



Tournament review





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'Pleasure and pride'

Great memories and a lasting legacy



GIORGIO MARCHETTI
UEFA director of competitions

European futsal was at the top of its game as record crowds in Belgrade enjoyed an exceptional tournament

It is with great pleasure that we can reflect with pride on UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in this final tournament review. The 20 matches at the Arena of Belgrade brought diverse styles of play but unrelenting quality and high drama. While the winning team was a familiar one, the strength in depth of European futsal proved to be in excellent health.

The continent's finest teams and players provided a great deal of inspiration both via global broadcasts and locally, where the total finals attendance reached six figures for the first time in the competition's history. Five days were sell-outs, and hopefully some of the 113,820 spectators who revelled in the action in Serbia will be inspired to participate in the sport in the future.

The involvement of the community in organising the tournament was another of its special features and we would like to thank the

"The strength in depth of European futsal proved to be in excellent health"

Football Association of Serbia (FSS) and its president, Tomislav Karadžić, for their excellent cooperation in staging the finals, which we hope will leave a lasting and significant legacy in the country.

Congratulations go to Spain, whose final win over Russia not only extended their unparalleled success in the competition but also marked their 27th victory in a row since losing to the same opponents in the semi-finals in 2014. We envisage more of the same quality in Slovenia in 2018 and, to whet the appetite for that event, we hope you will enjoy reflecting on all the drama of the Belgrade finals.



TOMISLAV KARADŽIĆ
Football Association of Serbia president

Serbia will build on the success of a competition that has inspired the next generation

Hosting UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 has been an exhilarating and enriching experience, not only for the Football Association of Serbia but also for society, beyond the sporting arena.

Supporters from Serbia arrived in their droves to cheer their national team and to support the tournament as a whole, and coach Aca Kovačević and his team generated further enthusiasm with the quality of their performances on their way to the semi-finals. Future generations were also closely involved with the tournament. Youth teams from around the country competed for the right to play at the Arena of Belgrade during the finals, and schoolchildren contributed to the sustainability guide, showing our commitment to leaving a legacy long after the lifting of the trophy.

Our congratulations go to everyone who took part – not only the 12 teams and especially

"UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 has been an exhilarating and enriching experience"

the winning team, Spain – but also to the team behind the scenes who worked tirelessly to make the event a success. That includes all the volunteers, without whom it would not have been possible. Through everyone's work, we hope to have repaid UEFA's faith in us and thank them for their support and confidence.

Our objective now is to build further on the success of this final tournament to deliver more great times ahead for both futsal and football in Serbia. We hope that you enjoy looking back over this absorbing chapter in our history in this review of the tournament.

Kids get a kick out of futsal

The UEFA Futsal EURO gave children across Serbia the chance to get together and get involved in the game

Olivera Arsenin wore a huge smile. With grassroots matches in progress behind her at the Arena of Belgrade, she looked the part in the red-and-white shirt that marked her out as a member of the Novi Sad team. She was there on the eve of the semi-finals on 10 February under the auspices of the My School – My Club initiative, which was launched by the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) in association with UEFA to involve youngsters from across the country in the thrill of the UEFA Futsal EURO. "When I woke up, I was very excited," Olivera said. "I couldn't wait to get on the bus and go to Belgrade for the game."

As well as giving children the unique opportunity to play on the same surface as Europe's top futsal stars, social initiatives around the tournament aimed to engage the next generation with values such as gender equality, fair play, respect and sustainability. Getting children playing football on a massive scale is a key objective of the FSS and UEFA, and My School – My Club certainly achieved that goal.

Local futsal tournaments were held throughout the country in the build-up to the EURO with the winners invited to compete at the Arena of Belgrade the day before the semi-finals of the championship itself, with nearly 700 children under the age of 12 taking part.

"We had teams from the four major

administrative centres of Serbia – Kragujevac, Nis, Novi Sad and Belgrade – coming together for football, futsal and women's football," explained Igor Janković, head of grassroots at the FSS. "One boy and one girl from each school was represented, with some of them in the stands and some on the pitch. We really like to see them enjoying the games and being so cheerful and enthusiastic about futsal and, naturally, about the EURO."

Children were a chief consideration during the EURO. Local schoolkids provided the illustrations for a Tips and Tricks sustainability guide, which highlighted environment-protection issues in everyday life. This was published in Serbian and heavily promoted on social media.

This first EURO of 2016 also offered a platform to publicise the work of the UEFA Foundation for Children, which in conjunction with the Serbian ministry for education arranged trips for youngsters to attend matches.

At the Arena of Belgrade they were also encouraged to visit an exhibition portraying life at the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, where the UEFA foundation has instigated a football-inspired project to ease the plight of children living there; the powerful images evoked strong emotions. It was another example of how futsal and football are potent forces for good in society, and why the tournament will leave a lasting legacy in Serbia.



An exhibition drew attention to life in the Za'atari refugee camp



Two children proudly show their drawings in the sustainability guide



The My School – My Club initiative concluded at the Arena of Belgrade



Technical report

Analysis and debate

UEFA technical observers Javier Lozano and Mićo Martić provided a keen insight into the trends and tactics of a groundbreaking tournament

The technical report on the tenth final tournament of the UEFA European Futsal Championship forms the core element in a global review that sets out to paint a broader picture of the status of futsal in Europe. It does so by embracing the commercial, marketing, financial and broadcasting aspects of UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, all of which added up to a groundbreaking event.

The technical report aims to provide a permanent record of the 20 matches played in Belgrade and to present factual and statistical

information in a reader-friendly format. The report is based on the observations and analysis provided by UEFA's two technical observers. In Serbia, UEFA's technical team was formed by two current or former national team coaches with extensive experience accumulated at EUROs and FIFA World Cups.

The facts, observations and viewpoints which appear in this review aim not only to inform but also to inspire ideas for future progress by generating analysis, reflections and debate. This, it is hoped, will give technicians food

for thought and, by highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of European futsal, also provide coaches who are active at senior and development levels of the game with information that may be helpful in terms of working on the qualities required by the players and coaches who will play leading roles in shaping the future of futsal in Europe.

JAVIER LOZANO

Javier Lozano had previously acted as UEFA technical observer at the 2010, 2012 and 2014 final tournaments. He chose futsal as his 'first love' in the early 1980s, going into coaching at 31 and making his name at the helm of Caja Toledo and Madrid-based Inter FS. In 1992, he was invited to take over from Felipe Ojeda as head coach of the Spanish national team and led it to victory in the first European futsal tournament staged under UEFA auspices in Cordoba in 1996. It was the first of a rich collection of gold medals, as he subsequently led Spain to victory in the 2000 and 2004 FIFA Futsal World Cups and the 2001 and 2005 UEFA European Futsal Championships. He handed the baton to José Venancio López in 2007 to take a post in the outdoor game with Real Madrid CF, initially in the first-team dressing-room and then as director of player

development, before returning to futsal in his current role as president of Spain's professional futsal league.

MIĆO MARTIĆ

Mićo Martić was part of UEFA's technical study group in Ostrava for UEFA Futsal EURO 2005 and was a UEFA technical observer during UEFA Futsal EURO 2007 in Portugal. As one of Croatia's pioneering futsal stars, he was in the national team that played its first-ever fixture against Italy in 1994, going on to score 12 goals in 31 appearances for his country. He played the best part of two decades in Italian club football and, moving into coaching, was at the helm of the Croatian national team from 2004 until 2009. Since 2013, he has been head coach of the Finland national futsal team, alternating with the bench at Croatian semi-professional club MNK Futsal Dinamo.



The UEFA technical team in Belgrade (from left to right): Graham Turner, Javier Lozano, Stéphanie Tétaz and Mićo Martić

Power, poise and passion



Though hosts Serbia galvanised the huge Arena of Belgrade crowd, Europe's traditional powers ultimately held sway

"We were just a bit short of the level of a very good team. They had the edge on us in game management and that's why they deserved to win." The comment was made by Hungary coach Sisto Rivera after his side had valiantly chased a result in the Group B match against Ukraine only to succumb by a 6-3 scoreline. However, his remark could legitimately be applied to a group stage in which the aspirants came close but the favourites' know-how prevailed.

GROUP A: SERBIA ON TOP

The hosts would probably not have hung the favourites' tag round their own necks – especially when a defensive lapse against a free-kick left them 1-0 down to a Slovenian team that, two years previously, had started an impressive campaign by defeating Italy, the eventual champions. Andrej Dobovičnik resorted to the flying keeper during the first half to pre-empt a Serbian comeback but, as the game wore on, the efforts of predominantly individual defending took their toll. There was less support for the direct supplies to attacking pivot Kristijan Čujec, allowing Serbia to take command and score four times after reaching the break at 1-1.

The 5-1 defeat gave Slovenia the task of beating Portugal two days later to keep hopes of survival alive. Another strong start gave them a 1-0 lead and a corner allowed them once again to go in level at half-time after Portugal had come back with two goals – the second a cheeky close-range back-heel by Ricardinho. Without the injured Rok Mordej (arguably their best exponent of one-on-one skills) and hampered by the use of few players, Slovenia's aggressive marking was slowly diluted and, again, they conceded four goals after the interval to conclude a brief campaign.

Two days later, title-contenders Portugal dominated the hosts in a game described by their coach, Jorge Braz, as "one-way traffic". But, despite a goal of outstanding creativity and beauty by Ricardinho, they were pegged to 1-1 at the interval. And Serbian industry outdid Portuguese artistry when an inspired combination between Marko Perić and Slobodan Rajčević, followed by a late kick-in which caught defenders wrong-footed, gave the hosts a 3-1 win and top spot in Group A. The repercussion for Portugal was a quarter-final against the Group B winners, Spain.



A relieved Russia were pushed to the limit by Croatia



Ukraine's Mykola Grytsyna scored in a losing cause against Spain

GROUP B: SPAIN IN COMMAND

Squad renovation and injuries had converted the serial champions into something of an unknown quantity, but with their 1-1-1-2 defending and 1-4-0 attacking they posed Hungary multiple questions in their opening game. Hungary's main attacking potential stemmed from the power, pace and strong finishing of Zoltán Dróth, scorer of their goals in a 5-2 defeat. Needing to beat Ukraine two days later, a defensive lapse left them chasing the result. Defending high, playing with great heart and trying to exploit direct supply to Dróth, Sito Rivera's team stayed within touching distance at 3-2 and 4-3 but, with high-tempo passing and outstanding positional play by Dmytro Bondar, Ukraine sent Hungary home with a 6-3 victory. Needing only a draw against Spain to top the group, Ukraine conceded twice while using the flying goalkeeper midway through the second half and were ultimately beaten 4-1.

GROUP C: RUSSIA HOLD ON

Group C opened with a fascinating encounter between Russia – silver-medallists in 2014 – and debutants Kazakhstan, whose coach Cacau also led Kairat Almaty, the country's top club and suppliers of the core of his national team. Russia, alternating 1-3-1 with 1-4-0 attacking struck twice through Romulo in the space of 28 seconds midway through the first half. But

Kazakhstan, with aggressive high defending, limited damage and quickly halved the deficit through Serik Zhamankulov after a trademark upfield incursion by goalkeeper Higuita. The 2-1 loss sent Cacau's team into action against Croatia 48 hours later needing a victory to survive. Croatia, however, struggled to sustain attacking rhythm against the Kazakhs' Higuita-based five-outfielder format and were let down by low-intensity defensive work in key passages of play. A 4-2 defeat left Mato Stanković's team needing to beat Russia by two goals to advance at their opponents' expense.

They came close. Upgrading overall performance and slickly conducting defence-to-attack transitions, they spiked Russia's attacking weapons with high pressure and outscored them in terms of goal attempts. At 1-0 and 2-1 ahead, they were candidates to achieve their objective. But lack of possession in the final phase of the game limited Stanković's opportunities to deploy the flying keeper – and when Nikolai Pereverzev volleyed in a lofted assist by Eder Lima to make it 2-2 with less than two minutes remaining, Croatia's fate was sealed.

GROUP D: ITALY IMPRESS

Italy opened the defence of their title against an Azerbaijan side which defended with an effective 1-1-1-2 formation based on high pressing. Italy, although compact and focused, with a high pivot

giving depth and variation to their attacking, struggled to find a way through until a red card on 18:25 deprived Azerbaijan of their attacking playmaker and most talented one-on-one exponent, Amadeu. Within just over a minute, Merlim found a channel between defenders to open the scoring and a second goal within nine seconds of the restart gave Italy a cushion before a corner skilfully exploited by Giasson sealed a 3-0 win.

Azerbaijan then flirted with elimination against the Czech Republic, despite taking an early 2-0 lead. Physically strong and adept at sweeping changes of play with diagonal openings to the wings, the Czechs bravely chased the result, coming back to 3-3, 4-4 and 5-5 only to be defeated by a fierce angled shot by Rafael 40 seconds before the end. Needing to beat Italy two days later, the Czechs tried high pressing against an Italian team which was reassured by a goal after 26 seconds and which blunted Czech advances with efficient triangular-segmented zonal marking. With fuel running low, Czech momentum faded, allowing Italy to display confidence, concentration and creativity – and to score seven goals without reply to win Group D convincingly without conceding a goal in 80 minutes of play.



Gabriel Lima holds off Amadeu in Italy's 3-0 win against Azerbaijan

Road to the final



Slobodan Rajčević takes aim against Ukraine



Despite two goals from Ricardinho – including one astonishing effort – Portugal were no match for Spain



Chingiz Yesenamanov (left) and Aleksandr Dovgan revel in knocking out the champions



Russia's Gustavo welcomes victory against Azerbaijan

QUARTER-FINALS

SERBIA 2-1 UKRAINE

Barely 20 hours after the Arena had emptied, it refilled to the brim as Serbia fans added weight to their team's push against Ukraine in the first quarter-final. Aca Kovačević, aware that his players were feeling the rigours of a heavy schedule, was grateful for their support – and for the defensive mix-up which drew keeper Yevgen Ivanyak and two outfielders to the left of their arc and allowed Mladen Kocić to roll the ball into an unguarded net after only 1:26. Ukraine, deploying nimble, skilful players in mainly 1-4-0 attacking formation (with occasional use of Mykola Grytsyna as pivot) stretched the hosts to the limit yet failed to beat the impressive Miodrag Aksentijević until a kick-in on the right allowed Grytsyna to find space in the middle and to push home an equaliser from close range after 3:18 of the second period. Against Ukraine's fluent combinations on the flanks and threat-laden set plays, Serbia's game was simple in conception and effective in execution, based on neat switches of play to the flanks. One of them, with many minds already focused on extra time, allowed Marko Perić to swing a ball in from the left and Miloš Simić to hook the waist-high delivery into the net. The clock showed that 0.3 seconds remained. Game over.

PORTUGAL 2-6 SPAIN

Spain and Portugal took the field with the task of following that. The former displayed consummate teamwork: well-organised defending; compact, well-synchronised lines; attacks underpinned by two short-passing options; constant off-the-ball movement and good finishing. The latter moved the ball fluently (often artistically), pressed the ball carrier enthusiastically and relied on Ricardinho to produce moments of magic. He did. One of them was enough of a masterpiece to raise the crowd to its feet and put it firmly behind Jorge Braz's team. The harsh reality, however, was that his two goals served only to cut deficits to 3-1 and 4-2, with hopes of a comeback swiftly undermined by defensive lapses. Despite their artistry, Portugal were beaten 6-2.

RUSSIA 6-2 AZERBAIJAN

Russia produced an identical scoreline against Azerbaijan in a contest marked by good positional attacking and dangerous, well-drilled set plays. Russia, warming to the competition, defended well, dictated the tempo and, as the game wore on, exploited the ability of pivot Eder Lima to receive, control, use his one-on-one skills and finish strongly. Tino Pérez sent on playmaker

Amadeu as flying keeper 12 times in the last 15 minutes but a balance of one goal scored and two conceded during power play contributed to the final score of 6-2 in Russia's favour.

KAZAKHSTAN 5-2 ITALY

The last quarter-final was as dramatic as the first. With keeper Higuita's trademark advances disturbing Italy's patterns, Kazakhstan took a 2-0 half-time lead thanks to a corner and a scene of defensive chaos. In a higher-tempo second half, Roberto Menichelli's side carved openings but stymied their revival with uncharacteristic defensive lapses in key moments. Coming back to 2-1, they conceded a third within 30 seconds; coming back to 3-2 with Gabriel Lima as flying keeper, they let in a fourth in six seconds. Although Cacau used only eight of his dozen outfielders, Kazakhstan's stout, well-drilled defending – including Higuita and the woodwork – earned a 5-2 win, with Leo sending the ball the length of the pitch into the unguarded Italian net 23 seconds from time to consummate the surprise. The champions were out.



Douglas Jr. celebrates a goal as Kazakhstan put up a fight in the semi-finals

SEMI-FINALS

SPAIN 5-3 KAZAKHSTAN
Kazakhstan's quarter-final victory against 2014 champions Italy had come at a price. Higuita had seen his second yellow card of the tournament, depriving Cacau of his goalkeeping and tactical trump card, and Chingiz Yesenamanov had sustained an injury that ruled him out of the tournament. Cacau had built his campaign on a hard core of nine players and was short of manpower against Spain. Despite declaring reserve goalkeeper Grigori Shamro among his five starters, he kicked off with five outfielders –

Mikhail Pershin wearing the goalkeeping version of his No11 shirt.
Spain, however, remained unfazed, surging forward to press the ball-carrier and quickly forcing Cacau to revert to a more orthodox formation. Yet an upset seemed on the cards when a power-run by Douglas Jr. allowed Aleksandr Dovgan to turn in his pass at the back post. Spain, again, were unrattled. In fact they rattled in three goals before the break and a fourth after 26:28 to seemingly put the game to bed. Although tiring and serially repelled

by the excellent Spanish keeper, Paco Sedano, Kazakhstan continued to defend stoutly and press high. When Spain eased off, they fanned flames from the ashes by scoring twice in 98 seconds while using Leo as flying goalkeeper. The crowd offered vocal support to the underdog, but when Spain went back to playing their strongest suit – off-the-ball movement, creating and exploiting space – Raúl Campos made it 5-3 to put the issue beyond doubt.



Russia's Eder Lima and Daniil Davydov



Spanish fans would be back for the final

SERBIA 2-3 RUSSIA (AET)
Earlier in the evening, there had been 11,161 witnesses to Serbia's bid to reach their first final. An intense contest was marked by the fluent movement and defensive balance of the Russian team with, in attacking play, either Eder Lima or Dmitri Lyskov as the pivot. The former opened the scoring, exploiting a ball loss to skip round Miodrag Aksentijević, the excellent Serbian goalkeeper. Serbia, with a good share of possession, neat one-touch movements and aggressive pressing in defence, waited until 5:50

into the second half to reply via a powerful drive from Mladen Kocić – only for Sergei Abramov, with outstanding technique, to regain the lead for Russia. However, the balance shifted again when Eder Lima was red-carded and Miloš Simić equalised while Serbia were playing five-on-four. And so to extra time. After 3:32 of the first period, Romulo struck the crucial goal for Russia and, although Aca Kovačević threw on the flying goalkeeper in the last two minutes, it was Sergei Skorovich who delightedly took on the task of preparing for a final against Spain.

Serbia, running out of fuel, held it to 0-0 until 28 seconds before the interval in the bronze-medal match, but a 5-2 victory allowed Kazakhstan to become the first debutants to claim third place.

Spain in seventh heaven



Miguellín (11) and Pola scored two goals apiece in the final

Twenty years after winning UEFA's first European futsal tournament, Spain continue to set the benchmark

Amid all the pageantry and sitting in a back row just below the main TV cameras, UEFA's technical observer Javier Lozano couldn't help but reminisce. The final in Belgrade marked the 20th anniversary of Spain's 5-3 victory over Russia in the first European futsal tournament to be organised by UEFA. On that day in 1996, Lozano won the first of his three European titles as coach of Spain. Flicking through the photo album of that pioneering event, with the referees in long trousers, a sparsely populated press box and a modest crowd at the 4,000-capacity venue in Cordoba, illustrates how far futsal has travelled in the last two decades, morphing into the grandiose final between the same two countries at the Arena of Belgrade.

Russia versus Spain could be regarded as futsal's Clásico, with all the rivalry and tensions that the label carries. Familiarity had bred mutual respect between the two coaches, Sergei Skorovich and José Venancio López. History was also a conditioning factor. Russia were aware that four previous finals against Spain had yielded only one victory; Spain were aware that their title defence in 2014 had been ended at the semi-final stage by Skorovich's team. A nervy start came as no surprise.

Russia's game plan was to subject Spain to high pressing and tight individual marking, with the aim of disturbing their trademark combination play. Venancio countered this by using a 1-3-1 formation, with the high-lying pivot setting out to stretch the Russian lines. Playing long to the front man yielded no early dividends. Spain's game was uncharacteristically disjointed; passing lacked its usual precision and a few cracks appeared – such as the lack of understanding between Raúl Campos and his goalkeeper Paco Sedano, before the ball was eventually scrambled away for a corner. Sedano's outstanding performance included a stunning right-foot save after 5:40, when Russia came within an ace of breaking the deadlock from a corner. "If I had to select a player of the tournament, then Sedano would be one of my candidates," Lozano murmured.

Spain's technical excellence allowed them to allay the early jitters and settle into their usual high-tempo combination play. Russian nerves began to fray, with the closeness of their individual marking drawing them into concentration-threatening sideshows. Robinho, their playmaker, gestured impatiently to team-mates when he found himself short of passing options. A Spain breakthrough looked increasingly likely. But Skorovich, who had extensively forewarned and fore-armed his players about Spain's proficiency at set pieces, was aghast at the manner of its arrival. After 8:08, Bebe delivered a kick-in from the right and Alex, unmarked, slammed the ball high into the Russia net.

The setback raised questions about the power to react of a Russia side which, with Eder Lima suspended, had been deprived of its reference point in attack. The advantage, although slim, opened the door for Spain to exercise counterattacking options and the game settled into a pattern of lengthy periods of ball possession by the Russians without finding routes into the key scoring areas.

The final



Paco Sedano saves from Robinho

Then, in the space of 93 seconds, they converted an uphill task into a mountain with two losses of possession and another dead-ball lapse. Firstly, a ball loss allowed Mario Rivillos to feed Pola. Within a minute, a kick-in by captain Carlos Ortiz on the right allowed Rivillos to add a third. Thirty-five seconds later, Pola stole possession and scored. Three blink-of-an-eye goals, far removed from Spain's habitual combination play, had dug a trough that the Russians would find hard to bridge.

They tried and Romulo finally defeated Sedano just before the break. After Spain had opened the second period by challenging their opponents to find solutions, the next turning point came when Skorovich sent on Romulo as flying goalkeeper with almost 13 minutes to play. There were unkind remarks about the main airborne threat being not the flying keeper but the two pigeons who insisted on claiming territory on the field of play. Spain adjusted their 1-2-2 defending to cope with the extra outfielder, pushing the leading edge slightly further forward and snapping like crocodiles

when they spotted chances to win the ball. Miguelín galloped alone down the left to put 5-1 on the scoreboard, only for Robinho to keep hopes flickering when Russia successfully overloaded one flank to create a scoring opening on the other.

Although Skorovich switched the flying goalkeeper's jersey to Sergei Sergeev, the scenario remained unchanged. Losses of possession allowed Miguelín and Rivillos to shoot from long range into an unguarded net and the cheeky back-heeled goal by Ivan Milovanov with 20 seconds remaining was scant consolation. Seconds later, with 7-3 on the scoreboard, the players shook hands and embraced, not waiting for the siren to pass sentence on a conclusive result. The Spanish players collected gold medals wearing shirts bearing the names of colleagues who had missed Belgrade through injury. Spain, despite the absences, had been the most complete and consistent of the contenders. Twenty years after Cordoba, they had become champions of Europe for the seventh time.

 	
RUSSIA 3-7 SPAIN	
MATCH STATISTICS	
47	Total attempts 48
19	Attempts on target 21
13	Attempts off target 13
15	Blocked 14
1	Against woodwork 1
12	Corners 8
3	Yellow cards 1
0	Red cards 0



Romulo got Russia on the board



Russia coach Sergei Skorovich



Pola jumps for joy after scoring



Spain celebrate with the trophy

The winning coach

Venancio shows the way

The Spain coach's passionate belief in placing the team above the individual meant that not even a string of injuries to key players could keep him from winning his fourth crown

SPAIN'S UEFA FUTSAL EURO RECORD UNDER VENANCIO

4 titles won (2007, 2010, 2012, 2016)
87.5% winning percentage*
35 wins from 40 matches*

*including qualifying

1 only defeat was the 2014 semi-final against Russia
222 goals for, 50 against*

"He is a very demanding coach. He works so hard. He loves the sport. He is really passionate about futsal. He's always fighting for the growth of futsal. For me, he is an amazing coach." That nutshell description of winning coach José Venancio López was delivered by team captain Carlos Ortiz in Belgrade, where a fourth UEFA Futsal EURO victory was arguably the Spain boss's most meritorious achievement since taking the reins in 2007. His squad had been severely depleted by injuries, Ortiz was unfit for the two group games, and Rafa Usín made only one fleeting appearance against Ukraine. "At one point," Venancio admitted, "it seemed it would be difficult to make the semis." After victory in the

final, he commented: "I've had the good fortune to be involved with some very good teams, but I think this is the best I have ever coached. Its strength was its identity as a team and its ability to show that human qualities can be more important than big names."

His insistence on selling the credit wholesale to his players matches his respect for opponents and for his colleagues in a coaching profession he holds close to his heart. But his personal contribution is based on dedication, a passion for the strategic niceties of the game and a extremely strong work ethic. He blows out his cheeks when asked how many hours he dedicates to designing and rehearsing the set

plays which, he feels, can be vital weapons in the team's armoury. He analyses opponents in depth, and for the final tournament in Belgrade, he worked on injecting slight but significant variations into the art of defending against the flying goalkeeper – a crucial facet during the knockout-round matches against Portugal, Kazakhstan and Russia.

But he would be quick to refute any hints about a one-man show. A look at the modus operandi on the Spanish touchline reveals that Venancio is not alone in patrolling the technical area and exchanging observations with the players on the bench. While the head coach is engaged in more analytical tasks and meditating

possible reactions to game situations which might give an advantage to his team, his assistant Federico Vidal is also active in issuing instructions, signalling positional variations, correcting organisational aspects of set plays and transmitting passion to the players.

Venancio's success in Serbia was achieved by a squad containing five newcomers in relation to the players who travelled to Antwerp for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. "There's a continuity which makes it easier," he comments. "The players are familiar with our playing philosophy, which means that we don't require enormous preparation time in terms of training sessions. We had played 16 games in the year before

Belgrade, using a nucleus of 20 or so players. All our physical preparation is done with the ball and we are fortunate to have senior players who are very good at passing knowledge and experience to the younger ones."

He is also convinced that futsal has taken giant strides in recent years. "I think the level of coaching has risen and I'm sure that the introduction of the UEFA futsal licence is an important step," he remarks. "You can see certain details such as the upsurge in zonal defending which requires more coaching than man-to-man."

One of Venancio's successes has been to maintain a hunger and a winning mentality.

The five victories in Serbia adjusted his personal track record to 133 wins and only two defeats in 147 matches in charge of Spain, with 737 goals scored and 151 conceded. That is, indeed, a champion statistic.

"I've had the good fortune to be involved with some very good teams, but I think this is the best I have ever coached"

Technical topics

Conditioning, player rotation and the rise in the pressing game were among the subjects that provoked discussion

"It was a strange tournament, because the thoughts that you came away with after one matchday were so often completely overturned by what you saw on the next," commented UEFA technical observer Javier Lozano. UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 was marked by inconsistencies, as illustrated by the defending champions, Italy. Having powered through the group phase with such superlative concentration and authority that observers wondered if anybody could beat them, a compendium of errors led to their campaign capsizing against Kazakhstan in the quarter-finals. Portugal, despite the extraordinary contribution by Ricardinho, also made an unusually early exit after winning only one of three matches and, like the Italians, committing errors at the most inopportune moments. Despite the vicissitudes, the tournament did throw light on a number of tendencies that the technical observers detected and discussed.

Aca Kovačević lifts his troops after losing to Russia



FITNESS MATTERS

Fitness levels varied markedly depending on the leagues players had come from
A Futsal EURO is an unusual event in that the coaches had to cope with diverse parameters of physical condition. At one end of the spectrum were the two finalists. "We don't do any specific physical preparation," Spain coach José Venancio López said. "We just keep up fitness levels by working with the ball." Russia, also blessed with a strong domestic league, offered a similar scenario to Sergei Skorovich. "Fitness is not a problem because our players have got used to a demanding programme of matches that last 50 minutes," he said. "That has been good for us and all we did in Serbia was to monitor medical condition." On the other hand, Serbia coach Aca Kovacević said: "Only two of our squad were from highly competitive leagues, so we had to work hard to bring the others up to competitive standard."

Portugal coach Jorge Braz agreed. "The game has become more physical and we needed to work on fitness and physique in order to compete," he said. "We have some talents at Under-19 level, but we're worried they might be too flimsy to cope with top-level futsal." Czech coach Tomáš Neumann, ruing the demise of professional clubs in his country, stated quite simply: "The game requires more speed and strength and, even though we had a specific physical conditioning coach, fitness was a problem – which meant that our movement off the ball was a problem." During the tournament in Belgrade, it became evident that physical condition interlocked with other aspects.

PRESSING GAME

An emphasis on pressing high up the court led to a reduction in swift breaks
"In my opinion, the overall improvement in physical condition allowed teams to press higher up the pitch and exploit greater mobility off the ball," Javier Lozano said. "In the past, nearly all teams tended to concentrate defensive work into their own half, but in Belgrade we saw a lot more sustained, aggressive pressing three-quarters of the way up the pitch." Azerbaijan coach Tino Pérez agreed. "The tendency to defend deep and counter was not that visible in this tournament,"

he said. "There was more high pressing and teams played with greater ambition."
The technical observers detected a knock-on effect on styles of play. Higher defending, they argued, was the explanation for fewer transitions from deep defending into attacks. In other words, opportunities for quick counterattacks were reduced. There were some striking examples of classic fast breaks, such as the slick combination culminating in a Ricardinho tap-in to haul Portugal back to 3-1 in the quarter-final against Spain. It was one of 17 goals which could reasonably be described as counterattacks. However, the goals assigned to this category include some scored against the flying goalkeeper, when more space is available for a rapid response – in other words, when deep defending was enforced rather than part of a game plan.

SHARING THE LOAD

Attitudes varied on the appropriate division of labour in each squad
The coaches had diverse approaches to the sharing of workloads. Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik used only seven outfielders in the first game against Serbia and, in the second against Portugal, injected an eighth (Anže Širok) after 25:15. Captain Igor Osredkar was practically a permanent presence on court, playing 24:20 from the start against Portugal. At the other end of the scale, Italy coach Roberto Menichelli commented: "I got all 12 outfielders on during the first half of the first match, so that they could get a feel of the pitch and the competition. I think that is an important psychological aspect."
The widely supported view that success amid a heavy match schedule requires the workload to be shared among the entire squad seemingly ran into a counter-argument presented by Kazakhstan. Four outfielders remained unused against Croatia and Italy; three against Russia. But Cacau's side was a special case, in that the extensive use of goalkeeper Higuita in outfield positions allowed the team to decelerate the tempo and give the key performers a breather. Only when Higuita was suspended and Chingiz Yesenamanov injured did Cacau bring the other squad members into play during the semi-final against Spain. Even then, two did not set foot on the field of play until well into the second half.



Fortino caught the eye for Italy



Kazakhstan coach Cacau gets his message across

GOING LONG

Direct passes forward were more common, as were pivots drifting wide to receive

"I've always felt uncomfortable about the goalkeeper playing long to the pivot," Lozano admitted, "because, if you practise this at development levels, you are discouraging youngsters from developing their skills. But I have to confess that I was impressed by a lot of the long-pass, direct attacking we saw in Belgrade." There was relatively frequent use of direct back-to-front attacking – the Czech Republic among the chief exponents – but the element which impressed Lozano was that "teams no longer played long just to get rid of the ball and give themselves time to reorganise. It was carefully prepared as an element in game strategy and it showed

up a significant improvement in the levels of reception and control among the pivots." Italy's Fortino or Russia's Eder Lima provided prime examples, illustrating that the static target-man is an extinct species by dropping wide to draw defenders and to create exploitable space in the central areas. In general, the ability to chest the ball down or to control at speed in the wide areas impressed the observers. Eder Lima's talent for holding the ball up and waiting for support was sadly missed by his team in the final. "This facet has been well-drilled by the coaches," said Lozano. "It is important to work on this at development levels, as it is a valuable weapon for teams to have to give depth to the pitch and offer options when you are being pressed high."



Italy's Stefano Mammarella was singled out for his leadership quality

FLEXIBLE STRUCTURES

There was a notable trend towards zonal marking

Few of the teams in Serbia had rigid playing structures. In line with the improvement of direct-attacking skills, most made constant switches between 1-3-1 and 1-4-0 systems, frequently using a 2-2 formation in the attacking third. The teams equipped to exert sustained high pressure usually did so in a 1-1-1-2 formation designed to disturb the opponents' build up. The second and third rungs of defence were usually zonal – and there was a noticeable trend towards this style of defending rather than individual marking. The upward trend in fitness levels permitted greater mobility and positional flexibility. As Mićo Martić observed: "We now see a lot of players who are specialists in one role, but have enough all-round qualities to cover the whole pitch."

FLYING HIGH

Debate raged around the growing use of the flying goalkeeper

The use of the flying goalkeeper is discussed later in this report as the major talking point among the coaches at the final tournament. In Belgrade, something over 86 minutes were played with a flying goalkeeper, with, evidently, Higuita's upfield time to be added to that total. Slovenia (v Serbia), Hungary (v Spain), Croatia (v Kazakhstan) and Kazakhstan (v Spain) sent on a fifth outfielder before half-time, the first and last when the team was ahead on the scoreboard.

The coaches unanimously agreed that they now devote greater training time to the four-on-five mode, with the defensive performances in Serbia underlining the quality of the work done. A total of 19 goals were scored while the game was in five-on-four mode: six for teams fielding the flying keeper and 13 against. In Belgium two years earlier, 30 goals had been scored in this scenario (11 for and 19 against). To emphasise the growth of this practice, at Hungary 2010, only 10 goals were scored with a flying keeper in action (six for and four against). In Serbia, Spain's proficient, proactive four-on-five defending was rewarded with six goals resulting from ball-wins – three in the final and two against Ukraine when Oleksandr Kosenko opted to send on the flying keeper after 29:11 with his side 1-0 down.



Eder Lima's talent at holding on to the ball made him the focal point of the Russia attack

KEEPERS' UNION

Stay-at-home goalkeepers were often the bedrock of their sides

Amid all the talk about the flying keepers, it was all too easy to underplay the role of the non-flying variety. But UEFA's technical observers felt that standards of goalkeeping often made the difference between teams of similar quality. "It was noticeable," commented Dušan Matić, a goalkeeping specialist who accompanied the observers in Belgrade, "that the goalkeepers of the top four teams saved in excess of 80% of the shots on target – Aksentijević of Serbia 85.92%; Gustavo of Russia 84.85%, Higuita of Kazakhstan 84.44% and Paco Sedano of Spain 83.08%. It also struck me that the first three, along with Italy's Mammarella, were team leaders, whereas Sedano offers his team-mates a more silent support. The tournament highlighted the value of the work done by specialised futsal goalkeeper coaches." Lozano agreed: "You could see that the best had received this type of coaching. They were good with their feet, had good reflexes and body positioning, they coped well with one-on-ones, were agile and quick to cover the angles for shooting."

SOLOISTS AND ORCHESTRAS

Exceptional talents like Ricardinho must be nurtured

In Belgrade, the soloist par excellence was Ricardinho – a player capable of pulling the crowd to its feet. His coach, Jorge Braz, maintained that the future depends on developing similarly outstanding individual talents. "We need to look for different players while, at the same time, not forgetting the basic element of the game – which is heading for goal," he said. "At the moment, I suspect we are ticking boxes in terms of order and discipline and maybe not doing enough to nurture creativity." Serbia coach Aca Kovacević added: "We need to work on one-on-one skills rather than focus exclusively on combination or positional play. The game needs good teams but it also needs stars."

MIND GAMES

Keeping a level head under pressure is a skill to learn like any other

"It was noticeable that the players from the big leagues were better at coping with the intensity and maintaining their concentration." This was the view of the UEFA observers after examining some of the lapses which had proved crucial in certain games. The question was how best to train players to play at top level in front of huge crowds and to give them the emotional intelligence to deal with the situations they encounter. "In terms of game psychology it was interesting to see to what extent teams who played against Kazakhstan were so preoccupied with methods of dealing with Higuita that they were distracted from their own game," Lozano said. "It seemed to be almost traumatic for them and it demonstrated the need to remain emotionally balanced during a tournament of this level."

Goal rush

Fans in Belgrade were treated to more goals than at any other UEFA Futsal EURO

Serbia 2016 registered an all-time record of 129 goals at an average of 6.45 per match, beating the previous record of 127 set in Hungary in 2010. The 17 goals scored on the final day in Belgrade allowed the previous mark to be surpassed. Those 129 goals were shared among 61 players, with five of them level at the top of the scoring chart with six goals apiece. The adidas Golden Shoe award was shared by Spain's Miquelín and Mario Rivillos on the basis of their number of assists – four apiece. Spain's 27 goals equalled the highest tally at a final tournament, having matched the mark they set in 2010.

Goals per Futsal EURO

EURO	Goals	Games	Average
2016	129	20	6.45
2014	121	20	6.16
2012	109	20	5.45
2010	127	20	6.35
2007	83	16	5.19
2005	87	16	5.44
2003	77	15	5.13
2001	90	16	5.62
1999	86	16	5.38
1996	62	11	5.64

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

A striking 37% more goals were scored in the second half

At the final tournament in Serbia, 54 goals were scored in the first half, while 75 hit the net after the interval, including the solitary extra-time goal scored by Russia during the semi-final against Serbia. If this goal is excluded, it is still a striking statistic that the second period yielded 37% more goals than the first. The fact that 42% were scored during the first half is in line with Belgium 2014 (43%), but higher than Croatia 2012 (37.6%). In Serbia, almost one-fifth of the 129 goals were struck in the last five minutes of normal time – a figure which, again, aligns with Belgium 2014 (20%).

It is always possible to correlate the high number of late goals with fitness levels at a tournament where many of the performers were playing their futsal in essentially amateur leagues. Of the 25 goals scored during the five matches involving Serbia, for example, only six were scored before the break. Risk-management was another factor, with teams often preferring to adopt a more cautious approach during the early phases of the game. The late use of the flying goalkeeper was also an influential element, increasing the likelihood of goals at both ends of the court.



Serik Zhamankulov struck six times for Kazakhstan

Goal times

Minutes	2016	2014	2012	2010	2007	2005	2003
1-5	7	10	11	10	8	5	4
6-10	15	15	15	14	5	10	10
11-15	14	11	4	9	9	8	8
16-20	18	16	11	15	14	13	8
21-25	18	17	17	14	15	13	6
26-30	15	14	19	18	10	8	11
31-35	16	13	11	17	15	12	10
36-40	25	24	19	30	7	18	20
Extra time	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Total	129	121	109	127	83	87	77

HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Combination plays were by far the most effective route to goal

SET-PLAY GOALS

The two goals derived from kick-ins during the final brought the total scored from dead-ball situations to 27, a figure which represents 21% of the aggregate for the tournament. This compares with 24% at EURO 2014 in Belgium. Only two goals were scored from penalties – by Miquelín for Spain against Portugal and, from the 10m mark, Slobodan Janjić for Serbia in the opening game against Slovenia. In both cases, the goal from the spot opened the scoring. Only one goal was scored from a direct free-kick (by Hungary's Zoltán Dróth in the Group B opener against Spain) while three others stemmed from indirect free-kicks. It meant that, as in Belgium two years previously, corners and kick-ins were, by far, the most fertile sources of set-play goals. In terms of corners, the observers noticed an increasing trend towards the lofted corner, looking for a technically demanding volley from the area beyond the back post. Not surprisingly, the success rate from corners was low. There was an average of just over 18 corners per match, but just eight goals scored from the 364 taken. In other words, one in 45.5 led directly to a goal. Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic had the greatest number of opportunities (12 per game) whereas, at the other end of the scale, Slovenia forced an average of seven.

OPEN-PLAY GOALS

In open play, combination moves were, again, the major source of goals, accounting for 35%. The 21.6% of open-play goals attributed to long-range shots requires a modicum of interpretation in order to avoid the temptation to point accusing fingers at goalkeepers for failing to repel shots from distance. In point of fact, the majority of long-range shots hit the net during their absence. The final provided two clear illustrations, with Spain's Miquelín and Mario Rivillos hitting first-time shots from deep in their own half following losses of possession by opponents while Russia were operating with five outfielders. On the other hand, Russia's first two goals were more genuine examples of long-range shooting, with Romulo and Robinho finding the net from the right. Not far short of one in five of the open-play goals (18.6% to be precise) resulted from solo actions, with Ricardinho's outstanding goals against Serbia and Spain providing an advertisement for creative technical skills in one-on-one situations.

Goal types

Category	Action	Guidelines	Goals
Set-play	Corner	Direct from or following a corner	8
	Free-kick (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	1
	Free-kick (indirect)	Following a free-kick	3
	Penalty (6m)	Spot kick (or follow-up)	1
	Penalty (10m)	Spot kick (or follow-up)	1
	Kick-in	Following a kick-in	13
	Total		27
Open-play	Combination	Wall pass or combination play	36
	Passing run	Breakthrough in the middle	10
	Solo performance	Individual action	19
	Long-range shot	Direct shot or shot and rebound	22
	Defensive error	Mistake by defender or goalkeeper	12
	Own goal	Goal by the opponent	3
	Total		102
Grand total			129



Mladen Kocić looks on as Robinho winds up to shoot

Goalscoring analysis

THE NET RESULT

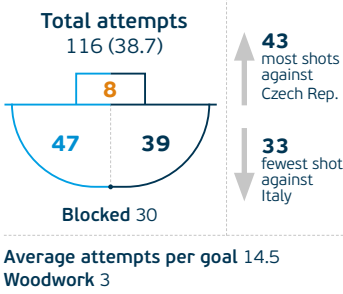
Spain were most efficient, with a goal every 7.6 attempts. The final tournament offered the fans 1,593 goal attempts at an average of a few decimal points below 80 per match. Whereas the teams in Belgium in 2014 had required 11 attempts to register a goal, the average rose to 12.3 in Serbia. The mean figure, however, conceals radical differences. Slovenia required 25 attempts to

score, the Czech Republic nearly 20. Ukraine, despite reaching the quarter-finals, needed 17.8 attempts to post a goal, Portugal 15. Silver-medallists Russia, although scoring 16, had more attempts than any other team and their average was 12.9. At the other end of the scale, Kazakhstan needed just over 11 attempts to score and Italy 10.5. It speaks volumes for the champions that

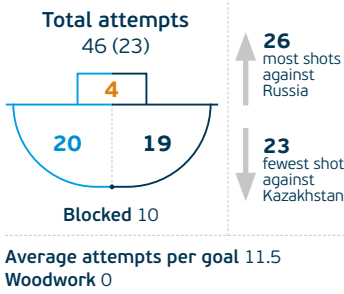
Spain's strike rate was one goal per 7.6 attempts. In individual terms, Spain were also outstanding. In their ratio of on-target/off-target shots, Alex registered 12/4; Raúl Campos 16/8; Mario Rivillos 15/9 and Miguelín 19/17. Ricardinho's tally was 16/19, Douglas Jr. of Kazakhstan 17/20 and, as a point of interest, goalkeeper Higuita had 19 shots at goal, but only four of them on target.



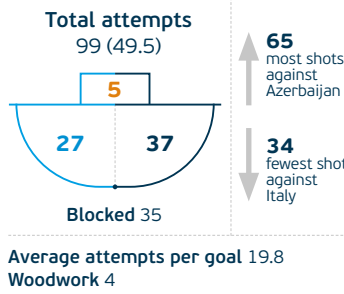
AZERBAIJAN



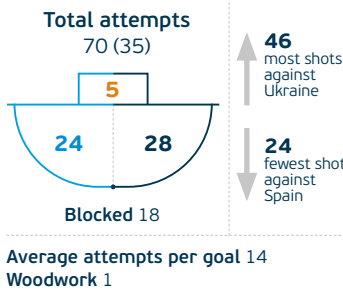
CROATIA



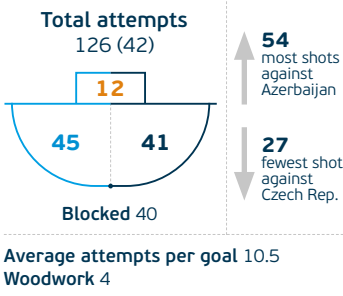
CZECH REPUBLIC



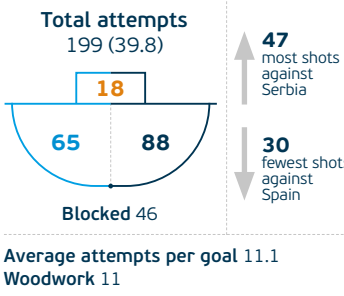
HUNGARY



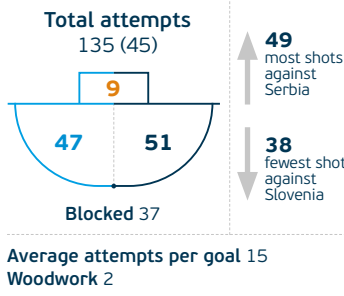
ITALY



KAZAKHSTAN



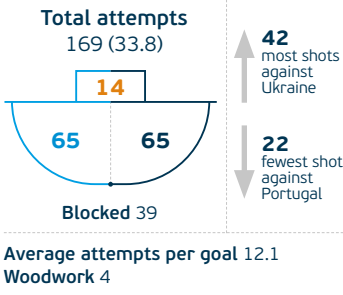
PORTUGAL



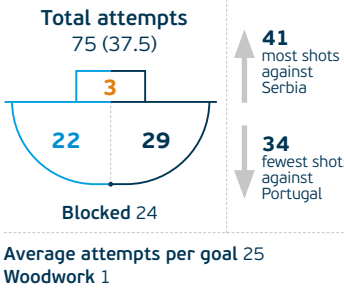
RUSSIA



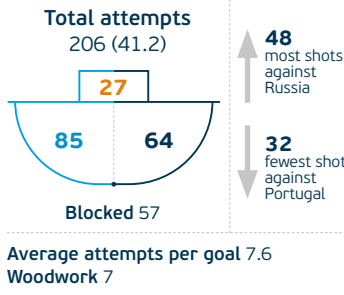
SERBIA



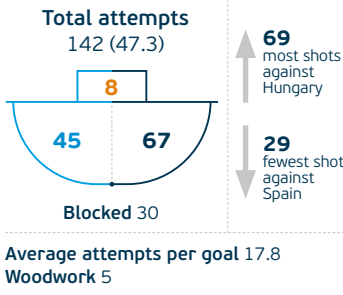
SLOVENIA



SPAIN



UKRAINE



Attempts striking the woodwork are included in the on-target total if deflected by the goalkeeper or defender and in the off-target total if the attempt strikes the woodwork directly.

Leading scorers

	Goals	Assists
Mario Rivillos (Spain)	6	4
Miguelín (Spain)	6	4
Alex (Spain)	6	2
Ricardinho (Portugal)	6	0
Serik Zhamankulov (Kazakhstan)	6	0
Romulo (Russia)	5	2
Mladen Kocić (Serbia)	5	1



From left: Spain's sharpshooters Miguelín, Mario Rivillos and Alex

Talking points

Two well-worn topics were back on the agenda in Belgrade: the negative impact of the flying goalkeeper and expanding the final tournament to 16 teams



Russia goalkeeper Sergei Vikulov. The men between the posts were much discussed in Belgrade

FLYING BACKWARDS

The flying goalkeeper is slowing, not enhancing, the action

In Belgrade, there was no need to look under rocks to find a major talking point. In their conversations with UEFA's technical observers at the event, the dozen coaches could hardly wait to broach a subject which was, unanimously, bugging them: the use of the flying goalkeeper. Their views were so radical that, without biting tongues, many of them would substitute the word use for misuse or abuse. The level of concern could be gauged from a couple of random comments. "If all coaches decide to use the goalkeeper in that manner," said Croatia coach Mato Stanković, "in three years futsal could be dead." Czech coach Tomáš Neumann concurred with the simple but crushing sentence: "It destroys the product." As a debating point, the use of the flying keeper has been smouldering for some time. But modern trends have fanned it into flames. Historically, sending on a fifth outfield player

in a goalkeeper's jersey was a tactical option exercised in the closing minutes of games by coaches whose teams were trailing on the scoreboard. It was a risky, last-ditch attempt to salvage a result – and it was usually a thrilling addition to the spectacle. The growing malaise forcefully expressed in Belgrade is based on a trend for the flying goalkeeper to be sent on with a negative brief to retain possession, break up the opponents' rhythm and let the clock tick down. The response by the team with fewer outfielders is usually a switch to passive deep-defending mode while the five opposing outfielders indulge in repetitive passing movements with a lack of vertical progression. The result is boredom for the spectator – and, in Belgrade, the coaches' concern was audibly endorsed by fans who greeted passages of flying-keeper play with whistles of derision. This creates a Jekyll-and-Hyde scenario for coaches. On the one hand, if the job is perceived as result-orientated, the non-attacking use

of the flying goalkeeper can be regarded as a means of achieving that end. On the other hand, coaches are well aware of the need to continue to promote futsal as a spectacular thrills-and-skills sport. Azerbaijan coach Tino Pérez summed up the dilemma: "One thing is coaching to win; another thing is the spectacle." Spain coach José Venancio López added: "I don't endorse it, but I daren't condemn it as totally bad because I have to acknowledge the strategic necessities of other national teams." This schizophrenic aspect was illustrated by Hungary coach Sito Rivera. After sending on János Rábl as flying keeper after 9:40 of the first period, with his side 1-0 down to Spain (and twice more before the interval) he explained: "I used it to draw breath, but I recognise that it should be used to attack and take risks." In similar vein, Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik sent on Kristjan Čujek after 13:21, when his side was 1-0 ahead against Serbia. The manoeuvre culminated, however, in a foul which allowed



A rare quiet moment for Higuita in an action-packed tournament for the Kazakhstan goalkeeper

Slobodan Janjić to equalise from the 10m mark. "It's frequently used in a negative way at club level," Dobovičnik conceded, "but I agree that it should be limited to certain parts of the game and only with attack in mind." However, the thorny issue penetrates even further into the anatomy of the game. "I can understand second-tier sides using this as a strategy against the top teams," said Russia coach Sergei Skorovich, "but the danger is that, sadly, the top teams will ultimately feel obliged to follow suit." Portugal coach Jorge Braz commented: "I didn't give it great importance in the past. But these days we spend time in every training session working on the mechanisms of defending against the flying keeper. It has now become a priority." Italy coach Roberto Menichelli bluntly acknowledged "we have to 'waste' time in training to work on our defending against five, when we could be dedicating time to developing our attacking play." The coaches in Belgrade speculated on a

number of notional solutions. For example, that once a flying goalkeeper has ventured over the halfway line, he should no longer be allowed to return to his own half of the court. Other suggestions included limiting his number of touches; restricting its use to the final three or five minutes (of each half, maybe), with the proviso that the team is losing, limiting the number of times the keeper can be changed; and imposing a time limit on attacks involving the flying keeper – insisting, for example, that there must be a goal attempt within a certain number of seconds. There was no shortage of ideas. However, the issue was clouded by the case of Kazakhstan. One of the salient features of the debutants' campaign was that Higuita spent as much time out of his goal as he did in it. In other words, the extended periods of Kazakh "power play" were not based on a flying goalkeeper but, rather, the permanent one. Should there be a revival of the old norm, whereby the goalkeeper

was not allowed to venture outside his area? Whatever the answer, the coaches in Serbia were unanimous in feeling that, in order to protect and project futsal as a fast, entertaining spectator sport, something needed to be done.

"One thing is coaching to win; another thing is the spectacle"

TIME FOR 16 TEAMS?

The clamour to expand the final tournament continues

The 12-team format of the final tournament has become a perennial debating point since its introduction in 2010. Discussion continued unabated in Belgrade. While freely admitting that financial, administrative and organisational matters have specific gravity in decision-making, the coaching fraternity unanimously highlighted the purely sporting anomalies endemic to the system. Once again, two teams (Hungary and Slovenia) went home before two of the other contestants (Croatia and Czech Republic) had set foot on the field of play. The match schedule also entailed significant differences in terms of rest-and-recovery times between matches, with the seeded teams granted the privilege of a four-day interval between fixtures. As one of the coaches remarked, this was a case of

collateral damage, given that, by and large, the "smaller" countries without professional leagues were the ones required to play twice in three days. Ukraine coach Oleksandr Kosenko, looking at the other side of the coin, commented: "It's not normal to be qualified for the quarter-finals after playing only one game." There was a widespread feeling that longer-term coaching and player-development perspectives do not sit comfortably with the format of the final tournament. As one of the coaches remarked: "You stage training camps, play your way through the qualifying phase, organise friendlies, get your squad together to prepare for the final tournament – and two games and 72 hours later you're on your way home." The unanimous opinion among the coaches was that a 16-team final tournament would erase all these issues once and for all.



Kazakhstan were the 18th side to play at a UEFA Futsal EURO



Azerbaijan's Ramiz Chovdarov lets fly against Italy



Serbian fans had plenty to cheer about throughout the two-week event

All-star squad

From an original cast of 46, just 14 star turns could be selected for a place in the team of the tournament

Among the tasks facing UEFA's technical observers at the final tournament in Belgrade was the challenge of selecting 14 players to form an all-star squad. No fewer than 46 names featured on a "short list" of players who had earned credits for performances in individual matches. The list was whittled down as the tournament unfolded with, evidently, balances tilting in favour of players from the teams that played the most games, giving the observers more elements of judgement. Hungary pivot Zoltán Dróth or his Italian counterpart Fortino are among the many who could easily have made the cut if their teams had played more games. Much the same could apply to Russia pivot Eder Lima, who gathered

momentum as the tournament went on, only to be red-carded in the semi-final and miss the final through suspension. Among the final selection, players like Gabriel Lima, Ricardinho or Miguelín were also outstanding on account of leadership qualities in addition to individual skills. Much the same applies to the two Kazakhstan outfielders, Douglas Jr. and Leo, who were on court for huge amounts of time and profoundly influential in their team's performance. Higuita's outfield contributions sometimes obscure his core value, but the tournament in Belgrade showcased his exceptional goalkeeping qualities.

GOALKEEPERS



Miodrag Aksentijević
Serbia

Games **5**
Goals scored **0**
Assists **0**
Goals conceded **11**
Goals against average **2.2**



Higuita
Kazakhstan

Games **4**
Goals scored **1**
Assists **2**
Goals conceded **8**
Goals against average **2**



Paco Sedano
Spain

Games **5**
Goals scored **0**
Assists **0**
Goals conceded **10**
Goals against average **2**

OUTFIELD PLAYERS



Sergei Abramov
Russia

Games **5**
Goals **4**
Assists **0**



Alex
Spain


Games **5**
Goals **6**
Assists **2**



Douglas Jr.
Kazakhstan


Games **5**
Goals **4**
Assists **2**

"Hungary pivot Zoltán Dróth or his Italian counterpart Fortino are among the many who could easily have made the cut if their teams had played more games"



Mladen Kocić
Serbia

Games **5**
Goals **5**
Assists **1**



Marko Perić
Serbia

Games **5**
Goals **0**
Assists **5**



Leo
Kazakhstan

Games **5**
Goals **3**
Assists **3**



Ricardinho
Portugal

Games **3**
Goals **6**
Assists **0**



Gabriel Lima
Italy

Games **3**
Goals **1**
Assists **2**



Mario Rivillos
Spain

Games **5**
Goals **6**
Assists **4**



Miguelín
Spain

Games **5**
Goals **6**
Assists **4**



Robinho
Russia

Games **5**
Goals **1**
Assists **5**

Results and standings

Group A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	7	5	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	3	11	0

SERBIA 5-1 SLOVENIA2 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Osredkar 2:36, 1-1 Janjić 13:46 (dp), 2-1 Kocić 20:36, 3-1 Rajčević 26:15, 4-1 Kocić 29:47, 5-1 Pršić 33:07
Cards: Yellow: Kocić 14:12 (SRB); Osredkar 7:23, R Mordej 11:48, Čujec 29:47 (SVN)
Referees: Černý, Malfer **TO:** Lemal **TK:** Pelissier
Attendance: 11,161

SLOVENIA 2-6 PORTUGAL4 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Čujec 2:17, 1-1 Fábio Cecílio 4:48, 1-2 Ricardinho 15:39, 2-2 Vrhovec 19:08, 2-3 Ricardinho 23:33, 2-4 Pedro Cary 30:44, 2-5 Ricardinho 32:35, 2-6 Fábio Cecílio 39:01
Cards: Yellow: Vrhovec 14:58, Puškar 16:33, Vrhovec 38:30 (SVN); Arnaldo Pereira 11:19, Ricardinho 39:38 (POR). Red: Vrhovec 38:30 (SVN)
Referees: Shabanov, Tomić **TO:** Sorescu **TK:** Peško
Attendance: 2,270

PORTUGAL 1-3 SERBIA6 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Kocić 7:41, 1-1 Ricardinho 14:20, 1-2 Rajčević 36:04, 1-3 Simić 39:13
Cards: Yellow: Stojković 26:09 (SRB)
Referees: Gutiérrez Lumbreras, Lemal **TO:** Onatsu **TK:** Sorescu
Attendance: 11,161

Group B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
Hungary	2	0	0	2	5	11	0

SPAIN 5-2 HUNGARY2 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Németh 7:03 (og), 2-0 Bebe 14:17, 3-0 Miquelín 19:34, 3-1 Dróth 23:35, 4-1 Miquelín 28:44, 5-1 Andresito 35:13, 5-2 Dróth 37:08
Cards: Yellow: Lin 23:34 (ESP); Rábl 12:59 (HUN)
Referees: Tomić, Sorescu **TO:** Peško **TK:** Onatsu
Attendance: 5,100

HUNGARY 3-6 UKRAINE4 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 D Sorokin 1:16, 0-2 Bondar 6:47, 1-2 Dróth 7:11, 1-3 Ovsyannikov 24:44, 2-3 Trencsényi 29:04, 2-4 Mykola Grytsyna 29:29, 3-4 Dróth 33:10, 3-5 Bondar 34:01, 3-6 Valenko 35:32
Cards: Yellow: Gál 29:23, Dróth 34:20 (HUN); O Sorokin 11:58 (UKR)
Referees: Bauernfeind, Fernandes Coelho
TO: Malfer **TK:** Zahovič
Attendance: 2,445

UKRAINE 1-4 SPAIN6 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Alex 19:02, 0-2 Mario Rivillos 29:17, 0-3 Alex 33:18, 1-3 Mykola Grytsyna 37:26, 1-4 Mario Rivillos 39:47
Cards: Yellow: Ovsyannikov 30:55, Zhurba 32:13 (UKR)
Referees: Malfer, Çetin **TO:** Peško **TK:** Fernandes Coelho
Attendance: 9,850

Group C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	4	6	1

RUSSIA 2-1 KAZAKHSTAN3 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Romulo 11:01, 2-0 Romulo 11:28, 2-1 Zhamankulov 12:15
Cards: Yellow: Suleimenov 18:24 (KAZ)
Referees: Fernandes Coelho, Gutiérrez Lumbreras **TO:** Bauernfeind **TK:** Kovács
Attendance: 2,115

KAZAKHSTAN 4-2 CROATIA5 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Douglas Jr. 5:14, 1-1 Matošević 6:21, 2-1 Suleimenov 6:36, 3-1 Zhamankulov 16:46, 4-1 Zhamankulov 26:17, 4-2 Suton 32:52
Cards: Yellow: Yesenamanov 31:13, Higuita 39:12 (KAZ); Suton 34:10 (CRO)
Referees: Ivanov, Kovács **TO:** Birkett **TK:** Černý
Attendance: 1,555

CROATIA 2-2 RUSSIA7 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Robinho 8:13 (og), 1-1 Abramov 11:20, 2-1 Novak 24:54, 2-2 Pereverzev 38:07
Cards: Yellow: Jelovčić 2:29, Suton 15:56 (CRO); Kutuzov 2:01, Lyskov 9:26 (RUS)
Referees: Pelissier, Zahovič **TO:** Kovács **TK:** Frak
Attendance: 1,550

Group D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	6	8	3
Czech Republic	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

ITALY 3-0 AZERBAIJAN3 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Alex Merlim 19:39, 2-0 Alex Merlim 20:09, 3-0 Giasson 28:28
Cards: Yellow: Romano 9:31 (ITA); Amadeu 9:31, Amadeu 18:25, De Araujo 22:05, Rafael 28:19 (AZE). Red: Amadeu 18:25 (AZE)
Referees: Birkett, Ivanov **TO:** Çetin **TK:** Frak
Attendance: 2,200

AZERBAIJAN 6-5 CZECH REPUBLIC5 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Farzaliyev 5:58, 2-0 Borisov 6:46, 2-1 Záruba 9:29, 3-1 De Araujo 11:16, 3-2 Holý 11:51, 3-3 Rešetár 15:53, 4-3 Eduardo 19:29, 4-4 Novotný 23:19, 5-4 Augusto 26:22, 5-5 Kovács 30:17, 6-5 Rafael 39:20
Cards: Yellow: Koudelka 37:13 (CZE)
Referees: Zahovič, Bauernfeind **TO:** Frak **TK:** Tomić
Attendance: 1,756

CZECH REPUBLIC 0-7 ITALY7 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Fortino 0:26, 0-2 Gabriel Lima 10:29, 0-3 Alex Merlim 20:40, 0-4 Fortino 21:09, 0-5 Koudelka 21:26 (og), 0-6 Honorio 23:48, 0-7 Patias 32:59
Cards: Yellow: Seidler 29:34, Záruba 36:29 (CZE); Giasson 7:25, Leggiero 26:13 (ITA)
Referees: Onatsu, Shabanov **TO:** Ivanov **TK:** Lemal
Attendance: 1,020



Serbia's Stefan Rakić shields the ball from Slovenia's Igor Osredkar



Hungary fans go wild after Zoltan Dróth scores against Ukraine



Croatia's Franko Jelovčić



Humberto Honorio and Tomáš Koudelka vie for the ball

Competition overview

Quarter-finals

SERBIA 2-1 UKRAINE 8 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Kocić 1:26, 1-1 Mykola Grytsyna 23:18, 2-1 Simić 39:59
Cards: Yellow: Aksentijević 31:04 (SRB); Bondar 20:46, Zhurba 31:04, D Sorokin 31:34 (UKR)
Referees: Sorescu, Birkett **TO:** Gutiérrez Lumbreras **TK:** Bauernfeind
Attendance: 11,161

PORTUGAL 2-6 SPAIN 8 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Miquelín 12:39 (p), 0-2 Mario Rivillos 14:59, 0-3 Alex 17:40, 1-3 Ricardinho 22:24, 1-4 Raúl Campos 22:55, 2-4 Ricardinho 25:31, 2-5 Alex 34:32, 2-6 Mario Rivillos 39:30
Cards: Yellow: Cardinal 29:37 (POR)
Referees: Kovács, Černý **TO:** Frak **TK:** Peško
Attendance: 8,850

RUSSIA 6-2 AZERBAIJAN 9 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Abramov 6:24, 1-1 Augusto 7:53, 2-1 Romulo 14:59, 3-1 Eder Lima 24:57, 4-1 Abramov 25:40, 4-2 Augusto 28:04, 5-2 Eder Lima 38:33, 6-2 Eder Lima 39:31
Cards: Yellow: Pereverzev 0:18 (RUS); Amadeu 12:00, Eduardo 20:17, Rafael 30:26 (AZE)
Referees: Lemal, Onatsu **TO:** Tomić **TK:** Frak
Attendance: 2,205

KAZAKHSTAN 5-2 ITALY 9 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 1-0 Leo 15:51, 2-0 Zhamankulov 18:47, 2-1 Fortino 22:21, 3-1 Yesenamanov 22:51, 3-2 Canal 36:24, 4-2 Nurgozhin 36:30, 5-2 Leo 39:37
Cards: Yellow: Higuita 32:53 (KAZ); Murilo 19:20 (ITA)
Referees: Četin, Pelissier **TO:** Peško **TK:** Shabanov
Attendance: 1,740

Match officials

Gerald Bauernfeind (Austria)	Fernando Gutiérrez Lumbreras (Spain)
Marc Birkett (England)	Alessandro Malfer (Italy)
Ondřej Černý (Czech Republic)	Timo Onatsu (Finland)
Kamil Çetin (Turkey)	Cédric Pelissier (France)
Eduardo Fernandes Coelho (Portugal)	Lukáš Peško (Slovakia)
Tomasz Frak (Poland)	Ivan Shabanov (Russia)
Oleg Ivanov (Ukraine)	Bogdan Sorescu (Romania)
Gábor Kovács (Hungary)	Saša Tomić (Croatia)
Pascal Lemal (Belgium)	Admir Zahovič (Slovenia)

TO: third official TK: timekeeper
All matches were played at the Arena of Belgrade

Semi-finals

SERBIA 2-3 RUSSIA (AET) 11 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Eder Lima 12:45, 1-1 Kocić 25:50, 1-2 Abramov 32:27, 2-2 Simić 35:19, 2-3 Romulo 43:32
Cards: Yellow: Stojković 33:19, Janjić 48:41 (SRB); Gustavo 26:12, Eder Lima 27:04, Eder Lima 34:35 (RUS). Red: Eder Lima 34:35 (RUS)
Referees: Birkett, Černý **TO:** Çetin **TK:** Sorescu
Attendance: 11,161

SPAIN 5-3 KAZAKHSTAN 11 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Dovgan 3:17, 1-1 Bebe 7:34, 2-1 Miquelín 16:10, 3-1 Raúl Campos 17:32, 4-1 Alex 26:28, 4-2 Leo 35:39, 4-3 Zhamankulov 37:17, 5-3 Raúl Campos 38:54
Cards: Yellow: Pola 37:34 (ESP); Leo 20:56 (KAZ)
Referees: Tomić, Fernandes Coelho **TO:** Lemal **TK:** Malfer
Attendance: 7,150

Third-place play-off



Coach Cacau is thrown in the air after Kazakhstan claim third place

SERBIA 2-5 KAZAKHSTAN 13 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Douglas Jr. 19:43, 0-2 Zhamankulov 20:59, 0-3 Douglas Jr. 29:40, 0-4 Higuita 31:06, 0-5 Douglas Jr 33:50, 1-5 Rakić 37:12, 2-5 Rajčević 39:58
Cards: Yellow: Perić 23:23, Lazić 23:30 (SRB)
Referee: Lemal, Çetin **TO:** Černý **TK:** Fernandes Coelho
Attendance: 11,161

Final

RUSSIA 3-7 SPAIN 13 FEBRUARY 2016

Goals: 0-1 Alex 8:08, 0-2 Pola 15:12, 0-3 Mario Rivillos 16:10, 0-4 Pola 16:45, 1-4 Romulo 19:55, 1-5 Miquelín 30:50, 2-5 Robinho 31:57, 2-6 Miquelín 34:51, 2-7 Mario Rivillos 35:37, 3-7 Milovanov 39:45
Cards: Yellow: Shayakhmetov 15:43, Kutuzov 17:47, Robinho 35:10 (RUS); Ortiz 20:42 (ESP)
Referee: Malfer, Sorescu **TO:** Fernandes Coelho **TK:** Černý
Attendance: 8,350



Miguelín lifts the trophy as champions
Spain enjoy a lap of honour

Azerbaijan



KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-1-1-2 with high pressing on opponents' ball-carrier
- High-intensity game requiring frequent changes of personnel
- Frequent use of close short-passing combinations in attack
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions or positional attacks with good possession
- Wide variety of dangerous, well-organised set plays
- Well-drilled power play leading to numerous scoring opportunities
- Experienced squad rich in Brazilian-style ball skills

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	ITA	CZE	RUS	Club
GOALKEEPERS								
12	Rovshan Huseynli	03/04/1991			🇹🇲	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Araz Naxçıvan
19	Elnur Zamanov	17/05/1981			U	U	U	Neftchi Baku
OUTFIELD PLAYERS								
2	Samir Hamazayev	01/08/1989			U	U	U	Araz Naxçıvan
3	Zeynal Zeynalov	06/12/1979			B	B	B	Neftchi Baku
4	Ramiz Chovdarov	28/07/1990			B	B	B	Araz Naxçıvan
5	Fineo De Araujo	10/04/1987	1		B	🇹🇲	B	Araz Naxçıvan
6	Eduardo	14/10/1986	1		🇹🇲	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Araz Naxçıvan
8	Rizvan Farzaliyev	01/09/1979	1	1	B	B	B	Araz Naxçıvan
9	Augusto	25/02/1980	3	2	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Araz Naxçıvan
10	Amadeu	06/03/1990			🇹🇲 🇧🇷	S	🇹🇲	Araz Naxçıvan
14	Vitaliy Borisov	05/07/1982	1	1	B	B	B	Araz Naxçıvan
15	Rafael	26/12/1982	1	2	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Araz Naxçıvan
16	Khatai Baghirov	15/08/1987			U	U	B	Ekol Baku
18	Sergey Chuykov	04/09/1980			B	B	B	Progress (RUS)

G = goals; A = assists; 🇹🇲 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇧🇷 = sent off

COACH

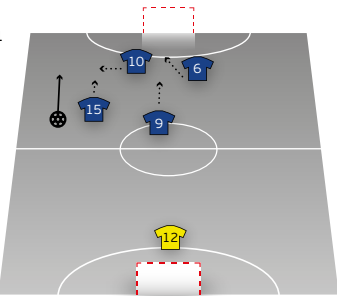


FAUSTINO PÉREZ
Born: 25/04/1969

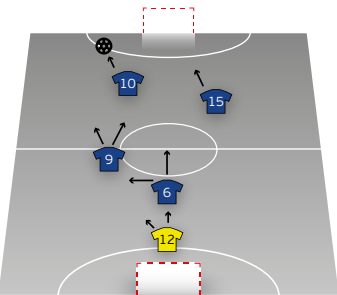
"We played well against Italy and lost. Then we played badly against the Czech Republic and won, even though we missed too many passes and gave the ball away too easily. That's futsal. Against Russia we responded well to falling behind and played very well until we went 3-1 down. When we switched to five versus four, their goalkeeper made a lot of saves and luck went against us. Had we been able to force our way back to 4-3 anything could have happened."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Russia) 1-1-2-1 attacking; pivot dropping wide to open space for solo run or switch of play



DEFENDING
(v Italy) 1-2-2 defence based on position of ball



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	6	8	3
Czech Republic	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

Italy 3-0 Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan 6-5 Czech Republic

QUARTER-FINALS

Russia 6-2 Azerbaijan

Croatia



KEY FEATURES

- 1-2-2 the default setting in attack; 1-2-1-1 defending
- Patient construction based on passing rather than one-on-one skills
- Low-intensity defending and concentration in opening match
- Pivot dropping wide and deep to draw opponents from central zone
- Good direct attacking v Russia; fast supply into the depth with quick support
- Aggressive high pressing from 30m while physical condition permitted
- Goalkeeper quick to cover space behind high defensive line

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	KAZ	RUS	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
1	Ivo Jukić	13/04/1986			🇹🇲	🇹🇲	MNK Split
20	Franco Bilić	18/08/1988			U	U	Ekonomac (SRB)
OUTFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Vedran Matošević	27/08/1990	1	1	B	B	Nacional Zagreb
3	Jakov Grcić	12/04/1983			🇹🇲	B	MNK Split
4	Kristijan Grbeša	17/01/1990			B	U	Nacional Zagreb
6	Saša Babić	04/08/1989			B	B	Cagliari Calcio (ITA)
7	Franco Jelovčić	06/07/1991		2	🇹🇲	🇹🇲	MNK Split
8	Dario Marinović	24/05/1990			🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Murcia FS (ESP)
9	Andrej Pandurević	05/07/1993			U	U	MNK Osijek
10	Tihomir Novak	24/10/1986	1		🇹🇲	🇹🇲	Nacional Zagreb
11	Josip Suton	14/11/1988	1		B	🇹🇲	MNK Split
14	Maro Djuraš	06/06/1994			I	U	MNK Square
15	Matej Horvat	30/01/1994			U	U	MNK Futsal Dinamo
17	Željko Petrović	07/09/1990			U	U	Novo Vrijeme

G = goals; A = assists; 🇹🇲 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇧🇷 = sent off
One goal against Russia was an own goal

COACH

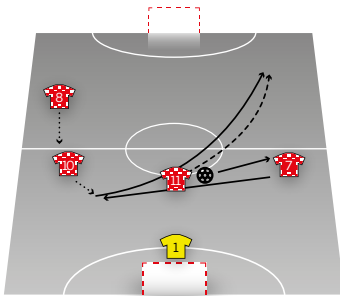


MATO STANKOVIĆ
Born: 28/09/1970

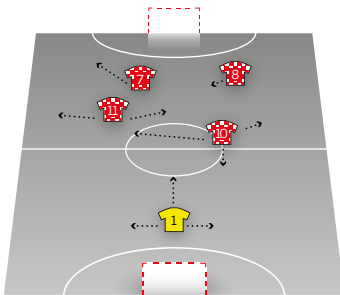
"After the first match, everybody felt bad about us not showing what we really could do in our play. I was happy with the performance against Russia and we had chances to get the two-goal lead we needed. But we lost a bit of strength in the last six or seven minutes and, in the last five, we didn't get enough possession to use the flying keeper as I would have liked. But I was proud of the team and we showed our results in recent years are no coincidence."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Russia) Two short-passing options; one run in depth



DEFENDING
(v Russia) 1-1-1-2; front line changing when Marinović in play



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	4	6	1

Kazakhstan 4-2 Croatia
Croatia 2-2 Russia

Czech Republic



KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-3-1 attacking with pivot drifting wide to receive
- Excellent use of overloads on one flank with diagonal switches to other
- Tactically well-structured in attacking and defensive play
- Holý a key performer; tactical sense; quick to support in attack and defence
- Tried high pressing but dropped into deeper man-to-man defending
- Good parallel passing to draw opponents wide; clever, dangerous kick-ins
- Players of strong physique, high on courage, work-rate and team ethic

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	AZE	ITA	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
12	Libor Gerčák	22/07/1975					Nejzbach Vysoké Mýto
16	Ondřej Vahala	25/05/1990			U	B	Slavia Praha
OUTFIELD PLAYERS							
2	David Cupák	27/05/1989			B	B	Helas Brno
3	Jiří Novotný	12/07/1988	1	1	B	B	Slavia Praha
4	Radim Záruba	28/12/1994	1	1		B	EP Chrudim
5	Vítězslav Hrubý	04/05/1994			U		Krokodýl Brno
6	Tomáš Koudelka	17/12/1990			B		EP Chrudim
7	Lukáš Rešetár	28/04/1984	1				EP Chrudim
8	Matěj Slováček	08/10/1990			U		EP Chrudim
9	Michal Holý	29/05/1990	1				Red Devils Chojnice (POL)
10	Michal Seidler	05/04/1990		1	B	B	Győri ETO (HUN)
11	Marcel Rodek	07/11/1988			U	B	Benago
13	Michal Kovács	17/04/1990	1	1	B	B	EP Chrudim
14	Jan Janovský	20/06/1985				B	Rekord Bielsko-Biała (POL)

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

COACH

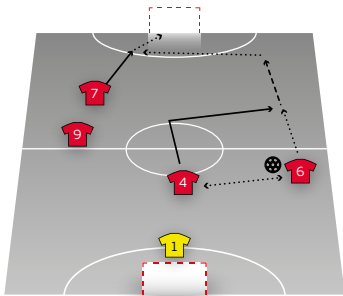


TOMÁŠ NEUMANN
Born: 22/09/1970

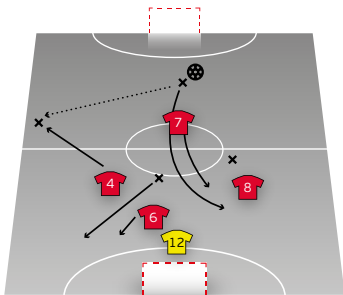
"We thought we had a chance but our problem was physical preparation. You can't play a EURO without it. We were not able to sustain our pressing and, in futsal, if you cannot exert pressure, you cannot play. The problem is that we were left with only one professional club in the country and I hope that we can start new professional teams. Only then will we be able to start a new era in Czech futsal."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Italy)
Combination on flank to draw defenders; pass to far post



DEFENDING
(v Italy)
Defence in own half with use of individual marking



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	6	8	3
Czech Republic	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

Azerbaijan 6-5 Czech Republic
Czech Republic 0-7 Italy

Hungary



KEY FEATURES

- Well-organised team with clear attacking and defensive patterns
- Brave, modern high defending aiming to block opponents' creative lines
- Frequent use of direct supply (better with foot) from keeper to pivot
- Dróth the major attacking threat; good one-on-one, shooting with either foot
- Good variety of well-drilled set plays; powerful shooting from any distance
- Strong physical presence; high-tempo game based on athletic qualities
- Impressive work ethic, competitive spirit and will-to-win

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	ESP	UKR	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
1	Csaba Tihanyi	13/07/1981			U	U	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
12	Gyula Tóth	28/06/1982					Győri ETO
OUTFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Norbert Öreglaki	29/08/1991			B	B	Haladás VSE
3	Bence Klacsák	28/02/1995					Dunaújváros
4	Péter Németh	31/08/1981					Veszprém
5	Richárd Dávid	14/08/1990			B	B	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
6	János Trencsényi	02/07/1980	1		B	B	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
7	Norbert Horváth	05/12/1992				B	Dunaújváros
8	Szabolcs Szeghy	18/07/1981		1	B	B	Aramis
9	János Rábl	15/06/1989				B	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
10	Ákos Harnisch	24/08/1987			S		Győri ETO
11	Zoltán Dróth	14/09/1988	4	1	B		Győri ETO
13	Ádám Hosszú	20/02/1993		1	B	B	Dunaújváros
14	István Gál	18/05/1986			B	B	MVFC Berettyóújfalu

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

COACH

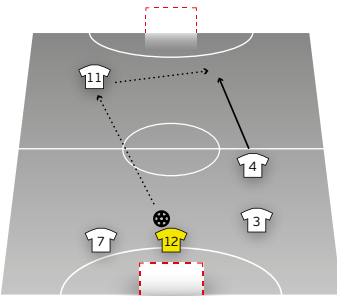


SITO RIVERA
Born: 15/03/1956

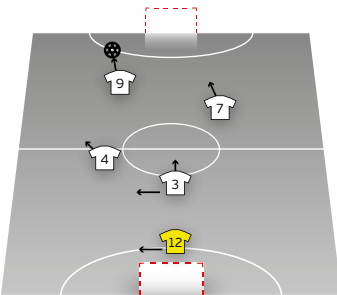
"We made mistakes and we just weren't able to get up to the level of a very good team. The huge success was to realise that we are important to Hungarian people, because this sport is essentially amateur in the country. I was very moved by the fact that about 1,000 people came to see us. With that sort of help, futsal can be a success in Hungary. So, even though we lost our two matches, I came away feeling very proud."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Spain) Long throw by keeper to pivot with wide second-ball support



DEFENDING
(v Spain) 1-1-1-2 with high pressure on ball-carrier



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
Hungary	2	0	0	2	5	11	0

Spain 5-2 Hungary
Hungary 3-6 Ukraine

Italy



KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 structure with high-lying pivot giving depth to attack
- Defensive formation usually 1-1-1-2 with intense high pressure
- Zonal defence in triangular segments to pre-empt passes through centre
- Mix of positional attacking with direct supply from keeper to pivot
- Three quartets of similarly high quality, intensity; but Lima the driving force
- Variety of inventive set plays and well-drilled attacking moves
- Competitive players with strong team ethic, winning mentality

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	AZE	CZE	KAZ	Club
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Stefano Mammarella	02/02/1984			🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Marina CSA
12	Michele Miarelli	29/04/1984			U	B	U	Real Rieti
OUTFIELD PLAYERS								
2	Marco Ercolessi	15/05/1986		3	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Pescara
3	Gabriel Lima	19/08/1987	1	2	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Murcia FS (ESP)
4	Sergio Romano	28/09/1987			B	B	B	Asti
5	Luca Leggiero	11/11/1984		1	B	B	B	Pescara
6	Humberto Honorio	21/07/1983	1		B	B	B	Luparense
7	Massimo De Luca	07/10/1987			B	B	B	Asti
8	Alessandro Patias	08/07/1985	1		B	B	B	SL Benfica (POR)
9	Fortino	30/04/1983	3	2	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Sporting CP (POR)
10	Alex Mertim	15/07/1986	3		🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Sporting CP (POR)
11	Mauro Canal	25/06/1986	1		B	B	B	Pescara
13	Daniel Giasson	24/08/1987	1		B	B	B	Luparense
15	Murilo Ferreira Juliao	10/03/1989		1	B	B	B	Marina CSA

G = goals; A = assists; 🇮🇹 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🚫 = sent off
One goal against Czech Republic was an own goal

COACH

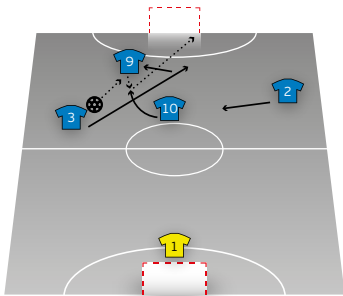


ROBERTO MENICHELLI
Born: 14/01/1963

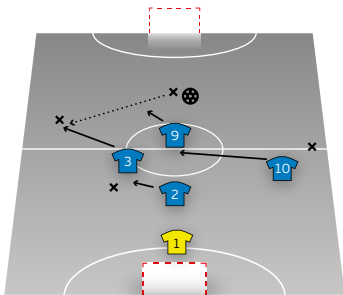
"It was a new mindset because we were not used to going into a tournament as defending champions. And it was a psychological challenge to play Kazakhstan, as they do not have a conventional way of playing. We felt pressure and we were not able to play as we had done in the group games. Then we tired and lost strength, even though the players gave everything to try to get us back into the game."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Kazakhstan)
Pivot wide; passer takes opponent out to create space for shot



DEFENDING
(v Czech Republic)
Triangular structure pressing ball, cutting passing options



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
x opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	6	8	3
Czech Republic	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

Italy 3-0 Azerbaijan
Czech Republic 0-7 Italy

QUARTER-FINALS

Kazakhstan 5-2 Italy

Kazakhstan



KEY FEATURES

- 1-1-1-2 or 0-3-2 structures with Higueta as fifth outfield player
- Higueta the tactical key; active in attacking moves; ready to shoot at goal
- Well-organised 1-2-2 zonal defending with sustained high pressing
- Douglas Jr. and Leo talented, industrious organisers dictating tempo
- Strategy designed to prevent opposing teams from playing normal game
- Small nucleus of experienced players; power play used as chance to rest
- Dangerous, well-drilled set plays; clear, well-designed game plans

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	RUS	CRO	ITA	ESP	SRB	Club
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Grigori Shamro	31/05/1984			U	U	U	B	U	Inzhu
2	Higueta	06/06/1986	1	2	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	S	🇮🇹	Kairat Almaty
OUTFIELD PLAYERS										
3	Arnold Knaub	16/01/1995			U	U	U	B	B	Astana-Tulpar
4	Aleksandr Grebonos	09/10/1987			U	U	U	B	B	Astana-Tulpar
5	Serik Zhamankulov	18/11/1983	6		B	B	B	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Kairat Almaty
6	Leo	21/05/1987	3	3	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Kairat Almaty
7	Nikolai Pengrin	07/08/1984			B	U	U	B	B	Astana-Tulpar
8	Dinmukhambet Suleimenov	25/08/1981	1	1	B	B	B	B	B	Kairat Almaty
9	Aleksandr Dovgan	09/02/1988	1		🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Astana-Tulpar
10	Chingiz Yesenamanov	10/03/1989	1	1	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	I	I	Kairat Almaty
11	Mikhail Pershin	19/10/1989		1	B	B	B	🇮🇹	B	Kairat Almaty
15	Pavel Taku	30/08/1988	2		U	B	U	B	B	Astana-Tulpar
18	Dauren Nurgozhin	21/05/1990	1		B	U	B	B	B	Kairat Almaty
19	Douglas Jr.	15/10/1988	4	2	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	🇮🇹	Kairat Almaty

G = goals; A = assists; 🇮🇹 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🚫 = sent off

COACH

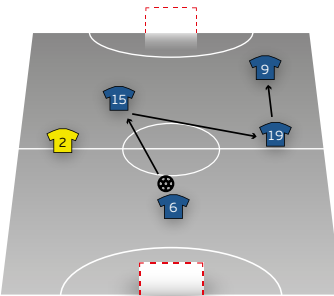


CACAU
Born: 16/09/1971

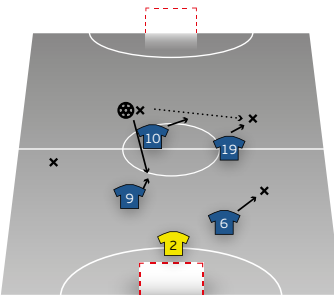
"It was not an excuse but we missed Higueta and Yesenamanov against Spain. We did not have a big squad but we did our best and we made Kazakhstan proud. Behind Cacau there are my assistant, other coaches, my fitness trainer and the goalkeeping coach who trains Higueta. That's why Kazakhstan is strong. But we also have heart. We were not afraid about losing, we believed in ourselves, and my players were heroes."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Croatia)
Higueta playing wide; patient passing to wear down opponents



DEFENDING
(v Italy) 1-1-1-2 with zonal front line cutting passing options



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
x opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	4	6	1

Russia 2-1 Kazakhstan
Kazakhstan 4-2 Croatia

QUARTER-FINALS

Kazakhstan 5-2 Italy

SEMI-FINALS

Spain 5-3 Kazakhstan

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

Serbia 2-5 Kazakhstan

Portugal



KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-0 attacking based on long spells of possession
- Aggressive 1-1-1-2 or 1-2-2 defending from 30m; intense pressure on ball carrier
- Ricardinho the artist, leader, playmaker, scorer; only short periods of rest
- Good use of overloads on one flank to leave Ricardinho one-on-one space on other
- High levels of technique; well-orchestrated off-ball movement
- Well-drilled set plays; frequent use of lofted corner for volley beyond far post
- Enthusiasm, will-to-win; let down by lapses in defensive third

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	SVN	SRB	ESP	Club
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Bebe	19/05/1983			U	B	🇵🇹	SL Benfica
12	Vítor Hugo	30/11/1982			🇵🇹	🇵🇹	U	SC Braga
OUTFIELD PLAYERS								
2	Paulinho	12/03/1983		2	B	B	B	Sporting CP
3	Bruno Coelho	01/08/1987		1	B	B	B	SL Benfica
4	Pedro Cary	10/05/1984	1		🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	Sporting CP
5	Fábio Cecílio	30/04/1993	2		B	🇵🇹	B	SL Benfica
6	Arnaldo Pereira	16/06/1979		1	🇵🇹	B	B	Latina (ITA)
7	Cardinal	26/06/1985			S	S	🇵🇹	Inter FS (ESP)
8	Djô	11/01/1986			B	B	B	Sporting CP
9	João Matos	21/02/1987		1	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	Sporting CP
10	Ricardinho	03/09/1985	6		🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	Inter FS (ESP)
11	Anilton	25/02/1989			U	B	U	SL Benfica
13	Tiago Brito	22/07/1991			B	B	B	SC Braga
14	Fábio Lima	16/10/1988			B	U	B	Sporting CP

G = goals; A = assists; 🇵🇹 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇵🇹 = sent off

COACH

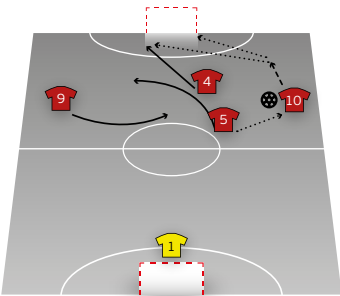


JORGE BRAZ
Born: 25/05/1972

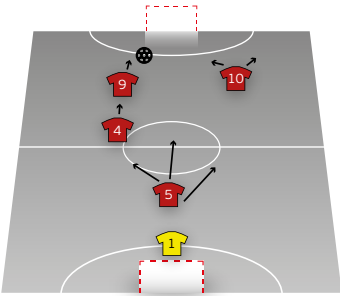
"We were organised. We created scoring opportunities. But it sometimes seemed that some magic from Ricardinho was the only way to score. And we made mistakes. If you make as many mistakes as we did, it is very difficult to beat Spain. But it was a great arena, a great atmosphere. There was a passion for sport and I hope we helped to encourage people to include futsal among the sports that they love."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Spain)
Typical use of overload on one flank to create space for switch to the other



DEFENDING
(v Serbia)
High 1-1-1-2 with positional interchanging



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	7	5	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	3	11	0

Slovenia 2-6 Portugal
Portugal 1-3 Serbia

QUARTER-FINALS

Portugal 2-6 Spain

Russia



KEY FEATURES

- Three quartets of similar athletic qualities but different characteristics
- 1-3-1 structure with Eder Lima as pivot; otherwise generally 1-4-0
- Aggressive individual (often deep) 1-1-2-1 defending; fast counterattacks
- Robinho the organiser, dictating tempo, prepared to go for one-on-one
- Emphasis otherwise on positional combination attacks rather than one-on-one skills
- Eder Lima key in attack, receiving deep, holding ball up, shots from any angle
- Strong on discipline, concentration; quality goalkeeping by Gustavo

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	KAZ	CRO	AZE	SRB	ESP	Club
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Sergei Vikulov	25/03/1990			U	U	U	B	U	Ekaterinburg
12	Gustavo	05/02/1979	1		🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	FC Dynamo
OUTFIELD PLAYERS										
2	Vladislav Shayakhmetov	25/08/1981		2	🇵🇹	B	B	B	🇵🇹	Ugra Yugorsk
3	Nikolai Pereverzev	15/12/1986	1		B	B	🇵🇹	B	B	Tyumen
4	Dmitri Lyskov	24/09/1987		3	B	B	B	B	B	Ugra Yugorsk
5	Sergei Sergeev	28/06/1983		1	B	B	B	B	B	FC Dynamo
7	Danil Kutuzov	13/03/1987			U	🇵🇹	U	🇵🇹	B	Dina Moskva
8	Eder Lima	29/06/1984	4	1	🇵🇹	B	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	S	Ugra Yugorsk
9	Sergei Abramov	09/09/1990	4		B	B	B	B	🇵🇹	Dina Moskva
10	Robinho	28/01/1983	1	5	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	Ugra Yugorsk
14	Ivan Milovanov	08/02/1989	1		U	🇵🇹	B	U	B	Tyumen
15	Romulo	28/09/1986	5	2	B	B	B	B	🇵🇹	FC Dynamo
17	Renat Shakirov	04/03/1990			U	B	U	U	U	MFK KPRF
18	Daniil Davydov	23/01/1989	1		🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	🇵🇹	B	Ugra Yugorsk

G = goals; A = assists; 🇵🇹 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇵🇹 = sent off

COACH

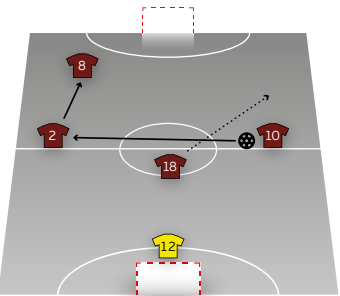


SERGEI SKOROVICH
Born: 05/04/1973

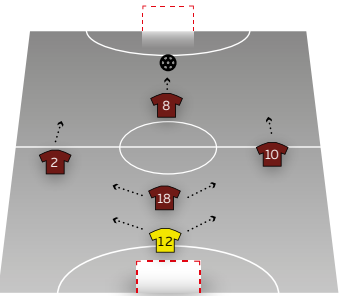
"It was not good to lose it, but the positive perspective is that it was our third straight final. We had enough physical condition and emotional energy for the final. But Spain took advantage of our mistakes, even though we had prepared for their set pieces and worked on ways of coping with their high pressure. We knew it would be dangerous to make mistakes in our own half – but we did."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Kazakhstan)
1-3-1 attacks with Lima or Lyskov as pivot



DEFENDING
(v Kazakhstan)
1-1-2-1 with fierce pressure, man-to-man marking



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	4	6	1

Russia 2-1 Kazakhstan
Croatia 2-2 Russia

QUARTER-FINALS

Russia 6-2 Azerbaijan

SEMI-FINALS

Serbia 2-3 Russia (AET)

FINAL

Russia 3-7 Spain

Serbia



KEY FEATURES

- Initially 1-3-1 with switches to 1-2-2 for more one-on-one attacking opportunities
- Emphasis on 1-1-2-1 defending with individual marking
- Competitive team with physical and mental strength, self-belief
- Adherence to clear, well-coached style designed for non-top-league players
- Kocić the key attacker; one-on-one skills, tactically aware, brave, good finisher
- Variety of inventive set plays and well-drilled attacking moves
- Competitive players with strong team ethic, winning mentality

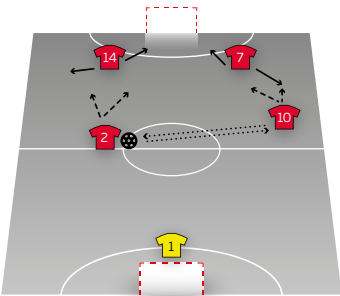
SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	SVN	POR	UKR	RUS	KAZ	Club
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Miodrag Aksentijević	22/07/1983								Tyumen (RUS)
12	Nemanja Momčilović	15/04/1991			U	U	U	U	B	Nikars Riga (LVA)
OUTFIELD PLAYERS										
2	Marko Perić	05/02/1984		5						Kaos Futsal (ITA)
3	Aleksandar Živanović	24/07/1988		1	U	B	B	B	B	Deus
4	Stefan Rakić	22/11/1993	1		B	B	B	B	B	Informatica Timișoara (ROM)
5	Marko Radovanović	10/10/1991			U	U	U	U	B	Ekonomac Kragujevac
6	Dušan Milojević	06/03/1986			U	U	U	U	B	Kalča Memoris
7	Slobodan Janjić	17/02/1987	1	1						Informatica Timișoara (ROM)
8	Marko Pršić	13/09/1990	1		B	B	B	B	B	Ekonomac Kragujevac
9	Vladimir Lazić	19/06/1984		1	B	B	B	B	B	Deus
10	Mladen Kocić	22/10/1988	5	1						Nacional Zagreb
11	Miloš Sinić	12/08/1989	3		B	B	B	B	B	Ekonomac Kragujevac
13	Miloš Stojković	03/10/1991			B	B	B	B	S	Ekonomac Kragujevac
14	Slobodan Rajčević	28/02/1985	3	1						Al Mayadeen (LIB)

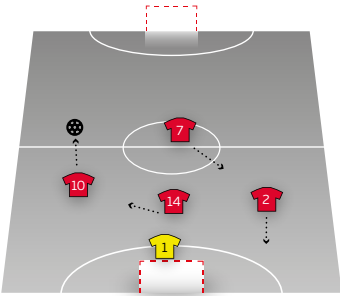
G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING (v Portugal)
1-2-2 often used with two players taking high positions



DEFENDING (v Slovenia)
Compact 1-1-2-1 deep, aggressive defending



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	7	5	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	3	11	0

Serbia 5-1 Slovenia
Portugal 1-3 Serbia

QUARTER-FINALS

Serbia 2-1 Ukraine

SEMI-FINALS

Serbia 2-3 Russia (AET)

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

Serbia 2-5 Kazakhstan

Slovenia



KEY FEATURES

- Mainly 1-3-1 attacking with Čujec/Vrhovec as (sometimes isolated) pivot
- Aggressive high defending with Osredkar the tireless leader
- Emphasis on individual defending; at 20m or even deeper as game went on
- Frequent use of direct supply to pivot, who held ball to look for support
- Good switches from flank to flank for one-on-one or long-range shooting opportunities
- Simple, well-executed set plays, notably corners on left
- Strong physique and work ethic; but struggled to manage power-play options

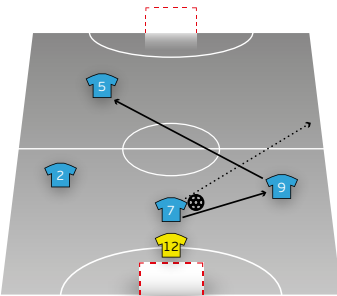
SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	SRB	POR	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
1	Damir Puškar	03/09/1987			U		Brezje Maribor
12	Alen Mordej	13/03/1990				U	KMN Dobovec
16	Igor Bratič	29/10/1988			—	—	KMN Kobarid
OUTFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Rok Mordej	03/03/1989				I	KMN Dobovec
3	Matej Fideršek	04/07/1991			U	U	Brezje Maribor
4	Anže Širok	10/11/1989			B	B	KMN Kobarid
5	Kristjan Čujec	30/11/1988	1				Nacional Zagreb (CRO)
6	Uroš Kroflič	02/11/1985			B	B	KMN Dobovec
7	Igor Osredkar	28/06/1986	1	1			Nacional Zagreb (CRO)
8	Nejc Hozjan	31/07/1996			U	U	Città di Montesilvano (ITA)
9	Gašper Vrhovec	18/07/1988	1	1			Litija
10	Alen Fetič	14/10/1991			B		Brezje Maribor
11	Tilen Štendler	08/10/1991			U	B	Adriatica (ITA)
13	Jaka Sovdat	02/06/1983			U	B	KMN Kobarid

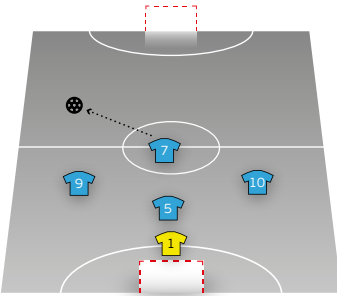
G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING (v Serbia)
Fast breaks with direct supply to pivot and support from deep



DEFENDING (v Portugal)
Deep, compact 1-1-2-1 with use of man-to-man marking



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	7	5	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	3	11	0

Serbia 5-1 Slovenia
Slovenia 2-6 Portugal

COACH



ACA KOVAČEVIĆ

Born: 27/08/1955

"It was not easy to start the tournament in front of a record crowd and it took us some time to get used to the wonderful atmosphere. It was a great success to reach a long-awaited semi-final and that was not just about the achievement of the players but also the whole history of Serbian futsal. We will keep on fighting for such great results as Serbia wants more wins in the future. The Futsal EURO inspired us."

COACH



ANDREJ DOBOVIČNIK

Born: 14/10/1967

"It wasn't nice to be the first team out of the tournament and it goes without saying that we failed to achieve our goals. Our bench is not strong enough because, if you can rotate more than six players, it's a bit easier. But, for a squad like Slovenia where the players are almost all amateur, this was not the case and it was difficult for the same players to cope with two very intense matches in a short time. Even so, I congratulated the boys on the efforts they made."

Spain



KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-4-0 attacking based on high-tempo ball circulation
- 1-1-1-2 defence; aggressive first line of two; Sedano excellent in goal
- Excellent ball-winning skills and fast, dangerous counterattacking
- Play based on fast players with well-organised off-the-ball movements
- Pace exploited well for dangerous penetration in wide areas
- Variety of inventive set plays; good finishing skills; goals shared among team
- Strong team ethic, mix of youth, experience, leadership qualities

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	HUN	UKR	POR	KAZ	RUS	Club
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Paco Sedano	02/12/1979	1							FC Barcelona
12	Juanjo	19/08/1985			U	U	U	U	U	SL Benfica (POR)
13	Jesús Herrero	04/11/1986			U	U	U	U	U	Inter FS
OUTFIELD PLAYERS										
2	Carlos Ortiz	03/10/1983	3	I	I	B				Inter FS
3	José Ruiz	06/06/1983			B	B	B	B	B	Murcia FS
4	Mario Rivillos	13/12/1989	6	4						Inter FS
5	Bebe	28/05/1990	2	3	B	B	B	B	B	Murcia FS
6	Rafa Usin	22/05/1987	1		U	B	U	U	U	FC Barcelona
7	Pola	26/06/1988	2	1						Inter FS
8	Lin	16/05/1986		1						FC Barcelona
9	Alex	12/03/1989	6	2	B	B	B	B	B	Murcia FS
10	Andresito	24/03/1991	1		B	B	B	B	B	Cartagena FS
11	Miguelín	09/05/1985	6	4	B	B	B	B	B	Murcia FS
14	Raúl Campos	17/12/1987	3							Murcia FS

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off
One goal against Hungary was an own goal

COACH

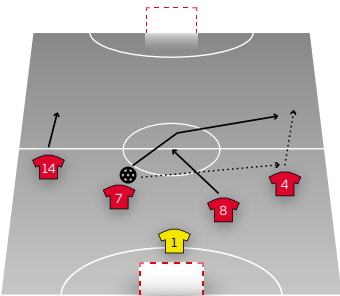


JOSÉ VENANCIO LÓPEZ
Born: 27/06/1964

"Our objective was to keep improving in every match and I think we achieved that. My players worked hard, were focused and applied themselves to the task. They demonstrated that we had the best team. The tournament showed that our league is the best in Europe and the players in Belgrade gave me yet another pleasant surprise. It was a great tournament and a big leap forward for futsal in Europe."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Hungary)
Typically 1-4-0 with constant movement and high-tempo passing



DEFENDING
(v Hungary)
1-1-1-2 with aggressive pressure by front two



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
Hungary	2	0	0	2	5	11	0

Spain 5-2 Hungary
Ukraine 1-4 Spain

QUARTER-FINALS

Portugal 2-6 Spain

SEMI-FINALS

Spain 5-3 Kazakhstan

FINAL

Russia 3-7 Spain

Ukraine



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-0 attacking with occasional switches to 1-3-1 with Grytsyna as pivot
- High 1-1-1-2 defensive structure or deeper 20m man-to-man marking
- Speed throughout the squad; fast transitions in both directions
- Technical excellence; elaborate attacks with long spells of possession
- Sustained high tempo, intensity; difficult to catch with counterattacks
- Strong squad with uniform quality, fitness levels among outfield quartets
- Well-orchestrated collective play; short-burst substitutions allowing high intensity

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	SVN	SRB	ESP	Club
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Yevgen Ivanyak	28/09/1982		1				Lokomotiv Kharkiv
12	Dmytro Lytvynenko	16/04/1987			U	U	U	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
OUTFIELD PLAYERS								
2	Dmytro Sorokin	14/07/1988	1					Lokomotiv Kharkiv
3	Volodymyr Razuvanov	01/08/1992			B	B	B	Progress (RUS)
4	Dmytro Bondar	12/10/1983	2	1				Lokomotiv Kharkiv
5	Yevgen Valenko	01/11/1984	1		B	B	B	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
7	Yevgen Rogachov	30/08/1983			B	B	B	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
8	Sergiy Koval	23/08/1986		3	B	B	B	Energy Lviv
9	Mykhailo Grytsyna	19/10/1991			B	B	B	Energy Lviv
10	Serhiy Zhurba	14/03/1987		1				Lokomotiv Kharkiv
11	Denys Ovsyannikov	10/12/1984	1					Lokomotiv Kharkiv
13	Oleksandr Sorokin	13/08/1987			B	B	B	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
14	Mykola Grytsyna	03/06/1989	3		B	B	B	Energy Lviv
15	Olexiy Fetko	03/01/1988			B	B	B	Sportleader

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

COACH

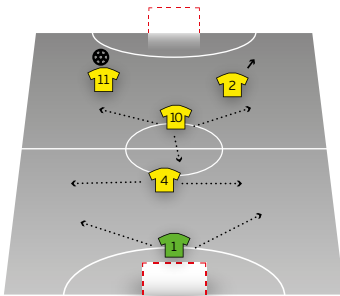


OLEKSANDR KOSENKO
Born: 18/01/1970

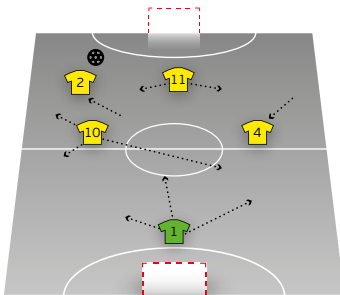
"We started well but we lost to Spain due to our own mistakes. Maybe I used the flying goalkeeper too early. It didn't prove to be useful. Against Serbia we weren't able to take our chances and, with every miss, our confidence dropped. We had told the players we would need to compete from the first second to the last – and we didn't quite do that. It was very painful to lose with 0.3 seconds to go and no time to respond."

FORMATIONS

ATTACKING
(v Spain) Fluent
1-4-0 or 1-3-1 with wide pivot



DEFENDING
(v Serbia)
1-1-1-2; front line depending on situation when ball was lost



— ball movement
..... player movement
--- dribbling with ball
X opposition
● ball

RESULTS

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
Hungary	2	0	0	2	5	11	0

Hungary 3-6 Ukraine
Ukraine 1-4 Spain

QUARTER-FINALS

Serbia 2-1 Ukraine



Event
report

Showtime

Incredible skill, a stunning spectacle and passionate fans ensured the tournament lived up to its billing – Futsal Rocks

The action took place on the black playing surface that has become a trademark of the Futsal EURO. It was fast enough to earn approval from the teams, as the speed of the action contributed to the spectacle and the surface demanded levels of technique in line with the massive signs on the facades of the Arena of Belgrade which invited the public to "meet the masters of skills". Those who accepted the invitation could only be impressed by the exploits of Ricardinho and company as the 12-day, 20-game event unfolded.

The success of the home side set the tone from the start. Serbia's opening victory against

Slovenia was watched by 11,161 and when they then beat Portugal to top their group, ticket sales became breaking news. The quarter-final against Ukraine was sold out in half an hour. And the Arena's 11,161 capacity was dwarfed by ticket requests of over 20,000 for the knockout games.

The spectators who flocked to the Arena with their flags, their face-paint, their carnivalesque disguises and their banners were rewarded with wall-to-wall entertainment. A single ticket gave access to the two games disputed every day, and even when the players stopped to catch their breath the spectacle kept on going.

Half-times and the interval between matches provided cues for competitions involving spectators, exhibitions of freestyle ball-skills and rousing music which allowed the tournament to live up to one of its slogans: Futsal Rocks. During matches, close-ups and replays on the giant screen gave added-value to the occasion, as did images of the fans, their emotions conveying the drama being played out before them. Cheerleaders provided captivating dance routines during time-outs; masters of ceremonies galvanised the fans into cheers and chants; former Serbian international Dejan Stanković made guest appearances in his role

as tournament ambassador – there was hardly time to blink.

The event's outstanding success represented a reward for the massive efforts made by the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) and by the City of Belgrade, spearheaded by enthusiastic support from the mayor, Siniša Mali. A dedicated UEFA Futsal EURO office had been set up in the city as early as the previous September. The result was that Belgrade buzzed. The public brought a passion for futsal into the Arena, generously applauding the skills on show, chanting support for Portugal to express their desire for Ricardinho to stay longer and urging

the players to keep up the intensity and the high tempo of their play.

"I hadn't expected such huge public interest before and during the event," commented Serbia coach Aca Kovačević. "It was a revelation and it was great news for the future of futsal in Serbia." After Spain had won the final, their coach, José Venancio López, said: "I have to congratulate UEFA and the Serbia FA for the way they organised this great show. It was a big leap forward for futsal in Europe."

"It was a revelation and it was great news for the future of futsal in Serbia"

Prized partnerships

The support and expertise of a team of 13 sponsors played a pivotal role in the tournament's success

UEFA teamed up with ten global and three national sponsors to deliver UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, and the successful commercial programme helped to provide the foundations upon which the competition flourished. The tournament served as an excellent platform for global brands to showcase their activities,

and they in turn gave support throughout the event. The national sponsors, meanwhile, were instrumental in raising awareness of the championship throughout Serbia, which was reflected in the strong attendances at the Arena of Belgrade. New global sponsors Turkish Airlines and Chinese electronics firm Hisense

thus benefited from UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 to launch their relationships with UEFA, and with the buzz generated by the unfolding drama and quality of futsal on show, each sponsor received fantastic brand exposure across a variety of markets.

GLOBAL SPONSORS



NATIONAL SPONSORS



adidas once again supplied the official match ball for the 2016 edition of the UEFA Futsal EURO, and its design and distinctive colours perfectly reflected the tournament's brand identity. The adidas brand itself, meanwhile, was ubiquitous, due in large part to the wide range of striking apparel made available for the tournament's youth programme participants, volunteers and staff. adidas also designed and produced the official licensed products on sale at INTERSPORT's official fan shops inside the Arena of Belgrade. The sportswear manufacturer was also presenting partner of one of the biggest prizes of the tournament, the adidas Golden Shoe award, which was won jointly by Spain's Miguelín and Mario Rivillos after both finished up with six goals and four assists.



Carlsberg continued its association with the UEFA Futsal EURO following a successful first tournament in 2014 by activating its local Serbian power brand LAV. LAV was heavily visible throughout the championship on the perimeter boards, within the official programme and on the giant screens in the Arena of Belgrade. Carlsberg beer products were provided for staff, media, sponsors and the local organising committee during the event and the company made full use of its ticket allocation via various promotions in the lead-up to the finals and through entertaining VIP clients.



Coca-Cola unveiled its new global slogan 'Taste the feeling' on a giant screen advert at the Arena of Belgrade. Perimeter boards and programme advertising also made sure the brand was prominent during the tournament while value-in-kind products for all youth programme participants, UEFA staff, volunteers and the teams kept Coca-Cola central to the event. Coca-Cola also sold products at the stadium kiosks, refreshing fans at every game.



UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 was Continental's second futsal final tournament and the tyre manufacturer has been a big player in promoting all UEFA's national team competitions across its markets. Its 'Your safe way to the match' campaign was used in a variety of promotions in Serbia, as well as Slovenia, where the Continental brand centralises its sponsorship activation for the central European region. Continental also presented the MatchCentre on UEFA.com, where fans received updates on the action as it happened.

Hisense

Hisense is the first Chinese brand to sponsor UEFA national team competitions having come on board less than two months before UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 kicked off. The electronics company focused its activities in Belgrade on core rights such as perimeter boards and tickets, the former being deployed to advertise Hisense's new 4K LED televisions, and the latter to entertain clients throughout the tournament.



KIA

Kia is a long-standing and active partner of the UEFA Futsal EURO and 2016 proved no exception as the car manufacturer leveraged its sponsorship on several fronts. At the centre of its programme was Kia's official match ball carrier activation (right), offering local children the unique experience of leading the teams out onto the court and taking part in the pre-match ceremony. Kia also organised several commercial display areas around the Arena of Belgrade, all of which helped add to the finals' vibrant atmosphere.



McDonald's

McDonald's local market team made the most of Belgrade hosting the UEFA Futsal EURO by maximising the use of its sponsorship rights. Player escorts (right) were provided for all Serbia matches as well as the final, lending local children the opportunity to walk out onto the pitch with the game's stars. McDonald's was present in the stadium concourse where representatives distributed discount vouchers to fans throughout the championship. McDonald's also featured in the half-time entertainment, laying on prizes for participants which raised awareness of its sponsorship as well as driving supporters to local McDonald's restaurants.



MONDO

Mondo continued its relationship as a key global partner of the UEFA Futsal EURO by supplying the playing surface itself along with the goals and nets. Mondo Indoor Sport manufactures, designs and installs flooring for a wide range of global sports and the company worked closely with UEFA to ensure that the court was eco-friendly, versatile, high-performance and safe for the tournament. Mondo also profited from the finals to publicise its brand on the perimeter boards, in the official programme and on the giant screen.



SOCAR

The sponsorship strategy of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) is focused on building brand awareness, and UEFA's national team competitions, including UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, bring great visibility for the company. SOCAR was the presenting partner of the statistics section on UEFA.com and also had a prominent brand presence on the Arena's LED boards, giant screen and in the official programme – all chief strategic elements in helping SOCAR achieve its global growth plans and lead consumers to purchase its product and visit its petrol stations.



TURKISH AIRLINES

Turkish Airlines joined as a UEFA national team global sponsor shortly before the UEFA Futsal EURO kicked off in Serbia. This gave the company the chance to display its brand on the Arena of Belgrade perimeter boards and on a giant screen advert, while utilising its ticket allocation to engage the local market. Turkish Airlines was warmly welcomed into the sponsorship family as UEFA's first airline partner and it will be exciting to see how it uses its assets in the coming months.





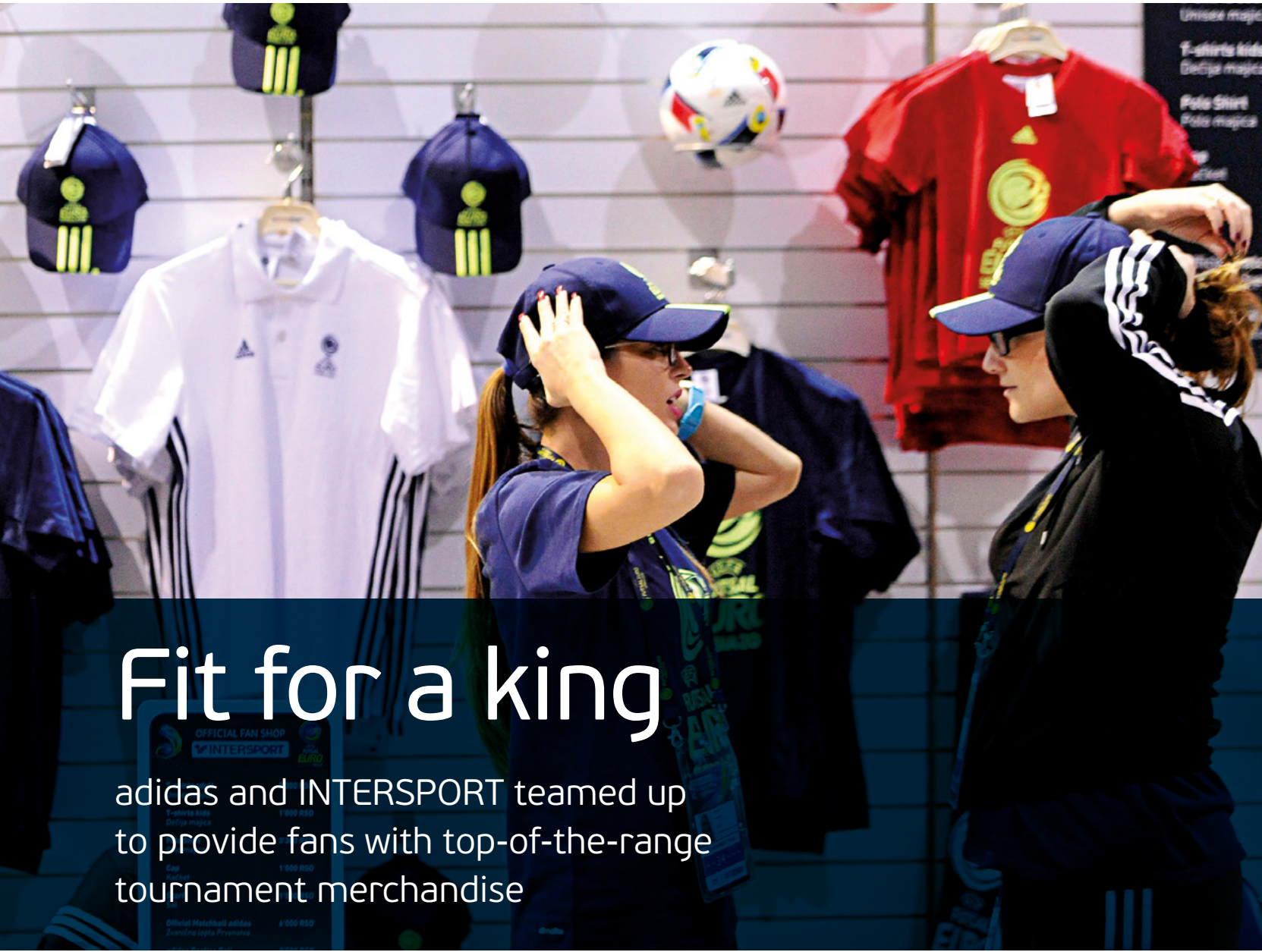
National sponsors INTERSPORT made the most of the opportunity to reach out to local fans ahead of the tournament through a number of ticket promotions on social media and with various media partners, helping to build up a buzz and generate enthusiasm. INTERSPORT, one of the world's largest sports retailers, was also selected as the official sports shop of licensed products for UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, teaming up with adidas to sell official tournament products in the Arena of Belgrade and in selected stores in the city.



Kombank was a natural fit as a national sponsor given the strong relationship it already held with the Arena of Belgrade. As a national sponsor with a prominent local presence, it leveraged the championship with its local client base to entertain guests in the VIP hospitality areas and by distributing tickets to key customers. Kombank was particularly pleased with the high television viewing figures, especially within Serbia, which resulted in a large amount of exposure for the bank's brand.



As owner of some of the most popular radio stations in Serbia, SMEDIA was vital as a national sponsor to help spread the Futsal EURO message. In the weeks leading up to the start of the finals, ticket promotions and adverts were regularly featured on Radio S, Index Radio, GRADSKI 102.2, and PINGVIN 90.9, encouraging ticket sales and local engagement with the event. This helped to ensure tremendous attendances throughout the competition, especially for the Serbia games, which SMEDIA's promotions helped to sell out.



Fit for a king

adidas and INTERSPORT teamed up to provide fans with top-of-the-range tournament merchandise

As the official match-ball supplier, adidas naturally took centre stage at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 and the tournament's licensing programme made sure that fans too could feel a part of the action. In partnership with global sports retail expert INTERSPORT, the two companies combined their strengths to make a great range of official merchandise readily available to supporters.

adidas has a reputation for its innovative and high-quality products, and the sportswear manufacturer created a bespoke apparel collection for the event based on the dynamic Futsal EURO brand. In line with the trend towards more functional sportswear items, adidas included products from its popular Climalite range, which were sold alongside usual fan favourites such as caps and event scarves. The UEFA Futsal EURO official match ball and its replica were also best sellers.

INTERSPORT used its national retailer in Serbia to showcase the products from strategically located event-branded shops in the Arena of Belgrade, which gave fans at the venue easy access to the merchandise before, during and after matches. Official licensed products were also available through specially branded UEFA Futsal EURO areas in its retail stores in Belgrade.



The bigger picture

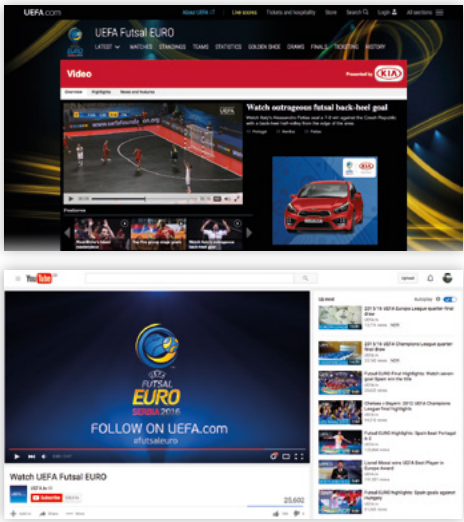
Viewing figures were up sharply on 2014 as fans tuned in online as well as on TV

An impressive 36.4 million people turned on to watch UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 as fans across the globe got a taste of the action. Viewing figures were up 38.3% on 2014, with supporters able to follow matches on eight domestic networks and pan-regionally throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Record levels of programming (295) and coverage (366) hours meant that the tournament was broadcast in greater depth than ever before.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the biggest draw in live audience terms was delivered by a passionate semi-final between Serbia and Russia, with 4.3 million fans tuning in to see the hosts' nail-biting 3-2 defeat after extra time. There were 1.2 million viewers for that match in Serbia alone, equalling an audience share of 37.8%, while in Russia 2.3 million people watched, the highest live domestic audience of the past five tournaments. The final received an overall audience of 3.7 million, again a nine-year high.

FUTSAL FANS TURN ON TO UEFA.TV AND UEFA.COM

Every match at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 was streamed live on UEFA.tv – UEFA's official YouTube channel – and UEFA.com, with live coverage available in 168 territories worldwide where the rights to broadcast the tournament had not been purchased. In addition, highlights for each game were available after midnight CET on UEFA.tv and UEFA.com. Individual goal clips such as Ricardinho's brilliant solo efforts against Serbia and Spain were also published. There were 84,000 live views on UEFA.tv during the finals with a total watch-time of 1,684,722 minutes of live coverage. Highlights on UEFA.com, meanwhile, were viewed 10,454 times.



UEFA.com and UEFA.tv were both popular places to watch the action

SPAIN GAIN FROM MEGA EVENT

Spanish free-to-air channel Mega showed each of La Roja's five fixtures live and the final against Russia was the channel's second most watched programme ever, drawing an audience of 725,000 (4.5% share). The average live domestic audience was the country's highest in recent years, up 25% on 2014 and continuing the upward trend of the last five tournaments.

SERBIA'S SEMI-FINAL SURGE

Public service channel RTS2 in Serbia aired all of the hosts' games live, as well as the final. The semi-final against Russia attained an audience of 1.2 million, representing a share of 37.8%, over 13 times the usual prime-time share of the channel (2.9%). This even topped the FIBA EuroBasket 2015 third-place play-off between Serbia and France on RTS1, which was the most-watched match of that event in the country. The average live domestic audience of 10.9% was also the greatest for a host in recent years.

RUSSIA ON THE RISE

Russian free-to-air sports channel Match TV showed all the runners-up's games live in Russia. The semi-final against Serbia pulled in 2.3 million viewers (a 2.86% share), which was the highest live domestic audience of the past five tournaments across all broadcast markets. Furthermore, the average live domestic audience was the biggest of any tournament previously aired in Russia, up 280% compared with 2012, which was the last edition when matches were covered live.

PRIME TIME IN PORTUGAL

Free-to-air channel TVI and its pay-TV news channel TVI24 screened all Portugal's fixtures live as well as some 'neutral' ones. Portugal's quarter-final against Spain achieved an audience of 1.1 million on TVI, which signified a share of 22.91%. The average live domestic audience was the country's second highest of the past five tournaments, up 118% on 2014.

36.4m

Cumulative global TV audience for UEFA Futsal EURO 2016

↑38.3%

Viewing figures were up nearly 40% on 2014

Serbia 2016 broadcast network

Region	Country	TV Partners
Europe	Pan-European	Eurosport
	Kazakhstan	Kazsport
	Portugal	TVI
	Spain	MEGA
	Russia	Match TV
	Hungary	MTVA
	Azerbaijan	CSC Sports
	Serbia	RTS and Radio Belgrade (radio)
Outside Europe	Brazil	Globosat
	Middle East and North Africa	BeIN Sport

Capturing the moment

Host broadcast partner Eurosport worked in close partnership with UEFA to transmit the excitement of the EURO worldwide

The high quality of the action and the packed stands at the Arena of Belgrade made for compelling viewing both at the venue and for those at home. Host broadcaster Eurosport covered every minute of every match in HD with Dolby 5.1 surround sound, with nine cameras – including super-slow motion and crane cameras – ensuring every kick was captured. UEFA host broadcast support was on site for the first matchday to oversee Eurosport's set-up and operation and also to provide assistance for the three unilateral broadcasters at the venue: MTVA (Hungary), RTS (Serbia) and TVI (Portugal). Jean-Marc Stabler was Eurosport's TV director in Belgrade and it was his job to select the best images for transmission. Here he explains why covering futsal live is so unique.



Eurosport TV director Jean-Marc Stabler at home in the OB van

Can you introduce your team?

It's roughly 30 people producing the television coverage and nine cameras in the arena. Two are super-slow-motion cameras and there's also one crane camera. It's a very good set-up for futsal.

So you have covered futsal before.

Yes, I've done lots of tournaments, almost all in the last ten years. I started with Futsal EURO 2007 in Portugal, so this is my fifth European Championship. As TV director I've also done the Futsal Cups.

What makes covering futsal unique?

The technique and the movement. The players' changes of direction are very fast and unpredictable. Futsal has become much more spectacular in recent years, attracting much bigger audiences. It really has improved.

How does it differ from directing a football match?

The first big difference is the speed: speed of the ball, speed of the players, speed of positional changes on the pitch. All our television activities and decisions – the cameramen's and then my own – must be faster. Everybody involved must be even more focused.

Is there anything in particular you try to capture?

We get great slow motions but it's risky to show them live because the game can be incredibly fast. Players can score from anywhere, so we have to be very careful. The most important thing about live coverage is a good balance, so your slow-motion shots might be used at half-time or a time-out.

How well do you know the sport?

Usually I do football matches but only one a week, so 20 futsal games in two weeks is a big challenge. I have to be more focused than for football; the balance between cameras is almost the same and the main camera is still the first choice. I enjoy the atmosphere and I'd say I am becoming a bigger and bigger futsal fan.

"Futsal has become much more spectacular in recent years, attracting much bigger audiences"



Kazakhstan goalkeeper Higuera was never out of focus

Hottest ticket in town

Attendance records were broken then broken again as fans flocked to the finals



Large numbers of fans from the different competing nations ensured a vibrant atmosphere

For the first time in the history of the competition, the total attendance for a UEFA Futsal EURO reached six figures. The bar was set high from kick off as an opening-day record crowd of 11,161 people watched Serbia beat Slovenia, and the clamour for tickets kept up throughout, with 113,820 fans passing through the turnstiles over the course of the 20-game event. That total surpassed the 95,609 mark established in Croatia in 2012, and with five matches sold out, the atmosphere in the Arena of Belgrade was one of the highlights of a memorable event.

The average match attendance of around 6,000 vindicated the ticketing policy for the tournament. With tickets priced between

RSD 350 (€3) and RSD 600 (€5), matches were accessible to the average fan in Belgrade, while an innovative promotional plan ensured supporters kept coming back for more. Ten tickets per match were offered on the "Kiss-Cam" shown on the big screen during games, while a tie-in with a UEFA EURO 2016 ticket and travel package kept the first EURO of the year firmly in the public eye. The LED boards in the Arena also kept fans alerted to the next day's matches.

Ticket sales were launched on 1 December 2015 at the Belgrade City Sports Fair, with an all-star match involving players from the men's and women's Serbian national futsal teams and special guests garnering plenty of publicity.



Tickets were available at Eventim outlets in Serbia with 65,000 sold for the tournament. An important feature of the EURO was to make it as accessible to as many people as possible and promotional tickets were also made available to schools as well as a number of grassroots and city initiatives. The local organising committee, sponsors and teams also enjoyed complimentary passes, and with demand so high, these proved some of the hottest tickets in town.



5

sold out matchdays. All host Serbia's matches were played out to 11,161 capacity crowds

11,161

record attendance for an opening match of a UEFA Futsal EURO

113,820

record total attendance

Belgrade 2016 makes its mark

From popular social media campaigns to vocal support from star players, the UEFA Futsal EURO was quick to catch the eye



A packed arena, passionate crowds and a buzzing atmosphere – UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 was everything organisers had hoped and knew it could be. While the players take the plaudits for the quality of futsal on show in Belgrade, credit is also due to the concerted effort made, both pre-tournament and during the event itself, to spread the word about just how exciting the sport is – especially live, with Europe's best players competing for the continent's biggest prize – and the values it represents.

Promotional work in the build-up to the tournament took a variety of approaches, from connecting with the sport's grassroots to inviting some of world's most celebrated footballers to discuss their passion for the indoor game. Ambassador Dejan Stanković, for instance, was a tireless enthusiast, the former Serbian international and UEFA Champions League winner explaining: "When I look back

at my own football career, I can honestly say it started with futsal."

Stanković assisted with the draw in Belgrade on 2 October 2015, and further high-profile activities also attracted publicity in the run-up to the finals. The ticket launch at the Belgrade City Fair on 1 December included a promotional match involving local celebrities as well as members of the Serbian men's and women's futsal teams, while the official adidas ball launch kept Belgrade 2016 in the spotlight. A futsal Father Christmas was even enlisted to convey the EURO message at the Belgrade winter carnival, with children receiving all sorts of championship-related gifts, from balls to wristbands and printed guides.

Moreover, a targeted media campaign placed the Futsal EURO high on the agenda. The Serbian players and coach Aca Kovačević were willing interviewees in newspapers and on television, a dedicated Serbian Futsal

EURO website was established and social media channels were pushed to the maximum. Famous faces such as Serbia and Chelsea pair Nemanja Matić and Branislav Ivanović took part in a video promotion that drew social media traction as well as column inches in the press.

Futsal EURO signage throughout the city further ensured that the tournament was never far from people's minds. The dynamic Futsal EURO brand, reflective of the fast-moving and engaging sport, was given a makeover to include the colours of the Serbian flag, and it became a prominent feature of the cityscape. The brand is crucial in unifying all promotional work and in forging an identity for the event. It certainly achieved that goal, with branded buses, lamppost banners and billboard advertising just some of the city signage that helped make sure the Serbian capital entered 2016 as Europe's futsal capital.



Miloš Simić was among the Serbian players who joined in the promotional campaign



Fans were kept entertained even when the players were off the court



There was a large media presence in Belgrade



Tournament ambassador Dejan Stanković was a big draw for fans

SPREADING THE WORD

High media interest spoke volumes for the EURO's popularity

A large media presence in Belgrade made sure events on the court were spread far and wide as they happened, helping maintain the competition's international profile and presence. The media operations unit assisted 203 accredited journalists comprising the written press, photographers, web, television and radio reporters, plus TV cameramen. Appropriately, the Serbian host nation and champions-elect Spain had the biggest contingents, yet a total of 25 countries from four continents – from China to the United States, via Nigeria – were represented as the tournament went global.

Besides providing accreditation, the team facilitated eve-of-game interview opportunities, post-match press conferences and court-side flash interviews, all the while working alongside host broadcaster Eurosport and three unilateral broadcast partners from Serbia, Portugal and Hungary.

The founding stone for the entire operation was UEFA's online communications platform FAME and its new media management function. This innovative futsal-specific registration form enabled media ops staff to build a database of relevant media who can now be kept better informed about the competition and related futsal activities going forward.

Futsal EURO goes viral

Comprehensive coverage – with a little help from some amazing Ricardinho goals – allowed the competition to reach a wider audience than ever before

UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 gained unprecedented interest on UEFA's various communications channels thanks in no small part to a piece of magic from Ricardinho. The Portugal winger's sensational goal against Serbia in front of a packed Arena of Belgrade not only brought the crowd to their feet – it also sparked a social media frenzy. When the clip of the goal was posted on the UEFA Futsal page on Facebook, it reached more than 10 million people. In the following 24 hours the Facebook page grew 18%, which helped contribute to a Facebook reach of 26,557,901 people over the course of the tournament.

It was a similar story on Twitter. Ricardinho's strike against Serbia was watched more than 11,000 times from one @UEFAFutsal tweet alone, which was topped by 58,445 views for his second stunner in Portugal's quarter-final loss to Spain. The @UEFAFutsal feed earned 3.5m impressions and 10,500 retweets over the fortnight, growing more than 20% in terms of followers. A Vine of a Ricardinho trick filmed in Portugal training the day before the Serbia game was looped more than 3m times.

UEFA.com had a team of four on-site reporters at the Arena of Belgrade plus a photographer and a dedicated cameraman and video producer in the latter stages. Behind-the-scenes access gave UEFA.com's coverage an exclusive and comprehensive feel, and fans were kept fully up to date with the action by social media channels in seven languages as well as previews, reports, analysis and live MatchCentre coverage. The communications team had already heralded the UEFA Futsal EURO with a comprehensive official tournament programme, the print offering complementing the digital output available from the Arena of Belgrade.

All this helped to generate record audiences for UEFA.com's UEFA Futsal EURO section. Across the duration of the tournament there were 1,059,711 visitors – more than doubling the 2014 figure and well over three times the 2012 tally – and there were 169,877 hits for the most visited single page of the finals. A total of 3.8m page views were recorded, some 68% up on two years ago, with more than 1.5m coming from smartphone alone, as more people than ever followed the tournament on mobile. With highlights of every match available the night of each game, video plays more than quadrupled compared with 2014. That was reflected on the YouTube channel UEFA.tv, where video views exceeded 1.4m for the mixture of highlights and behind-the-scenes footage. Spain, Serbia, Russia, Portugal and Italy provided the top five countries for UEFA.com traffic, followed by Germany despite their nation not fielding a side in Belgrade.



The UEFA Futsal EURO was followed in greater numbers on social media than ever before



Record crowds in Belgrade were matched by record numbers on UEFA.com



"The Portugal winger's sensational goal against Serbia sparked a social media frenzy"

 10m

the clip of Ricardinho's goal against Serbia reached over 10 million people on Facebook

 ↑20%

rise in @UEFAFutsal Twitter followers during the tournament

 3.8m

page views on UEFA.com, up 68% on 2014

Perfect delivery

Calm under pressure and great stamina are demands of the job. Like the players on the court, the venue team had them in abundance

"The great satisfaction is fitting together all the pieces of the jigsaw and seeing the final picture." Assembling the components into a smooth-running machine was the challenge facing Pierpascal Larotonda, captain of UEFA's venue operations team at the event. A demanding schedule of 20 games in 12 days – including 16 in the first eight – whittled free time down to the space between alarm clock and breakfast, when a bit of running helped to blow away the mental cobwebs. "Days started at nine with a briefing for the entire venue management team at the UEFA HQ," Larotonda explains. "But then it was a question of about 13 or 14 hours per day at the Arena, running through from greeting everyone and checking everything to the late-night debrief when everyone had left."

'Checking everything' is a neat way of describing detailed attention to areas like security, stewarding, signage, cleaning, facilities for TV and media, commercial activities, maintenance of the pitch and the LED boards around it, making sure that training facilities were at their best, re-stocking dressing-rooms according to requirements – the list is endless. "It was quite busy," Larotonda admits, "and the

second espresso of the day was sometimes quite late in arriving. Apart from the two matches, we had two teams in the Arena to train during the morning, so the activity plan for the day was quite intensive."

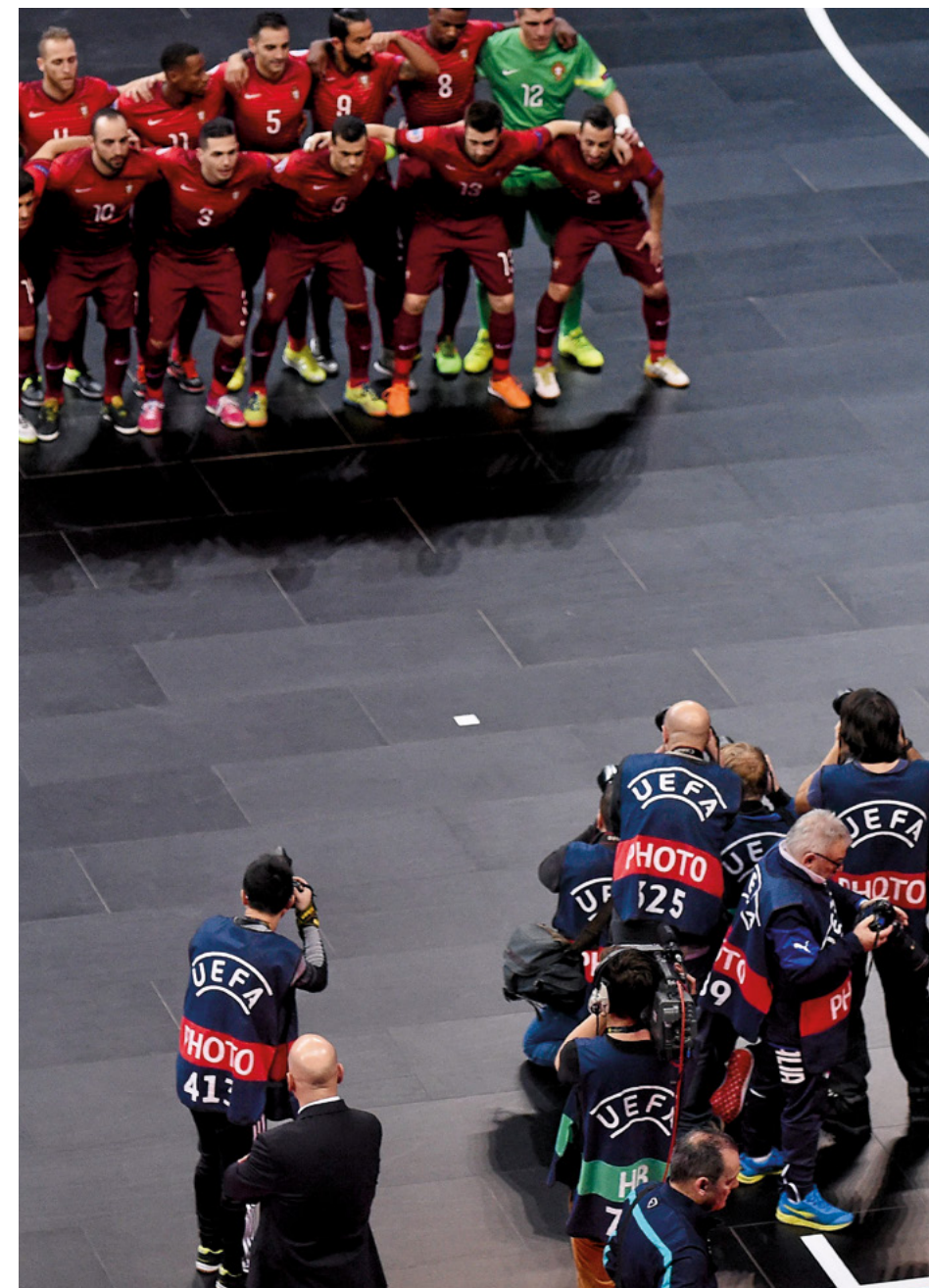
The venue operations team started to accelerate through the gears with rehearsals of pre-match ceremonies at 16:00. And, once the teams and officials for the first match arrived and the gates were opened to the public, the pieces of the jigsaw started to overlap each other rather than fit together. By the time the teams from the first match emerged from the showers, the teams and officials for the second match were well into their warm-ups and preparations. When the coaches from the first match had completed their media duties, the coaches for the second had long-since handed in their team-sheets.

Venue operations work had begun long before all the matchday procedures gathered momentum. "There was a tension in the air when we arrived in Belgrade," recalls Larotonda (pictured top right, opposite). "The Arena had been the venue for the European Waterpolo Championships, so there was a really tight

"We had teamed up to be part of a unique futsal event played in a unique atmosphere"

schedule for the pools to be emptied and removed before we could start installing our playing surface for the futsal. And, unusually, the whole tournament was played on one pitch – which was quite demanding. After the quarter-finals, some areas needed to be dismantled and re-assembled – and it had to be done overnight, as we had a grassroots event involving 700 kids in the Arena on the following morning."

But the endeavours were rewarding. "The abiding memories will be the pleasures of working with the people from the Serbian FA, from the Arena and from Belgrade – and of course with venue team itself. Everyone gave 101% to make it all tick and, when we finished, we realised that we had teamed up to be part of a unique futsal event played in a unique atmosphere."





Next stop Ljubljana

Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik is already counting down the days to his country hosting the final tournament

It may have been Slovenia's misfortune to run into red-hot hosts Serbia and a Ricardinho-inspired Portugal in Belgrade, but for coach Andrej Dobovičnik the experience only served to whet his appetite for UEFA Futsal EURO 2018, which will be played in his own back yard in two years' time.

Though Slovenia bowed out in the group stage, off the court plenty of insight was gleaned into how a EURO is organised, knowledge that will serve the Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) well when Ljubljana stages UEFA Futsal EURO 2018. "In terms of organisation it will be a huge project for a relatively small country, but I am convinced it will be successful," Dobovičnik said.

"We have great potential for holding big sporting events and the Slovenian FA has proved that. Slovenia organised the final tournament of the UEFA European Under-17 Championship really well four years ago, and I know the Futsal EURO will be a great event."

Slovenia will be the tenth nation to host a UEFA Futsal EURO after Serbia (2016), Belgium (2014), Croatia (2012), Hungary (2010), Portugal (2007), Czech Republic (2005), Italy (2003), Russia (2001) and Spain (in 1996 and 1999). Staging the tournament can be a catalyst for

the sport's growth in the host country and Dobovičnik is confident it will bring futsal to a wider audience in his homeland.

"From a sporting point of view it means we will be playing in our sixth EURO, which is great for Slovenia and for the game's development throughout the country. Success increases your media coverage, so hopefully by holding the next EURO we will increase the popularity of futsal in Slovenia.

"Futsal is already becoming more and more popular," added Dobovičnik, "but Slovenia is not like other European nations when it comes to sport. Despite having a population of only two million, we still compete in just about every sport in the world and we have a lot of very successful athletes, so it is a big challenge to make the front pages of the sports papers. I think futsal is a bit underestimated by the media here, so also by the public."

UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 thus provides the perfect opportunity to showcase the sport in the best possible light. "As hosts we have two advantages," said the coach. "Firstly you don't have to play any qualifiers and secondly, maybe even more importantly, you get the A1 position, which means you avoid the top three seeds in

the group stage. So our primary aim is to qualify for the quarter-finals. As host country you have to aim high."



"As host country you have to aim high"

ROLL OF HONOR

- 2016 Spain
- 2014 Italy
- 2012 Spain
- 2010 Spain
- 2007 Spain
- 2005 Spain
- 2003 Italy
- 2001 Spain
- 1999 Russia
- 1996 Spain

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