**UEFA WOMEN’S EURO 2017
PLAYER INTERVIEWS ON WOMEN’S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT**

In their native language with English subtitles.

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|  | **TEAM** | **PLAYER** | **QUESTION** | **ANSWER** |
| 1 | Austria | Carina Wenninger | **How has women’s football in Austria developpped?** | Women’s football in Austria has developed in a really good way, we have a promising mix of young players. It has taken a little bit longer in Austria for that process to happen, but we are making really good progress now. There’s also a national centre in Austria for women’s football, which is producing a lot of great young players. I think that the combination with the veterans that we have make up a great national team and that is now being reflected in our performances.  |
| 2 | Belgium | Tessa Wullaert | **How important are the fans?** | It’s always nice to have a lot of supporters behind you during games and it will definitely give the Netherlands an extra boost. I hope that’ll be the case for us as well because it’s not far away. I hope our supporters will be able to help us towards victory.  |
| 3 | Denmark | Line Hansen | **How have things improved since you started playing football?** | 10.18When I was in Denmark and I told someone that I played football, they would say: “And what else do you do?” When I went to Sweden and told them that I played for Tyresö and the national team, they thought it was cool. There was just much more respect there, while in Denmark it was just considered a hobby and they always asked what else I did. But I think that’s changing.10.38The respect towards women’s football has changed a lot.10.48 |
| 4 | Denmark | Line Hansen | **What needs to improve?** | 10.49Well, we just have to keep plugging away. Things have changed but we are far from where we could be and I think that we still have a lot to change in Denmark. One of the biggest problems there is that the players have to have full-time jobs aside from football. They play for the national team and they should be professionals.11.09 |
| 5 | England | Mark Sampson | **How will this tournament be perceived?** | 24.33I think that people are tuning into this tournament for the first time in a long time, and if it’s their first experience of women’s football they’ll be pleasantly surprised by the standard of play.24.42And the quality of play which the teams are producing on the field, which is the most important thing when it comes down to it.24.50I’m lucky enough to have a little daughter, who is five months old, and I’d be absolutely proud to take her to any women’s football match because of the atmosphere generated.24.59 |
| 6 | England | Steph Houghton | **Five countries are making their debut in the EURO this year. Does that show how the game is expanding and improving?** | 14.31I think it’s great that there are five more teams that are making their debut in the European Championship. I think that’s what we strived to do: to make many good football teams around Europe. And for us as footballers, you want as much competition as you possibly can. (14.47) So the addition of those five teams, it’s great to see how much they’ve improved and how much people have invested into trying to make women’s football in each country as good as it can be. 14.58 |
| 7 | France | Claire Lavogez | **There’s a group of supporters getting organised to come and follow the team. That’s new. It must feel really good that people are getting together to come and support you, right?** | 10.36Yes, and that’s where you can see the evolution of women’s football. Having people behind us, supporting us, feeling people loving us is really important. We know that there are a lot of people who like women’s football in France, and we’re always thrilled to see them in the stadiums.11.04 |
| 8 | France | Eugenie Le Sommer | **There are five new nations discovering the EURO for the first time. Women’s football is definitely becoming a thing.** | 17.07It is. Now there are more teams competing, and that shows that all the teams are getting better. And each competition - World Cup, Olympic Games and now EURO – is getting harder to win. There are fewer big scores in those competitions, so you don’t know who is going to prevail.17.30 |
| 9 | Germany | Anja Mittag | **Five countries are making their debut in the EURO this year. Does that show how the game is expanding and improving?** | It’s not as easy to qualify for a big tournament now, be it the Euros, the World Cup or the Olympics. I think it’s great. That’s what we want in women’s football. Things were very different 25 years ago. Things are moving in the right direction, and I hope it’ll get even better in the long term.  |
| 10 | Germany | Anja Mittag | **How will this tournament be received in the Netherlands?** | I hope there’ll be interest because Holland is a football-crazy country. They’ve produced some excellent football, and in the women’s game too. So, I hope they’ll support their country, and maybe other countries as well, and that they’ll go to the stadiums and watch the games. Hopefully, they’ll see some good women’s football. |
| 11 | Germany | Steffi Jones | **What is your message to young girls interested in football?** | (22:51) They should continuously keep learning and have fun doing it. Those are the most important values to convey: fun, pleasure in playing, passion, responsibility. All of those belong to football, but fun is the most important factor. This is my message: have fun, because it’s a great sport. 23:19 |
| 12 | Iceland | Dagný Brynjarsdóttir | **Five countries will be making their debut at the EURO this year. Does that show how the game is expanding and improving?** | 08.15Yes, I think that shows how much European football has improved. The nations that have not been as good are stepping up, and the fact that all the teams are getting better is good for women’s football all over the world.08.31I think the matches will get more interesting and more evenly contested and it will be great for women’s football to have more strong nations. 08.39 |
| 13 | Italy | Sara Gama | **What would you like this tournament to be remembered for?**  | 09:58I’ve read some reports about what happened in Sweden in 2013 – how many TV channels broadcast the matches, how many people bought tickets …10:15I hope those figures will increase, and I hope the impact of this tournament on social media will be so positive that it can actually have an impact in our country.10:30I hope it will be remembered in my country, and that it can have a positive effect on women’ football. That’s my hope for the tournament.10:38 |
| 14 | Netherlands | Vivianne Miedema | **What do you think should be done to promote the women’s game more, to improve it and take it to the next level?** | 01:59I think there should be even more promotion, also in the Netherlands. I think it should be on TV more and there should be bigger sponsors and, of course, we should play attractive football. We have an important role to play – we need to make people want to come back and watch us again.02:12 |
| 15 | Norway | Andrine Hegerberg | **What still needs to improve in women’s football, to get better and better?** | 14.21Yes, areas of improvement are always a bit hard, because … who has responsibility, and stuff? In England, some clubs have great facilities, staff, knowledge and stuff like that, which gives the players the opportunity to develop. So there’s also a big responsibility on us players to actually develop and increase the interest in the sport. That’s why I think this EURO could be a brilliant opportunity for that − to engage more fans, get some profiles, people to look up to, girls coming to games and leagues, and stuff like that. So hopefully this EURO is going to be a positive one for women’s football. 15.14 |
| 16 | Portugal | Claudia Neto | **How important is it that you can come back and inspire kids, girls, to take up football?** | 01:19I think it is important for young girls to have people to look up to, such as myself or other members of the national team.01:27 We have to be good role models and show them the way. I think we, the older players, need to help their development through education and setting a good example, so that they can also prosper not only in the national team and at club level, but also in their lives.01:45 |
| 17 | Portugal | Claudia Neto | **Do you think that girls’ football in Portugal is improving?**  | 04:53I think women’s football in Portugal has been developing a lot in recent years. The Portuguese FA, clubs and other associations have made a lot of effort to develop the female game, but it’s a work in progress.05:08All of the players and clubs are working hard on that front, and we are on the right track. I think we need to keep working in that direction and keep improving so that one day, hopefully, we can have a professional league. 05:22 |
| 18 | Russia | Elena Morozova | **What’s the perception of women’s football in Russia?**  | 03.34People still get surprised, some people don’t even know a sport like that exists in our country. A very small number of people attend the games – 100 people maximum – and that’s almost nothing, compared to the thousands in Germany, Sweden. 03.54What do we need to do? We need to find coaches, and train them. We need to get young girls together, get them interested somehow. And we need to invest in development little by little, starting with children’s sport.04.07 |
| 19 | Scotland | Kim Little | **How does it feel to be representing Scotland in their very first final tournament?** | 01.38I’ve been involved for about ten years now, in the national team. I’ve played a lot of campaigns, so to be able to head to the EURO, a competitive tournament ... that kind of excitement is … Yeah, I’m just looking forward to it really.01.54 |
| 20 | Spain | Jorge Vilda | **What do you think needs to be done to promote women’s football even more?** | 09.31I think the best thing we can do is to give a good reason for it by playing good matches, and not just think about winning but the way we get those wins. We try to play attacking football, a style of football that attracts the fans. It can’t be any other way. I believe in that style of football and our success lies in that philosophy, in the essence of La Roja. 09.56 |
| 21 | Spain | Marta Torrejon | **How have things improved since you started playing football?** | 07.13They’ve improved a lot. I started playing when I was 7 years old and everything has changed so much from then until now, where I’m 27. Women’s football used to be unimaginable. When I started playing, I didn’t know it would come this far.07.33I hope that the future for the next generation of girls who want to play will be even better.07.37 |
| 22 | Sweden | Lotta Schelin | **What does it mean to be playing in this fourth EURO for you?** | 02.57First of all, it’s fantastic to be playing against the best teams in Europe because there are a lot of good sides. That means that there isn’t such a big difference between playing in a European Championship or in the Olympics or World Cup. 03.10Of course, it’s different teams and a different style of football. But the EURO has a lot of prestige and there is a lot happening within Europe. 03.27 |
| 23 | Sweden | Lotta Schelin | **How important is it to inspire girls who are coming through, and who are going to be the next generation?** | 01.18It’s always important. It’s what we are doing all the time, every day, both in our work at club level and for our country. Then when a tournament comes around, that obviously offers a great opportunity to showcase football at its best and boost interest in the game.01.39That is when we get to be role models, which is important for young girls. They need football players to look up to, and to know that they can achieve that as well. It’s fantastic and an opportunity that we’ve got to take advantage of.01.56 |
| 24 | Sweden | Lotta Schelin | **As such an icon, and a leading example of one of the world’s best women players, how would you assess how you feel about the development of women’s football in Europe since you started?** | 06.53A lot has happened both at club and international level. Maybe even more at club level, where the development has taken such big steps over the past few years.07.08I’m very happy to have got to be a part of that, to have seen the change and how far we’ve come. I think that process will only continue. Today, women’s football commands more recognition – people know that it exists.07.28It’s a sport that is steadily growing and has great potential for development. We’ve come a long way, and once again I’m really happy to have been a part of it and to have helped build something. It feels really great!07.47 |
| 25 | Switzerland | Ramona Bachmann | **Do you see signs that everything in women’s football is progressing and becoming more professional?** | 06:45I definitely see great progress. Men’s clubs have realised what an impact they can make by investing in women’s football. More and more famous men’s football clubs are investing in women’s football, [07:04]and at the moment it doesn’t even cost much. By investing a bit you can have a big impact. Women’s football is becoming bigger and bigger. There is more and more media interest. I think that there’s still a lot more growth to come in the future.07:21  |
| 26 | Switzerland | Ramona Bachmann | **How do you think people will look back on Women’s EURO 2017?** | 07:36I think people will view the EURO as a game-changing event, illustrating the growing attention captured by women’s football,[07:52]with more sponsors starting to invest and the media starting to cover women’s football more. Hopefully they will also be looking back on a Swiss victory!08:02 |