



TOURNAMENT REVIEW 2022







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REACHING NEW HEIGHTS, SETTING NEW RECORDS



**ALEKSANDER
ČEFERIN**

UEFA President

Futsal continues to stride forward with confidence. UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 in the Netherlands provided ample proof that the sport is blooming as it embraces its exciting new stature.

The decision to increase the number of participants from 12 to 16 certainly proved to be justified, especially as more associations and players relished performing on a privileged international stage. The Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) were outstanding hosts, and Amsterdam and Groningen provided excellent venues. My thanks go to KNVB president Just Spee and his team, and everyone else who made such a crucial contribution to the EURO's success.

The action on the pitch unfolded in dramatic fashion, and records were matched or broken. Portugal clinched their second successive European title, equalling Spain's feat of winning three major futsal tournaments in a row – Futsal EURO 2018, the 2021 Futsal

World Cup and now Futsal EURO 2022.

In a momentous final in Amsterdam's Ziggo Dome, Portugal overcame a two-goal deficit to defeat Russia, who fell at the last hurdle after a proud campaign that comprised a record 11 wins including qualifying. Third-placed Spain have finished in the top three in all 12 editions of the Futsal EURO, and the Spaniards' 72 goals in the qualifying competition and finals also set a new record.

From the qualifying stage to the quarter-finals, Georgia's campaign comprised a record 13 matches. They were among four debutants at the finals, alongside Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland and Slovakia – yet another record – who will have savoured the opportunity to gain invaluable experience for the future.

An unforgettable tournament in the Netherlands took European futsal to new heights. We have much to look forward to as the sport gathers momentum for the years to come.

Home fans get
behind their team



UEFA PRESIDENT ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN AND HIS KNVB COUNTERPART JUST SPEE WERE THRILLED BY THE SUCCESS OF THE BIGGEST EVER FUTSAL EURO



JUST SPEE
KNVB President

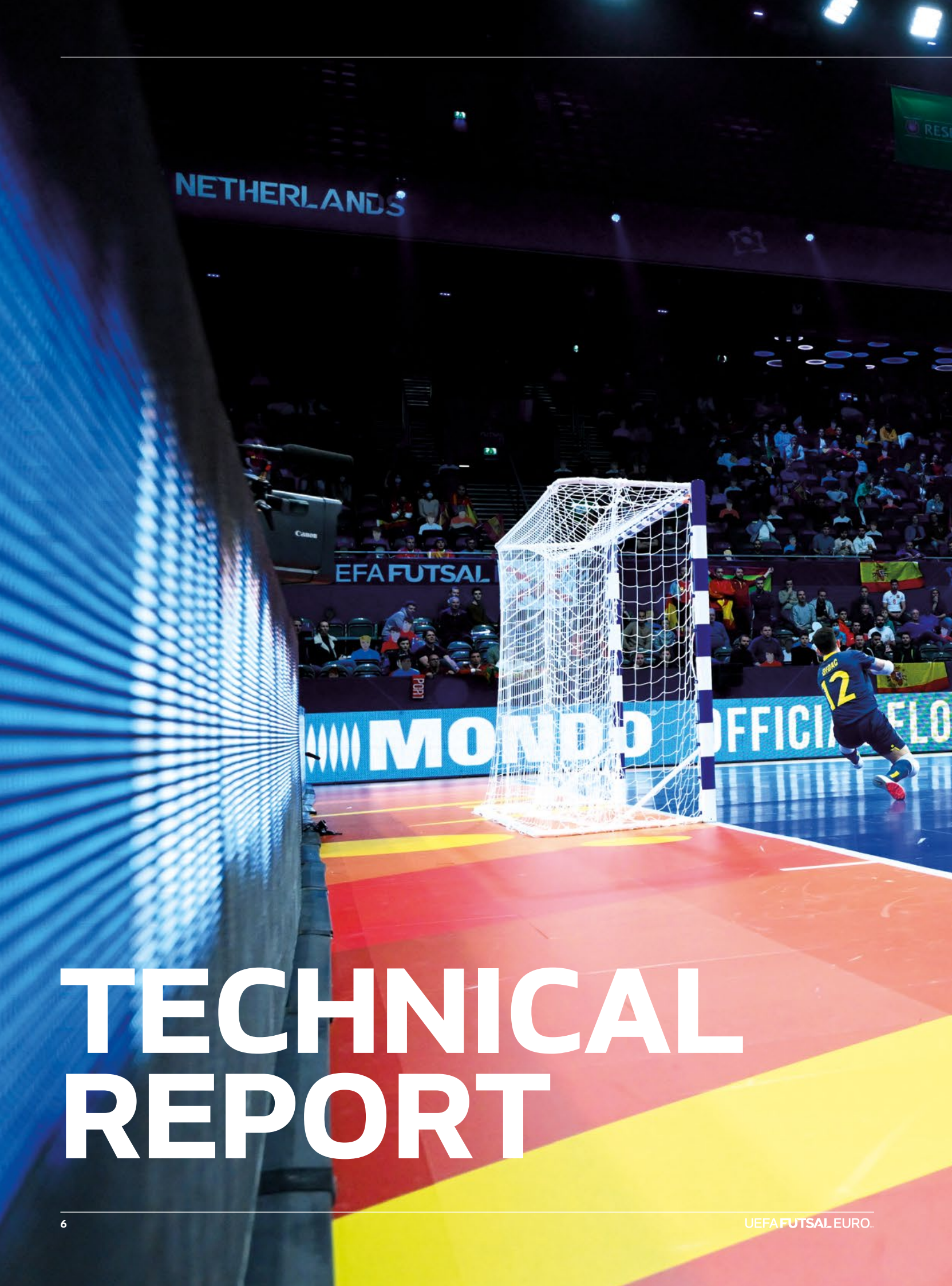
The UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 canvas has been painted. The artists on the pitch have displayed their colourful, powerful creation to the world. The COVID-19 situation provided many challenges, but in the end we were happy to be able to welcome fans to our venues and to experience the futsal atmosphere together. I congratulate Portugal on their title of European champions. We enjoyed their play and their passion and their loyal supporters in the stands.

Thanks to everyone involved for being a part of this masterpiece. The 16 participating countries, their staff and fans, the volunteers from all over the world and the national and global partners. Thanks also to the municipalities of Amsterdam and Groningen for their hospitality to all their guests, players and staff; and of course to our two spectacular venues, the Ziggo Dome and MartiniPlaza. It was an unforgettable tournament.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank UEFA for giving us the opportunity to organise the biggest ever Futsal EURO in the Netherlands. It was an honour and I hope we were able to inspire you all. Let's continue to create futsal's legacy across Europe together.

“Congratulations to Portugal. We enjoyed their play, their passion and their loyal supporters in the stands”





NETHERLANDS

EFA FUTSAL

MONDO OFFICIAL FLO

TECHNICAL REPORT



Bosnia and Herzegovina's Marjo Aladžić looks to burst clear against Azerbaijan



TRACKING THE TRENDS

TECHNICAL OBSERVERS MIGUEL RODRIGO AND MATO STANKOVIĆ PROVIDE THE ANALYSIS AND TALKING POINTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 was the first final tournament to be hosted by the Netherlands and the first to involve 16 countries – the expansion allowing Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia and Slovakia to make debut appearances. Team sheets at the 32 matches sometimes provided reminders that the event was being staged mid-pandemic, with a thankfully small number of players and match officials obliged to self-isolate as a result of a rigorous testing programme, which allowed the tournament to go ahead in optimum sanitary conditions amid general lockdown restrictions imposed by the Netherlands authorities – including a ban on public attendance at sporting events. This meant that all but the latter fixtures of the group stage were disputed behind closed doors or, when restrictions were eased, before an audience limited to 1,250 spectators.

Medical protocols also impeded the habitual interchanges between UEFA's technical observers and the head coaches of the national teams as, to preserve 'bubbles', personal contact with the teams was not allowed. Otherwise, however, it was business as usual for the two technical observers who covered the event. During the group stage, Miguel Rodrigo analysed matches played at the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam while Mato Stanković was at the MartiniPlaza in Groningen to watch the dozen fixtures played at the more northerly venue, before joining his team-mate in Amsterdam for the knockout games.

Their coaching expertise, observations, analysis and talking points constitute the core elements of this technical report which, backed by factual, statistical and the video evidence pegged to the online version, provide a permanent record of the final tournament of the 11th official UEFA European Futsal Championship. As the competition is now to be played in four-year cycles, it is hoped that highlighting the trends at the top end of the game at UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 will help to stimulate discussion and prove to be useful in the education and development of coaches and players who will be key performers in future editions of the competition.

In the Netherlands, Miguel Rodrigo was making his debut as technical

observer at a Futsal EURO, having previously played the same role in the UEFA Futsal Champions League. A coaching career spanning three decades started at clubs in southern Spain, followed by spells in Italy and Russia. After five years back in Spain with Caja Segovia, he coached Japan's national team for seven years, becoming champion of Asia in 2012 and 2014. After taking Thailand to the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Colombia in 2016, he moved to Vietnam before heading back to Spain to take up his current position.

Mato Stanković also made his debut as UEFA technical observer during the final tournament in the Netherlands – but is no stranger to the event, having been the head coach during Croatia's appearances at Futsal EUROs in 2012, 2014 and 2016. He had previously been a serial title-winner with clubs based in Split and had won both the African Futsal Championship and Arab Futsal Championship during his spell as head coach of Libya's national team. He is currently coaching – and developing – a women's national futsal team in Saudi Arabia.

It is hoped that highlighting the trends at the top of the game will stimulate discussion and prove useful to the next generation of coaches and players





NEVER SAY DIE

MENTAL RESILIENCE WAS THE HALLMARK OF AN OPEN TOURNAMENT WHERE NEWCOMERS REFUSED TO BE COWED AND COMEBACKS WERE THE NORM

One of the enduring lessons learned from the pandemic is not to take anything for granted. As true in life as it is in futsal. None of the matches on the opening two days were won by the team scoring first; the same applied to half of the 24 group games. And, of the four debutants in the expanded 16-team final tournament, three defied the form book by progressing to the knockout stage. Apart from tactics, game plans, athleticism and ball skills, the tournament was about attitudes, bravery and mental resilience.



Denis Ramić draws Serbia level against the hosts

GROUP A

PORTUGAL PASS TEST

Defending champions Portugal, embarking on a new post-Ricardinho era just over 15 weeks after lifting the FIFA Futsal World Cup, stumbled out of the blocks in the Netherlands, and soon found themselves 2-0 down to Serbia's aggressive high-pressing game. Jorge Braz's team, shaking off the early lethargy, fought back for a 4-2 win. They alternated between a 1-3-1 system featuring Zicky Té as pivot, and fluent 1-4-0 combination play allied with high levels of individual technique; Serbia wilted. Portugal went on to respect the form book by winning their three group games – but were made to sweat for their nine points.

The Netherlands were second best to Ukraine during the first half of their opener yet conceded only once. They imitated the Portuguese by bouncing back with three goals in eight second-half minutes, albeit with a different style based on direct attacking, playing to collective strengths and exploiting the talents of pivot Said Bouzambou. Ukraine's eight attacks with the flying keeper only served to halve the deficit. After the 3-2 win, Max Tjaden's team produced a creditable performance against the holders, though Portugal's possession play allowed them to dictate the pace of the game. The Dutch lost 4-1 – a result that made their third match against Serbia an all-or-nothing encounter.

In the confrontation between the two opening-day losers, Serbia had a bad day at the office against Ukraine who, despite having only ten players available, displayed a much more focused attitude. A goal down inside 70 seconds, Dejan Majes' team upped the risk element in their defensive work, overdid their reliance on 1v1 skills and rushed their decision-making in the final third. The outcome was a 6-1 defeat which left Serbia with a mission improbable of winning the final game against the hosts by a margin of at least nine goals.

With pride on the line, Serbia produced a professional performance – competing strongly and fighting till the last. Even so, they went in 2-0 down at half-time against a Dutch team who pressed aggressively and impressively with a high block. The good work was undone by a kick-in, a counterattack and a neat combination that produced three Serbian goals in under six minutes midway through the second half. Valiant attempts with Karim Mossaoui as flying keeper went unrewarded and, with Ukraine narrowly losing 1-0 to Portugal, a three-way tie on three points ushered the Serbs and Dutch to the exit.



Lahcen Bouyouzian fires in for the Netherlands against Portugal

GROUP B**KAZAKHSTAN DIG DEEP**

Up in Groningen the opening day produced 14 goals, thrilling futsal, and stalemate. Slovenia served notice of ambitious intentions by pushing forward to press the trademark up-field sorties by Kazakhstan keeper Higuita – and dispossessing him to earn a first-half lead. Tomislav Horvat's team, operating mostly with two well-balanced quartets, found passing lines to their two left-footed pivots and counterattacked at speed to earn a 4-2 advantage; Kazakhstan dug deep with the flying goalkeeper to salvage a 4-4 draw.

In the other game, Finland's high-intensity vertical attacking and devastating long-range shooting allowed them to twice come from behind against Italy, grab a 3-2 lead and, ultimately, come away with a merited 3-3 draw. The debutants' uninhibited approach and strategy of rotating their players in very short bursts left them 2-1 up against Kazakhstan by the 24-minute mark – only for the outstanding skills and experience of their opponents to pay dividends in a 6-2 comeback victory.

Italy hinted at a return to top form by taking the lead after 40 seconds against Slovenia, but long phases of possession rarely produced an end product – 92 attacks yielded only eight on-target finishes. Conversely, Slovenia's 42% of the ball and direct short-duration attacks allowed them to establish a 2-1 lead which they held until a late flying-keeper attack saw Italy equalise.

Slovenia and Finland then played a physical, high-intensity game that sprang to life when Mičo Martič's team scored eight minutes from time. They soon grabbed a second when their goalkeeper won the ball and scored from long range while Slovenia were pushing for an equaliser with the flying keeper – a ploy that allowed them to halve the deficit 126 seconds from time. A second eluded them, though, and a 2-1 defeat sent Slovenia home.

Italy, whose tally of two points obliged them to beat Kazakhstan, endorsed the statistics that left them short against Slovenia: 69% possession (75% in the second half), 55% of their attacks lasted more than ten seconds, but only 37% of their attacks ended in a goal attempt and just 12 shots on target. An emphatic 4-1 defeat sent Italy home after the group stage for the second successive EURO and made sure that Kazakhstan finished at the top of the section.



Slovenia and Kazakhstan kicked off with an absorbing 4-4 draw (left); Danil Davydov puts Russia 2-0 up against Poland (below)



Georgia pivot Elisandro



GROUP C

RUSSIA HIT THEIR STRIDE

Group C followed a similar pattern to the other section based at Amsterdam's Ziggo Dome, Group A. There was a dominant force, Russia, who advanced with a 100% record while the other teams battled for second. Slovakia, despite taking an early lead with a fast counter, struggled to cope with Russia's whirlpools of movement and, after shipping seven goals, seemed likely candidates for an early departure. Especially when a frantic, physical, end-to-end encounter with Poland produced a 2-2 draw that left both teams with one point from two games.

Despite a 3-1 loss that suggested otherwise, Poland impressed in their opener against Croatia, dictating the tempo and forging openings with flamboyant attacking and a goalkeeper ready to make contributions as a fifth attacker. But they failed to match Croatia's solo skills and – more crucially – their efficient finishing. After

their point against Slovakia, Błażej Korczyński's side produced a repeat performance in the must-win game against Russia, impressing with brave, fast, fresh attacking and taking risks with high defensive play. A harsh 5-1 scoreline sent them home with heads held high.

Croatia went into their final game needing a point to progress following a chastening 4-0 defeat by Russia. With Vedran Matošević red-carded after 71 seconds and Russia scoring while they were a man short, Croatia were swept away by waves of Russian attacks. They appeared to carry the trauma into the decisive confrontation with Slovakia, struggling to cope with forceful attacking, solo skills and their own unforced errors. A late rally with two powerplay goals applied cosmetics to the scoreline. But the 5-3 win handed second place to the debutants.

GROUP D

GEORGIA IMPRESS

Debutants Georgia kicked off as Group D underdogs but, with Elisandro as a strong, skilful, hard-shooting pivot and Chaguinha pulling the strings, promptly won their first two matches to clinch a quarter-final place with a game to spare. Yet it was no cakewalk. After 6'26" of the opener against Azerbaijan, Avtandil Asatiani's team trailed 2-0 – cue relentless attacking and a stirring comeback that culminated in a penalty to clinch a 3-2 win.

It was a similar story against Bosnia and Herzegovina: Georgia fell behind early but, after the break, fashioned an equaliser when the goalkeeper was caught out of position while venturing up the pitch. Within three minutes Bruno Petry clinched the 2-1 win and the debutants' place in the last eight.

That result spelt elimination for Bosnia and Herzegovina who were beaten 5-1 by Spain in their opener. The seven-time champions followed that up with a below-par performance to draw 2-2 against Azerbaijan's solid defend-and-counter strategy.

That left Azerbaijan requiring a substantial victory against Bosnia and Herzegovina in their last group outing to have any chance of progress. In a high-tempo, physical contest, they left it late to win 4-2 – though that was rendered irrelevant by Spain's crushing 8-0 win against already-qualified Georgians. It was the widest margin of victory in a group stage which provided entertainment, surprises and memorable examples of resilience in the face of adversity.

QUARTER-FINALS

SPAIN 5-1 SLOVAKIA

As the tournament headed into the knockout stage, scoring rates dropped and margins of victory were pared down. The exception was provided by the last of the four quarter-finals, where Spain's one-touch transition play and execution of set pieces rapidly pushed Slovakia towards damage-limitation strategies based on 37 permutations of outfield quartets and 13 more variations involving the flying goalkeeper, whose first appearance came after only 10'37" with 0-2 already on the scoreboard.

Soon after the break, Martin Smerička – the second of three outfielders to don the flying keeper's shirt – was red-carded for tipping away a goal-bound lob while retreating towards his area and, ultimately a 5-1 scoreline perhaps understated Spain's superiority.



At this point, the underdogs had managed to rock the boat – but not capsize it. That changed when Kazakhstan took on Ukraine

PORTUGAL 3-2 FINLAND

The first quarter-final also involved strategic use of the flying keeper. Eyebrows were not raised when Afonso scored for Portugal within the opening four minutes against Finland – debutants and underdogs against the world champions. They were raised, however, when Miika Hosio chested in a free-kick at the far post to level. Just over two minutes later, Mićo Martić resorted to the flying keeper to temper the tempo of Portugal's attacking.

However, after two kick-ins had made it 2-1 to Portugal and then 2-2, the match was decided in the 30th minute, when Miguel Ângelo darted up the left and fired in. Five more spells with Panu Autio as flying keeper failed to produce a third equaliser. But the performance succeeded in sending Finland home with heads held extremely high.





RUSSIA 3-1 GEORGIA

Georgia could say much the same. After their crushing defeat by Spain, Avtandil Asatiani's side started with a mid-block passive defence against Russia, looking for counterattacking opportunities. Russia were playing a higher block but with less aggressive pressing than usual, and the result was a low-tempo, uneventful first half – even though, after a time-out, Georgia adopted a higher line, aiming to keep the ball out of their danger zone.

All that changed when Russia scored twice shortly after the break. The fans then saw both teams pressing high, fast transitions and some spectacular 1v1 action, notably by Russia skipper Sergei Abramov. Georgia halved the deficit and sent on the flying keeper after 37'45", almost forcing extra time but Russia keeper Dmitri Putilov made an outstanding save. With six seconds remaining, Russia stole possession and rolled the ball into an unguarded net from long range to make it a somewhat deceptive 3-1 scoreline.

KAZAKHSTAN 3-5 UKRAINE

At this point, the underdogs had managed to rock the boat – but not capsize it. That changed when Kazakhstan, shorn of important pair Taynan and Edson through suspension, took on Ukraine. Kaká, maybe conscious of a need to avoid key players burning too many calories, opted to start in a passive mid or low block; Ukraine afforded respect to the team that finished fourth at the FIFA Futsal World Cup, matching them for caution in low-key sparring.

A Ukraine penalty in the 15th minute woke the game up. Kazakhstan switched into powerplay mode for virtually the rest of the game, with goalkeeper Higuita intensifying his attacking sorties and, during the closing minutes, No9 Albert Akbalikov entering the fray as a more classical flying keeper. Playmaker Douglas Junior stayed on court for just over 37 of the 40 minutes, including the whole of the second half.

Yet it was Ukraine who doubled their advantage when a through pass allowed Ihor Korsun to produce a delightful one-touch finish. Mykhailo Zvarych then rolled a third into an unguarded net from long distance. Kazakhstan set pulses racing with two powerplay goals but, just when an equaliser seemed on the cards, surrendered the ball twice for Ukraine to roll in goals from long range. Kazakhstan's final flurry yielded only one additional goal 44 seconds from the claxon – and the 5-3 scoreline signalled the end of the road.



Ukraine captain Petro Shoturma (8) opens the scoring for Ukraine versus Kazakhstan

SEMI-FINALS**UKRAINE 2-3 RUSSIA**

The semi-finals shared tension, intensity, ups and downs and a one-goal margin between celebration and disappointment. Both burst into life soon after the clock started ticking. Only 76 seconds after kick-off, a combination from a corner kick allowed Russia pivot Anton Sokolov to hit a shot that, after a deflection, spun wickedly into the Ukraine net.

Unfazed, Oleksandr Kosenko's side stuck to a game plan based on simple, vertical attacking, with keeper Kyrylo Tsyapun often throwing directly to pivot Ihor Cherniavskiy. Russia dominated the early exchanges, switching frequently between a 1-4-0 set-up to 1-3-1 with either Sokolov or Andrei Afanasyev as the focal point of more direct attacking. While Russia pressed high and aggressively, Ukraine were content to defend deeper, giving themselves space for trademark counterattacking.

Kosenko opted to brake Russia's momentum by sending on Paulinho as flying goalkeeper midway through the first half. Yet during one of the interludes when Tsyapun was back on court, a long throw by Dmitri Putilov was headed against the bar by Afanasyev and the Russia pivot reacted quickly to convert the rebound. Ukraine bounced back within a minute thanks to a neat combination during one of ten spells with the flying keeper before the interval.

The 2-1 scoreline remained intact until midway through the second half, when Artem Niyazov met a cross with a scissors kick and struck the goal of the tournament. This provided the cue for more flying keeper attacks, rewarded by a goal after 34'31". And then, a penalty with 72 seconds remaining. Putilov saved to deny Petro Shoturma and preserve the 3-2 advantage that took Russia into the final.



Artem Niyazov hits Russia's all-important third to clinch a final place

PORTUGAL 3-2 SPAIN

The Iberian semi-final between Portugal and Spain offered no alternative to trotting out the ancient cliché about 'a game of two halves'. Spain, starting with panache, took the lead inside 17 seconds when a run on the left offered a tap-in for Raúl Gómez, operating as wide pivot in a 1-3-1 formation.

Portugal looked uncomfortable against opponents who held a high block to press aggressively and attacked imaginatively with high-tempo passing – a disconcerting blend of short combinations and sweeping diagonals. A cross-court kick-in from the right allowed Chino to hit the net – and Spain went in at

half-time with a 2-0 lead to show for 20 minutes of orchestral futsal.

The orchestra stopped playing in the second half. Spain began to hit aimless long balls and surrendered possession. Portugal gleefully took it. Jorge Braz, having focused on a 1-4-0 set-up in the first half, began to inject the impressive Zicky Té into his 1-3-1 variation after the break and his team, taking total control against unrecognisable opponents, hit back with a penalty just before the 30-minute mark.

Zicky Té provided an equaliser 74 seconds later and went on to turn in a third with only 79 seconds remaining. Spain's final flurry with the flying keeper narrowly failed to generate extra time.



Ihor Cherniavskiy tries to gain an edge on Cecilio Morales

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

SPAIN 4-1 UKRAINE

Fede Vidal's team were obliged to seek consolation in the third-place match and they duly did. The match mixed thrilling end-to-end futsal with less spectacular spells when Kosenko opted to lower the temperature, using 19 attacks by flying goalkeepers to break up Spain's rhythm. The first of nine in the opening half came shortly after Mellado had spectacularly volleyed Spain into an 11th-minute lead.

After equalising, Ukraine conceded a second before the break and kicked off the second half with Zvarych already on court as the third outfielder to don the flying keeper shirt. However, a further 12 minutes of powerplay failed to conjure a goal, whereas Spain's effective 4v5 defending and adventurous attacking yielded a dividend of two additional goals to clinch a 4-1 win and the bronze medal.



Erick Mendonça (8) and Zicky Té are final bound

PORTUGAL COMPLETE THE HAT-TRICK



André Coelho puts Portugal in front for the first time at 3-2



BUILT UPON THE CORNERSTONES OF SELF-BELIEF AND SHEER TALENT, RUSSIA WERE NO MATCH AS JORGE BRAZ'S TEAM RECLAIMED THEIR GOLD

One team rides into the final on the crest of a wave after winning the European title in 2018 and the FIFA World Cup a few weeks before travelling to the Netherlands. The other team runs out to face them on the back of four finals since the turn of the century and four defeats. When Portugal met Russia at the Ziggo Dome with the European crown at stake, there was no knowing to what extent past history, emotions and the subconscious would influence the outcome.

When the Spanish referees signalled the start of play, Russia came out of the blocks as if determined to rip up the history books. Coach Sergei Skorovich opted for a 1-3-1 set-up with Andrei Afanasyev and Anton Sokolov alternating in the role of pivot and, with their strength, ball-shielding and ability to turn on a coin, Russia immediately began to ask serious questions of Portugal's defensive abilities.

Jorge Braz's team, starting in 1-4-0 formation with all-rounder Erick sometimes advancing into a pivotal role, made an edgy start, as they had done against Serbia and Spain. Despite the drumming, chanting and raucous applause by their supporters, they struggled to settle into their game with imprecisions creeping into their passing and defensive play, both disrupted by Russia's aggressive high press and vertical attacking. Even when Braz sent on Zicky Té – well into the seventh minute – to try his hand with the 1-3-1 variation, Russia continued to dominate proceedings and took the lead after 9'49"

when Sokolov turned neatly past last defender Pany Varela and beat André Sousa with a fierce, low left-footed shot.

Skorovich initially shuffled his pack with individual substitutions rather than changes of quartet. He also sporadically switched to 1-4-0 with Artem Antoshkin and Paulinho as key components in defensive mechanisms while captain Sergei Abramov sought to unbalance the opposition via solo skills. When Zicky Té was on court, Russia cleverly dropped into a mid-block to cut off the passing routes to the Portuguese pivot. It was neither surprising nor undeserved when Russia doubled their lead after 12'45", a run on the left setting up Afanasyev for a low shot into the net.

The fact that Portugal's first shot on target in open play was after 17'34", spoke volumes for their difficulties. But a set play threw them a lifeline 81 seconds before the break, Tomás Paço finding space to shoot in from a kick-in on the right and pull the champions



Russia coach Sergei Skorovich issues instructions

THE FINAL

PORTUGAL

Tomás Paço 18'39"
Putilov 26'45" og
André Coelho 31'16"
Pany Varela 39'59"

4-2

RUSSIA

Sokolov 9'49"
Afanasyev 12'45"

ZIGGO DOME, AMSTERDAM
6 February 2022

28	ATTEMPTS	48
12	OFF TARGET	18
10	ON TARGET	16
14	BLOCKS	6
0	WOODWORK	2
3	CORNERS	13
8	FOULS COMMITTED	8
4	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0



The champions reclaim their prize



Erick Mendonça on the ball for Portugal



to within one. When the hooter signalled half-time, Braz, as unruffled and composed as ever, adhered to his usual custom of remaining on the touchline to converse with his coaching staff – and when he eventually followed his players to the dressing-room, he could not have been short of talking points.

When the teams re-emerged it was to offer spectators, as the saying goes, a different ball game. Portugal upped the tempo; Braz threw Zicky Té increasingly into the fray as the spearhead of his more incisive 1-3-1 variation and Russia, just as Spain had done in the semi-final, faded away. With growing frequency, they resorted to kicking the ball away. Supply to the pivot became wayward. The aggressive high pressing gave way to deeper, mid-block defending which invited Pany, Pauleta and company to exercise their dribbling talents and to connect more threateningly with Zicky Té, whose ability to retain possession began to exasperate the Russian defence. It was Portugal's turn to dominate with an aggressive

high block and take total control over the tempo of the game.

Even so, it took another set play to bring Portugal back to parity, with André Coelho's kick-in deflecting off Dimitri Putilov and into the net. Russia reacted to the psychological blow of surrendering a 2-0 lead as if ghosts of the past had crept into the arena. In contrast to their dominant play of the first half, their attacking took on tinges of desperation – and it seemed as though the inevitable had happened when Portugal took the lead with just over eight minutes remaining. Zicky Té was allowed to receive, shield the ball and play it to the left while André Coelho outspurred his marker to meet the cross at the back post.

With just under four minutes to play, Skorovich called a time-out, preparing his team to play its final card. Abramov immediately emerged in the flying keeper's jersey to launch the final powerplay assault. It all but paid off. Abramov struck a shot against the crossbar and André Sousa was called upon to produce a miraculous save at close range in the final minute. But Russia's five phases of powerplay possession failed to bear fruit. With the Portuguese fans at full volume and the clock ticking down, Pany anticipated a pass to Antoshkin, stole the ball from the Russia No4 and ran unchallenged towards the unguarded goal. His side-footed finish from close range hit the net to put 4-2 on the scoreboard where the clock indicated there was one second remaining. There was no time for a Russian reply – only the disconsolate reaction to history repeating itself, encapsulated by the sight of keeper Dmitri Putilov sitting with his back against a goalpost, shedding tears of disappointment.

The jubilation was cloaked in Portugal colours. Zicky Té was mobbed by his team-mates after receiving UEFA's Player of the Tournament award and celebrations reached their crescendo when captain João Matos lifted the trophy that Ricardinho had raised in Slovenia four years earlier. Portugal's hat-trick of titles was not only about talent but also about emotional stability, resilience and self-belief.

COOL UNDER PRESSURE

THE “CALM STRENGTH” EMANATING FROM JORGE BRAZ AND HIS COACHING STAFF ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO BE THE WINNING TONIC FOR PORTUGAL



After Portugal had ended years of frustration by winning UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 in Slovenia, Jorge Braz commented: "I made an effort to transmit a feeling of complete confidence and calmness from the bench. In Portugal they labelled it 'calm strength'. We had total confidence and each individual calmly did the job he had to do." His comment could equally be applied to the successful defence of the European title in 2022, when his European and world champions displayed calmness and self-belief in rebounding three times from two-goal deficits.

Coming so soon after winning the World Cup, was it difficult to remotivate the squad and reboot your "calm strength"?

We had to understand that we were starting at the bottom of the mountain. OK you're world champions, but you're not on the top of the mountain, you're at the bottom like the other 15 teams. To win a EURO, you know what your focus must be and the work you have to do. That was the main message to the team and our preparation included a lot about understanding this. It was the time we trained the least because it was a tough season for all the players. After the World Cup, they arrive home, they have competitions at their clubs, they play the main and elite rounds of the Champions League, the Super Cup in Portugal; and then we started preparations for the EURO. They hadn't logged off at any moment since the beginning of August. The key was to organise ourselves in a mental way and understand how to focus on the European Championship.

Did COVID have an impact as well?

It did. My understanding was that it was a time to have some free afternoons, to break up the preparation and let them go home a lot of times. But we were concerned about COVID. If you got it, you might miss the European Championship. On the last day of our preparations, we had two infected players – which can have a huge and a negative impact on everybody. But these are the days we live in, so it can't be an alibi or excuse, even if it's horrible for players, for coaches, for teams and for the organisation of the competition.

But the danger is putting our focus on COVID and not on the competition, the preparation, the matches. I always try to pass on that message: OK, we take precautions, but the main aspect always has to be futsal, not COVID.

Did it affect your routine much during the tournament?

A little bit because we were concerned about not leaving the hotel, not having free time. And, this season, we had spent more than three months together in the national team. My approach was to act as normally as possible, so I let the boys go for a free afternoon, provided they took care. You're always a little bit concerned about somebody getting infected.

It was your first tournament without Ricardinho.

We knew it would happen. It wasn't something new so there was no reason to talk about it too much. The focus had to be on the team, the players who were there. Of course, with huge respect to Ricardo and what he means for Portuguese futsal and for world futsal. He's our ambassador. He will always be with us as part of the family. But, in terms of playing and winning, it had to be about 14 guys trying to achieve our goals in exactly the same way as a team. We even have to be stronger as a team because we don't have Ricardo. But only two guys were missing from the World Cup squad – Bebé, who unfortunately got injured, and Ricardo. For me it was obvious that, at the EURO, everybody would count. All the players played almost equal time. Some guys more in one match, some guys more in another. But if I wanted to behave as a team, believe in our project and believe in our futsal. We knew it would be very important to have the contributions and qualities of each of the 14 players.

During the tournament, your 1-3-1 system generated more goals than your 1-4-0. Do you still prefer 1-4-0 as your default setting?

No, I like both. It's very important to always be changing our dynamics. One of the advantages that we had from my

"We knew it would be very important to have the contributions and qualities of all 14 players"

“Zicky is always trying to improve. That’s why he’s already at this level and why he’ll keep getting better”

perspective, was trying to manage that according to what your opponent was doing and according to who was playing for your opponent. Is it a moment more for Zicky Té, or is it a moment more for Fábio Cecílio? Is it a moment more for Pauleta and Miguel Ângelo, or is it a moment more for André Coelho, Bruno Coelho and Pany? Is it a moment to have no reference and to play 4-0 with dynamics, or is it more a moment to have Zicky as pivot or even Erick? That requires the opponent to adapt constantly to what we are doing. I think that was one of the advantages that we had – we were always trying not to leave our opponent comfortable. That’s why I gave all the players almost the same game-time.

Sometimes, we weren’t comfortable because of our opponents. Spain are a fantastic team; Russia, Finland and Ukraine too – very difficult. Playing Zicky or not, playing Erick or not... we tried to constantly change and adapt to our opponents to see if we could explore more this situation or that. We had a lot of chances; we scored when Zicky wasn’t playing, but with other dynamics. Of course, Zicky was very important in two or three goals that were decisive for our success.

In general, when teams were behind, everybody would look for 1-3-1 and be more vertical. I saw many teams playing very directly. Russia caused us huge problems in the final because of the pivots [Anton] Sokolov and [Andrei] Afanasyev. But I think for the growth of futsal, we don’t always have to play so directly – even in 1-3-1. Spain worked the ball very well without a pivot. And even when they play with a pivot, the solutions that they work are not direct solutions. This is what I think a lot of teams should do. I was always saying, “OK, there’s Zicky or there’s Erick, but that doesn’t have to be the priority solution; we don’t have to go crazy just looking for the pivot. No, we have to manage it and play futsal.”

With a 1-4-0 structure, we have to take pleasure in having possession, discover the easiest solutions. What I don’t really agree with is, “I have a pivot, so we play a 30-metre pass and everybody runs”. Sometimes it is the most obvious solution and we’ve done that many times. But how do we play and manage and

try to find better solutions to score? I’m always saying that we still have a lot of things to invent.

Zicky Té was UEFA’s Player of the Tournament, even though he was on court for about 15 minutes a game. He’s still a young guy, so have you got a special plan to keep his feet on the ground or to develop him slowly?

Zicky has a great personality. He’s a happy guy, but he never, never forgets what has to be his focus. The main phrase that he’s always using is, “My response is work”. But Zicky, the way he is as a human being, as a person, sometimes it’s difficult, even for me, to understand that he is only 20 years old. Not as a player, but as a person. He spends all day in the national team working, recovering or studying the match and what he has to do, studying other great pivots in the world. He’s always trying to improve every day and that’s why he already has this level and that’s why I believe he will keep getting better and better.

He was decisive at the EURO so Zicky really deserved the award. As a person, as a player and for all the work he did for the team. It wasn’t just for Zicky, but everybody. Everybody. All the young players have this kind of culture already because that’s something very, very important for us in the national youth teams: not just their quality as players, but also their personalities and qualities as human beings. How do they work every day? What is their focus? And their concentration? What are their priorities? We know that this is more and more difficult for young players. “I’m already in the national team, already a star ...” We know what this is like and for us, it’s very, very important.

Zicky, Paço, Afonso, some of these young players, they’ve been learning that they will only be good if they work a lot, focus on recovering, behaving, having great team spirit, respecting all colleagues, being able to hear what your club coach says, listening to older colleagues, keeping eyes open. Young players who come into the Under-19 national team, are told, “You haven’t achieved anything, this is just the beginning. From now on, you will have to be an example, you will have to work.” And some of our young players are huge

examples of behaviour at their clubs and the national team. That's why Zicky, Paço, Afonso and Erick are reaching this level and that's what makes me most proud of the work that we've been doing with futsal in Portugal.

There has been concern about whether enough is being done to develop one-v-one skills. What do you think?

I think that is becoming more and more obvious. I always say that the first offensive principle of the game is when you receive the ball, you have to progress, you have to go forward. So, I tell the young players to prioritise going forward with the ball. OK, if your opponent doesn't let you, there are three other guys to help you. I really hate it when a player receives the ball and doesn't even look forward. You don't even have to play one-on-one. But it's attitude, ambition. In some matches I

told two, three players, Pany, Pauleta, Miguel to stop looking for a colleague to pass to as soon as they receive the ball and to look at the opponent first. If you have space, if you're confident, take that risk. If you don't take risks, it stays 0-0.

There are more and more players who see that it's very important to play one against one. But sometimes it seems that matches are being robotised. You pass here, you run over there, you pass over there... In Portugal, a very experienced coach once told me, "When we go to a playground and see kids playing, who do we choose? A guy who always has the ball and dribbles past everybody? Or a guy who passes well?" Usually, we choose the kid who has the ability to go one-on-one. But if we take him to a club and tell him to play two touches, it's a waste of his main ability. It's important to avoid becoming robotised and to make futsal more attractive.

"When you receive the ball, you have to progress, you have to go forward"



Players hold Jorge Braz aloft after Portugal's triumph

SCORES AND STANDINGS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Ukraine*	3	1	0	2	8	5	3
Netherlands	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Serbia	3	1	0	2	6	12	3

*Ukraine advance on best goal difference tie-breaker in results between UKR, NED and SRB

19 January

Serbia 2-4 Portugal (Amsterdam)

Netherlands 3-2 Ukraine (Amsterdam)

23 January

Serbia 1-6 Ukraine (Amsterdam)

Portugal 4-1 Netherlands (Amsterdam)

28 January

Ukraine 0-1 Portugal (Groningen)

Netherlands 2-3 Serbia (Amsterdam)

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Kazakhstan	3	2	1	0	14	7	7
Finland	3	1	1	1	7	10	4
Slovenia	3	0	2	1	7	8	2
Italy	3	0	2	1	6	9	2

20 January

Kazakhstan 4-4 Slovenia (Groningen)

Italy 3-3 Finland (Groningen)

24 January

Italy 2-2 Slovenia (Groningen)

Finland 2-6 Kazakhstan (Groningen)

28 January

Slovenia 1-2 Finland (Amsterdam)

Kazakhstan 4-1 Italy (Groningen)

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	16	2	9
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	8	12	4
Croatia	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Poland	3	0	1	2	4	10	1

21 January

Russia 7-1 Slovakia (Amsterdam)

Poland 1-3 Croatia (Amsterdam)

25 January

Croatia 0-4 Russia (Amsterdam)

Poland 2-2 Slovakia (Amsterdam)

29 January

Russia 5-1 Poland (Amsterdam)

Slovakia 5-3 Croatia (Groningen)

Games were played at the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam and the Martiniplaza in Groningen (right)



GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	15	3	7
Georgia	3	2	0	1	5	11	6
Azerbaijan	3	1	1	1	8	7	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	0	0	3	4	11	0

22 January

Georgia 3-2 Azerbaijan (Groningen)

Spain 5-1 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Groningen)

26 January

Bosnia and Herzegovina 1-2 Georgia (Groningen)

Spain 2-2 Azerbaijan (Groningen)

29 January

Georgia 0-8 Spain (Groningen)

Azerbaijan 4-2 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Amsterdam)

QUARTER-FINALS

31 January

Kazakhstan 3-5 Ukraine

Portugal 3-2 Finland

1 February

Russia 3-1 Georgia

Spain 5-1 Slovakia

FINAL

6 February



Portugal 4-2

Russia



All knockout stage games played in Amsterdam

SEMI-FINALS

4 February

Portugal 3-2 Spain

Ukraine 2-3 Russia

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

6 February

Spain 4-1 Ukraine



REFEREES

David Urdánoz Apezteguía ESP

Vedran Babić CRO

Victor Berg-Audic FRA

Viktor Bugenko MDA

Victor Chaix FRA

Ondřej Černý CZE

Miguel Duarte Oliveira Castilho POR

Kamil Çetin TUR

Eduardo Fernandes Coelho POR

Alejandro Martínez Flores ESP

Juan José Cordero Gallardo ESP

Nikola Jelić CRO

Vladimir Kadykov RUS

Gábor Kovács HUN

Jan Kresta CZE

Nicola Manziane ITA

Daniel Matković SUI

David Grøndal Nissen DEN

Grigori Ošomkov EST

Cédric Pelissier FRA

Chiara Perona ITA

Petar Radojčić SRB

Cristiano José Cardoso Santos POR

Kazakhstan captain Higueta has rewritten the goalkeeping manual

END-TO-END ACTION

THE EVOLVING ROLES OF THE GOALKEEPER AND PIVOT WERE AMONG SEVERAL HOT TOPICS FOR THE TECHNICAL OBSERVERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

THE HOVERING GOALKEEPER

CREATING THE EXTRA MAN IN ATTACK

The tournament revealed a clear trend towards the Higuita school of goalkeeping. The Kazakhstan guardian, renowned in recent years for contributions to the team's attacking play – and goals – had been something of a rarity on the international stage. Not so in the Netherlands. "Game after game a sizeable majority of goalkeepers were ready to push forward as fifth outfielders at any point," UEFA technical observer Miguel Rodrigo commented. "But there were big differences in the way they did it."

Not many, it has to be said, matched Higuita's attacking impact – although the tournament offered examples such as the run deep into the Bosnia and Herzegovina's half by Spain's Dídac Plana and the pass that allowed Carlos Ortiz to set up their first goal of the finals. More frequently, the keeper could be seen moving out towards a touchline to offer an extra passing option at a kick-in or during build-up play; making a couple of passes without venturing too far into opposition territory; and then scampering back to goal.

"It was often to distract the opposition, to make it easier to play out of a high press or to create numerical superiority rather than with clear attacking intent," Rodrigo mused. "But coaches are increasingly encouraging keepers to become active outside their area and create moments of numerical superiority without the need to send on a flying goalkeeper." Two goals were scored with the keeper as an extra outfielder and three were conceded.

Some images from the tournament could be compared with the outdoor game at the time when Manuel Neuer rewrote the keeper's job description and provoked a spate of imitators who were less accomplished with their feet. If the trend is towards the Higuita-style of goalkeeping in futsal, coaches at development levels will need to ensure that keepers are adequately equipped to act as the extra outfielder. "At the moment," Rodrigo asks, "do all teams have keepers with enough ball skills to play this way?"

The opening game between Serbia and Portugal set the tone for the tournament. Both goalkeepers demonstrated readiness to operate as a fifth outfielder, with André Sousa venturing into Serbian territory as early as the ninth minute.

Nemanja Momčilović, although more concerned with defensive covering outside his D than contributing to attacks, caught the eye with accurate distribution to Serbia's attacking pivots, notably Dragan Tomić.

Back at the other end, Portugal's comeback from 2-0 down was spearheaded by a different type of pivot, Zicky Té, who made an enormous impact when Jorge Braz switched from a 1-4-0 formation to a 1-3-1. At Futsal EURO 2022, UEFA's technical observers found plenty of talking points at both ends of the court, as goalkeepers and pivots played crucial roles in shaping the tournament.

Spain's Dídac Plana ventures forward against Bosnia and Herzegovina





Spain goalkeeper
Dídac Plana

POWERPLAY OR POWER CUT?

THE DEBATE OVER THE USE OF FLYING GOALKEEPERS RAGES ON

The growing use of the regular keeper as a fifth outfielder blurs statistical evidence on the use of the flying goalkeeper – a perennial talking point over the last decade. At previous EUROS, more goals were conceded than scored by teams operating a so-called powerplay. This trend continued at EURO 2022, albeit by a small margin.

Tournament statistics uncovered a total of 165 attacking plays using the flying goalkeeper, producing 109 shots and one goal per 14 plays. Rodrigo delved even deeper into the topic with his analysis revealing that the flying goalkeeper was on court for 200.4 minutes during the finals and that powerplay totalled 376 phases of possession. In his study, if a goal attempt or pass was blocked but possession was retained by the attacking team, another phase began.

The net result was a balance of one goal per 31.3 phases of possession and, on average, 16.42 minutes of powerplay. “As coaches,” Rodrigo mused, “the question is whether the flying goalkeeper is no longer an effective weapon? Are there alternatives when we are fighting to get back into a game?”

Mato Stanković picked up the theme: “Once again, there was a talking point about whether the flying keeper was always good for futsal. We saw the powerplay being used to slow the tempo of a game and break up the opponents’ rhythm with long periods of possession play that can be boring for spectators.” Cases in point were Ukraine’s use of the flying keeper midway through the first half against Russia in the semi-finals and Spain in the third-place play-off, both times when only 1-0 behind; or Slovakia’s extensive use of powerplay from the 11th minute of their quarter-final against Spain.

“What we also saw,” Stanković added, “was efficient defending against the flying keeper and, often, a more aggressive approach with a view to stealing the ball.” This even applied to Higueta. Instead of dropping deep, Slovenia pressed him in mid-court, dispossessing the Kazakhstan keeper to take the lead in their 4-4 draw. Ukraine, by contrast, opted for deep 1-2-2 defending with the result that Higueta, unchallenged, had nine shots on goal during the quarter-final. Only Douglas Junior and Birzhan Orazov had more.



WITH THE FLYING
KEEPER THERE WERE...

165
attacking
plays

109
shots

“Is the flying goalkeeper still an effective weapon? Are there alternatives when we are fighting to get back into a game?”



Portugal's 1-3-1 formation against Ukraine

PIVOTAL QUESTIONS

PORTUGAL PROFIT FROM THE FREEDOM OFFERED TO PIVOT ZICKY TÉ

The Futsal EURO 2018 technical report noted, “In general, the tournament highlighted a clear trend away from the use of a fairly static central pivot; most teams, if operating with a pivot, preferred him to move into wide positions with a view to posing questions to defenders and opening spaces in central areas.”

The pivotal question also emerged as a major debating point in 2022. “In the Netherlands we saw teams playing 1-4-0 in a fairly flat line,” Stanković observed. “OK, the coach can sometimes use this option to rest certain players or break up the rhythm of the other team. But I didn’t see many big chances being created when teams were playing this system. It can also become predictable and even boring for the spectators, especially if the other team is focusing on zonal defence. It then becomes very difficult to find space behind them.”

Rodrigo agreed, saying: “At this EURO I think the 1-3-1 system worked better in terms of creating goal attempts and dangerous situations. All the teams had a strong pivot in their squad and we’ve seen that when he’s on court, their play is more threatening to opponents. I wouldn’t say that one system is intrinsically better than

the other. And you need to have both options if the coach is to have an influence on the run of play. Sometimes the changes between systems have been automated rather than prompted by situations on court. It’s not about the coach having a personal preference for one style or the other – it’s about reading the game situation and deciding which system is more appropriate for that moment.”

The technical observers cited the champions as a prime example. “Portugal without Zicky Té was a different proposition,” Stanković maintained. “And Spain before Solano came in as an extra pivot. In a 1-4-0 it’s more about keeping the ball and, maybe, disturbing the opponents’ tempo.”

They both agreed that Portugal were more incisive when operating with a pivot – with Zicky Té’s contribution crucial during the comeback victories over Serbia, Spain and Russia. In futsal, ball-possession statistics are unreliable, as they are so easily distorted when one team has long periods on the ball when playing the flying keeper. But the fact that Portugal’s share of possession dropped away in the second half of games – when Zicky Té spent more time on court – is



Slovenia's mid-block press limits Higuaita's options

1
goal per
14 plays

an indicator of more direct attacking in 1-3-1 formation. During the final against Russia, Portugal dominated the second half, yet their share of the ball dropped from 57% to 38%.

“Almost all the teams played the two formats – 1-3-1 and 1-4-0,” Rodrigo said. “The key point is when and how you use them. The 1-3-1 offers you an option to play out of a high press or for the goalkeeper to launch an attack with a long throw. And it’s easier to connect with the pivot in two or three passes to give depth to the attacking.

“In my opinion there are two ways to play 1-4-0. You can play in a way where your coordinated movements become very predictable. Or you can operate the system with greater freedom, like Spain, Portugal – and Russia, when they are using Antoshkin. During the tournament we maybe saw more of the predictable – I would say almost robotic – variety in terms of player movements which means it becomes easier to defend. The important thing is to adapt the 1-4-0 to the players you have available, rather than try to copy and paste from other teams. The system requires certain skills and it is very difficult to make it work if your players don’t have the right capabilities.”

The bottom line is that Rodrigo’s analysis of the goals scored in the Netherlands showed that, in open-play attacks where the two systems could be accurately defined, the 1-3-1 formation yielded three times as many goals as 1-4-0. “We saw a lot of matches,” Stanković nodded, “where in terms of danger and scoring opportunities the 1-3-1 looked the better option when teams were looking for an end product.”

“In terms of danger and scoring opportunities 1-3-1 looked the better option when teams were looking for an end product”

TALKING MAN-TO-MAN

ATTACKERS ARE GETTING WISE TO MAN-MARKING

The trend towards individual marking was one of the salient features in 2018; it became even more noticeable in 2022. “The tempo of games has become so high,” Stanković commented, “that there is practically no time for changes of marking.” The technical observers’ notebooks reflected the prevalence of man-to-man marking, though (along with Slovakia) the four semi-finalists were adept at mixing zonal defending with the individualised system most coaches favoured.

Portugal coach Jorge Braz explained: “The game is becoming very physical. If you have powerful players, very strong physically, and you do individual marking then for you to have an advantage you have to create a positional and numerical advantage against your direct opponent with and without the ball. But when everyone is very strong in their marking, it’s difficult. I always look at the process on the other hand: if they’re marking me individually, what do I have to do for it to be very difficult for them? Let’s play a lot without the ball; let’s not stop; let’s be dynamic so it’s very difficult for them to run after everybody. Because if they run after my players, I will take them to the places that I want. They will do what I want defensively. So, we always find advantages





and disadvantages. There is never a recipe to say that this is better than that.”

Rodrigo concurred. “The challenge in attacking,” he said, “is to find solutions to defensive systems that are applied with a lot of physicality.” On occasions, the man-to-man concept was taken to extremes – as illustrated by Kazakhstan’s opening two goals in the crucial Group B fixture against Italy, when the ball was crossed by Kazakhstan from the left and turned into the net from very close range at the far post. Not by an unmarked attacker. In both cases, the scorer was being blocked by an Italy defender who was so intently focused on marking his man that he had his back to the ball. Had he been facing it, he might well have intercepted the passes and avoided two crucial goals in the 4-1 defeat that sent Italy home at the end of the group stage. It was a costly reminder that, in futsal, the most important element is the ball.

“The challenge in attacking is to find solutions to defensive systems that are applied with a lot of physicality”



Carmelo Musumeci of Italy focuses on Azat Valiullin (7) instead of the ball



Italy's Giuliano Fortini (5) wrestles Kazakhstan's Birzhan Orazov



Italy's Alex Merlim (10) is a rare soloist in the modern game

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

ARE MERCURIAL PLAYERS' DAYS NUMBERED?

"In the past," Stanković reflected, "we saw teams like Spain or Italy who were not only tactically excellent but also had six or seven players who could take on opponents and beat them. Here we have seen teams, mostly when they are ahead, going 1-2-2, taking risks and taking on opponents. But I wonder if, while teams' tactical preparation is going up, individual skills are going down?"

Rodrigo was in two minds. "On one hand, I've been pleasantly surprised to see players in every single team ready to try their luck with individual skills. But maybe we are going through a similar process to the outdoor game. Spectators and coaches are asking whether there is a shortage of players with genuine 1v1 skills. Maybe the emphasis in both

disciplines has drifted towards athletic conditioning, collective tactics, scouting opponents with a view to cancelling out their strengths."

EURO 2022, nonetheless, featured soloists such as Portugal's Pany Varela and Pauleta, Italy's Merlim, Kazakhstan's Douglas Junior, Spain's Sergio Lozano and Russia's Sergei Abramov, all of whom were ready, willing and able to take on opponents. And there were outstanding individual goals: Tomáš Drahoš for Slovakia against Poland; Elisandro for Georgia against Azerbaijan; Matej Horvat for Croatia against Poland... but are they enough?

"Coaches often prefer play to be based on one, two or three touches, with the result that solo running with the ball has

declined," Rodrigo reflected. "The soloist is an endangered species. It's linked with what we said about playing systems. In a 1-4-0 you're basically talking about one, two, maximum three touches to get into spaces. That doesn't encourage individual skills.

"Coaches often complain if a player takes risks in 1v1s, especially in his own half or in the mid-court. It's about coaches being prepared to accept a risk element because 1v1 is essentially a risky business. Here, most teams have also been very well organised in terms of providing cover against this type of individual action." In the longer term, the debating point is whether solo skills are being neglected or discouraged at the development levels of the game.

STICK OR TWIST?

FINLAND'S ROTATION POLICY WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO KAZAKHSTAN'S

Kazakhstan vs Finland. For the former, Kakà kept Douglas Junior on court for 34'39" (slightly above his average of 33'11" during the team's four games); used only six outfielders for more than two minutes; and sent on 13 different quartets – seven of them for less than two minutes. Mićo Martić used only two outfielders (Sergei Korsunov and Lassi Lintula) for more than 20 minutes – and only four during the entire tournament. Within the opening eight minutes of each match, he had usually fielded all his outfield players and, in the quarter-final against Portugal, put together 32 different quartets. His modus operandi was to use his players in short bursts of little over one minute at, as he was heard to say during a time-out, maximum intensity. As a coach, which of these approaches do you prefer?

"It's a point that can be discussed for a long time," Rodrigo reckoned. "We can look at match data and say that Finland

performed very well by changing players practically every minute. We can't say it's bad. Kazakhstan were diametrically opposed – and maybe we could say that they didn't have sufficient cover for the key players when they were suspended.

"There are pros and cons. You could argue that if you have a month to prepare, your players should be physically equipped to stay on court for more than one minute. On the other hand, I find it hard to accept that a single player can be on court for virtually the whole game and still maintain a very high level. It's a question of finding a balance.

"We will never know if Finland, for example, could have reached the semi-finals if they had left their best players on the pitch for longer periods. Or Ukraine in the second half against the Netherlands, when they carried on changing every two minutes after conceding three goals and falling behind, rather than keeping their best

players on court for as long as possible. It's a question that's impossible to answer."

Stanković added: "It depends on the players you have. You can ask whether Douglas, after playing so many minutes in the group games, was fatigued in the quarter-final against Ukraine, when he didn't have Taynan and Edson to support him. But it's also about mentalities. If you have exceptional players, they might be disappointed to spend long spells on the bench. But if you have a squad on similar levels, fast interchanging may not be such an issue or have such an impact on team performance.

"What I don't really like to see is when coaches are a bit like robots and using different quartets and/or systems at pre-arranged intervals with no regard for the game situation. A match is like a life – we should be prepared to react to whatever happens."

Kazakhstan coach Kaka explains the plan during the quarter-final against Ukraine



DEFENCES GET STREETWISE



Portugal's Pany Varela looks to escape the clutches of Russia's Anton Sokolov

THERE WERE MORE GOALS SCORED PER GAME THAN AT THE 2018 FINALS, BUT SAVVY DEFENCES AND FLEXIBLE GOALKEEPERS STILL MADE THEIR MARK



Futsal EURO 2022 produced one goal for every seven minutes of play. The 32-match tournament yielded 173 goals at an average of 5.41 per game – a 6.7% shortfall in relation to the FIFA Futsal World Cup that took place three months earlier.

One-third of the goals scored in the Netherlands stemmed from dead-ball situations, with the kick-in providing the most productive source. Corner kicks, on the other hand, were generally well defended, with some teams opting to position a defender close to the near post, as opposed to the more traditional position level with the 5m mark.

The salient feature among set-play statistics was the scarcity of goals from 10m penalties, even though the five-foul mark was reached fairly frequently. In general, teams were sufficiently streetwise to avoid further fouls – a facet of the game graphically illustrated during the Portugal vs Finland quarter-final, when the Nordic debutants were penalised five times during the opening half of the first period.

Finland's coach, Mićo Martić, shrewdly sent on his captain, Panu Autio, in the flying goalkeeper shirt after only 11'49" to slow the tempo. And Finland remained on five until the half-time hooter. It was not until the 21st match of the tournament that we witnessed a goal from the 10m mark – Poland's solitary strike in the 5-1 defeat by Russia.

HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Category	Action	Goals
	Against high block	13
	Against mid/low block	35
SET PLAYS	Counterattacks	34
	Fly goalkeeper	24
	Goalkeeper as fifth attacker	5
	5v4 (after red card)	5
	Corners	12
	Free-kicks	7
OPEN PLAY	Penalties (6m)	6
	Penalties (10m)	2
	Kick-ins	18
	Second ball at set pieces	12
TOTAL		173

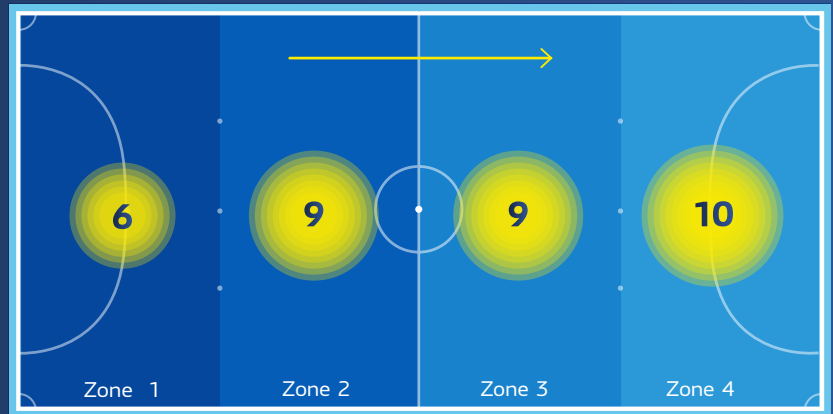
LAUNCHING THE COUNTERATTACK

NEARLY A THIRD OF GOALS FROM OPEN PLAY CAME ON THE BREAK

Counterattacks accounted for 29% of open-play successes, among them Serbia's equaliser against the Netherlands or the similar three-man counter that put Azerbaijan 3-2 ahead against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Successful counters were fairly evenly spread in terms of where possession was regained, the salient feature being that the lowest figure relates to attacks launched from Zone 1 – the team's defensive quarter. By a narrow margin, the highest number of productive counters were the result of regains in Zone 4, the opposition's defensive quarter.

BALL RECOVERIES LEADING TO COUNTERATTACKING GOALS



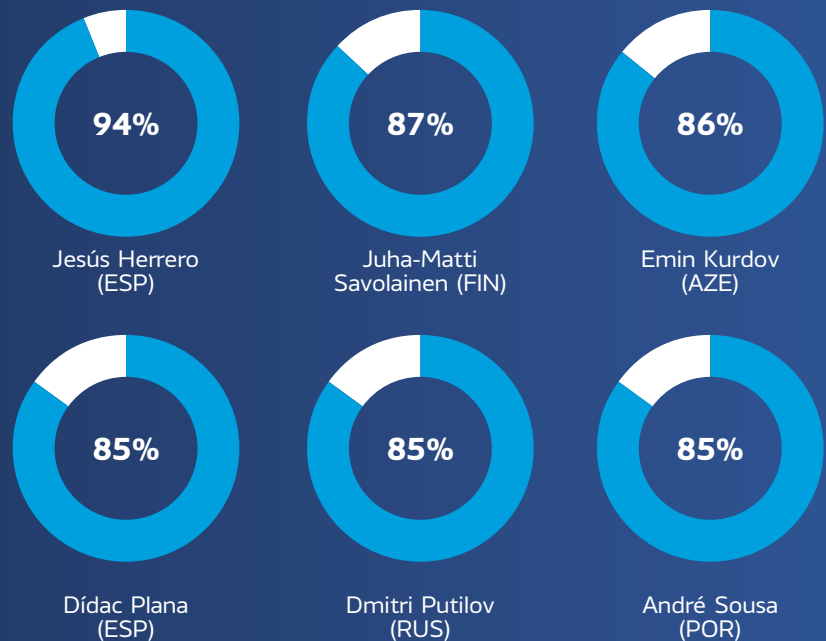
GOALKEEPERS RAISE THEIR GAME

HIGH STANDARD OF GOALKEEPING CATCHES THE EYE

"The quality of the goalkeepers came as a pleasant surprise," technical observer Miguel Rodrigo said. "They were technically very good and some of the shot-stopping was outstanding." The tournament statistics endorsed his opinion, and there were several candidates to put between the posts in UEFA's Team of the Tournament.

Some coaches opted to rotate their goalkeepers – Spain's Fede Vidal among them. He fielded his so-called second-string keeper for the bronze-medal match against Ukraine and Jesús Herrero responded with an excellent performance and the tournament's highest shot-stopping ratio, including one outrageously courageous save which Rodrigo labelled the "Braveheart technique".

TOURNAMENT SAVE PERCENTAGES



Minimum 40 minutes played

FLYING LESSONS?

THE PROS AND CONS OF THE FLYING KEEPER WERE LAID BARE

Once again, the role of the flying keeper raised enough questions to figure among the tournament's talking points. The presence of the fifth outfielder was often the cue for a sharp drop in tempo and spells of patient, risk-management passing. And, of course, losses of possession were often punished – as illustrated by the last goal in each of the medal matches on the closing day.

An interception by Spain skipper Carlos Ortiz allowed Adolfo to roll the ball into an unguarded Ukrainian net to seal a 4-1 win and the bronze medal. Hours later, Russia's Artem Antoshkin was hijacked and Pany Varela ran clear and stroked in the goal that clinched the trophy.

Similar questions were raised by teams prepared to advance the regular goalkeeper as a fifth outfielder. The goalscoring chart states that five goals hit the net during this facet of play: two scored and three conceded. The debate continues...

GOALS WITH FLYING KEEPER ON COURT

■ Scored ■ Conceded



TOP SCORERS

RUSSIANS OCCUPIED THREE OF THE FIRST FOUR PLACES IN THE SCORING CHART, BUT BIRZHAN ORAZOV CAME OUT ON TOP

● Goals ● Assists

Birzhan Orazov (KAZ)	7 Goals, 2 Assists
Artem Antoshkin (RUS)	5 Goals, 5 Assists
Ivan Chishkala (RUS)	5 Goals, 1 Assist
Anton Sokolov (RUS)	5 Goals, 0 Assists
Douglas Junior (KAZ)	4 Goals, 5 Assists
Alfonso Jesus (POR)	4 Goals, 1 Assist
Mykhailo Zvarych (UKR)	4 Goals, 1 Assist
Pany Varela (POR)	4 Goals, 1 Assist



Kazakhstan's
Birzhan Orazov



Kazakhstan needed the fewest chances of any team to score

TAKING YOUR CHANCES

EFFICIENCY IN FRONT OF GOAL DETERMINED WHO ADVANCED

The tournament generated an average of just over 70 goal attempts per game, with a scoring ratio of 13:1. This compares favourably with the stats from Futsal EURO 2018 when, despite a higher average of 78 attempts per game, goals came at an average of one every 17.15 shots.

The 32 matches in the Netherlands underlined the importance of the end product, as teams with a disappointing level of efficiency in front of goal often headed home early. Poland provided a good example of a team that displayed an attractive attacking brand of futsal, creating an average of 37 goal attempts per game – but only mustered four goals in three matches. Only a third (34% to be precise) of Poland's finishing was on target.

Italy, also eliminated in the group stage, read from a similarly off-key hymn sheet. Only 26% of the two-time champions' finishing was accurate and the net result was six goals from 148 attempts. Almost a quarter of them (24%) were delivered by key performer Alex Merlim but only 11 of his 36 shots were on target.

Wayward finishing had also contributed to the undoing of both teams in 2018, when Poland and Italy registered two goals apiece from 86 and 89 attempts respectively. Portugal, in winning the 2018 title, had an exceptional 1:7.9 goals/attempts ratio, as did Spain in 2016 with 1:7.6. Coincidence?

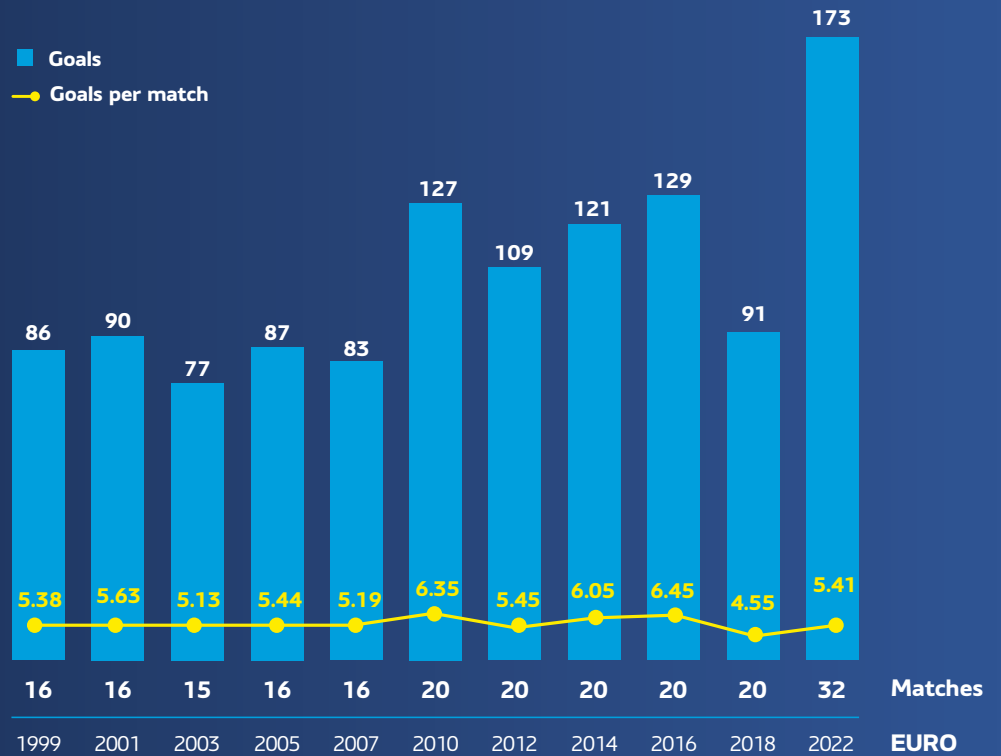
ATTEMPTS PER GOAL

Kazakhstan	●●●●●●●●●● 10
Azerbaijan	●●●●●●●●●● 11
Russia	●●●●●●●●●● 11
Spain	●●●●●●●●●● 11
Finland	●●●●●●●●●● 13
Netherlands	●●●●●●●●●● 13
Portugal	●●●●●●●●●● 13
Slovakia	●●●●●●●●●● 13
Ukraine	●●●●●●●●●● 15
Croatia	●●●●●●●●●● 16
Slovenia	●●●●●●●●●● 18
Bosnia and Herzegovina	●●●●●●●●●● 22
Serbia	●●●●●●●●●● 23
Georgia	●●●●●●●●●● 24
Italy	●●●●●●●●●● 25
Poland	●●●●●●●●●● 35

GOALS PER EURO

FEARS OF THE DEMISE OF GOALS PROVE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

EURO Futsal 2022 provided a heartening return to a middle-of-the-road figure in terms of goalscoring after the 30% downturn posted in 2018, when the UEFA technical report observed that “the fact that the average number of goals per match was, by a considerable margin, the lowest ever recorded at a final tournament was a cause for concern”. The recovery, however, still left the 2022 tally short of the average of 5.56 over the 11 editions of the final tournament.



WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

ARRIVING LATE IS NO LONGER QUITE AS FASHIONABLE

The 2022 tournament broke a tradition stretching back to 2007: for once, the final five-minute period was not the most prolific. Contrasting with 2018, the opening five minutes were the cageiest, with only ten goals hitting the net during the 24 group games. Unusually, the final five minutes were not the

most productive – not even during the knockout stages when teams were obliged to chase results. One trend which was emphatically perpetuated in the Netherlands was that the second half supplied the lion’s share of the goalscoring: 31% up on the tally of first-half goals.

GOAL TIMES PER EURO

Minutes	2022	2018	2016	2014	2012	2010	2007	2005	2003
1-5	14	13	7	10	11	10	8	5	4
6-10	22	9	15	15	15	14	5	10	10
11-15	20	4	14	11	4	9	9	8	8
16-20	19	11	18	16	11	15	14	13	8
21-25	20	10	18	17	17	14	15	13	6
26-30	24	12	15	14	19	18	10	8	11
31-35	29	12	16	13	11	17	15	12	10
36-40	25	17	25	24	19	30	7	18	20
Extra time	-	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Total	173	91	129	121	109	127	83	87	77

TOURNAMENT ALL-STARS

FIVE PLAYERS FROM FIVE DIFFERENT TEAMS MADE THE TECHNICAL OBSERVERS' CUT FOR TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

When the curtain came down on the group stage, UEFA technical observers Miguel Rodrigo and Mato Stanković scrolled through the list of players who had caught their eye. They eliminated, sometimes with a degree of reluctance, the ones who had already gone home. But that still left 31 names. Their challenge, as the knockout rounds progressed, was to be ruthless with the scalpel and slice the list down to a team of five – as opposed to the full squad of 14 selected at previous final tournaments.

KYRYLO TSYPUN (UKR)

Honourable mention:

Dmitri Putilov (RUS)

The Ukrainian keeper played a vital role in helping his team rebound from their opening-day defeat; superb shot-stopping and shrewd distribution.

MATCHES: 6

MINUTES: 197 (33 per game)

GOALS CONCEDED: 14 (2.3)

SHOTS SAVED: 68 (11.3)

SAVE %: 83%

PASSES: 198 (33)

PASS ACCURACY: 82%

SHOTS TAKEN: 3 (0.5)



DOUGLAS JUNIOR (KAZ)

Honourable mentions: Erick Mendonça (POR), Artem Antoshkin (RUS), Carlos Ortiz (ESP)

The indefatigable 33-year-old provided strong leadership and was the only member of 2018 all-star squad to make cut the again. He defended efficiently without conceding fouls and was a constant threat with long-range shooting.

MATCHES: 4

MINUTES: 131 (33 per game)

GOALS: 4 (1)

ASSISTS: 4 (1)

SHOTS: 36 (9)

CHANCES CREATED: 12 (3)

PASSES: 369 (92)

RECOVERIES: 44 (11)



SERGEI ABRAMOV (RUS)

Honourable mentions: Pany Varela (POR),
Birzhan Orazov (KAZ), Ivan Chishkala (RUS)

Russia's captain was a major catalyst of their attacking play. He exuded confidence on the ball, taking on opponents with panache and keeping opposing goalkeepers on their toes.

MATCHES: 6
MINUTES: 111 (19 per game)
PASSES: 282 (47)
PASS ACCURACY: 94%
ASSISTS: 4 (0.66)
CHALLENGES WON: 25 (3.2)
DRIBBLES: 19 (3.2)
FOULS SUFFERED: 5 (0.83)



SERGIO LOZANO (ESP)

Honourable mentions: Mellado (ESP),
Tomáš Drahošský (SLO)

Lozano was rated the key performer in every match. The 33-year-old allied creative attacking qualities with powerhouse shooting ability and a readiness to engage fully in defensive duties.

MATCHES: 6
MINUTES: 124 (21 per game)
GOALS: 4 (0.67)
ASSISTS: 5 (0.83)
SHOTS: 61 (10.2)
CHANCES CREATED: 16 (2.7)
DRIBBLES: 18 (3)
**BALL RECOVERIES IN
OPPOSITION HALF:** 11 (1.83)



ZICKY TÉ (POR)

Honourable mentions: Anton Sokolov
(RUS), Elisandro (GEO)

Zicky has an outstanding ability to shield the ball and lay off beautifully weighted passes. He was hard working and also scored crucial goals in the semi-final against Spain and in the final against Russia.

MATCHES: 6
MINUTES: 82 (14)
GOALS: 3 (0.5)
ASSISTS: 2 (0.33)
SHOTS: 23 (3.8)
SHOTS ON TARGET: 11 (1.8)
DRIBBLES: 11 (1.8)
DRIBBLE SUCCESS: 36%





AZERBAIJAN

GROUP D			QF	SF	FINAL
GEO L 3-2	ESP D 2-2	BIH W 4-2			

	APP	MIN	G	A
--	-----	-----	---	---

GOALKEEPERS

1	Emin Kurdov	2	70	0	0
12	Rovshan Huseynli	1	40	0	0

OUTFIELD PLAYERS

2	Felipinho	3	56	0	0
3	Bolinha	3	52	1	0
5	Fineo	2	46	0	0
6	Eduardo	3	81	1	0
7	Ramiz Chovdarov	3	27	0	1
8	Rizvan Farzaliyev	3	32	0	0
9	Rafael Vilela	3	68	3	0
10	Vassoura	3	77	0	1
11	Khatai Baghirov	2	3	0	0
13	Gallo	1	18	1	0
14	Hadi Ahmadi	2	9	0	0
17	Isa Atayev	2	9	1	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

33

FOULS

Suffered **23**
Conceded **22**

CARDS



WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

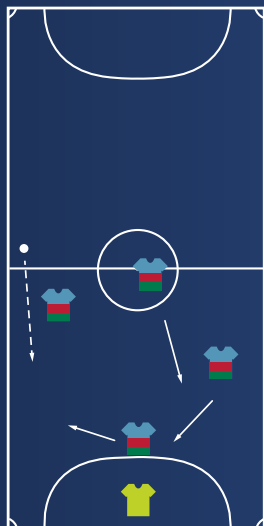
9 plays	Scored	0
	Conceded	0

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

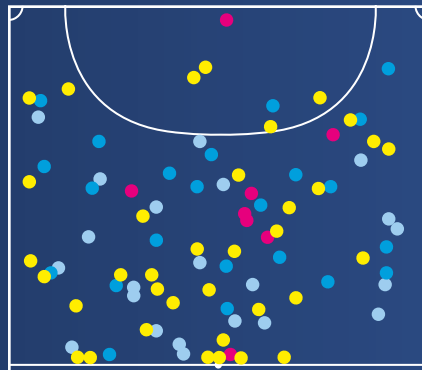


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	8%
SAVED	31%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	38%

8 GOALS SCORED (1 own goal)
2.7 per match; Rank: 5

7 GOALS CONCEDED
2.3 per match; Rank: 4

88 GOAL ATTEMPTS
29 per match; Rank: 15
Max. 34 v Azerbaijan
Min. 27 v Bos & Herz and Georgia

30 ON TARGET
10 per match; Rank: 14=

36 OFF TARGET
12 per match; Rank: 5=

KEY FEATURES

- Classic 1-3-1 attacking, using left-footed pivot – Vilela or Bolinha
- Preference for direct attacking; few long phases of possession
- Posed real threat with precise passing, 1v1 skills, long-range shooting
- Use of curved runs in front of opponents' pivot to disturb defensive structure
- Aggressive, committed defending, winning majority of challenges
- Mostly zonal marking, reducing space, launching rapid transitions
- Composed defence v flying goalkeeper by experienced quartets

COACH



Alesio da Silva
BORN: 27/09/1968
NATIONALITY: Brazilian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 29/06/2017

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	1	1	1	33%
Qualifying matches	6	5	1	0	83%

AVERAGES

46%

POSSESSION

Max. 50% v Bosnia and Herzegovina
Min. 42% v Spain
Rank: 12

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

413

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 433 v Georgia
Min. 380 v Spain
Rank: 10

87%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Bosnia and Herzegovina
Min. 84% v Spain
Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	52%	3=
Interceptions	54	2
Interceptions in opposing half	9	5
Ball recoveries	41	1
Ball recoveries in opposing half	8	5=



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GROUP D			QF	SF	FINAL
ESP L 5-1	GEO L 1-2	AZE L 4-2			

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Darko Milanović	2	47	0	0
12 Stanislav Galić	1	32	0	0
15 Andriano Dujmović	1	39	0	0

	APP	MIN	G	A
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Almedin Bundečević	3	17	0	0
3 Josip Sesar	3	44	0	0
4 Davor Armautović	3	48	0	0
5 Blago Gašpar	3	32	0	1
6 Srdjan Ivanković	3	42	0	0
7 Bilal Jelić	3	58	0	1
8 Marijo Aladžić	3	58	0	1
9 Nermin Kahvedžić	3	69	2	0
10 Anel Radmilović	3	41	1	0
11 Josip Bošković	3	48	1	0
14 Kristijan Pantić	2	8	0	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
30	Suffered 11 Conceded 17	6 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

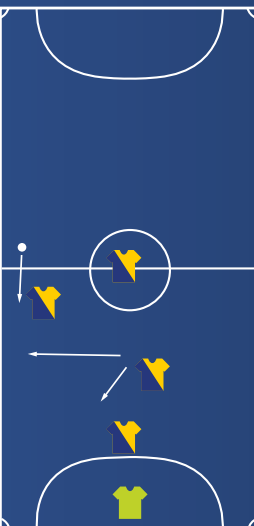
1 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 0
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TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

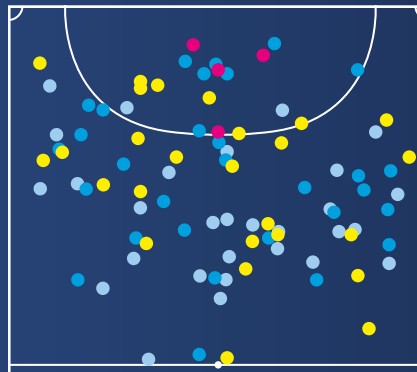


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	4%
SAVED	37%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	28%

4 GOALS SCORED
1.3 per match; Rank: 15=

11 GOALS CONCEDED
3.7 per game; Rank: 14

89 GOAL ATTEMPTS
30 per match; Rank: 12=
Max. 37 v Georgia
Min. 16 v Spain

34 ON TARGET
11 per match; Rank: 11=

26 OFF TARGET
9 per match; Rank: 14=

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 attacking seeking fast transitions to strong pivot, Kahvedžić or Bošković
- Confident attempts at 1v1 duels rather than fast collective movements
- Ivanković and Jelić always ready to use solo skills in attacks and counterattacks
- Emphasis on zonal defence, often with double-marking on opposition pivot
- Generally passive defence against set plays; limited success in dead-ball attacks
- Frequent strategic use of goalkeeper as fifth outfielder to support attacks
- Good all-round squad with great commitment and strong team ethic

COACH



Ivo Krezo
BORN: 20/11/1973
NATIONALITY: Bosnian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 2018

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	0	0	3	0%
Qualifying matches	9	8	0	1	89%

AVERAGES

50%

POSSESSION

Max. 57% v Georgia
Min. 42% v Spain
Rank: 7

10 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

480

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 529 v Georgia
Min. 423 v Spain
Rank: 6

88%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 90% v Azerbaijan
Min. 87% v Spain and Georgia
Rank: 3

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	52%	6=
Interceptions	33	16
Interceptions in opposing half	4	16
Ball recoveries	27	16
Ball recoveries in opposing half	6	12=



CROATIA

GROUP C			QF	SF	FINAL
POL W 1-3	RUS L 0-4	SVK L 5-3			

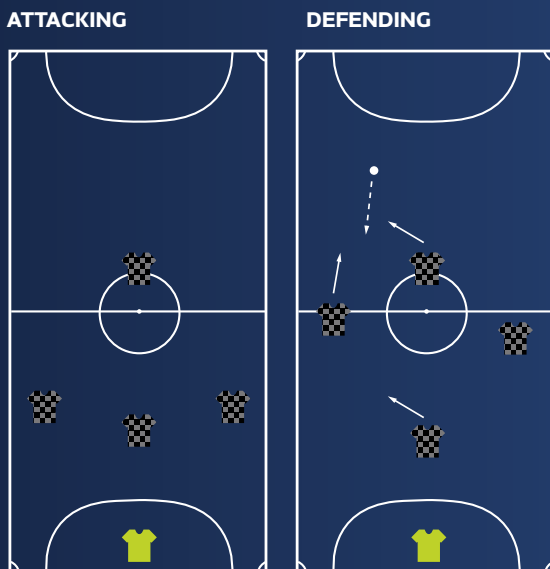
	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Žarko Luketin	3	101	0	0
20 Zoran Primić	1	11	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Vedran Matošević	2	21	0	0
4 Davor Kanjuh	3	30	0	0
5 Duje Kustura	0	0	0	0
6 Maro Duras	3	11	0	0
7 Franko Jelovčić	3	71	2	1
8 Dario Marinović	3	76	0	1
10 Tihomir Novak	3	54	0	1
11 Josip Suton	2	42	0	1
13 Josip Jurlina	2	28	0	0
14 Kristijan Postružin	3	56	1	1
17 Kristijan Čekol	1	2	0	0
18 Matej Horvat	3	53	2	0
19 Antonio Sekulić	3	26	1	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 16 Conceded 17	3 1

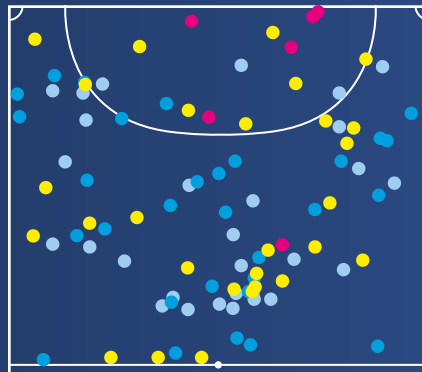
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER		
11 plays	Scored	2
	Conceded	0

TEAM SHAPES



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	6%
SAVED	36%
BLOCKED	29%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	27%

6 GOALS SCORED
2 per match; Rank: 10=

10 GOALS CONCEDED
3.3 per match; Rank: 10=

93 GOAL ATTEMPTS
31 per match; Rank: 11
Max. 34 v Slovakia
Min. 26 v Poland

36 ON TARGET
12 per match; Rank: 10

27 OFF TARGET
9 per match; Rank: 14=

KEY FEATURES

- Versatile 1-4-0 attacking or 1-3-1 with Duras, Marinović or Sekulić as pivot
- Varied goalscoring options from all zones; good long-range shooting
- Many players (Marinović, Horvat, Jelovčić, Suton...) posing 1v1 threats
- High defensive block; occasional aggressive pressure on ball-carrier
- Emphasis on man-to-man marking with good covering structure by all players
- Limited success when using goalkeeper as fifth outfield player
- Experienced team with high level of technique; able to dictate pace of the game

COACH



Marinko Mavrović
BORN: 29/11/1969
NATIONALITY: Croatian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 08/12/2020

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	1	0	2	33%
Qualifying matches	6	6	0	0	100%

AVERAGES

58%

POSSESSION

Max. 71% v Slovakia
 Min. 49% v Russia
 Rank: 2

12 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

523

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 621 v Slovakia
 Min. 443 v Russia
 Rank: 2

88%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Slovakia
 Min. 85% v Russia
 Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	45%	15
Interceptions	44	13=
Interceptions in opposing half	6	12=
Ball recoveries	30	15
Ball recoveries in opposing half	6	12=



FINLAND

GROUP B		QF	SF	FINAL
ITA D 3-3	KAZ L 2-6	SVN W 2-1	POR L 2-3	

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Juha-Matti Savolainen	2	74	1	0
12 Antti Koivumäki	2	75	0	0

	APP	MIN	G	A
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Panu Autio	4	73	2	0
4 Tuuka Pikkrainen	4	51	0	0
5 Juhana Jyrkiäinen	4	44	1	1
6 Jukka Kytölä	4	81	0	3
7 Jarmo Junno	4	46	0	0
8 Sergei Korsunov	4	49	0	0
10 Miika Hosio	4	79	2	0
11 Lassi Lintula	4	50	0	0
13 Jani Korpela	3	54	1	0
15 Olli Pöyliö	4	41	0	0
16 Henri Alamikkotervo	4	38	2	1
19 Iiro Vanha	4	45	0	1

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 31 Conceded 27	6 0

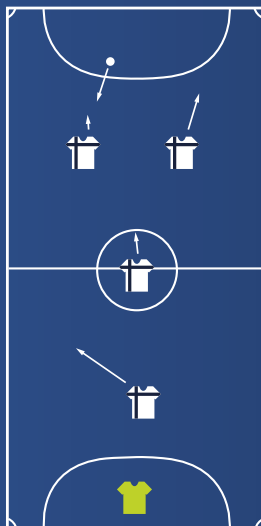
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER	
13 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 2

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

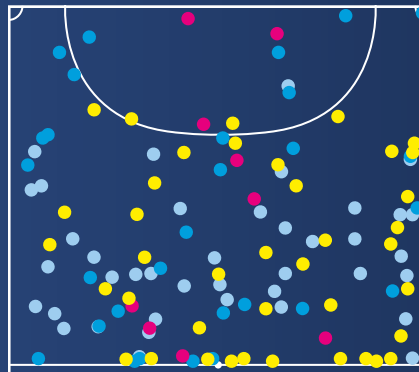


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	7%
SAVED	30%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	30%

9 GOALS SCORED
2.3 per match; Rank: 7=

13 GOALS CONCEDED
3.3 per game; Rank: 10=

119 GOAL ATTEMPTS
30 per match; Rank: 12=
Max. 42 v Kazakhstan
Min. 24 v Italy

39 ON TARGET
10 per match; Rank: 14=

38 OFF TARGET
10 per match; Rank: 12=

KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-3-1 with wide pivot with occasional switches to 1-4-0
- Style based on fast, vertical attacking; direct supply to pivot by goalkeeper
- But also high-tempo combination moves of medium duration
- All outfield players used in short high-intensity bursts – often one minute
- Prepared to run risks in defence; high block aiming to cut passing lines
- Dangerous, well-drilled set plays; powerful left-foot shooting by Alamikkotervo
- All-round squad with excellent athletic qualities, team spirit, work ethic

COACH



Mico Martić
BORN: 24/02/1964
NATIONALITY: Croatian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/01/2013

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	4	1	1	2	25%
Qualifying matches	27	14	3	10	52%

AVERAGES

44%

POSSESSION

Max. 54% v Kazakhstan
 Min. 42% v Slovenia
 Rank: 13=

8 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

400

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 514 v Kazakhstan
 Min. 286 v Italy
 Rank: 11

82%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Kazakhstan
 Min. 75% v Slovenia
 Rank: 14

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	47	12=
Interceptions	48	7=
Interceptions in opposing half	11	2=
Ball recoveries	32	13
Ball recoveries in opposing half	9	3=



GEORGIA

GROUP D			QF	SF	FINAL
AZE W 3-2	BIH W 2-1	ESP L 0-8	RUS L 1-3		

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Zviad Kupatadze	3	137	0	0
12 Tornike Bukia	1	20	0	0

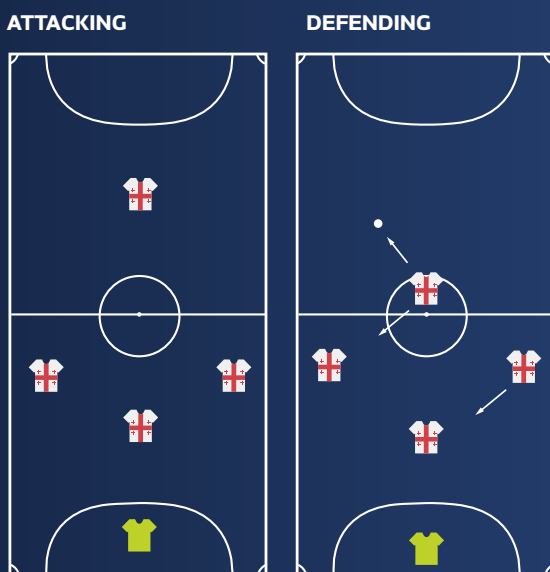
	APP	MIN	G	A
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Chaguinha	4	97	0	0
5 Giorgi Chavtadze	1	3	0	0
6 Vilian Lourenço	4	72	0	1
7 Shota Tophuria	4	37	0	1
8 Vakhtang Kekelia	3	22	0	0
9 Irakli Todua	4	43	0	0
10 Roninho	4	85	0	0
16 Thales	3	87	2	0
17 Archil Sebiskveradze	4	31	1	0
18 Nikoloz Kurtanidze	3	15	0	0
19 Elisandro	4	55	1	1
20 Bruno Petry	4	76	2	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
32	Suffered 22 Conceded 18	16 2

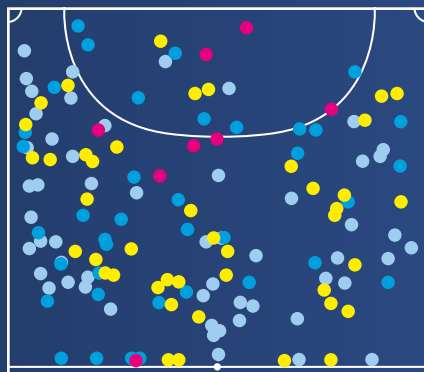
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER	Scored	Conceded
5 plays	0	0

TEAM SHAPES



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	4%
SAVED	30%
BLOCKED	37%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	29%

6 GOALS SCORED
1.5 per match; Rank: 14

14 GOALS CONCEDED
3.5 per match; Rank: 13

143 GOAL ATTEMPTS
36 per match; Rank: 10
Max. 56 v Azerbaijan
Min. 24 v Spain

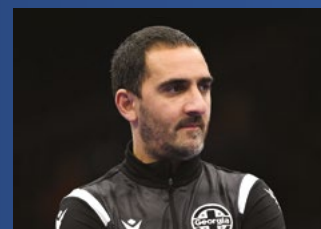
44 ON TARGET
11 per match; Rank: 11=

43 OFF TARGET
11 per match; Rank: 11

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 the default setting with strong, ball-shielding Elisandro as isolated pivot
- Without Elisandro, Bruno Petry as wide attacker or 1-4-0 structure
- Vertical attacking with high levels of technique and shooting power
- Emphasis on high pressing with man-to-man marking throughout
- Also equipped for deeper, more passive defence, looking for fast counters
- Excellent goalkeeping by Kupatadze; rarely seen operating as fifth outfielder
- Many experienced players; difficult to beat 1v1; highly competitive spirit

COACH



Avtandil Asatiani
BORN: 03/12/1978
NATIONALITY: Georgian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 2016

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	4	2	0	2	50%
Qualifying matches	23	13	5	5	57%

AVERAGES

47%

POSSESSION

Max. 54% v Azerbaijan
Min. 43% v Bosnia and Herzegovina
Rank: 11

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

390

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 441 v Azerbaijan
Min. 361 v Bosnia and Herzegovina
Rank: 11

85%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 85% v Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Spain
Min. 84% v Russia
Rank: 12

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	44	16
Interceptions	47	10
Interceptions in opposing half	5	15
Ball recoveries	34	7=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	6	12=



ITALY

GROUP B

QF

SF

FINAL

FIN
D 3-3

SVN
D 2-2

KAZ
L 4-1

GOALKEEPERS

	APP	MIN	G	A
1 Stefano Mammarella	1	35	0	0
12 Dennis Berthod (GK)	0	0	0	0
19 Lorenzo Pietrangelo	2	69	0	0

OUTFIELD PLAYERS

	APP	MIN	G	A
2 Douglas Nicolodi	3	62	3	0
3 Matteo Esposito	0	0	0	0
4 Vincenzo Caponigro	3	9	0	1
5 Giuliano Fortini	2	17	0	0
6 Carmelo Musumeci	3	75	0	0
7 Cainan De Matos	3	63	2	0
9 Attilio Arillo	3	23	0	0
10 Alex Merlim	3	95	1	1
11 Guilherme Gaio	3	31	0	0
14 Eduardo Alano	2	13	0	1
15 Gabriel Rodrigues	1	15	0	1
18 Julio De Oliveira	2	43	0	0
20 Guilherme Stringari Alves	3	33	0	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

27

FOULS

Suffered **20**
Conceded **21**

CARDS

10 **0**

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

20 plays Scored **1**
Conceded **0**

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

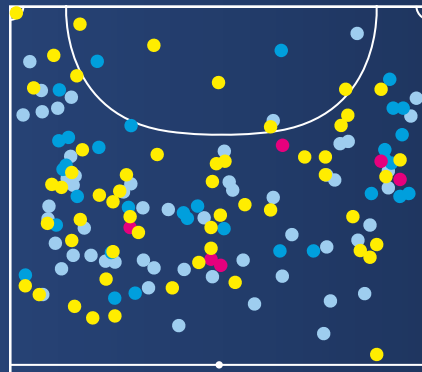


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	4%
SAVED	25%
BLOCKED	36%
WOODWORK	5%
OFF TARGET	30%

6 GOALS SCORED
2 per match; Rank: 10=

9 GOALS CONCEDED
3 per match; Rank: 7=

148 GOAL ATTEMPTS
49 per match; Rank: 1
Max. 59 v Kazakhstan
Min. 33 v Slovenia

38 ON TARGET
13 per match; Rank: 8=

46 OFF TARGET
15 per match; Rank: 2

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 attack with Gaio as central pivot or De Matos as wide pivot
- Quick transformations to 1-4-0 system with fluid combination play on flanks
- Merlim the key attacking catalyst; dribbling skills, feints, shots at goal
- Large numbers of goal attempts and set plays but low percentage of accuracy
- Mostly aggressive high pressing with well-structured defensive lines
- Good protection of central areas; strong emphasis on man-to-man marking
- Strong technique; prolonged phases of possession; few passes into opponent's area

COACH



Massimiliano Bellarte

BORN: 30/11/1977

NATIONALITY: Italian

IN CHARGE SINCE: 15/09/2020

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	0	2	1	0%
Qualifying matches	6	5	0	1	83%

AVERAGES

65%

POSSESSION

Max. 69% v Kazakhstan

Min. 58% v Slovenia

Rank: 1

11 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

545

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 607 v Finland

Min. 437 v Slovenia

Rank: 1

91%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 92% v Kazakhstan

Min. 88% v Slovenia

Rank: 2

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	45%	14
Interceptions	36	15
Interceptions in opposing half	6	11=
Ball recoveries	33	11=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	7	9=



KAZAKHSTAN

GROUP B			QF	SF	FINAL
SVN D 4-4	FIN W 2-6	ITA W 4-1	UKR L 3-5		

	APP	MIN	G	A	
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Rauan Atantayev	0	0	0	0
2	Higuita	4	154	1	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS					
3	Taynan	3	77	0	1
4	Nurbek Karagulov	2	2	0	0
5	Edson	3	80	0	3
7	Azat Valiullin	4	14	2	1
9	Albert Akbalikov	2	30	0	0
10	Chingiz Yessenamanov	2	22	0	1
11	Arnold Knaub	3	45	2	0
12	Dauren Tursagulov	3	86	0	1
13	Zhomart Tokayev	3	17	1	0
14	Douglas Junior	4	131	4	4
15	Yersultan Sagyndykov	3	4	0	0
17	Birzhan Orazov	4	114	7	2

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 26 Conceded 28	7 1

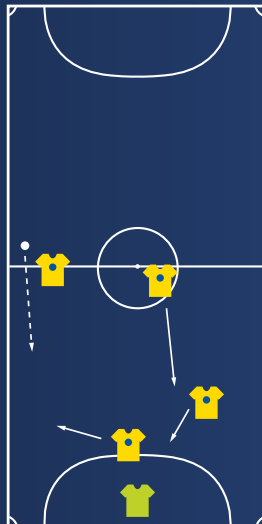
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER	
7 plays	Scored 4 Conceded 0

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

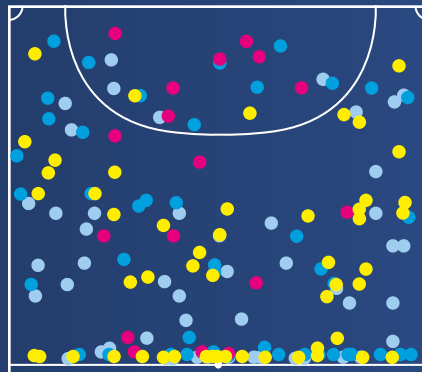


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	9%
SAVED	36%
BLOCKED	26%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	26%

17 GOALS SCORED
4.3 per match; Rank: 1=

12 GOALS CONCEDED
3 per match, Rank: 7=

166 GOAL ATTEMPTS
42 per match; Rank: 6=
Max. 54 v Ukraine
Min. 27 v Italy

66 ON TARGET
17 per match; Rank: 3

47 OFF TARGET
12 per match; Rank: 5=

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 or 0-3-2 attacking with keeper Higuita regularly up as fifth outfielder
- Akbalikov the main pivot; or Taynan as fake pivot in wider positions
- Douglas Junior the experienced playmaker almost permanently on court
- Powerful long-range shooting, notably by Douglas Junior, Higuita
- High man-to-man defence protecting mid-court; or 2-2 zonal defence with rotations
- Tactically-astute key players whose technique allows team to dictate tempo
- Dangerous, well-drilled set plays; great mental resilience in tough moments

COACH



Paulo Ricardo Figueiro Silva 'Kaka'
BORN: 04/03/1977
NATIONALITY: Brazilian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 19/09/2018

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	4	2	1	1	50%
Qualifying matches	6	6	0	0	100%

AVERAGES

47%

POSSESSION

Max. 63% v Ukraine
 Min. 31% v Italy
 Rank: 10

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION
OF POSSESSION

384

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 487 v Ukraine
 Min. 236 v Italy
 Rank: 13

86%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Ukraine
 Min. 82% v Italy
 Rank: 10

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	50	5=
Interceptions	45	11=
Interceptions in opposing half	6	11=
Ball recoveries	33	11=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	5	16



NETHERLANDS

GROUP A			QF	SF	FINAL
UKR W 3-2	POR L 4-1	SRB L 2-3			

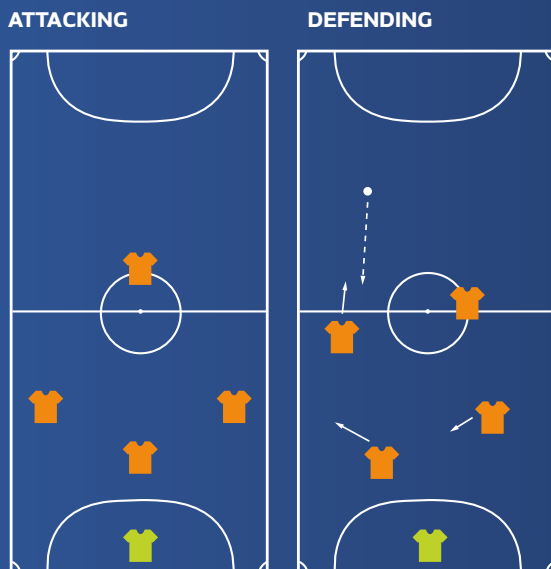
	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Manuel Kuyk	3	115	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Oualid Saadouini	3	49	1	0
3 Jamal El Ghannouti	3	32	0	1
4 Tevfik Ceyar	1	5	0	0
5 Said Bouzambou	3	28	1	0
6 Karim Mossaoui	2	50	0	0
7 Yoshua St Juste	3	28	0	0
9 Mats Velseboer	3	64	0	1
10 Mohamed Attaibi	3	53	1	0
11 Lahcen Bouyouzan	3	50	1	0
14 Jordany Martinus	3	46	1	0
18 Amir Molkârâi	3	21	0	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
31	Suffered 5 Conceded 10	2 0

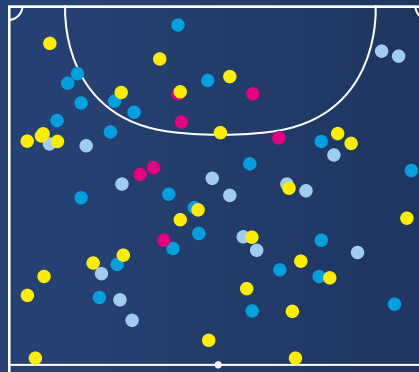
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER		
4 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 1	

TEAM SHAPES



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	7%
SAVED	36%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	35%

6	GOALS SCORED (1 own goal) 2 per match; Rank: 10=
9	GOALS CONCEDED 3 per match; Rank: 7=
75	GOAL ATTEMPTS 25 per match; Rank: 16 Max. 30 v Ukraine Min. 17 v Portugal
29	ON TARGET 10 per match; Rank: 14=
28	OFF TARGET 9 per match; Rank: 14=

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 attacking with Bouzambou or Martinus as strong, mobile pivots
- Emphasis on direct attacks: 2-4 passes; 65% less than 10-second duration
- Minimal risks during build-up play; Mossaoui providing 1v1 skills
- Well-organised mid-block defence with sudden switches to high pressure
- Mostly passive defence with only moderate pressure on ball-carrier
- Mix of man-to-man and zonal marking with clear signals between team-mates
- Pragmatic approach playing to strengths with team spirit and commitment

COACH



Max Tjaden
BORN: 13/06/1971
NATIONALITY: Dutch
IN CHARGE SINCE: 06/06/2016

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	1	0	2	33%
Qualifying matches	3	0	2	1	0%

AVERAGES

40%

POSSESSION

Max. 45% v Serbia
 Min. 36% v Portugal
 Rank: 15=

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

364

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 445 v Serbia
 Min. 322 v Ukraine
 Rank: 14

83%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 86% v Serbia
 Min. 80% v Ukraine
 Rank: 13

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	51%	6=
Interceptions	59	1
Interceptions in opposing half	8	6=
Ball recoveries	38	2=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	7	9=



POLAND

GROUP C			QF	SF	FINAL
CRO L 1-3	SVK D 2-2	RUS L 5-1			

	APP	MIN	G	A	
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Michał Kałuża	2	76	0	0
12	Bartłomiej Nawrat	1	40	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS					
2	Michał Kubik	3	56	0	1
3	Mateusz Madziąg	3	41	0	0
4	Patryk Holy	3	26	2	0
5	Dominik Śmiałkowski	2	18	0	0
6	Sebastian Grubalski	3	17	0	0
7	Mikołaj Zastawnik	3	60	0	0
8	Dominik Solecki	3	52	0	0
9	Tomasz Lutecki	3	54	0	0
10	Sebastian Leszczak	3	29	1	0
13	Tomasz Kriezel	3	66	1	0
14	Michał Marek	3	42	0	0
15	Sebastian Wojciechowski	2	8	0	1

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
29	Suffered 23 Conceded 18	4 0

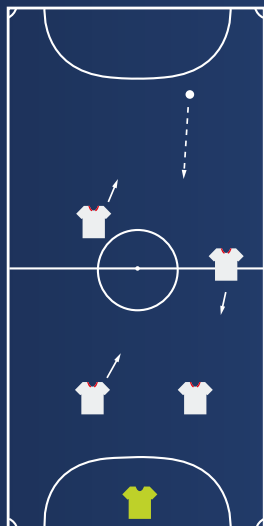
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER	
8 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 0

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

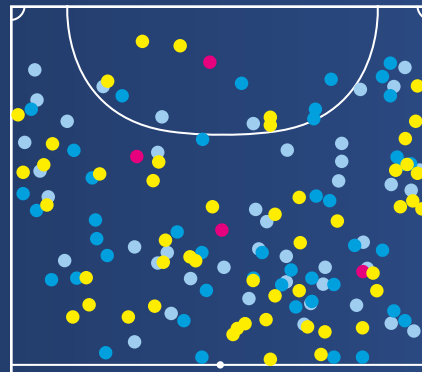


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	3%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	30%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	33%

4 GOALS SCORED
1.3 per match; Rank: 15=

10 GOALS CONCEDED
3.3 per match; Rank: 10=

141 GOAL ATTEMPTS
47 per match; Rank: 2
Max. 53 v Croatia
Min. 44 v Slovakia and Russia

48 ON TARGET
16 per match; Rank: 4=

48 OFF TARGET
16 per match; Rank: 1

KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-3-1 attacking; Marek, Lutecki tall, strong, ball-shielding pivots
- High-tempo, athletic game with frequent use of direct pass/throw to pivot
- Modern, fresh attacking style; vertical collective play rather than 1v1 skills
- Prepared to take risks with very high, aggressive defensive block
- Committed defending with good covering; very fast counterattacking
- Good shot-stopping by goalkeeper ready to push forward as fifth attacker
- Entertaining, brave team creating chances but let down by finishing accuracy

COACH



Błażej Korczyński
BORN: 07/08/1978
NATIONALITY: Polish
IN CHARGE SINCE: 25/10/2017

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	5	0	2	3	0%
Qualifying matches	9	6	2	1	66%

AVERAGES

44%

POSSESSION

Max. 47% v Slovakia
Min. 40% v Russia
Rank: 13=

7 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

331

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 366 v Slovakia
Min. 276 v Russia
Rank: 16

79%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 83% v Slovakia
Min. 77% v Croatia
Rank: 16

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	50%	9
Interceptions	54	2=
Interceptions in opposing half	14	1
Ball recoveries	37	4
Ball recoveries in opposing half	10	1=



PORTUGAL

GROUP A			QF	SF	FINAL
SRB W 2-4	NED W 4-1	UKR W 0-1	FIN W 3-2	ESP W 3-2	RUS W 4-2

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 André Sousa	6	239	0	0
12 Edu	1	1	0	0
12 Bebé	0	0	0	0

OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 André Coelho	5	39	1	0
3 Tomás Paço	6	91	2	0
4 Afonso Jesus	6	77	4	1
5 Fábio Cecílio	6	61	0	1
6 Zicky Té	6	82	3	2
7 Miguel Ângelo	6	45	1	2
8 Erick Mendonça	6	103	0	2
9 João Matos	6	88	0	0
10 Bruno Coelho	6	99	1	3
11 Pany Varela	6	119	4	1
13 Tiago Brito	6	62	0	1
14 Pauleta	6	57	1	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 34 Conceded 40	9 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

0 plays	Scored 0
	Conceded 0

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

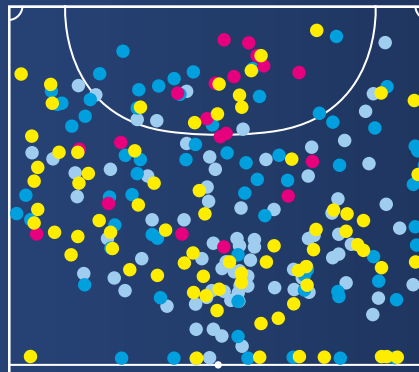


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	7%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	27%

19 GOALS SCORED (2 own goals)
3.2 per match; Rank: 4

9 GOALS CONCEDED
1.5 per game; Rank: 2=

244 GOAL ATTEMPTS
41 per match; Rank: 8
Max. 57 v Spain
Min. 24 v Russia

87 ON TARGET
15 per match; Rank: 6

70 OFF TARGET
12 per match; Rank: 5=

KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-0; patient possession play triggering bursts into space behind defence
- More incisive attacking when switching to 1-3-1 with Zicky in the pivotal role
- Pany, Pauleta and Erick always ready to unbalance defences with 1v1 skills
- Dangerous set plays with many well-rehearsed options and variations
- Preference for high-block defending with aggressive pressure on ball-carrier
- Emphasis on man-to-man marking with efficient covering mechanisms
- Strong all-round team with clear playing philosophy and great mental resilience

COACH



Jorge Braz
BORN: 25/08/1972
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/07/2010

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	22	16	1	5	73%
Qualifying matches	17	14	2	1	82%

AVERAGES

55%

POSSESSION

Max. 64% v Netherlands
Min. 48% v Russia
Rank: 4=

10 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

484

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 618 v Netherlands
Min. 414 v Russia
Rank: 5

87%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Netherlands
Min. 83% v Spain
Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	53	2
Interceptions	48	7=
Interceptions in opposing half	10	4
Ball recoveries	36	5=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	8	5=



RUSSIA

GROUP C			QF	SF	FINAL
SVK W 7-1	CRO W 0-4	POL W 5-1	GEO W 3-1	UKR W 3-2	POR L 2-4

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Georgi Zamtaradze	3	17	0	0
16 Dmitri Putilov	6	217	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
4 Artem Antoshkin	5	82	5	4
7 Ivan Milovanov	6	33	2	0
8 Eder Lima	1	4	0	0
9 Sergei Abramov	6	111	0	4
10 Robinho	4	55	1	3
11 Artem Niyazov	6	77	2	1
12 Ivan Chishkala	6	109	5	1
13 Sergei Abramovich	6	45	0	0
14 Daniil Davydov	6	64	1	1
17 Anton Sokolov	9	92	5	0
18 Andrei Afanasyev	5	41	2	1
19 Paulinho	6	108	1	1
20 Nando	6	110	0	2

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
32	Suffered 43 Conceded 43	8 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

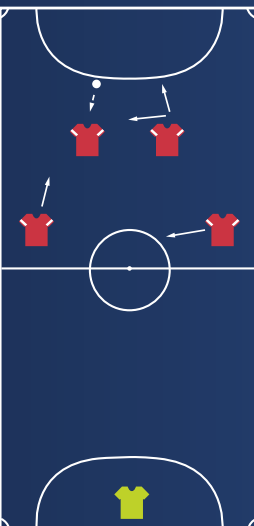
5 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 2
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TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

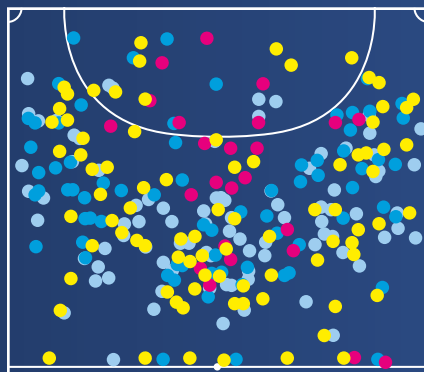


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	8%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	30%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	27%

24 GOALS SCORED
4 per match; Rank: 3

9 GOALS CONCEDED
1.5 per match; Rank: 2=

269 GOAL ATTEMPTS
45 per match; Rank: 5
Max. 61 v Georgia
Min. 38 v Croatia

96 ON TARGET
16 per match; Rank: 4=

79 OFF TARGET
13 per match; Rank: 4=

KEY FEATURES

- Emphasis on 1-3-1 with Sokolov, Afanasyev as strong, quick-turning pivots
- High levels of technique; Robinho, Chishkala, Abramov using 1v1 skills
- Excellent combination play in 1-4-0 format, dictating tempo of game
- Effective blend of long possession play and very fast counterattacking
- Dangerous set plays with wide variety of options; long-range shooting
- Preference for high-block defending; 90% man-to-man marking
- All-round squad with power, tactical versatility, athleticism, team ethic

COACH



Sergei Skorovich
BORN: 05/04/1973
NATIONALITY: Russian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 16/02/2009

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	29	17	6	6	59%
Qualifying matches	21	21	0	0	100%

AVERAGES

54%

POSSESSION

Max. 63% v Slovakia
 Min. 41% v Ukraine
 Rank: 4=

10 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

472

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 552 v Slovakia
 Min. 345 v Ukraine
 Rank: 7

88%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Croatia
 Min. 86% v Portugal
 Rank: 3=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	52	3=
Interceptions	52	5
Interceptions in opposing half	11	2=
Ball recoveries	38	2=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	8	5=



SERBIA

GROUP A			QF	SF	FINAL
POR L 2-4	UKR L 1-6	NED W 2-3			

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Nemanja Momčilović	3	116	0	0
12 Jakov Vulić	0	0	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Ninoslav Aleksić	2	12	0	0
3 Mladen Kocić	3	41	0	0
4 Nikola Matijević	1	8	0	0
5 Kristijan Vasić	1	10	0	0
6 Denis Ramić	3	63	1	0
7 Dragan Tomić	3	68	1	1
8 Marko Pršić	3	64	2	1
9 Jovan Lazarević	0	0	0	0
10 Strahinja Petrov	3	55	0	1
11 Stefan Rakić	3	75	0	0
14 Slobodan Rajčević	1	24	1	0
15 Lazar Milosavljević	2	7	0	0
19 Andreja Stojčevski	3	30	1	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 16 Conceded 12	5 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

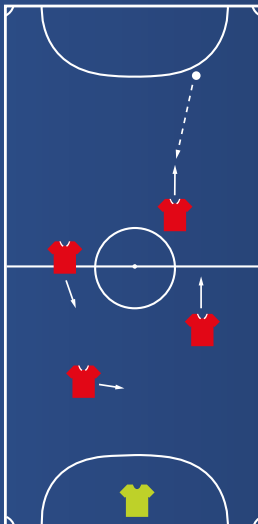
5 plays	Scored 0 Conceded 0
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TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

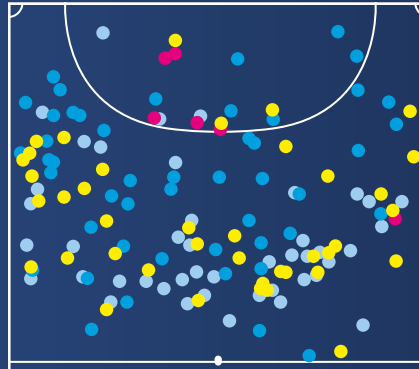


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	4%
SAVED	38%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	26%

6 GOALS SCORED
2 per match; Rank: 10=

12 GOALS CONCEDED
4 per match; Rank: 15

138 GOAL ATTEMPTS
46 per match; Rank: 3=
Max. 56 v Ukraine
Min. 28 v Portugal

54 ON TARGET
18 per match; Rank: 1=

37 OFF TARGET
12 per match; Rank: 5=

KEY FEATURES

- Two attack formats: 1-3-1 mostly with Tomić as pivot; or flat 1-4-0 structure
- Ramić, Pršić, Aleksić constantly seeking 1v1 solutions in attacking play
- Occasional aggressive high press; often soft pressure in mid or low defence
- Prolonged phases of possession; 45% culminating in shots at goal
- Emphasis on man-to-man marking with good covering structure
- High success rate in challenges; but risky losses of possession in own half
- Inventive set plays; shooting opportunities but no goals during powerplay

COACH



Dejan Majes
BORN: 11/04/1974
NATIONALITY: Serbian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/07/2021

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	1	0	2	33%
Qualifying matches	2	2	0	0	100%

AVERAGES

56%

POSSESSION

Max. 68% v Ukraine
Min. 43% v Portugal
Rank: 3

10 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

511

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 614 v Ukraine
Min. 416 v Portugal
Rank: 3

87%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Netherlands
Min. 84% v Portugal
Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	47%	12=
Interceptions	45	11=
Interceptions in opposing half	8	6=
Ball recoveries	34	7=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	6	12=



SLOVAKIA

GROUP C		QF		SF	FINAL
RUS L 7-1	POL D 2-2	CRO W 5-3	ESP L 5-1		

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
2 Marek Karpíak	3	109	0	0
12 Richard Oberman	1	40	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
4 Peter Serbin	2	8	1	0
5 Gabriel Rick	4	103	0	0
6 Matúš Ševčík	4	52	1	0
7 Martin Směřička	4	56	2	0
8 Martin Zdráhal	3	25	0	0
9 Peter Kozár	4	86	2	1
10 Martin Doša	4	79	0	0
11 Patrik Zaťovič	4	45	0	2
13 Anton Brunovský	3	23	0	0
14 Daniel Čerovský	2	8	0	0
15 Vojtech Turek	1	10	0	0
16 Tomáš Drahovský	4	119	3	2
17 Dominíc Ostrák	3	20	0	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
30	Suffered 19 Conceded 29	3 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

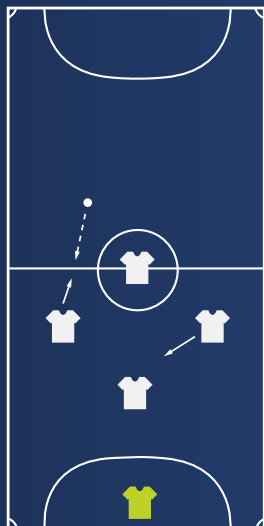
15 plays	Scored 1
	Conceded 2

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

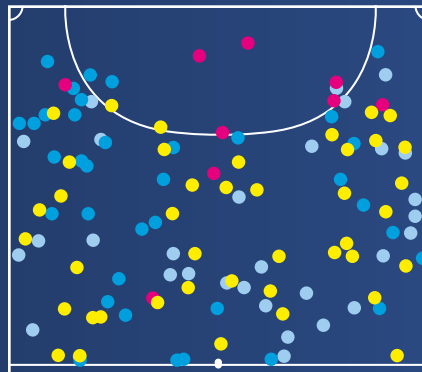


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	5%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	30%

9 GOALS SCORED
2.3 per match; Rank: 7=

17 GOALS CONCEDED
4.3 per match; Rank: 16

118 GOAL ATTEMPTS
30 per match; Rank: 12
Max. 34 v Poland
Min. 24 v Russia

45 ON TARGET
11 per match; Rank: 11=

39 OFF TARGET
10 per match; Rank: 12=

KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-3-1 with Ševčík or Drahovský as reference point in attack
- Strong emphasis on direct attacking with short spells of possession
- Use of long forward passing to minimise risks during build-up
- Fast, threatening counterattacks a weapon, but lacking cutting edge
- Aggressive pressure in high block; strong preference for man-to-man marking
- Extensive use of goalkeeper Karpíak as fifth outfield player
- Athletic team with strong physical presence, commitment to collective cause

COACH



Marián Berky
BORN: 16/11/1977
NATIONALITY: Slovak
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/07/2021

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	4	1	1	2	25%
Qualifying matches	10	4	2	4	40%

AVERAGES

40%

POSSESSION

Max. 53% v Poland
Min. 29% v Croatia
Rank: 15=

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

346

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 459 v Poland
Min. 233 v Croatia
Rank: 15

82%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Spain
Min. 75% v Russia
Rank: 14

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	55	1
Interceptions	48	7=
Interceptions in opposing half	6	11=
Ball recoveries	34	7=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	9	3=



SLOVENIA

GROUP B			QF	SF	FINAL
KAZ D 4-4	ITA D 2-2	FIN L 2-1			

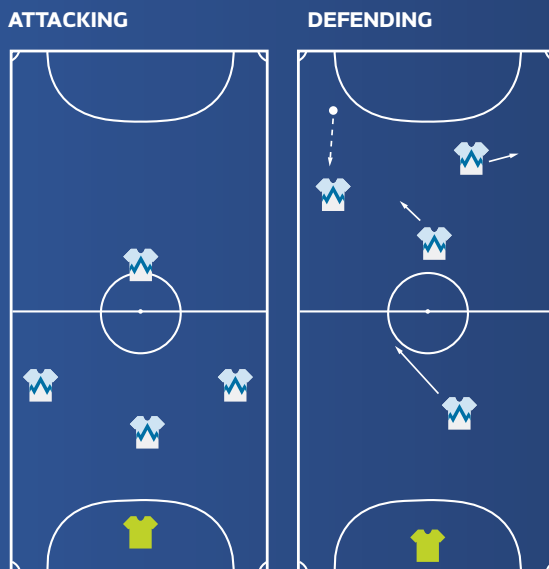
	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Tjaž Lovrenčič	0	0	0	0
3 Nejc Berzelak	3	113	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Teo Turk	3	62	1	0
4 Maks Vesel				
5 Jeremy Bukovec	1	13	0	0
6 Denis Totošković	3	51	1	0
7 Igor Osredkar	3	61	0	0
8 Nejc Hozjan	3	54	2	1
9 Gašper Vrhovec	1	4	0	0
10 Alen Fetič	3	62	0	2
11 Klemen Duščak	2	7	0	0
13 Žiga Čeh	3	58	1	0
14 Matej Fideršek	3	56	1	0
20 Kristjan Čujec	2	44	0	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 24 Conceded 26	3 0

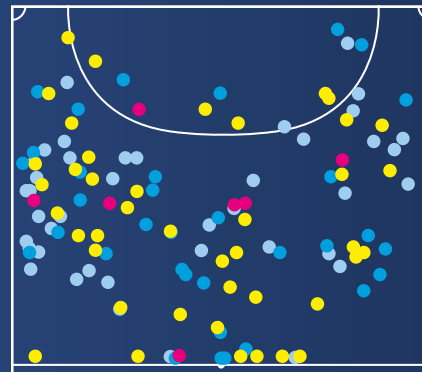
WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER		
7 plays	Scored	1
	Conceded	1

TEAM SHAPES



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	5%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	30%

7	GOALS SCORED (1 own goal) 2.3 per match; Rank: 7=
8	GOALS CONCEDED 2.7 per match; Rank: 6
125	GOAL ATTEMPTS 42 per match; Rank: 6= Max. 47 v Italy Min. 35 v Finland
42	ON TARGET 14 per match; Rank: 7
40	OFF TARGET 13 per match; Rank: 4=

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 attacks with two well-balanced quartets; Čujec a dominant pivot
- Frequent diagonal long ball to pivot; good movement to open passing lines
- Aggressive high pressure on ball-carrier in opponent's third
- Mostly zonal defending; without support on wings, with support through centre
- Strong powerplay defending, working hard to close passing lines and counter
- Goalkeeper active in outfield play; innovative role at kick-ins
- Blend of direct attacking and combination moves; few risks in build-up

COACH



Tomislav Horvat
BORN: 24/07/1974
NATIONALITY: Slovenian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/09/2020

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	3	0	2	1	0%
Qualifying matches	6	4	0	2	66%

AVERAGES

49%

POSSESSION

Max. 58% v Finland
 Min. 42% v Italy
 Rank: 8=

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

428

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 492 v Finland
 Min. 300 v Italy
 Rank: 9

87%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Kazakhstan
 Min. 85% v Italy
 Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	50%	9
Interceptions	53	4
Interceptions in opposing half	7	10
Ball recoveries	36	5=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	8	5=



SPAIN

GROUP D			QF	SF	3RD PLACE MATCH
BIH W 5-1	AZE D 2-2	GEO W 8-0	SLO W 5-1	POR L 2-3	UKR W 4-1

	APP	MIN	G	A	
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Jesús Herrero	1	40	0	0
12	Didac Plana	5	198	0	0
OUTFIELD PLAYERS					
2	Carlos Ortiz	6	129	2	3
3	Borja Díaz	6	69	1	3
4	Esteban Cejudo	2	24	0	0
5	Boyis	6	110	1	0
6	Raúl Gómez	6	85	3	1
7	Juan José Camacho Pérez	3	26	0	2
8	Adolfo Fernández	4	55	2	0
9	Sergio Lozano	6	124	4	5
10	Cecilio Morales	5	51	1	0
11	Chino	6	57	2	1
13	Miguel Mellado	6	97	3	4
14	Raúl Campos	6	72	3	1
16	Francisco Solano	4	31	2	0

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

30

FOULS

Suffered **44**
Conceded **27**

CARDS

5 **0**

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

3 plays
Scored **0**
Conceded **1**

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

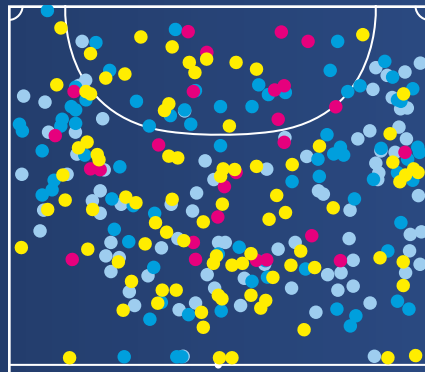


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	9%
SAVED	35%
BLOCKED	28%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	27%

26 GOALS SCORED (2 own goals)
4.3 per match; Rank: 1=

8 GOALS CONCEDED
1.3 per match; Rank: 1

276 GOAL ATTEMPTS
46 per match; Rank: 3=
Max. 60 v Bosnia and Herzegovina
Min. 34 v Slovakia

105 ON TARGET
18 per match; Rank: 1=

82 OFF TARGET
14 per match; Rank: 3

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 with Solano as pivot or Raúl Gómez in wider position on left
- Less incisive 1-4-0 play, using outstanding skills in long phases of possession
- Harmonised combination play; accurate long passes; good body positioning
- Very dangerous, productive, well-rehearsed kick-ins, free-kicks, corners
- Emphasis on high pressing; fast one-touch transitions after high regains
- Well-organised switches between zonal and man-to-man defending
- 1-2-2 or 1-1-2-1 defence v powerplay; keeper rarely used as outfielder

COACH



Federico 'Fede' Vidal

BORN: 14/12/1973

NATIONALITY: Spanish

IN CHARGE SINCE: 26/07/2018

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	6	4	1	1	67%
Qualifying matches	5	5	0	0	100%

AVERAGES

53%

POSSESSION

Max. 58% v Bos & Herz and Azerbaijan
Min. 43% v Ukraine
Rank: 6

11 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

504

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 552 v Bos & Herz and Slovakia
Min. 422 v Ukraine
Rank: 4

91%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 95% v Slovakia
Min. 85% v Portugal
Rank: 1

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	51	6=
Interceptions	44	13=
Interceptions in opposing half	8	6=
Ball recoveries	34	7=
Ball recoveries in opposing half	10	1=



UKRAINE

GROUP A			QF	SF	3RD PLACE MATCH
NED L 3-2	SRB W 1-6	POR L 0-1	KAZ W 5-3	RUS L 2-3	ESP L 1-4

	APP	MIN	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
1 Kyrylo Tsypun	6	197	0	0
12 Yuriy Savenko	1	1	0	0

	APP	MIN	G	A
OUTFIELD PLAYERS				
2 Vitaliy Radevych	2	19	0	0
4 Volodymyr Razuvanov	3	34	1	0
5 Yaroslav Lebid	6	124	1	1
7 Yevgen Siryi	6	90	1	1
8 Ihor Cherniavskiy	6	96	2	2
9 Danyil Abakshyn	6	126	2	2
10 Serhiy Zhurba	5	63	0	0
11 Artem Farenjuk	4	45	0	0
13 Ihor Korsun	6	105	2	1
14 Petro Shoturma	6	132	2	2
17 Oleksandr Pedias	3	16	0	0
19 Mykhailo Zvarych	6	121	4	1

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE	FOULS	CARDS
28	Suffered 35 Conceded 35	9 0

WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER	
52 plays	Scored 3 Conceded 3

TEAM SHAPES

ATTACKING

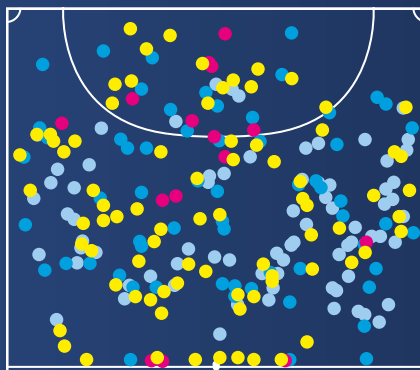


DEFENDING



→ Player movement

SHOT MAP



GOALS	6%
SAVED	31%
BLOCKED	30%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	31%

16 GOALS SCORED (1 own goal)
2.7 per match; Rank: 5=

15 GOALS CONCEDED
2.5 per match; Rank: 5

232 GOAL ATTEMPTS
39 per match; Rank: 9
Max. 49 v Russia
Min. 31 v Serbia

76 ON TARGET
13 per match; Rank: 8=

78 OFF TARGET
13 per match; Rank: 4=

KEY FEATURES

- Mainly 1-3-1 with Abakshyn or Cherniavskiy as strong, athletic pivots
- Preference for mid-block defence, leaving space for vertical counterattacks
- Good, quick off-ball movements to open passing lines to pivot
- High-tempo combinations or direct supply to pivot to play out of press
- Well-drilled individual or zonal defence with pressure on ball-carrier
- Excellent shot-stopping by Tsypun; good defence against flying keeper
- Well-coached, athletic, motivated team with strong collective spirit

COACH



Oleksandr Kosenko
BORN: 18/01/1970
NATIONALITY: Ukrainian
IN CHARGE SINCE: 01/10/2014

TEAM'S EURO RECORD

	All	W	D	L	Win%
Futsal EURO matches	12	4	0	8	33%
Qualifying matches	11	9	0	2	82%

AVERAGES

49%

POSSESSION

Max. 62% v Netherlands
Min. 32% v Serbia
Rank: 8=

9 seconds

AVERAGE DURATION OF POSSESSION

459

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 570 v Spain
Min. 305 v Kazakhstan
Rank: 8

87%

PASSING ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Spain
Min. 79% v Serbia
Rank: 5=

DEFENSIVE

		RANK
Challenges won %	49	11
Interceptions	51	6
Interceptions in opposing half	8	6=
Ball recoveries	31	14
Ball recoveries in opposing half	7	9



EVENT REPORT



Portugal fans had plenty to celebrate when the Ziggo Dome was opened for spectators

THE SHOW DID GO ON



Cardboard cut outs filled the stands in the opening phase of the tournament



BRINGING FUTSAL EURO 2022 TO LIFE AMID THE COVID PANDEMIC REQUIRED A HUGE ORGANISATIONAL EFFORT WORTHY OF THE TROPHY ITSELF

It could easily be a case study at training workshops for event organisers. You have 16 delegations from all over Europe converging on two indoor venues in a country where there's a government-imposed lockdown. Then you add a cosmopolitan squad of match officials, UEFA venue teams, organisers from the host national association (in this case, the KNVB in the Netherlands) and a sizeable pool of volunteers who are essential to keep the logistics ticking. How do you reconcile that with COVID protocols, a rampant Omicron variant and a ban on spectators at sporting events?

That was the challenge facing the crew responsible for getting the Futsal EURO 2022 show on the road. The miracle is that they did it.

The organisational ball started rolling with a series of newsletters back in September 2021 and then, in early November, a meeting involving the 16 national associations who had qualified for the newly expanded final tournament. UEFA's chief medical officer, Zoran Bahtijarević, urged everybody to push forward with vaccination programmes. It sounds easy. But there were participants from some eastern European countries whose vaccination types were not recognised by EU regulations. And many of the players and backroom staff were basically of amateur status – far removed from

the ultra-professional parameters of the outdoor game, where players are constantly monitored by medical teams.

At that stage, the main concern was the Delta variant. Omicron had yet to appear on the radar. When it did, in December, another meeting went into greater detail about the precise measures that needed to be taken in order to minimise the risks entailed in organising the tournament. Then, during the Christmas break, the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship in Canada rang a few more alarm bells when it had to be cancelled midway through due to the number of COVID casualties. UEFA carried out consultations with the KNVB to see if the event could go ahead. But they were confident it would be possible to keep the show on the road by creating bubbles and respecting strict protocols.

On 12 January, a week before the Futsal EURO was due to start, another meeting spelled out the details of the exhaustive on-site testing programmes that needed to be implemented in response to Omicron's worrying contagion rate. Daily testing in the morning – even for the drivers of team buses – had a nuisance value. But everybody understood that the goal was to safeguard health and keep the tournament alive.

Meanwhile, the fact that the Netherlands had gone into a sort of lockdown in December was an additional blow. The original idea was for restrictions to terminate on 15 January, a few days before kick-off. It was hoped that, by then, the lockdown would have led to a reduction in the number of cases and allow spectators into the venues. This did not happen. Sadly. Because 22,000 tickets had already been sold – a very promising level of advance sales. The ticketing programme was immediately put on hold and, when it became obvious that fans could not attend, there was no alternative but to reimburse the people who had bought tickets.

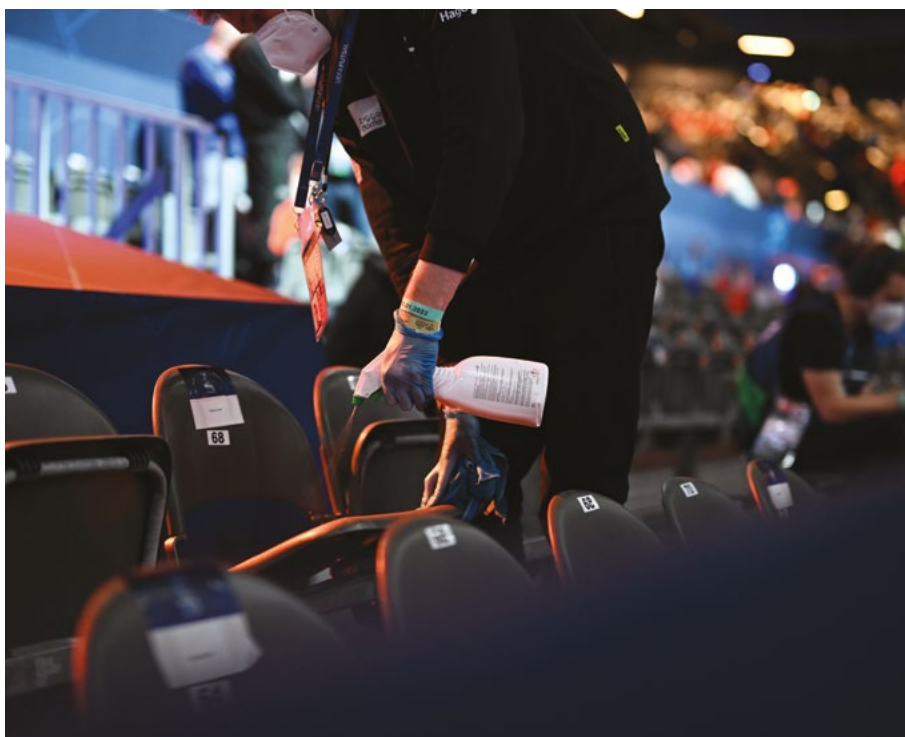
During the first week, matches were played before empty stands. Well, almost empty. The KNVB came up with the creative idea of bringing in colourful fake spectators – one of whom, incidentally, was beheaded by a spectacular long-range shot and kept by the venue team as a memento of a very singular event. "On TV," reflected UEFA's senior futsal competitions manager, Laurent Morel, "the empty stands didn't look so great. So the fake spectators were like planting flowers in a desert. They created a nice environment and it was great to see some of the players taking selfies with them."

But the environment was even better when restrictions were eased in time for the final





The COVID protocol was closely followed to allow games to go ahead and for fans to return to the stands



matchday of the group stage at each venue, before up to 1,250 spectators were admitted for the knockout games at the Ziggo Dome. And what they lacked in numbers, they made up for in decibels – notably the Bosnia and Herzegovina fans who ripped off their shirts and, inspired by some frenzied drumming, launched into song after song.

“The fans made a lot of difference,” explained Jorge Braz, coach of eventual champions Portugal. “When the match starts, I honestly don’t remember if there are zero spectators or 10,000. But when you go to warm up and everything’s empty, something’s missing. You feel ‘This isn’t real futsal; this isn’t real sport.’ At this level, sport exists for the fans. What we felt with all our Portuguese fans in the semi-final and final, those are the greatest sensations you have in a match.”

When Braz’s side lifted the trophy, the other winners were the team who had safely delivered 32 games in such stressful circumstances. Successfully staging Futsal EURO 2022 was little short of a miracle.

COVERING EVERY ANGLE

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER, UEFA FUTSAL EURO 2022 WAS WATCHED BY MILLIONS ON TELEVISION AND ONLINE



A UEFA handheld camera captures the action

Audiences keen to watch the drama unfold at UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 were well served from the first kick to the last – and tuned in to the tournament in large numbers both on television and online.

Every shot, pass and outrageous display of skill was captured from multiple angles at the venues in Amsterdam and Groningen, with Eurovision serving as UEFA's appointed production provider. Eleven cameras were deployed around the playing surface at the Ziggo Dome in the Dutch capital and ten at the MartiniPlaza, from hand-held cameras to crane-mounted ones. There was even a 'beauty shot' camera, employing a fisheye lens for a unique take on the action.

A dedicated sponsor filming crew was also out in Amsterdam for the opening fixtures, semi-finals, third-place match and final delivering dedicated behind-the-scenes content for the tournament's official partners via UEFA's content distribution platform, HIVE.

For the supporters watching at home, this extensive coverage proved a hit. On television, the tournament attracted 19.8 million cumulative live viewers across 14 domestic and 12 neutral broadcasters.

Meanwhile, on average, the finals drew a live audience of 28,000 per matchday across eight domestic and seven neutral broadcasters. And in six markets where direct comparisons could be made to the 2018 edition (Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia and Spain), the cumulative domestic live viewership was up 18.6%. This was largely due to the expansion of the competition from 12 to 16 teams.



19.8 million*
viewers across
14 domestic and
12 neutral television
broadcasters

*not including Russia's domestic audience for the final

18.6%
audience increase
compared to 2018
(in Italy, Poland,
Portugal, Russia,
Slovenia and Spain)

150+
territories able
to watch the
tournament live
on UEFA.tv

Looking closer, some eye-catching figures stood out. The final between Portugal and Russia was watched by 1,120,800 live TV viewers on Portuguese channel RTP1; that was a 28.2% share of the market, more than double RTP1's usual prime-time share of 12.7%. Before that, Portugal's semi-final with Spain drew in 399,000 live TV viewers on Spanish station Teledeporte. This was a 21.8% increase on the TV audience for Spain's last-four contest with Kazakhstan in 2018.

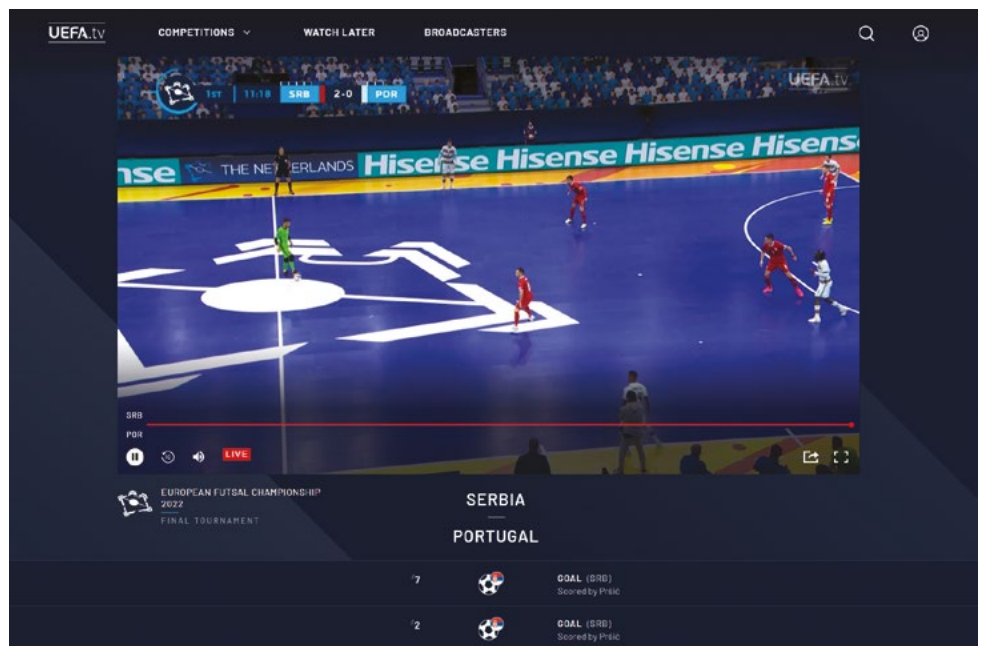
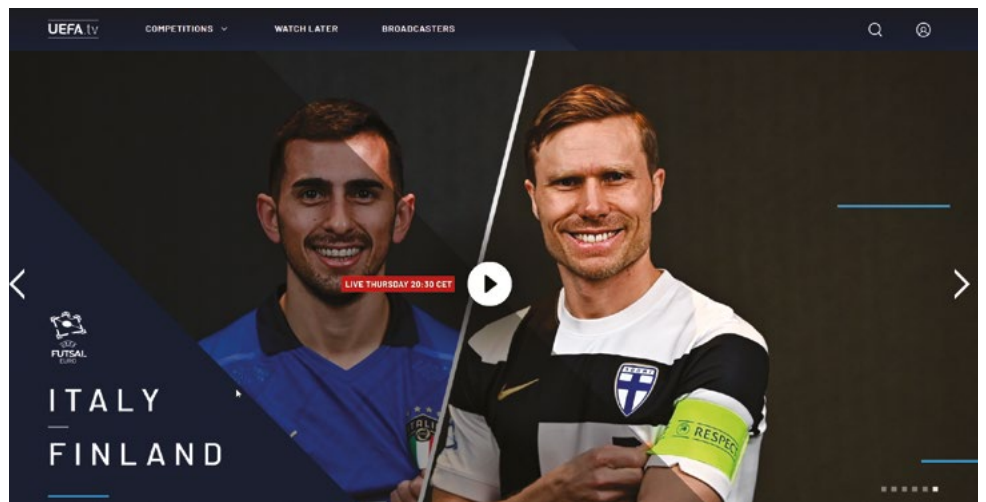
Elsewhere, the domestic live TV audience in markets such as Finland and Georgia – both tournament debutants – grew steadily with every match. In fact, Finland's quarter-final with Portugal was watched by 278,500 live TV viewers on YLE2, a 74.1% increase on the channel's average audience during the group stage and a 18.4% share of the market. This far outstripped YLE2's typical prime-time share of 7.4%.

For many of the nations returning to the finals, the figures were similarly impressive. Matches involving Poland attained an average live TV audience of 195,000 on Polish channel TVP Sport; this was a 38.9% rise compared to the 2018 group stage. As for Kazakhstan, semi-finalists in the two previous editions, 34.5% of the people watching TV during their last-eight tussle with Ukraine tuned in to the contest at some point, hoping in vain to see Higuitya and Co extend their run.

The numbers were likewise encouraging in the host nation, despite their group stage exit. Fixtures involving the Netherlands attracted an average live TV audience of 510,000 on NOS – including 858,000 viewers for the Oranje's meeting with Portugal on Matchday 2, the highest live TV audience of the group stage in any country.

These figures tell only part of the story, however. For futsal fans eager to follow the tournament in unsold television markets, UEFA.tv provided live coverage of all 32 matches. Available

UEFA.tv provided live coverage of all 32 matches in more than 150 territories





Visiting broadcast partners were able to conduct post-match interviews in the flash area

online or downloadable via a multitude of app stores, UEFA's over-the-top football platform streamed the finals from start to finish in more than 150 territories in the end. This figure takes into account both the unsold markets and the co-exclusive element of UEFA's media rights deal with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which allowed UEFA.tv to stream all matches in the non-participating European markets.

In addition, UEFA.tv supplied on-demand video content throughout the competition. This included highlight packages of each game – made available on the platform at midnight CET on every matchday – along with archive footage, goal compilations and a tournament review. Wherever fans were in the world, the best of the action from UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 was just a few clicks away.

UEFA FUTSAL EURO 2022 BROADCAST PARTNERS

EUROPE

Country/Territory	Broadcaster	Country/Territory	Broadcaster	Country/Territory	Broadcaster
Albania	RTSH	Czech Republic	Česká televize	Netherlands	NOS
Andorra	TVE	Faroe Islands	DKDR, TV2 Denmark	North Macedonia	MKRTV
Austria	ORF	Finland	YLE	Poland	TVP
Azerbaijan	Public TV Azerbaijan	Georgia	GPB	Portugal	Canal 11, RTP
Belarus	Belarus TV	Hungary	MTVA	Romania	TVR
Belgium	VRT	Israel	Charlton, KAN	Russia	Match TV
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BHRT	Italy (including San Marino and Vatican City)	RAI	Serbia	RTS Serbia
Bulgaria	BNT	Kazakhstan	KZTV	Slovakia	RTV Slovakia
Croatia	HRT Croatia	Malta	PBS	Slovenia	RTV Slovenia
Cyprus	CyBC	Moldova	TVR	Spain	TVE
		Montenegro	RTCG	Turkey	TRT
				Ukraine	UA:PBC

REST OF WORLD

Africa, Asia and Middle East (Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)	BEIN MENA
Caribbean (Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Falkland Islands, French Guyana, Granada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Nevis, Saba, St Barts, St Christopher, St Eustatius, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Martin, St Pierre & Miquelon, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Tortola, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands)	ESPN
People's Republic of China	CMG, Super Sports Shankai
United States (including American Samoa, Guam, Mariana Islands, Midway, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)	ESPN, TUDN

STRONG SHOWING

UEFA'S GLOBAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH SUPPORTERS AND GROW THEIR BRANDS AT THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

GLOBAL SPONSORS



ALIPAY

In 2018, Alipay agreed an eight-year deal to become a UEFA men's national team football sponsor. The Chinese payment platform giant activated its brand at UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 via guest experiences and LED boards, and leveraged UEFA's digital platforms to promote the Alipay Top Scorer and AntChain Link-Ups. The latter generated high engagement (more than 1.5 million video views) thanks to content showcasing the best passing sequences in given matches. WorldFirst (a sub-brand of Alipay) also took the opportunity to promote the tournament on its social platforms, bringing fans closer to the game.



BOOKING.COM

The sponsor of all UEFA national team competitions since 2018, Booking.com was a Futsal EURO partner for the second time in 2022, having first teamed up for the previous edition four years ago. The tournament provided the company with an excellent platform to associate with digital content relating to match fixtures (more than 50 social media posts), as well as the Rivals Reunited campaign. It was likewise visible across LED boards, the venues' giant screens and the tournament programme.



FEDEX

In 2019, FedEx became the official logistics partner of all UEFA men's national team competitions – including Futsal EURO 2022, the last event of the partnership. The American company's presence on-site was amplified through LED boards, the venues' giant screens and the tournament programme. It also benefited from a digital presence on UEFA's futsal channels, via FedEx Performance Zone video content.



HISENSE

The Chinese manufacturer has been a partner of all UEFA national team competitions since 2016. This time it focused on two digital activations: Skill of the Day and Player of the Tournament. Branded videos were posted on UEFA's social channels as well as the video section of UEFA.com, with various Hisense markets using these videos to amplify the company's reach. LED boards, giant-screen videos and an advert in the tournament programme also formed part of its commercial strategy.



MONDO

A longstanding flooring supplier of UEFA futsal competitions, Mondo always aims to provide the best possible playing surface for the competitors and meet the needs of the game. Once again it delivered a high-quality floor for UEFA Futsal EURO 2022 (the Fast Break System) and was also visible across LED boards, the venues' giant screens and in the tournament programme.



VOLKSWAGEN

The German motor firm has been the mobility partner for all UEFA national team competitions since 2018. For the 2022 edition of the Futsal EURO it promoted the content-driven asset Goal of the Day, which showcased the best goal after each matchday; a compilation video highlighting the most outstanding goals was also posted on UEFA's social channels. In addition, Volkswagen's commercial strategy made use of LED boards, giant-screen videos and a full-page advert in the tournament programme.



NATIONAL SPONSORS

AD

An online and offline Dutch newspaper, AD shared futsal stories with the Netherlands before and during the tournament. By doing so it literally wrote the history of the tournament, communicating to people at home every day. The paper also activated its national partnership during the finals through LED boards, participation and giant-screen adverts.



BASIC-FIT

As the biggest fitness chain in the Netherlands, Basic-Fit's vision is to "make fitness a basic", a goal that meshed neatly with the ethos of UEFA Futsal EURO 2022. With that in mind, the Dutch company launched an activation at the Ziggo Dome once spectators were allowed to attend matches, offering a one-year subscription to its gyms as a prize for the best dance. It also displayed its brand via LED boards, giant-screen adverts and the tournament programme.



FC STRAAT

The online football club of Soufiane Touzani aims to promote futsal in the Netherlands and, in particular, to engage young people in urban centres. A former Dutch futsal international with 1 million YouTube subscribers and 1.2 million Instagram followers, Touzani is the most famous football influencer in the Netherlands; he uses his platform to connect futsal to the streets by creating videos. FC Straat bolstered its brand via LED boards, giant-screen adverts and the tournament programme.



SPINNIN' RECORDS

In collaboration with Futsal EURO 2022, this Dutch music label that hosts worldwide DJs and producers launched the Goaltone Contest, created to select the music to be played at the host venues after every goal. The jury, led by DJ duo Blasterjaxx, chose the winning Goaltone from more than 300 submissions; Blasterjaxx also created and produced the kick-off tune for the finals. Spinnin' Records boosted its visibility on LED boards, in giant-screen adverts and in the tournament programme.



VOETBALZONE

The biggest online football news platform in the Netherlands created futsal content for the tournament. In the months leading up to it, Voetbalzone published videos, blogs and interviews with various players and influencers, while also generating content to introduce the participating nations. During the tournament it shared a daily match report with its millions of users, in addition to displaying its brand via LED boards, giant-screen adverts and the tournament programme.



GETTING THE WORD OUT

FANS FLOCKED TO UEFA'S WEBSITE AND DIGITAL CHANNELS AS THE FINALS SPARKED A SURGE IN ENGAGEMENT LEVELS

The 12th edition of the UEFA European Futsal Championship was the biggest ever in more ways than one. While an unprecedented 16 teams vied for the trophy, the tournament's official website and UEFA's social media platforms connected with supporters at a remarkable rate.

UEFA.com's coverage of the finals was a case in point. Colourful, comprehensive and up to the minute, the Futsal EURO section of the website generated a record 1.8 million visits and 4.3 million page views – 32% and 58% increases respectively compared to the 2018 edition. Those figures were even more impressive considering the fact that fans were unable to attend matches during the group stage due to COVID restrictions.

Supporters were particularly drawn to staples such as fixtures and standings, while the live matchcentres and video offerings proved popular as well. Indeed, with four interviewers on-site in the Netherlands, UEFA.com delivered a total of 137 post-match flash interviews for its users and broadcast partners – in eight different languages. And this emphasis on multilingual content yielded results for

the written output too, with Kazakhstan and Ukraine the biggest markets for UEFA.com's finals coverage, and the Russian-language version of the site accruing 41% of traffic.

There were even more eye-catching results on UEFA's social media channels. While 2,000 cross-platform posts represented a rise of 49% compared to 2018, those posts generated 140 million impressions – an increase of 402% on the previous edition. In a similar vein, 44 million video views marked a jump of 547%, while total engagements soared by 1,507% to 3 million.

Facebook emerged as the leading channel in terms of reach, views and engagements, but it was on Instagram where the greatest number of new followers were added. The @uefafutsal Instagram account grew by 50,000 followers during the course of the tournament, half of the overall total of new followers; this was a 294% improvement compared to the 2018 edition.

Twitter, meanwhile, led the way in terms of driving referrals. It prompted 16,500 link clicks, as supporters turned to UEFA's online coverage of the action in Amsterdam and Groningen.

1.8 million visits on UEFA.com, an increase of 32% compared to 2018

3 million engagements on UEFA's social media platforms, up 1,507% on 2018

100,000 new followers across all of UEFA's social media platforms





ROLL OF HONOUR

2022 Portugal

2018 Portugal

2016 Spain

2014 Italy

2012 Spain

2010 Spain

2007 Spain

2005 Spain

2003 Italy

2001 Spain

1999 Russia

1996 Spain

Pany Varela
takes his turn
with the prize

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Portugal's Bruno Coelho hits a pass against the Netherlands



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