Czech Republic 1-3 (1-1)

1-0 Nicolae Stanciu (29) 1-1 Tomáš Prikryl (44) 1-2 Tomáš Jeleceček (61-pen) 1-3 Vojtech Hadascok (85)

Attendance: 3,550 at Concordia Stadium, Chiajna; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: ROU: Tiberiu Serediuc (12), Alin Carstocea (41), Sebastian Remes (60) / CZE: Martin Sladky (18), Ladislav Krejci (72)

Referee: Clément Turpin (France) / **Assistants:** Brandner; Dettamanti /

Fourth official: Bogнар

Greece – Republic of Ireland 1-2 (1-1)

0-1 Anthony O'Connor (2) 1-1 Georgios Katidis (5) 1-2 Anthony O'Connor (51)

Attendance: 310 at FRF Football Centre, Buftea; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: GRE: Anastasios Lagos (41), Kostas Fortounis (69), Kostas Rougkalis (89) / IRL: Samir Carruthers (30), Jeffrey Hendrick (33), Matthew Doherty (57)

Referees: Pawel Gil (Poland) / Draskovic; Bekker / Hagen

23 July 2011

Czech Republic – Republic of Ireland 2-1 (0-1)

0-1 John O'Sullivan (10) 1-1 Jakub Brabec (69) 2-1 Patrik Lacha (71)

Attendance: 337 at FRF Football Centre, Mogosoia; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: CZE: Martin Sladky (23), Martin Hala (36) / IRL: Kane Ferdinand (59), Derrick Williams (69)

Referees: Tamás Bogнар (Hungary) / Cariolato; Hummelgaard / Kuchin

Romania – Greece 0-1 (0-1)

0-1 Kostas Fortounis (37)

Attendance: 2,550 at City Stadium, Berceni; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: ROU: Nicolae Stanciu (14), Lucian Murgoci (36), Ionut Nastasie (45+2), Romario Benzar (55), Tiberiu Serediuc (75), Alin Carstocea (82) / GRE: Kostas Stafylidis (23), Charis Mavrias (77)

Referees: Stuart Attwell (England) / Dettamanti; Brandner / Turpin

26 July 2011

Czech Republic – Greece 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Tomáš Prikryl (70)

Attendance: 325 at FRF Football Centre, Mogosoia; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: GRE: Anastasios Lagos (46), Kostas Stafylidis (76), Anastasios Bakasetas (80), Kostas Kotsaridis (85), Kostas Fortounis (90+2)

Referees: Tom Harald Hagen (Norway) / Draskovic; Bekker / Attwell

Republic of Ireland – Romania 0-0

Attendance: 2,470 at City Stadium, Berceni; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: IRL: Matthew Doherty (69), Anthony O'Connor (84) / ROU: Enghin Amet (30), Ionut Gugu (33), Lucian Murgoci (52)

Referees: Artyom Kuchin (Kazakhstan) / Rojko; Mosyakin / Gil

GROUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Republic of Ireland	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Greece	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Romania	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

GROUP B

20 July 2011

Serbia – Turkey 2-0 (0-0)

1-0 Milos Jojic (57) 2-0 Nikola Trujic (90)

Attendance: 2,160 at City Stadium, Berceni; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: SRB: Milos Jojic (25), Nikola Trujic (90+1) / TUR: Okan Alkan (51)

Referees: Artyom Kuchin (Kazakhstan) / Rojko; Mosyakin / Kovacs

21 July 2011*

Spain – Belgium 4-1 (1-0)

1-0 Pablo Sarabia (15-pen) 1-1 Florent Cuvelier (46) 2-1 Paco Alcácer (65)

3-1 Juan Muñoz (90+1) 4-1 Alvaro Morata (90+3)

Attendance: 818 at FRF Football Centre, Mogosoia; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: ESP: 'Juanmi' Jiménez (34) / BEL: Thorgan Hazard (22), Jore Trompet (35)

Red card: BEL: Koen Casteels (13)

Referees: Stuart Attwell (England) / Hummelgaard; Cariolato / Avram

* Replay: original game on 20 July was abandoned after 17 minutes with Spain leading 1-0

23 July 2011

Turkey – Belgium 1-1 (0-0)

1-0 Ali Dere (77) 1-1 Jonas Vervaeke (90)

Attendance: 193 at FRF Football Centre, Buftea; KO 19.00

Yellow cards: TUR: Okan Alkan (45), Gökay Iravul (67), Ali Dere (87) / BEL: Laurens De Bock (62), Maxime Lestienne (65)

Red card: BEL: Igor Vetokele (42)

Referees: Tom Harald Hagen (Norway) / Bekker; Draskovic / Kovacs

Serbia – Spain 0-4 (0-3)

0-1 Alvaro Morata (13) 0-2 'Juanmi' Jiménez (15) 0-3 Alvaro Morata (22)

0-4 Alvaro Morata (75)

Attendance: 2,260 at Concordia Stadium, Chiajna; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: SRB: Danilo Kuzmanovic (37), Milos Jojic (68) /

ESP: Jon Aurtenetxe (56), Alvaro Morata (72)

Referees: Pawel Gil (Poland) / Mosyakin; Rojko / Avram

26 July 2011

Turkey – Spain 3-0 (1-0)

1-0 Jonas Ramalho (31-own goal) 2-0 Kamil Cörekçi (51) 3-0 Sergi Gómez (56-own goal)

Attendance: 1,887 at Concordia Stadium, Chiajna; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: TUR: Furkan Seker (38), Engin Bekdemir (84) /

ESP: Pablo Sarabia (90+2)

Referees: Tamás Bogнар (Hungary) / Hummelgaard; Cariolato / Kovacs

Belgium – Serbia 1-1 (0-1)

0-1 Andrej Mrkela (6) 1-1 Marnick Vermijl (73)

Attendance: 172 at FRF Football Centre, Buftea; KO 21.00

Yellow cards: BEL: Paul-José Mpoku (81), Maxime Lestienne (90+1) / SRB: Goran Causic (25), Marko Petkovic (56), Darko Brasanac (70), Djordje Despotovic (86)

Referees: Clément Turpin (France) / Brandner; Dettamanti / Avram

GROUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Serbia	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Turkey	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Belgium	3	0	2	1	3	6	2



SEMI-FINALS

29 July 2011

Czech Republic – Serbia 4-2 (3-2)

1-0 Tomáš Prikryl (6) 2-0 Tomáš Kalas (16) 3-0 Tomáš Jelecek (19-pen)
3-1 Djordje Despotovic (23) 3-2 Djordje Despotovic (28) 4-2 Jiri Skalac (90+1)

Attendance: 450 at FRF Football Centre, Mogosoaia; KO 18.45

Yellow cards: CZE: Patrik Lacha (42), Jiri Skalac (90+1) / SRB: Filip Malbasic (22), Uros Cosic (80)

Referees: Artyom Kuchin (Kazakhstan) / Cariolato; Hummelgaard / Attwell

Spain – Republic of Ireland 5-0 (2-0)

1-0 Gerard Deulofeu (27) 2-0 Pablo Sarabia (40) 3-0 'Juanmi' Jiménez (46)
4-0 Alvaro Morata (79) 5-0 Alvaro Morata (90+1-pen)

Attendance: 2,768 at Concordia Stadium, Chiajna; KO 20.45

Yellow cards: ESP: Daniel Carvajal (77) / IRL: Jeffrey Hendrick (38), Sean Murray (54), Aaron McCarey (58)

Referees: Clément Turpin (France) / Mosyakin; Brandner / Hagen

FINAL

1 August 2011

Czech Republic – Spain 2-3 after extra time (0-0, 1-1)

1-0 Ladislav Krejci (52) 1-1 Jon Aurtenetxe (85) 2-1 Patrik Lacha (97)
2-2 Paco Alcácer (108) 2-3 Paco Alcácer (115)

Czech Republic: Tomáš Koubek; Martin Hala, Tomáš Kalas, Jakub Brabec (captain), Tomáš Jelecek; Pavel Kaderábek, Adam Janos, Roman Polom (Martin Sladky 36), Ladislav Krejci; Jiri Skalac (Patrik Lacha 79), Tomáš Prikryl (Antonin Fantis 102).

Spain: Edgar Badía; Albert Blázquez, Sergi Gómez, Ignasi Miquel, Jon Aurtenetxe; Alex Fernández (José Campaña 55), Rubén Pardo; Gerard Deulofeu, Pablo Sarabia (captain) (Juan Muñiz 78), 'Juanmi' Jiménez (Paco Alcácer 54); Alvaro Morata.

Attendance: 4,300 at Concordia Stadium, Chiajna; KO 20.00

Yellow cards: CZE: Jiri Skalac (66), Jakub Brabec (69), Antonin Fantis (107) / ESP: Alex Fernández (47), José Campaña (119)

Referees: Stuart Attwell (England) / Mosyakin; Hummelgaard / Kuchin

REFEREES

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
Stuart Attwell	England	06.10.1982	2009
Tamás Bogнар	Hungary	18.11.1978	2009
Pawel Gil	Poland	28.06.1976	2009
Tom Harald Hagen	Norway	01.04.1978	2009
Artyom Kuchin	Kazakhstan	15.12.1977	2009
Clément Turpin	France	16.05.1982	2010

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
Serhiy Bekker	Ukraine	25.04.1980	2011
Roland Brandner	Austria	24.01.1978	2010
Gianluca Cariolato	Italy	24.04.1972	2010
Devis Dettamanti	Switzerland	21.06.1980	2007
Dalibor Draskovic	Bosnia-Herzegovina	08.04.1975	2009
Lars Hummelgaard	Denmark	08.03.1978	2009
Dmitriy Mosyakin	Russia	27.09.1979	2011
Gregor Rojko	Slovenia	17.11.1979	2008

FOURTH OFFICIALS

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
Ionut Avram	Romania	09.08.1979	2010
Istvan Kovacs	Romania	16.09.1984	2010

FAIR PLAY RANKINGS

1	Spain	8.250
2	Czech Republic	7.916
3	Serbia	7.642
4	Republic of Ireland	7.619
5	Turkey	7.523
6	Greece	7.321
7	Romania	7.047
8	Belgium	6.619



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