



adidas – Euro 2012 Player quotes



Bastian Schweinsteiger – Germany

Your last game is against Denmark, tell us about that?

We were pleased with our second game against Holland, they are one of the best teams in World football - they have a great balance of players across their team and great experience with a number of players with over 50 caps so it was a good win for us. The third game is against Denmark who we've not played against for a few years but they qualified strongly. They've got some good young players in their side and we'll be wary of them. The opportunity against Denmark is similar to that against Portugal, we'll be aiming to contain their attacking players whilst keeping plenty of the ball and feeding our forwards and wingers.

Which teams and players are you watching out for so far at the tournament?

We played against France before the tournament and it was an interesting game. France beat us at home this year and they were really impressive, they moved the ball very quickly and their attacking players caused us some problems. I play with Franck Ribery at Bayern so I know all about his quality, they also have the likes of Jeremy Menez, Florent Malouda, and Samir Nasri who are all great attacking talents – I think France will be a team to watch in the tournament. In terms of players, it's very difficult to pin down who you think will have a good tournament. There have been players who have had great seasons across Europe, but there is also usually a player who emerges at the tournament – though that is difficult to predict!

Lars Jacobsen - Denmark

Tell us your thoughts ahead of your game against Germany and your chances of progressing past the group stages?

Well Germany, who were my tip before the tournament, have obviously played very well and it's going to be a tough match for us. They are pretty much assured of qualifying so they may play a slightly different team against us but we're going to have to deliver on the highest level possible, all 11 players are going to have to be at their best for us to get a result and qualify. We also need a bit of luck with the other game.

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. It's 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.