



adidas – Euro 2012 Player quotes



Bastian Schweinsteiger - Germany

How do you feel ahead of Euro 2012?

Euro 2012 will be my third European Championship, something I feel very fortunate about. I was given my senior debut at Euro 2004 and I loved every tournament I've played in for Germany. In the last European Championships tournament I think we surprised people by reaching the Final but we played really well and deserved to get there. Ahead of this tournament we feel confident based on our performance in qualifying but we know the quality of the teams around us so we won't be getting carried away. We know if we play our football and we keep our players injury free then we have a good chance of doing well in the tournament but we'll have to wait and see.

Your first game is against Portugal, how will you approach the game and who are the danger players on their side?

Our first game is a vital one for us, we've played Portugal a few times in the last few tournaments and more recently - they are unpredictable. Their style of counter attacking football combined with players like Nani and Ronaldo make them a side you have to take very seriously. We'll need to work very hard to deny them space and try and dominate possession. We have some great attacking players for Germany with the likes of Klose, Podolski, Muller, and Ozil so we'll be looking to keep the ball and contain the game in their half.

Lars Jacobsen - Denmark

Denmark sailed through qualifying for the European Championships, how do you assess your chances at the tournament?

I think it's going to be a big challenge for us. We're going up against three of the top 10 teams in the world in our group. It's going to be tough, but also a great challenge for us where we have everything to win, give it all we've got and hopefully go home with some proud results. We're definitely not going there just to lie on our backs. We're looking forward to getting enough points to carry on through the group.

Your first game is against the Netherlands, what do you think of them as a team and what do you think you need to do to beat them?

A terrific team, almost been unbeatable in their qualifications, except in a match against Sweden but I think this was when they had already gone through though to the Finals. But through the last qualifications, they've been unbeatable all way through, and were in the finals of the World Cup of 2010 and were only beaten by Spain - that tells us about the strength their team has. As I see it, they're one of the top 4 teams on a worldwide scale. So, they're a terrific team, and it's going to be a difficult match for us. And it's actually the second time in a row - at the finals - we're going to meet them in the first match, so it's going to be a tough game for us but we'll be ready.



How important is it to get off to get a good start in the tournament?

We have to have our players all playing to their potential on the day – Holland have the advantage in that they have 100s of top class players to pick from, whereas in Denmark it is a little more limited in the terms of our talent pool. There's more people playing football in Holland and they have many more star players playing for different elite clubs in Europe. If it's Van Persie, or if it's Robben, or whoever it is – there's a lot to pick from, so it's one of those matches where every one of our 11 players must give it their best, and we need a bit of luck too.

Nani – Portugal

How do you feel ahead of the Euro 2012 tournament?

I'm feeling positive about the Euro 2012 tournament; I hope we're going to have an excellent championship. We're in a good position to do that, we've shown that our team has the quality to face anyone, and I think what we need to do is enter each game with confidence. To succeed in the tournament we know we need to concentrate as much as possible, and ensure that the team is united. We need to be really focused on the difficult games we'll have – we've got a tough group but we're all looking forward to it.

Your first game is against Germany, how important is it to get off to a winning start?

It's very important; obviously, getting the first three points is very important for any team to boost confidence for the next game in the championship. I think the most important thing is to get a positive result as it will calm the nerves and instill more confidence. Our group is a difficult one so it's likely to be quite tight and every result and point will be important.