



adidas – Euro 2012 Player quotes



Thomas Muller - Germany

How do you feel ahead of Euro 2012?

The World Cup in South Africa two years ago was an amazing experience. To play for my country and for us to progress to the Semi Final of the competition was a fantastic achievement. Obviously we were disappointed to lose to Spain but we were a young and relatively inexperienced team and we learned a lot from that tournament. We've managed to continue our form throughout qualifying and we are certainly coming into Euro 2012 feeling confident. However, we've got a very tough group – the Dutch team in particular has some world class players, the likes of Robin Van Persie make them a very dangerous side.

Who are the teams and players to look out for at Euro 2012?

We've played a few friendlies in the past six months and taken on the Ukraine, France, and Holland – all of which were tough matches. I think the Ukraine, especially at home, will be difficult to beat and France, who beat us a few months ago, will be a real force in the tournament. Obviously Holland and Spain are very strong teams who have performed excellently for the past few years in International football so they'll probably be favourites for the tournament. Xavi for Spain controls the pace of games very effectively so if we do come up against them then he'll be a big player for us to try and keep quiet. The Spanish defence is very strong, I played against Casillas in the Champions League and there is no question he is one of the best goalkeepers in the World.

Your first game was against Portugal and your second is against Holland, tell us about these?

We have a very tough group and getting a positive result in our first game against Portugal was very important for us. For the upcoming game, the Dutch are a very good all round side, they have quality players all over the pitch and we'll have to work hard to contain them. Robin Van Persie has obviously had a great season in the Premier League so it'll be a big task to keep him quiet.

Lars Jacobsen - Denmark

Who are the teams to look out for during the Euro?

I'm hoping that people keep a sharp eye on Denmark, I hope we can have a good tournament and obviously we were very pleased with our start. However, my favourites to win it are Germany, they've been that in my mind for the last year. They have a very interesting range of players and a new young team who are really strong. They have history of doing well in big tournaments and I think its their time to win a big one again.

The Danish team also contains some emerging stars, can you tell us more about the team?

We've had some generational changes over the past year on the national team. We've had a difficult period in international football where we have missed out on a couple of qualifications in a row so gradually there have been more and more changes. Some of the young players have really broken through in the Euro 2012 qualification phase. Christian Eriksen and Niki Zimling have both really made an impact



on the team, Kron Deling has also played amazingly, and there have been other young players who have really contributed a new energy to the team. Its not always necessary to completely overhaul a team, some new players have joined and worked well with the existing players to really help take us forward.

Tell us your thoughts ahead of your game against Portugal?

We know Portugal really well, we've met them a lot of time within the past couple of years so we know them inside out and they know us inside out. We know how they play and they know how we are going to play so its going to be fun to see how this one unfolds. We were obviously pleased with our performance in qualification but it's a different story when you are playing in Finals on neutral ground. They are another team who could go far in the tournament so it's a big challenge for us and I think our group will be very tight.

Nani – Portugal

Which players will you need to look out for at the tournament?

I think we as a team cannot think about individual players, I think the collective will be more prominent, in the case of Germany, as we saw, collectively they are very strong and if we just think about one player, we may experience problems, so we have to be prepared to face a strong team, we have to concentrate on each team and each game and do our best.

You have a tough group to face, how do you feel about it?

There is no doubt we've got a tough group – Holland are a very strong team and they've performed well in the past few tournaments. Denmark are also a strong team with some good emerging players so we'll need to be at our best in the next two games to get the results we want.