



adidas – Euro 2012 Player quotes



Grzegorz Wojtkowiak - Poland

How did you feel when you found out that Poland and Ukraine would be hosting the European Championships?

I felt great. It's been like four years, but I remember it like it was yesterday. I feel happy not only about the team, but for the whole country. People abroad only see stadiums and maybe airports. I see roads, new grounds, hundreds of little pitches... everything. We made a big leap thanks to Euro.

Can you tell us about your experiences of playing for Poland at home in the past?

Great, just great. In Poland playing for the national team is something that everyone dreams of. Fulfilling this dream is a turning point in everyone's career.

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

The Spanish are the clear-cut favourites for me.

Who are the players to look out for during the tournament?

Iniesta is a great player. There will be many good ones, like Xavi or Van Persie, but Andres gets the edge.

Your last game is against the Czech Republic, how do you feel about this game and what pressure / expectation do you think there is on the Polish national team?

We have to start well in the game and have confidence. If that happens we can reach the elimination phase. The Czech team is less physical than the other teams in our group, but compensates with brilliant technique – they are very offensively minded so we'll have to play well. I can feel the pressure going into this last game but it is the moment I've been waiting for my whole life. I've been playing as a pro for almost a decade, and I can sincerely say that nothing will top the Euro in Poland. It's just bigger than any other tournament for us.

Alexandr Kerzhakov – Russia

How do you feel about Euro 2012 so far?

We were obviously disappointed not to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa but we had the perfect response in winning our Euro 2012 qualifying group. We feel like we have a good chance of progressing through our group and we are pleased with our performance so far. However we now have Greece who won the tournament only a few years ago, we expect a tough match.

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

I played in Spain for a few seasons and saw their progression first hand. Spain have had a fantastic four or five years in International football and I'm hopeful that we can have the same sort of progression in Russia. For this tournament I would say they are favourites but I also think Germany are a very strong side – they have an excellent understanding between the players in their side and it shows in their



football. We also played Italy recently, they were a very strong side and good test for us ahead of the tournament.

Your next game is against Greece and you have the chance to win the group, tell us your thoughts ahead of this game?

Our last game is against Greece who won the tournament in 2004. They've played in the major tournaments since then and did well in qualifying so we expect the game to be tight. The midfield will probably be very packed in this game so we'll have to work hard to create space and chances and put ourselves in a position to score goals. They have players like Karagounis and Gekas who have good tournament experience so we expect them to be tough to break down.