

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

WELCOME

June 2008.

Hello and welcome to this extra special Euro 2008 Betting Issue produced by The Secret Betting Club. Through our contacts in the betting world we have drawn together some of the finest sports betting minds to get the lowdown on the best betting advice for the Euro 2008 tournament.

Despite no actual on the pitch interest involving the home nations, Euro 2008 will still be a great viewing spectacle and at the very least a fantastic opportunity to make some money betting. If your own country did not qualify, betting on the tournament could provide you with an extra incentive to watch the games if you need one.

Each expert listed in this issue has a proven history of making a profit betting on football and we have no doubt that as you read the detailed analysis you will get a real insight into the workings of a betting professional. No stone has been left unturned in the quest to take advantage of what should be one of the biggest tournaments for betting turnover ever seen.

Take your time to read the thoughts of each expert and follow them in on a number of their advised bets should you so wish. Each of the experts listed will also be supplying further advice as the tournament wears on, so be sure to check out each service for details on how to pick up more of their advice.

If you enjoy this free issue, be sure to visit us at the Secret Betting Club to let us know your thoughts, as we would love to hear from you.

Here is to a profitable Euro 2008!

Mike Bishop
Euro 2008 Editor

CONTENTS:

Welcome:	Page 1.
About Us:	Page 2.
Sample Edition:	Page 2.
Euro 2008, The Experts	Page 3.
Sports Investor:	Page 4.
Mr X:	Page 15.
The Oracle:	Page 26.
StatsOnSport:	Page 37.
Greg Gordon:	Page 40.
Betting Podcasts:	Page 79.
Racing Proofing:	Page 80.
Friday Freebie:	Page 80.
Disclaimer:	Page 81.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

SECRET BETTING CLUB: ABOUT US

The Secret Betting Club is a private member services dedicated to illustrating exactly how to make money betting. We do this by researching and monitoring different advisory services and recommending who to follow to do exactly this. Equally, we also report on those tipster services that we feel you should avoid and in doing so can save you money.

We have been in operation since May 2006 and have produced over 25 issues of our renowned monthly reports, which contain all the information you need to get started on the quest to make money betting.

We ourselves are professional gamblers who put our own money on the line in our quest to make regular profits from sports. We do this by following the exact methods that we share with all members.

In fact, you can see evidence of our actual success by visiting www.secretbettingclub.com/evidence and viewing real screen grabs from our own personal betting accounts.

We enjoy (as do many of our members) a lifestyle supported by professional gambling and it is our mission to make this happen for all. Put simply, it is possible to make money betting!

By joining the Secret Betting Club, you will automatically have an edge over thousands of punters still scratching around for consistent profits.

Don't delay, join today by visiting www.secretbettingclub.com

Mike Bishop & Dan Jones
Editors - Secret Betting Club.

FREE: SAMPLE EDITION

If you would like to see a sample edition of our work at the Secret Betting Club and get a flavour of what exactly it is that we do, you can now pick up a free sample edition.

Simply visit www.secretbettingclub.com and enter your email address at the top of the page where instructed. We will then forward on immediately an example of our work to you.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

EURO 2008: THE EXPERTS

This Euro 2008 special issue features contributions from five different experts from the world of football betting advice. Each expert has a pedigree of betting success and has been specifically chosen to supply the advice found in this special edition. As well as their own advised value bets, you will also find detailed analysis and insight on each country and the thoughts on their strengths and weaknesses. All of this combined will help to give you every possible advantage when it comes to making money during Euro 2008.

Here's a quick summary of each expert and the content they have provided.

Page 4: Sports Investor

Top teams, outliers and useful statistics for alternative markets such as corners.

Page 15: Insider Mr X

Outright winner and group performance analysis and top scorer tips.

Page 26: The Oracle

In-depth group by group and top scorer analysis.

Page 37: StatsOnSports

Surprising trends and half time/ full time analysis for in play betting.

Page 40: Greg Gordon

Complete in depth analysis of each team making use of ELO ratings.

For each expert we have listed their specific betting advice for the tournament and provided the best odds available at the time of publishing. As the opinion of each expert is well respected and followed by many shrewd gamblers, there may well be changes in the odds on offer as the bookmakers react and try and limit their exposure on each bet.

We recommend that you use an odds comparison service such as at www.oddschecker.com or <http://odds.football-data.co.uk/euro-2008> to look up the best prices on each selection.

Also check out <http://www.racingproofing.com/fridayfreebie/bestodds.html> & http://www.racingproofing.com/fridayfreebie/book_promo.html for the best bookmaker deals and latest Euro 2008 promotions.

If you have any questions about this issue or wish to contact the editor, feel free to do so via mike@secretbettingclub.com

All that remains is to wish you a very successful and enjoyable Euro 2008 tournament!

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

SPORTS INVESTOR: EURO 2008 EXPERT

Website address: <http://www.sports-investor.net>

Sports-Investor is a sports handicapping service that focuses on some of Europe's biggest football leagues. The service is a culmination of a skill set developed over more than a decade. The markets used offer theoretical advantages over conventional fixed odds betting and increase the likelihood of profitability. Sports-Investor combines a deep-rooted understanding of markets, a robust statistical framework and an understanding of the processes that determine the odds, with the subjective elements of football that markets struggle to price-in.

This unique approach to analyzing value has enabled Sports-Investor to uncover value from some of Europe's biggest leagues on a consistent basis, for the last 2 years. Covering the big leagues means that on average, odds movements are relatively small and the service is practical to follow. Additionally, it allows users to watch a fair share of selections live on the television and the service certainly combines the main aim of profitability with an enjoyable betting experience. In addition to over 550 selections that have delivered at a yield of over 13% each, Sports Investor has provided members with previews, advice, analyses and money management guidance on a regular basis. This is a service that takes pride in turning its customers into better gamblers and better investors.

While Euro 2008 is likely to be a relatively low-key event at Sports-Investor, we encourage you to get acquainted with the service and register on their site. Registration is free and those who register on the Sports-Investor mailing list will receive special offers including discounted rates on future subscriptions. Alternatively, you can contact them at support@sports-investor.net

SPORTS INVESTOR EURO 2008 BETS

Here are the bets currently advised by Sports Investor for Euro 2008. For details on how he arrived at these selections, please read the analysis below.

Portugal to Win Group A

Current best odds - 11/8
with [Bet365](#), [VCBet](#) & [Blue Square](#)

Check the exchanges for
better odds

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

SPORTS INVESTOR EURO 2008 ANALYSIS

EURO 2008 GUIDEBOOK: Factors worth considering

When you're looking at the overall markets of any event, there are a host of factors to consider, if you're trying to unearth an edge over the market. As with any other market - the process always involves combining what the market does know (the numbers), with what the market doesn't always know (subjective elements) and what the market chooses to ignore (biases). In general, the biases are less prevalent in international fixtures than they are in club games, particularly when England isn't involved! The numbers game at events such as Euro 2008 isn't as straight forward as it is in the leagues - international fixtures are sporadic, and data from 10 years ago isn't always relevant. Consequently, the numbers are based on smaller samples and tend to be less robust.

The subjective elements at major events often take on greater importance than they would in a run of the mill league fixture. Factors such as leadership and confidence levels are quite often more important on the big stage. Fitness levels, tactical elements and the quality of a squad always play a part and are definitely worth focussing on as well. As the tournament progresses, being able to quantify various factors is ultimately the key to being able to uncover genuine value.

Let's start with a look at the Ante-post markets and concentrate on the elements that are likely to be significant factors in this year's competition.

THE BEST TEAMS...

There are 6 teams that are a cut above the rest in terms of quality. That list would have to include Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands. Let's start with those 6 and move on to some of the others..

SPAIN:

- Spain qualified in first place from Group F with a 9-1-2 (GD+15) record.
- Spain look OK at the back, particularly with Aragones now showing an inclination to play Ramos at RB, while pairing Puyol and Marchena in the centre of defence. In Iker Casillas they have the most in-form goalkeeper in Europe, this season.
- Fabregas, Xabi Alonso, Xavi and Marcos Senna make the central midfield positions well contested. Aragones' challenge will be to ensure the squad is kept happy despite big name omissions.
- Out wide, there are several notable absentees - no Joaquin and no Vicente means that the natural wide players in this squad are David Silva and Santi Cazorla, though the likes of De La Red and Iniesta can also be deployed out wide. Relatively speaking, this is the weak link in this Spanish squad.
- It's fair to say the Spanish have the best strike force in the competition. Torres and Guiza have been in fantastic form, but David Villa enjoys Aragones' confidence and he is likely to play a part. The strikers will offer Aragones different tactical options - Villa's strength is his movement, Guiza's is his finishing, while Torres' biggest strength is his burst of pace that allows him to get past defenders.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Probably the most talented squad at Euro 2008 - this Spanish team have a lot of very good passers and they have different options up front. However, their weak historical record in major championships will mean they will have a psychological barrier to cross if they are to make headway. Whether they have the expertise required to control the pace of fixtures against quality opposition also remains open to debate.

PORTUGAL:

- Portugal qualified in 2nd place from Group A with a 7-6-1 (GD+14) record.
- The defence looks OK - Carvalho will be the key alongside wither Meira or Pepe. There is plenty of competition for places amongst the full-backs - but the presence of Ferreira, Miguel and Bosingwa is likely to lead to a right-footed player at left-back.
- Central midfield features Petit, Joao Moutinho and Deco - which looks OK, but not as good as some of the other squads in this competition. One of the lesser known players will probably need to shine in the absence of Maniche and Tiago.
- Undoubtedly, the best feature of this squad is the quality of wingers Scolari will have available. Quaresma, Simao, Nani and Ronaldo (who will probably play a free role, rather than one out wide) make up the best set of wide players on show at Euro 2008.
- Portugal have some decent strikers on their books with the likes of Nuno Gomes and Hugo Almeida. While the strikers aren't of the quality that some other sides possess, the quality of wide players and the presence of Cristiano Ronaldo should result in adequate firepower in the final third.

This squad is blessed with incredible talent, but they might struggle in central midfield if they come up against a physically strong side such as Italy or Germany. The Portugese can be very good at the back on occasion, but lapses of concentration sometimes cost them. The added pressure of being considered potential winners could lead to a few more of those. All things considered, though - Portugal enter the competition in good shape and should do well at Euro 2008.

GERMANY:

- Joachim Low's side scored more goals than any other side during qualifying and ended up with an 8-3-1 (GD+28) record.
- Germany will not have Oliver Kahn in goal - however, the replacements are experienced goalkeepers. The defence will depend on protection from the midfield and will be made to look good/average by them. Individually, the defenders in this side are capable, without being exceptional.
- The advantage Germany possess over some of the other contenders in this tournament is that they can put out a more physically intimidating midfield, which would include the likes of Frings, Borowski and Ballack. In crunch fixtures, that could be an important variable.
- Germany will once again depend on the goals of Miroslav Klose upfront, but the form of Mario Gomez means that Joachim Low will have other options upfront.

While there's no doubting the quality of this squad, there aren't a lot of players who enter the competition high on confidence. It's worth keeping in mind the fact

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

that a lot of players in this German side have had injury stricken seasons for their clubs - but, if Germany get off to a good start, they can turn that into an advantage rather than a weakness. It's also worth keeping in mind that the conditions in Austria and Switzerland are similar to those in Germany, and that should favour the German side.

ITALY:

- Italy qualified with a 9-2-1 (GD+13) record.
- The Italian squad features broadly the same list of players as their World Cup squad, with a notable absentee in Francesco Totti who has retired from international football.
- Italy are solid at the back, they combine physical strength (Materazzi) with anticipation (Cannavaro) and have plenty of experience to offer. In Buffon, they have a world class goalkeeper between the sticks.
- The midfield will feature Gattuso and Pirlo - who are likely to hold the key to how far Italy progress.
- The strike force that will feature Luca Toni and Del Piero. Luca Toni's physical strength is an attribute that few other sides in this tournament can match. That will allow Donadoni's men to drop deep while defending and enjoy the option of having an out-ball to the big man.

This Italian squad is very accomplished, and if they do get going, they will be difficult to stop. However, it's worth remembering that they were led by a master tactician at the World Cup (Lippi), and that squad also included Francisco Totti. This squad does look weaker than the one that won the world cup, and if Cannavaro is ruled out - Italy will start to look slightly over-rated.

FRANCE:

- France qualified with a 8-2-2 (GD+17) record.
- Like the Italian, the French squad does look to be aging, even though they have had an injection of youth in one or two areas.
- At the back, France have a mixture of youth and experience, but other than Evra - most of these guys enter the tournament in poor form.
- In midfield, there is a lot of experience with Makalele and Veira - which is fairly well complemented by the likes of Toulalan and Nasri.
- There is plenty of quality out wide. Frank Ribery has been outstanding for Bayern this season, and Malouda is quite handy too.
- Upfront, Henry and Anelka provide the experience while the likes of Benzema and Gomis are extremely talented.

While France have plenty of talent on offer, prima facie they do look like they lack a leader. Zidane was a larger than life figure, and he often inspired France to victory. To date, Henry has struggled to pick up the mantle. Like one or two other squads, the French don't appear to be entering the competition in the best condition.

THE NETHERLANDS:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

- The Dutch squad is a bit of an enigma. Plenty of attacking talent on the books - but having scored just 15 goals in qualifying, they have been playing an unusually conservative brand of football. Their record in qualifying was 8-2-2 (GD+10).
- With Van Der Sar in goal, and Ooijer at CB - there is plenty of experience in defence. Individually, the defence isn't exceptional - but they have been well organized under Van Basten.
- There is some serious creative talent in midfield. Sneijder and Van Der Vaart have the ability to open up defences, while Arjen Robben can use his pace to great effect.
- Upfront -Van Nistelrooy continues to be one of the best poachers in world football. Van Persie will be Van Basten's second choice striker if he is 100% fit, but with Kuyt, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Jan Venegoor of Hesselink as backup - there's certainly plenty of talent in the final third.
- They suffered a significant blow in the warm-up games heading into Euro 2008. Babel was taken off injured in the build-up and he has been ruled out of the Championships. That takes away an impact player that could have handed Van Basten a significant tactical advantage.

In an attacking sense, this Dutch squad has seldom performed to potential under Van Basten and prima facie, they don't look primed for a performance in Austria and Switzerland. However, if you look a bit deeper - they have been creating enough chances to have scored a few more goals. If Van Basten can keep this squad united and hungry, the Dutch have no shortage of talent.

THE OTHERS...

We had CROATIA down as a real dark horse a few months ago, but it's amazing what one injury can do. Eduardo's injury v Birmingham City ruled him out for Euro 2008 and Croatia's chances took a massive dent with that injury. Without him, they will have to rely on Ivan Klasnic - who has had an injury-plagued couple of seasons, and Ivica Olic for their goals. They do have some quality players in midfield - Modric will float into dangerous positions and Kranjcar is both skilful and intelligent, but a lack of goal-scoring instinct in the final third is likely to limit how far they can go in the competition. Their form in the qualifying stages is cause for further concern.

Hosts SWITZERLAND carry one of the younger squads in this competition - an average age of 26.37, which is more than a year less than the competition mean. Oddly enough, it's in the final third that the Swiss enjoy maximum experience. Hakan Yakin and Alexander Frei are amongst the more experienced (and more gifted) players in this squad. The Swiss are typically a well-organized unit - but the lack of experience at the back will be a concern for them.

Defending champions GREECE qualified with the best record of any team, heading into Euro 2008. That was in large part a consequence of the draw, however. With Otto Rehhagel in charge, it's worth keeping a close eye out for Greece. Tactically, Greece's approach is unlikely to be too different from 4-years ago, but they are unlikely to be taken lightly by anyone, should they make it through to the knock out stages. It's difficult to see them progress too far.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

TURKEY are one the more intriguing outsiders. They have a squad filled with attacking quality - Nihat in particular has been in outstanding form this season. With the likes of Basturk, Mehmet Aurelio and Emre competing for places in midfield, these guys can certainly pass the ball. However, Turkey can be opened up at the back and against the very best sides that should prove to be their undoing.

POLAND put in some excellent performances in qualifying. They were fairly well organized and Smolarek seemed to be at the end of everything. While Poland possess a capable squad, they are unlikely to go too far in the competition.

CZECH REPUBLIC enter the competition without Rosicky and that looks like a massive blow to their chances. They have been in good form defensively through qualification and defending as a team has been an important ingredient in their recent success. Bruckener is set to retire at the end of Euro 2008, and that could serve as a motivating factor - but this Czech side isn't as strong as the last few we've seen on the big stage.

RUSSIA managed to edge ahead of England in Group E and the presence of Hiddink as manager makes them an interesting side. However, the fact that Andrei Arshavin is suspended for their first two games means that Russia will really have their backs to the wall. Hiddink will need to win a lot of tactical battles if Russia are to progress without him.

SWEDEN are a few years older than they were before, and little else seems to have changed. Ibrahimovich's return to the national setup represents a welcome boost - but the squad should struggle to compete against some of the younger sides in the competition. Making it through the group stages will represent a task in itself.

ROMANIA have always had some fairly skilful players, but it all seems to have come together in this qualification campaign. They looked to be dark horses to make an impression, but it's difficult to see the Romanian's enjoying their games against the likes of Italy and France who should be able to control the pace of those fixtures.

AUSTRIA look to be the weakest side in the competition. The squad lacks both quality and experience and despite being a host nation, they look unlikely to cause too many upsets.

THE NUMBERS...

Now, analyzing the numbers at events such as Euro 2008 isn't easy and is often not productive at all. Historically, performance in qualifying and performance at the actual event isn't deeply linked. Moreover, these sides seldom get an extended period to train with the national team, so you tend to get varying effects of the 3-4 weeks of training leading up to the Championships, come into effect. Yet, there are some numbers worth looking at.

- The best qualifying record heading into Euro 2008 belongs to GREECE. They ended up 10-1-1 (GD +15) in qualifying. Their group included Turkey, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Hungary and Malta - so it wasn't the hardest of qualifying groups, in all fairness.
- The best offensive record in qualifying belongs to GERMANY, who scored 35 goals on route to Euro 2008, at an average of 2.92 goals per game. However, it's worth remembering that 19 of those 35 goals came in 2 fixtures v/s San

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Marino. Germany scored 16 goals in their remaining 10 fixtures at an average of 1.60 goals per game.

- PORTUGAL enjoyed the highest average possession and the most shots on goal through the qualifying rounds. On average, Portugal notched up an impressive 59.14% of the ball. They managed to get 101 shots on goal, at an average of 7.21 per game. They led the charts in terms of shots hit wide of the target, with 112 at an average of 8 per game. Those numbers make Portugal a particularly impressive attacking force.
- NETHERLANDS enjoyed the highest average shots on target per game at 7.75. However, they only managed 15 goals in their 12 fixtures, giving them an average of 1.25 goals per game. Netherlands have somewhat surprisingly struggled to convert chances into goals, in qualifying.
- NETHERLANDS, FRANCE and CZECH REPUBLIC enjoyed the best defensive record heading into Euro 2008, conceding just 5 goals each at an average of .42 goals per game.
- SPAIN won the most corners in the qualifying stages, notching up 110 at an average of 9.17 per game.

While those numbers will at times lack relevance, it is worth keeping them in mind. We haven't brought historical data of individual team performances into the analysis - because those numbers aren't particularly relevant. Sure, certain teams such as Italy and Germany have a better track record than say Spain, but the only purpose of those numbers is to serve as a vague psychological indicator in the latter stages of the competition. The fundamentals and performance indicators during the competition itself will take precedence.

ANTE-POST MARKETS

The focus at Sports Investor is on markets far more mundane than to find value on the winner of Euro 2008, because we try to limit variance to the greatest degree possible (betting high odds and ante-post, you are inevitably going to hit more losing runs and stakes on such selections should always be considerably smaller than a usual handicap or over/under selection). Keeping that discipline is an important part of what we do, but we do offer our members regular advice on markets such as these.

What makes ante-post markets particularly tricky early in a competition such as this is the added uncertainty that comes out of the lacklustre nature of the football calendar. We know these squads and we have broad indicators of what to expect, but given the relative lack of frequency of international fixtures, performance is subject to a lot of added uncertainties. Think back to Euro 2004 and the eventual winners, Greece gained momentum as the competition went on to pull off an unlikely win. Similarly at the World Cup in 2006, the two finalists started off quite poorly. France represented a classic case of one man inspiring the team into action, while Italy grew in stature as the competition went on. As Euro 2008 evolves, an increasing number of variables will come in to play. Any investment in the ante-post markets at this stage is subject to the fact that it may prove profitable to trade-out and book relatively small profits at a later stage of the competition.

When you're looking at the winners markets, one of the things you want to focus on is teams with individuals who can inspire. Now, that might sound simplistic - but, in sport those that can inspire themselves more than the competition will have an extra edge to their play. In football, that usually translates to an extra yard - being first to enough

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

balls. If that desire is coupled with raw ability it usually translates to some pretty exciting football. When desire is mixed with tactical prowess it translates into the ability to control the pace of football games.

If you look at the history of this sport - competitions are usually won by men who can inspire. Whether it's Ferguson, Mourinho, Capello, Lippi, Wenger - what separates these managers from their competition is an ability to make their teams try just that little bit harder, particularly when it really counts. Football competitions are seldom won without inspiration, whether from an individual or a manager. So, let's look at the men capable of inspiring.

THE LEADERS...

Otto Rehhagel (manager of GREECE): Rehhagel won it in 2004, with a Greek side that were 100-1 at the start of the tournament. Wherever he's managed, he tends to use tall central defender and a big striker. Defending as a team is embedded into the Rehhagel philosophy. With the midfielders pressing the opposition all over the pitch, his main tactical aim is usually to restrict the opposition to taking the long ball route, which his teams are typically very comfortable defending against. His men will work hard to limit the opposition's ability to get around his back four. That plan worked for Greece four years ago. It's worth keeping in mind that this man is a winner, and he is a particularly shrewd winner, tactically.

Louis Felipe Scolari (manager of PORTUGAL): A lot of people complain about how the commercialization of sport has taken the charm out of it. Well, this charismatic manager brings some of that back in. Scolari has used Sun Tzu's The Art of War to inspire his troops in the past, and he is certainly a larger than life figure to this Portuguese national side. He manages to protect his players from the spotlight, and he has a recent history of being a world cup winner with Brazil and a Euro 2004 finalist with Portugal. He has also been in charge of this Portugal side for longer than most other managers in the competition and Portugal could benefit from the stability that brings.

Michael Ballack (captain of GERMANY): We're bringing a player into the equation here - because he warrants it. Ballack isn't going to give you a performance every week in the league, but to date he has been one of those players who enjoys the big stage and rises to the occasion. For Germany to be contenders in Euro 2008, you'd have to look at big performances and a bit of inspiration from Ballack. Highlighting Ballack here isn't intended to undermine the manager - Joachim Low was a key background figure in Germany's success at the World Cup, and he was a natural successor to Klinsmann.

Carlos Puyol (captain of SPAIN): Again, Luis Aragones is the boss, but it's the Barcelona captain who will need to be an influential figure if Spain are to progress. Aragones has made a controversial decision already by omitting Raul - who was fantastic in La Liga this season. Presumably, part of the reason that Aragones did make that decision was to avoid allowing the national team to have internal divisions. This isn't the place to expand on the complicated dynamics of Spanish football, but let's just leave it at the fact that loyalties run deep in Spanish football and they are a significant explanatory variable in Spain failing to rise to the occasion in major competitions. Puyol is a natural leader and should he be able to lead his troops effectively, Spain will be in with a chance, this season.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A VALUE WINNER...

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

At this stage, the best value appears to lie on *Portugal to win Euro 2008 @ 8.71 (with a view to trading out, later in the competition)*

On the outright markets, the current odds (as of June 3rd) on the big-6 are:

1. Germany @ 5.11 (19.57 %)
2. Spain @ 6.60 (15.15 %)
3. Italy @ 7.90 (12.68%)
4. Portugal @ 8.71 (11.48%)
5. France @ 10.50 (9.52%)
6. Netherland @ 13.90 (7.19%)

Since part of what we're looking to do here is pick out a side that will present a good trading opportunity - i.e. we back the side now, and then we look to use the exchanges to lay them at a later stage, one of the things we should be looking to do is to pick out a side that is more likely to make it through to the semi-finals or beyond. So, let's take a look at the draw:

GROUP A includes Portugal, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Turkey

GROUP B includes Germany, Croatia, Poland and Austria

GROUP C includes Italy, France, Netherlands and Romania

GROUP D includes Spain, Greece, Sweden and Russia

The draw after the Group Stages is as follows:

Thursday 19 June 2008

25	QF	Winner Grp A	20:45	Runner-up Grp B	Basel - St. Jakob-Park
----	----	--------------	-------	-----------------	------------------------

Friday 20 June 2008

26	QF	Winner Grp B	20:45	Runner-up Grp A	Vienna - Ernst Happel
----	----	--------------	-------	-----------------	-----------------------

Saturday 21 June 2008

27	QF	Winner Grp C	20:45	Runner-up Grp D	Basel - St. Jakob-Park
----	----	--------------	-------	-----------------	------------------------

Sunday 22 June 2008

28	QF	Winner Grp D	20:45	Runner-up Grp C	Vienna - Ernst Happel
----	----	--------------	-------	-----------------	-----------------------

Wednesday 25 June 2008

29	SF	Winner #25	20:45	Winner #26	Basel - St. Jakob-Park
----	----	------------	-------	------------	------------------------

Thursday 26 June 2008

30	SF	Winner #27	20:45	Winner #28	Vienna - Ernst Happel
----	----	------------	-------	------------	-----------------------

Sunday 29 June 2008

31	F	Winner #29	20:45	Winner #30	Vienna - Ernst Happel
----	---	------------	-------	------------	-----------------------

(source: <http://euro2008.uefa.com>)

Now, if you look at Group A and Group B, only two of the favourites for the competition come from those two groups (Portugal and Germany). Their path through to the latter stages of the competition looks relatively easy. Of the two, our view is that Portugal look like they enter the competition in relatively good shape.

This Portuguese squad features a manager who knows how to inspire his troops and a player, who is by general consensus the best player on the planet at the moment. One

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

of the factors that puts the value on Portugal, at this stage is the fact that a lot of teams will fear Cristiano Ronaldo. If you think back to Manchester United's encounters against the likes of Barcelona in the Champions League, a lot of quality defenders (including Millito, Puyol and Abidal) were lunging into unnecessary tackles because they didn't want to allow Ronaldo to run at them. That is likely to be the case once more, and with the likes of Deco, Simao, Ricardo Quaresma, Nani, Nuno Gomes and Hugo Almeida - Portugal have enough support to suggest that they can capitalize on the spaces Ronaldo opens up for them. While Portugal's record in qualifying (7-6-1) was fairly ordinary, they were involved in one of the more competitive groups during the qualifying phase.

Man for man, this squad appears to be vastly superior to the others in Group A, with Germany the only squad that is qualitatively on the same plane as the Portuguese squad. The look of the draw therefore makes Portugal a reasonable investment at odds of 8.71, and you could look to use that price for a trading opportunity later in the competition (should Portugal progress).

However, we feel the best value lies on:

SPORTS-INVESTOR ADVICE

Portugal to Win Group A @ 2.37

We're advising Portugal to win Group A. The other sides in this Group include Turkey, Switzerland and Czech Republic. The markets currently have Czech Republic at 3.55 (28.16%) to win the group, while Switzerland are 4.59 (21.78%) and Turkey are 8.51 (11.75%). One of the key elements in this selection is that we are slightly bearish on Czech Republic, who will be without Tomas Rosicky. Rosicky is the most accomplished creative midfielder in this squad. With Nedved and Poborsky having retired, much of the creative burden will fall on Jaroslav Plasil. Plasil is an excellent footballer, but he's still young and doesn't look ready to shoulder the burden, yet.

While the Swiss will enjoy home advantage, the quality of the squad falls severely short of that of Portugal's. With impressive performance statistics heading into Euro 2008 (102 shots on goal, 112 shots wide, 103 corners and 59.14% average possession) we'll be looking at Portugal to improve on their win-percentage here.

The overall group looks fairly competitive - but, Portugal should enter each of their games looking for maximum points. Scolari's Brazil topped their group in the 2002 World Cup, his Portugese side topped their group in Euro 2004 and again at the World Cup in 2006 - so one of the added elements here is backing a side whose manager has a solid track record in the early phases of similar competitions.

In terms of the fundamentals, this one looks very healthy. Portugal have the edge over each of these three sides. They will also possess the important tactical advantage of being able to bring on an impact player (usually Nani), should they find themselves a goal down in any of their games. Psychologically, the presence of Christiano Ronaldo is likely to be a factor. Defenders don't like the sight of Christiano Ronaldo running at them and coaches are likely to focus their attentions on the United man. That should open up plenty of space for Portugal's quality wingers, and also allow the likes of Deco to dictate play. To date, Deco has performed admirably for Portugal.

Portugal are likely to go for the 3 points in each of their 3 group fixtures, and they look a solid bet at current levels. What could go wrong for us is that Scolari's men struggle to dominate games in the middle of the park. With Maniche and Tiago missing, there is

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

a bit of a lack of experience in the Portugese midfield. All things considered, though - anything above 2.12 represents a sound investment here.

THE OTHER GROUPS

For now, we wouldn't advise getting involved with the other Groups. Germany and Spain are strong favourites in their groups, and we agree with that - but their edge over the others looks sufficiently priced in. Group C sees a real tussle for the group, the value parameters look OK on that overall, and the margins will be relatively small.

As the competition progresses, the main aim will be to stay ahead of the markets with what we manage to pick up on each of these sides. Our specialisation is the Asian Handicaps and Over/Under markets and we'll be taking a close look at those on each individual fixture.

Please do remember the golden rule of any sound money management strategy: never bet more than you can afford to lose on any individual wager. Good luck with your Euro 2008 betting.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

MR X: EURO 2008 EXPERT

Our next expert and contributor to this Euro 2008 special issue is Mr X, a fantastic and long-term proven winner when it comes to Sport Betting. I asked Matt Nesbitt, the publisher for Mr X, to introduce us all to Mr X, his history and details on his advice for Euro 2008. Over to you Matt...

I have worked with 'Mr X' for seven years, publishing his original tipping service The Insider first with Fleet Street Publications and now Oxfordshire Press. Going on to develop his Text Message tipping service Bet Bank Alerts, his American Football service The Linebacker and his Europe-wide football advisory The Sports Statistician.

Forgive the 'cloak and dagger' stuff with the name, but the truth is he is still active in the betting world and revealing his true identity would seriously compromise his access to certain information and key industry contacts. So Mr X it is.

An odds compiler for over 25 years, Mr X worked the race-courses before switching to the trading floors of some of the UK's biggest bookmakers - generating millions for his paymasters. Then in 2001 he turned the tables, launching his career as a tipster.

Applying his unique experience alongside a voracious appetite for studying statistics, Mr X seeks out 'value' betting opportunities. Whether it is spotting bookmaker errors, or simply moving first on an under-researched market, this approach has generated steadily growing profits for all his service, year on year.

Matt Nesbitt

For more information on Mr X and his services, see the links below:

The Insider: <http://www.shopatoxonpress.com/INSOP/>

Bet Bank Alerts: <http://www.betbankalerts.co.uk/>

The X-Circle: <http://www.shopatoxonpress.com/xcircle/>

Note: The X-Circle is a unique lifetime offer of ALL Mr X's services. Applications for a risk free three-month trial must be in by Midnight June 14th.

Matt Nesbitt is the publisher of Mr X's tipping service listed, plus:

www.FootballBettingResults.co.uk

www.Sportsxtra.co.uk

www.ChampionsLeagueBet.co.uk

www.HorseRacingFocus.co.uk

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

MR X: EURO 2008 BETS

Here are the bets currently advised by Mr X for Euro 2008. For details on how he arrived at these selections, please read the 3-part analysis below.

**1 pt on Portugal at 8/1
or better to win the
tournament outright**

Current best odds - 54/7
with [Pinnacle Sports](#).

Check the exchanges for
better odds
*(Bet originally advised early
in May)*

**1 pt each way on Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal to be
the top goalscorer in Euro 2008.**

Current best odds - 10/1 with [Paddy Power](#)

Check the exchanges for better odds
(Bet originally advised early in May)

2 pts on Portugal winning Group A

Current best odds - 11/8 with [Bet365](#), [VCBet](#) & [Blue Square](#)

0.25 pt 'saver' on the event's dark horse, 7/1 Turkey to win Group A

Current best odds - 54/7 with [Pinnacle Sports](#).

Check the exchanges for better odds
(Bet originally advised early in May)

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

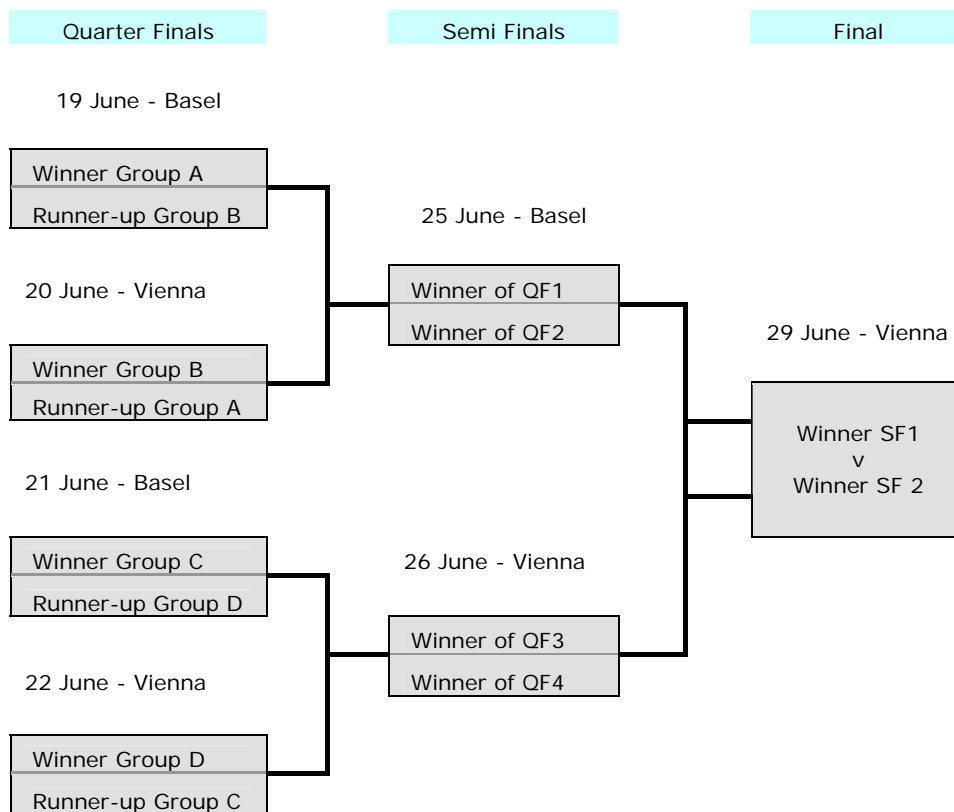
The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

MR X EURO 2008 ANALYSIS PART 1: OUTRIGHT WINNER

Be quickest on the Draw to get the best value from Euro 2008

Football's Euro 2008 is just around the corner, with value to be had in the outright and Group markets.

Before we unearth our selection, let's take a look at how the draw is going to pan out, from the group stage right through to the final.



As you can see from the draw, qualifying teams in both Group A and B will do battle en-route to the Euro 2008 final, where the eventual winner will meet a team from either Group C or Group D.

With that in mind, a look at the prices on offer for those teams - when grouped together - makes for interesting reading.

Playing the percentages

If you combine the Betfair prices of Group A and Group B you'll get a betting percentage of around 50% - the market sets the chances of either of these Groups producing the EURO 2008 winner at approximately Even Money.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

If you repeat the exercise for Groups C and D you'll get a betting percentage of just over 52% - the market once again setting the chances of either of these Groups producing the EURO 2008 winner at just about Evens.

So, the 'people's exchange' says its Evens each the final - and it's hard to see a lot wrong with that estimate at this stage.

The one thing that does alter my opinion on that pricing is the way the teams are peppered into both of those groups - to start off with here are the teams in Groups C and D along with their current price and implied percentage chance of winning:

Groups C & D		
	Price	% chance
Spain	7.60	13.16%
Italy	7.80	12.82%
France	10.50	9.52%
Holland	15.00	6.67%
Greece	34.00	2.94%
Sweden	38.00	2.63%
Russia	40.00	2.50%
Romania	48.00	2.08%
		52.32%

As you can clearly see by the prices, there are 4 fancied runners here - Spain, Italy, France and Holland - with the remaining 4 runners priced at 33/1 or greater.

The group of death

What this table doesn't tell you though is that 3 of those 4 short priced teams - Italy, France and Holland - are in Group C.

As if this isn't bad enough, the most underrated side in the whole competition - Romania - will also be in the penultimate group.

Anyone that can successfully pick one of the two Group C qualifiers will be on a big 'shortener' for sure. However, when you compare the 'To Qualify' prices with the Outright prices, it's fair to say that you'd probably be better off doubling up your stakes - betting your chosen team 'To Qualify' and then lumping all of your return onto their revised 'Outright' price.

Take Holland for example, bet them now and you'll get 15.00 (14/1). But by taking some 'Evens' about them qualifying from Group C you'll need just 7.60 (a little bigger than 13/2) at the knockout stages to beat the current 14/1 - and I think you'll get that.

Italy is another such team. Right now we're being served up a best price of just 7.80 however by taking some 1/2 about them qualifying from Group C you'll need just a smidgen over 4/1 (5.30 to be exact) at the knockout stages to beat the current 7.80 - and I think you'll get that too.

In short, Group C is such a nightmare that it's virtually impossible to advise an 'Outright' pick at this stage. Of course that could all change nearer to kick off time, but if you want to back one of these sides now, I recommend that you use the strategy we've just discussed.

As for Group D, well Spain look a shoo in 'To Qualify' but this has been factored into their price by the bookies, and the fact that they will be odds on to face either Italy, France or Holland in the Quarter Finals takes the shine of their current 'best price.'

In fact, if you get some 1/3+ about Spain qualifying for the knockout stages, you'll need an 'Outright' price of just 5.90 about them in the last 8 to beat the current 7.80 'Outright' and given their likely path to the final, that looks well likely.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Luck of the draw

Basically, at this stage of events, no team from either Group C or D appeals at the quotes available - but as you'll see now, that's not the case with Groups A and B...

Groups A & B		
	Price	% chance
Germany	5.80	17.24%
Portugal	9.50	10.53%
Croatia	13.50	7.41%
Czech	16.00	6.25%
Switzerland	30.00	3.33%
Poland	50.00	2.00%
Turkey	55.00	1.82%
Austria	120.00	0.83%
		49.41%

The price that jumps off the page for me is the fixed odds quote about Portugal, currently at 9.5 - 17/2 in fractional odds.

Not only have Portugal got themselves a far easier Group (they up against Switzerland, Turkey and the Czech Republic in Group A). But their path to the final has far fewer landmines than anything the other 'bottom half' could produce.

Let's take a closer look at their route to the final of Euro 2008...

Portugal look set to go the distance

After negotiating the Group stages only 8 teams will be left in the competition and from there Portugal could possibly have the easiest of rides to the Semi's.

If Portugal win their group they hold about a 58% chance of facing either one of Croatia, Poland or Austria in the Quarter Finals (biggest estimated price for Germany to win Group B.)

If Portugal finish runner up of Group A they hold about a 42% chance of playing Croatia, Poland or Austria (biggest estimated price for Croatia, Poland or Austria to win Group A.)

For that reason we have to be careful as to how we see their price immediately prior to the Euro 2008 Quarter Finals, and right now, it's hard to make them any bigger than 5/1.

Portugal's current 'To Qualify' price - which sits at around 4/9 - looks bang on to me. Sure there are dangers in their group, but to give them about a 70% chance of qualifying (finishing first or second in Group A) looks a fair assessment of their real chances.

Finding the value...

All we now have to do is multiply those two prices together to gauge for ourselves what the current 'fair' price would be about Portugal winning Euro 2008...

5/1 (price at the Quarter-Final stage) multiplied by 4/9 (price 'To Qualify' from Group A) = 8.66 or as a fractional odd, just about a 15/2 chance.

With that in mind offers of 8-1 and 8-1+ make some appeal - it's a tough competition which will no doubt see the winner getting a slice or two of luck en-route to lifting the trophy. However, at 8/1 or greater Portugal are worth a bet.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Before we leave Euro 2008 for now, a quick word about the current short price favourites - Germany.

Dare we rule out the Germans?

A few moons ago, I could have been sweet on their chances - they looked to have regained their form of yesteryear in the 2006 World Cup and their European Championship record since 1972 is - as you can see below - pretty compelling stuff:

European Championship record

Year	Round	GP	W	D	L	GS	GA
1972	Champions	2	2	0	0	5	1
1976	Final	2	1	1	0	6	4
1980	Champions	4	3	1	0	6	3
1984	Round 1	3	1	1	1	2	2
1988	Semi-finals	4	2	1	1	6	3
1992	Final	5	2	1	2	7	8
1996	Champions	6	4	2	0	10	3
2000	Round 1	3	0	1	2	1	5
2004	Round 1	3	0	2	1	2	3
Total	3 Titles	32	15	10	7	45	32

The Germans were 6/1 when I was eyeing them up, but I opted to 'hold' on the advice - and I'm glad I did.

Being 'fresh' is one thing, but having over half of your team ring-rusty is another matter. Just check out this list to see how little match practice many of the German stars have had this season.

Out of favour...

Goalkeeper Jens Lehmann (played just a handful of matches)... Christoph Metzelder (struggling to make the Real Madrid squad let alone the starting 11)... David Odonkor (just 4 games started this season)... Andreas Hinkel (left Sevilla for Celtic in a bid to try to get a game).

Out of order...

Tim Borowski (just 11 appearances so far this season due to injury)... Marcell Jansen (just 8 appearances so far this season due to injury)... Leverkusen's Bernd Schneider (just 8 appearances so far this season due to injury)... and Torsten Frings (just 3 appearances so far this season due to injury).

Out of sorts...

Germany's Captain Michael Ballack (only recently got his season back on track, after he missed the first four months of the Premier League season)... Sebastian Kehl (member of the 2006 team, who has played in just seven games so far this season)... and Lukas Podolski (the forgotten man of German football who almost went out on loan to Man City).

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

I couldn't be happier that Germany are in Portugal's half - no matter how the Germans dress it up, it's far from satisfactory that some of their most important squad members will square up for competition short of preparation.

A few months back 6/1 appealed, but I wouldn't go near them with a barge pole at the skinny 9/2 that's on offer now. In fact, I might be looking to oppose them in their Klagenfurt opener against fierce rivals Poland, where they good get caught cold.

But for now, **Portugal at 8/1 or better is the pick.**

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

MR X EURO 2008 ANALYSIS PART 2: GROUP A BETS

Dive in on the Ronaldo factor in Euro 2008 Group A

Euro 2008 - Group A

Team: Czech Rep
Best Available 'Group A' price: 5/2
Qualified as: Winner of Group D

The Czechs reached the 2008 European Championship finals with an impressive set of results that saw them top the tricky qualification Group D - seeing off challenges from both Germany and Ireland for the top spot.

In fact the Czechs were beaten only once in their qualifying campaign - at home by Germany - on the way to racking up a beefy 29 pts, 2 pts more than the Germans in 2nd place.

But as impressive as their qualification campaign was, just 5/2 about their EURO 2008 Group A chances is too short for me. Too short because I'm not convinced their squad is capable of reproducing this good qualification form over to the big stage.

Take the last European Championships in 2004 - a fantastic set of qualification performances were marred by a 1st round exit, and that was a repeat of their dismal performance at the European Championships in 2000.

The Czechs fared even worse in 1998 & 2002 where they failed to even qualify for the World Cup finals.

Having Petr Cech in goal is of course a massive plus - even though he looks more like the Phantom of the Opera nowadays! But the one result I simply can't budge from my mind is their timid defeat at home to Germany - a match where they were soundly thrashed 3-0.

Team: Switzerland
Best Available 'Group A' price: 4/1
Qualified as: Joint host

Host nations always demand some kind of respect and Switzerland are no exception.

A 2-1 beating at Wembley doesn't read that badly - although it's fair to say that England are anything but a positive form line. However, their 4-0 beating at HOME to Germany a few weeks ago was simply a horror show that saw the Swiss woefully outplayed.

The most worrying chink in Switzerland's armour is their struggle to score goals. They've managed just 1 goal in their last 4 Euro 2008 'warm ups' (versus Nigeria, The USA, England and Germany) and with the class rise taking a severe hike come June, it's hard to find any value in the 4/1 available.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Team: Turkey

Best Available 'Group A' price: 7/1

Qualified as: Runner-up in Group C

7/1 looks too big a price to me - and well worthy of our interest as a saver.

The Turks have been one of Europe's most improved sides in the past year and the fact they've been beaten just once in the last 8 months (1-0 by qualification Group D winners Greece) is good form.

Turkey's scrap-it-out style can be very hard to play against in these kinds of tournaments, and at such a big price they're going in the book for a small stake.

Team: Portugal

Best Available 'Group A' price: 6/4

Qualified as: Runner-up in Group A

Finally - my selection to win.

The Portuguese have been Europe's most improved team over the past 12 years, and by some way. After a brief flirtation with success in 1984, Portugal's rise up the FIFA rankings ladder began back in the late 90's with a solid performance at the EURO 96 finals - where they registered a Quarter-final finish.

Since then - thanks to what's been since dubbed the Golden Age of Portuguese Football - they've managed a Semi-final finish at EURO 2000, a place in the EURO 2004 final and most recently their best ever finish - a 4th place at the 2006 World Cup. And some would say - all this without the services of a top class goal scorer!

This is no such problem now... In Cristiano Ronaldo they have a bona fide Goal machine. Although, not an out-and-out striker, the Manchester United has scored for fun this season, breaking the 40-mark in domestic competition - a staggering record. He also boasts an outstanding 20-goal return from his 54 International appearances.

If Portugal were a racehorse, it would have taken a 20lb hike in the handicap over the past 8 years!

At around 11/8 or better Portugal winning Group A is the bet here. With a 'saver' on the event's dark horse, 7/1 Turkey.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

MR X EURO 2008 ANALYSIS PART 3: TOP GOALSCORER MARKET

Dive into Ronaldo at 10/1

For those of you pining for a football bet since the end of the domestic season, the European Championships is only just around the corner. It's a bit of value in the Top Goal Scorer market.

Let's check out the leading contenders...

Euro 2008 - Top Goalscorer

9/1 - 10/1 F.Torres (Spain)

Has been a huge success at Liverpool since transferring from Atletico Madrid in 2007, racking up an impressive 33 goals in 46 starts in his debut season.

9/1 - 11/1 M.Klose (Germany)

Won the Golden Boot in the 2006 World Cup in Germany with 5 tournament goals. Scored a brilliant 53 goals in 89 league appearances for Werder Bremen between 2004 - 2007, but has scored a more modest 10 in 26 appearances since transferring to Bayern Munich.

9/1 - 11/1 C.Ronaldo (Portugal)

Man United's ace was voted the PFA and Writers player of the year for the second season in succession and is nailed on to add the European and World awards before the year is out. His staggering haul of 42 goals was a major factor in United's Premier League and European Cup double.

16/1 L.Toni (Italy)

Plays his football in Germany for Bayern Munich - where he has racked impressive figures of 21 league goals in 29 appearances.

16/1 R.Van Nistelrooy (Holland)

Scored shed-loads of goals in his time at Manchester United - and is still cracking them in for Real Madrid, netted 39 times in 57 league appearances for the Spanish Champions.

20/1 T.Henry (France)

The scorer of 174 goals in 254 league appearances for Arsenal, but Henry has not found things so easy since moving to Barcelona - just 4 goals in 30 appearances.

20/1 D.Villa (Spain)

Has notched an excellent 56 league goals in 100 games since moving to Valencia from Real Zaragoza in 2005.

There are some great strikers in that list - and there are plenty of others in Euro 2008 who command of respect too. For instance Romania's Adrian Mutu (once of Chelsea) who has played very well for Fiorentina this season and who has a proven record of scoring for his country, 27 goals for Romania in 60 appearances so far. But Adrian

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

picked up an injury in Serie A earlier this season and has not quite achieved his top form since.

The German striker Kevin Kuranyi also catches the eye, the 6'3" Schalke striker has netted 19 times for Germany in 46 appearances, and seems well liked by the national coach, but the big question is, with others vying for Germany's striker positions, how many games he will get.

A closer look at the 'top seven'...

Fernando Torres has had a strong record for Liverpool this season and is respected, but Spain are serial underachievers. It wouldn't be the biggest surprise of the tournament if they were to go out at the Quarter Final stage, limiting his scoring opportunities.

Miroslav Klose will probably start the tournament as Germany's top gun - but there are no guarantees that he will play every game, there are three other strikers, Kuranyi amongst them, who could challenge his number one status.

The problem with Toni of Italy, Van Nistelrooy of Holland and Henry of France, is that their three teams are all in the fearsome Group of death - Group C.

Not only does this mean the games will be tight, but only two can qualify. But one of these sides is going home after only three games. A player like Van Nistelrooy is capable of scoring five goals in three games - but the Dutch also boast an embarrassment of striking riches in Huntelaar, Van Persie, Robben, Babel and Kuyt (well, perhaps not Kuyt, but you get the picture). So minutes on the pitch may be limited.

Ronaldo is great value at 9/1 - 11/1

That leaves the best looking value in the list is Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal at 9/1 - 11/1.

Portugal should cruise through to the final stages of the competition - which means plenty of opportunities for Ronaldo to do his thing in front of goal.

Ronaldo is sure to play in every match unless injured (and he doesn't get injured) and although he is not an out-and-out striker, he has been a genuine goal machine this season. Scoring freely with right foot, left foot, his head, from close range, long range, open play and, of course, free kicks. Added to which, he takes penalties which won't do his chances any harm at all.

He topped the scoring charts in the Premier League (31 goals) AND the Champions League (8 goals) this season. And at 9/1 or bigger Each Way he has to be the choice to complete a personal hat-trick.

Note: Seek out the bookies paying out at 1/4 odds for the first four places (see below). They might not always offer the top price, but the insurance adds value.

Paddy Power go 10/1, Bet365, Betfred and Stan James offer 9/1

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

THE ORACLE: EURO 2008 EXPERT

Website address: <http://www.football-bets.co.uk>

The Oracle is an actual bookmaker odds compiler who has turned his attentions towards making money betting for himself and his members and to great success.

The Oracle has to remain anonymous to protect his identity from being revealed to the bookmakers who would not be best pleased to find out one of the 'own' was working against them.

Over the past year, he has certainly proven his football betting prowess and knowledge in some style. In this, his first season of supplying football betting tips, The Oracle has generated 67 pts profit, with a ROI of around 20%.

The Oracle is a specialist when it comes to football betting, spending many hours researching and watching football in order to generate his edge over the bookie. He also has a number of useful contacts in the industry, who he speaks with regularly, debating the strengths and weaknesses of different teams, players and coaches.

SAMPLE ALL THE ORACLE'S ADVICE FOR FREE DURING EURO 2008

As well as all his pre-tournament thoughts and bets that he has shared with us in this article, The Oracle will be providing FREE bets throughout the duration of Euro 2008.

If you would like to pick up The Oracle's advice for free during Euro 2008 (and we strongly recommend you do!), please visit <http://www.football-bets.co.uk/free-football-tips.php> and sign u today

THE ORACLE EURO 2008 BETS:

Here are the bets currently advised by The Oracle for Euro 2008. For details on how he arrived at these selections, please read the analysis below.

1/4 pt each way Switzerland's Alexander Frei to be Euro 2008 top goalscorer.

Current best odds - 66/1 with [Totesport](#) & [VCBet](#)
(at time of advice, 80/1 was available)

Check the exchanges for better odds.

1pt Fernando Torres top tournament goalscorer

Current best odds - 10/1 with [Betfred](#)

Check the exchanges for better odds.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

**1pt Portugal/Switzerland dual or reverse forecast in group A
(basically to come first and second in any order)**

Current best odds - 10/3 with [Sportingbet](#)

Check the exchanges for better odds.

1/2pt Gokdeniz Karadeniz to be Turkey's top goalscorer

Current best odds - 25/1 with [Bet365](#)

Check the exchanges for better odds.

1pt Switzerland to beat Czech Republic in Group A

Current best odds - 15/8 with [Stan James](#)

Check the exchanges for better odds.

1/4 pt group C straight forecast Italy 1st, Romania 2nd

Current best odds - 16/1 with [VCBet](#) & [Coral](#)
(at time of advice, 28/1 was available)

**1/2pt double Alexander Frei to be top Swiss scorer 7/4 and
Fernando Torres to be top Spanish Scorer**

Current best odds - 6.88 with [Ladbrokes](#)

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

THE ORACLE EURO 2008 ANALYSIS:

With the European Championships kicking off this weekend, I've compiled a preview on each team outlining their strengths and weaknesses and how I think they'll get on. Major Tournaments can be very tricky to make money from as they receive saturated media coverage and involve the worlds top players. As a result there is little the compilers don't know about each team and consequently there are few prices that are very far out of line.

As a general rule, the lower down the football pyramid you go the easier it is to make money from betting. The less information that is in the public domain the harder it is for bookmakers to compile accurate prices and the greater the opportunity for punters to gain an advantage. Therefore it is best to keep stakes on the tournament relatively small. With so many different markets on offer it is easy to get carried away, but staying disciplined is one of the main rules of making money from betting. With such a high standard of football it is very difficult to pick out winners. Who could have predicted a Danish win in 1992 or that Greece could win in Portugal last time out?

Some of the bets I am recommending are a lot bigger prices than we would normally bet on and therefore they have a lesser chance of winning. Keeping stakes small will protect against any big losses but we only need one or two winners to make a profit and I think I have picked out some nice opportunities. It is a shame England are not involved if only for the fact that they are always far too short because of the patriotic money. England being too short usually means someone else is too big and opposing England at major tournaments has been a profitable tactic in years gone by. This years favourites Germany are also too short in my opinion as is often the case in these tournaments. Brazil were just a little bigger than 3/1 before the last world cup and didn't give their backers much of a run for their money. Anyway, with a little luck hopefully we can enjoy a winning tournament.

Group A

Czech Republic:

Veteran coach Karel Bruckner will step down at the end of the tournament and it is likely to be the final hurrah for several Czech players too. We are coming to the end of a golden generation for Czech football. Nedved, Berger and Poborsky have all gone and the players coming through are not of the same quality. The Czechs main strength will be the experience of their back line which has over 200 caps between them, whilst in goal they have one of the top keepers in the world in Petr Cech. The midfield however, once bristling with creative talent, could be their main weakness. Captain and play maker Tomas Rosicky has not recovered from injury in time to make the squad which is a huge blow. The likes of Rangers reject Libor Sionko as well as Jarolim, Plasil and Polak are not names to drive fear into the opposition and they lack both creativity and goals. Up front things don't look much better, 35 year old Jan Koller is in the twilight of his career and Milan Baros is struggling to resurrect a career that has nosedived since the miracle of Istanbul in 2005. Top goalscorer four years ago and with a fantastic record for the Czech republic, Baros will be desperate for a good showing. If he fails to produce then the Czechs will call on highly rated youngster Martin Fenin but it could all be too late. I think the Czechs could well lose their opening game against Switzerland and fail to make it out of the group.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Portugal:

The Portuguese have without doubt the most mouth-watering collection of attacking midfielders in Europe, if not the world. Ronaldo, Deco, Simao, Nani and Quaresma. They have one of the best centre backs in the game in Carvalho and a £16 million right back in Bosingwa, along with a £15 million full back on the bench in Paulo Ferreira. The only thing the Portuguese haven't got is a top class striker. Postiga, Almeida and Gomes will fight it out for the lone strikers roll but all are distinctly average at this level. The fact that Cristiano Ronaldo is odds on with some firms to be Portugal's top scorer tells its own story. If the Portuguese had a top striker in their squad then they would surely be in amongst the favourites but without one there is that lingering doubt. A lot is expected of Ronaldo and he has had a long but spectacular season. I'm not sure he's going to have as good a tournament as everyone seems to be expecting as Portugal are set up very differently to Man Utd. At club level Ronaldo has the likes of Rooney and Tevez who work very hard and create space and chances for him. It works differently for Portugal and if Deco isn't firing on all cylinders their system could very easily break down. They have a top coach in Scolari however and his record speaks for itself, a world cup winner with Brazil, runner up at Euro 2004 and World cup semi finalists two years ago. Portugal should do well again and I expect to see them in the latter stages, but I have a feeling they might just fall short once more.

Switzerland:

With no competitive qualifiers to play, it is often quite tricky to assess just how good host nations are going into a major tournament. The Swiss have had mixed results ranging from a 4-0 thumping by Germany to a victory over Holland and draw with Argentina. Coach Kobi Kuhn is another who is stepping down after the tournament and he will be looking to at least match Switzerland's 2006 world cup achievement of making the knockout stages. Kuhn was promoted from his position as U21 manager and has a reputation for nurturing young talent. He has used Switzerland's numerous friendlies to give experience to several young players and the Swiss squad will be one of the youngest at the tournament. The Swiss use two attacking full backs in Liverpool bound Phillip Degen and Ludovic Magnin. Centre halves are Likely to be Arsenal's Phillippe Senderos and Lyon's Patrick Muller, who has just returned from injury to add some experience to the back line. The midfield will include several talented youngsters such as Man City's Gelson Fernandes, Udinese's Inler, Johan Vonlanthen and key man Tranquillo Barnetta. Hakin Yakin will play just behind front man Alexander Frei who the Swiss will rely quite heavily on for goals. Although Yakin, Vonlanthen and Barnetta are all capable of getting on the score sheet, it is Frei who will determine whether Switzerland will progress to the latter stages. His scoring record at international level is better than a goal every other game and he has recovered from an injury plagued season at just the right time. Frei scored six goals in Dortmund's last eight league games and has bagged three in Switzerland's last two friendlies. He will not be suffering from the fatigue that could hamper a lot of top players at the Euros and is an each way bet for the golden boot in my opinion. I think that the Swiss have enough quality in their team to overcome the Czech republic and Turkey and qualify for the latter stages along with Portugal. It should not be underestimated how big a factor home advantage is historically in the European Championships. Belgium in 2000 were the first host nation since the tournament began not to reach at least the semi finals, a milestone Austria are likely to equal. The Swiss are a team to follow in my opinion and they are more than capable of beating the Czechs in the opening game. The Final

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

might be beyond them but the semis are not an unrealistic target, especially if they can avoid the Germans in the Quarters.

Turkey:

Group outsiders Turkey have a difficult job on their hands if they are to make it through to the latter stages of Euro 2008. Portugal look certain to progress and the Swiss have some good young players as well as home advantage. The Czechs will also be difficult to beat. The Turks have a number of options in midfield and this could dictate the way they line up, with 4-5-1 the most likely formation. They do not have many options up front and Hakan Sukur has not made the final 23 so Nihat will be their main striker. Middlesborough's Sunil Tuncay can also play up front but is more likely to battle it out with Arda for a place on the wing. Newcastle's Emre is a useful player in the middle for the Turks and naturalised Brazilian Mehmet Aurelio performs an important holding role. Gokdeniz Karadeniz has been in very good form for his club side Rubin Kazan and he is capable of contributing goals from midfield. Karadeniz finished the season in double figures and is a very big price at 25/1 to be Turkey's top scorer. Their Defence is the main problem and they could concede a few goals. The Turks are also notoriously feisty characters on the pitch and they face a rematch with Switzerland who they famously fought it out with (literally) to qualify for the last world cup. Their actions that day resulted in several European qualifiers having to be played behind closed doors. If the Swiss take the lead there is the danger of it all kicking off again and the Turks could well be hampered by suspensions at some point in the tournament. I expect Turkey's games to be entertaining and they may not finish bottom of the group but I will be surprised to see them in the knockout stages.

Group A recommended bets:

1/4pt each way Switzerland's Alexander Frei to be Euro 2008 top goalscorer 80/1 Skybet

1pt Portugal/Switzerland dual or reverse forecast in group A (basically to come first and second in any order) 10/3 Sportingbet

1/2pt Gokdeniz Karadeniz to be Turkey's top goalscorer 25/1 Bet365

1pt Switzerland to beat Czech Republic in Group A 15/8 Stan James (Saturday 7th June 5pm ko)

1/2pt double Alexander Frei to be top Swiss scorer 7/4 and Fernando Torres to be top Spanish Scorer 6/4 Ladbrokes

Group B

Austria:

At 101st in Fifa's world rankings, Austria are officially the weakest team competing in Euro 2008 and are only involved as a host nation. The only players you are likely to

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

have heard of are former Arsenal keeper Alex Manninger and Middlesbrough defender Emanuel Pogatetz. A good example of the lack of quality in Austria's playing pool is the fact that Werder Bremen's Martin Harnik was the only Austrian footballer involved in the group stages of this seasons Champions league. The Austrians will have been boosted by Fridays 5-1 victory over Malta but it was only their second victory in sixteen matches. They are likely to go with a 4-5-1 formation and to spend most of the tournament defending. Home advantage is just about the only thing in their favour and I cannot see them getting out of the group. Austria's main objective will be to avoid any embarrassing scorelines and to try and take something off Poland, both will be difficult tasks.

Croatia:

England's conquerors have been billed as dark horses for this tournament and they are not without chances. They have some talented players in Tottenham bound Luka Modric and Portsmouth's Niko Kranjcar and midfield is definitely their strong point. Dario Srna is another goal threat and has fifteen goals for the national team. He is the teams penalty taker and also dangerous from free kicks, he could well be a player to consider for an anytime goalscorer bet. The teams style of play is best summed up by manager Slaven Bilic "We play attacking football, more than half our team are attack minded, and we can play attacking football precisely because we have a good defence". Bilic's last comment, that the Croats have a good defence, is debatable and many commentators believe that it could be their Achilles heel. With so many attack minded players the defence could be left exposed, especially to teams with a pacy attack. At 37 Niko Kovac lacks the legs to protect the back line and there could be plenty of goals in Croatia's games. Eduardo's broken leg was a huge blow to the Croats and his ten goals in qualifying were a huge factor in Croatia's qualification for the finals. The goalscoring burden will now fall on Mladen Petric and he will have to have a big tournament if the Croats are to reach the latter stages. Croatia should advance to the knockout stages along with Germany, but they are likely to face a difficult quarter final against Portugal and then we'll find out how good the Croats really are.

Germany:

Tournament favourites and trading as low as 10/3 with the Tote, the Germans have plenty of admirers but I'm not one of them. Too much is being made of Germany's geographical proximity to Switzerland, with some people making out that the Germans more or less have home advantage? Rubbish! Yes the German fans wont have far to travel and yes, there will probably be more of them as a result but it's nowhere near the same as actually playing in Germany. The fact that they are in a relatively easy group is a positive however, and they should progress to the quarter finals fairly comfortably. The Germans have a good team and deserve to be grouped in with Spain and Italy as tournament favourites, but I would place them bottom of that group rather than on top of it. Both Spain and Italy have far more quality in their squads than the Germans a fact admitted by German centre back Christoph Metzelder, "I have already said that other teams are ahead of us in terms of quality. But the players in our squad have proved in qualification that they can keep up with the level." Goalkeeper is one area where the Germans lack quality and Jens Lehmann is long past his best spending most of the season warming the bench. The defence looks pretty solid but there are doubts over the fitness of Metzelder. Torsten Frings in midfield has also had an injury plagued season whilst Bastian Schweinsteiger has failed to live up to his early promise.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Much will depend on Captain fantastic Michael Ballack who always seems to produce for the national team. His record of thirty six goals for his country from midfield is outstanding and he is only a couple behind Miroslav Klose as German leading scorer. With this in mind, I was quite surprised to see Ballack available at 7/1 to be top German scorer in the Tournament. The fact that Joachim Low seems to be unable to decide on his preferred striking partnership is also in Ballack's favour as Klose, Gomez, Podolski and Kuranyi are all likely to be involved at some point with Germany's goals shared out as a result. Klose has had a very quiet season scoring just ten goals in the Bundersliga as Luca Toni stole the limelight. Podolski spent most of the season on the bench whilst Kuranyi and Gomez chalked up respectable tallys and are likely to get a chance at some point. The Germans have a fair chance of success in this tournament but no more of a chance than Spain or Italy and they cannot be backed at such short prices.

Poland:

Dutch coach Leo Beenhaker has followed up the fantastic achievement of leading Trinidad and Tobago to the last World cup finals, with leading Poland to their first ever European finals. The Poles topped their group ahead of Portugal and that alone demands respect. A hard working, physical team they don't have many superstars but are an effective unit and consequently have the potential to "do a Greece" and go all the way, it's unlikely though. They have a very capable goalkeeper in Celtic's Artur Boruc who will be looking to put on a show and win a move to one of several big clubs reportedly showing interest. At the other end of the park Ebi Smolarek played a big role in getting the Poles to the finals with nine goals in qualification. He will have to continue his good form if the Poles are to advance to the latter stages. Jacek Krzynowek in Midfield is also capable of contributing goals whilst Maciej Zurawski might have a say in things in what is likely to be his last major tournament. Poland are well capable of giving both the Germans and the Croatians a run for their money and it wouldn't be the biggest shock in the world to see them get out of the group. I'd be surprised if they made it past the quarter finals though.

Group B recommended bets:

1/2pt Michael Ballack to be top German goalscorer 7/1 Skybet

Group C

France:

Every major tournament seems to throw up a so called "group of death" and group C is Euro 2008's. France are a team with some fantastic footballers in William Gallas, Patrick Viera, Franck Ribery and Thierry Henry and therefore have to be taken seriously as contenders. However, there are a number of negatives surrounding the team which makes the French unlikely winners in my opinion. For a start coach Raymond Domenech. He has failed to win a trophy in nineteen years of management, has a poor relationship with the media and some players and is seen by some as tactically weak. The French also have an ageing side which could tire as the tournament progresses. Goalkeeper Gregory Coupet has been out injured for six months and recently left Lyon

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

when his contract expired. He is currently without a club and has not ruled out retiring after the tournament. In front of him, Lilian Thuram is now 36 and in Midfield another probable starter Claude Makelele, is 35. It was today confirmed that Patrick Viera will miss the opening game as an ankle injury threatens to rule him out of the tournament. At left back Eric Abidal has had a very disappointing season for Barcelona and asked to be dropped at one point in order to get his head right. Barca teammate Thierry Henry has also had a poor season by his standards whilst Malouda made very little impact at Chelsea. In such a tough group, there is definitely the possibility of France going out in the group stages. However, at the same time they have more than enough quality to progress and much will depend on the form of Ribery and Henry. They also have promising but inexperienced duo of Nasri and Benzema who could come in and freshen things up. As things stand it is difficult to back the French to do anything.

Italy:

World Champions Italy will be aiming to emulate France's achievement of being both World and European champions at the same time. The Italians have an impressive, balanced looking side and have every chance of achieving their goal. They have loads of experience throughout the side and Luca Toni is a forward capable of firing them to glory. I wouldn't put anyone off backing Italy as 7/1 is a fair price, but there are just one or two little grains of doubt which mean I won't be. The first one is the manager Donadoni. Whilst he has done a reasonable job so far, at just 44 and with no big clubs on his CV I think there is still a question mark hanging over him as he has proven nothing as of yet. First choice centre backs Cannavaro and Materazzi also have a combined age of 70 and as I am writing this reports are coming through that Cannavaro has been taken to hospital after injuring an ankle in training. The fact that they are in such a tough group is another cause for concern as everyone is pretty much capable of beating each other on their day. In my opinion they are the best side in the group though and most likely group winners. They have every chance of going all the way and could well do.

Holland:

One of the glamour teams of European football over the years with a seemingly endless line of talented attacking players. However, this is one of the weakest Dutch teams in memory and they are widely expected to fail. Still with attacking footballers to rival anyone in Van der Vaart, Sneijder, Van Persie, Robben and Van Nistelrooy, the Dutch have an impressive array of forwards. However, the other half of the team is nowhere near the same standard. The two holding midfield players are widely seen as the main problem. Bayern's Van Bommel has refused to play under Van Basten leaving Van Bronckhorst and De Zeeuw as first choice. Neither are viewed as good enough in this position and a very shaky looking defence could be put under a lot of pressure. Ajax's Johnny Heitinga is the only defender of real quality and he is likely to be partnered by Joris Mathijsen who has been heavily criticised for several high profile errors for the national team. Wigan's Mario Melchiot and Tim Der Cler are the likely full backs and both are very average at International level. Beaten to top spot in a very average qualifying group by Romania, who the Dutch failed to beat, a repeat could well be on the cards and I wouldn't be surprised at all to see the Dutch finish bottom. The fact that they are in such a tough group means they could end up with only two or three goals. If this turns out to be the case then backing Johnny Heitinga each way at a massive 100/1 with B365 to be the top Dutch scorer could prove to be a very shrewd

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

bet. Heitinga has five goals for the national team already and managed seven for Ajax in the Dutch league this season. He is a real threat at set pieces and backing him each way to come in the top two Dutch scorers is definitely worth a bet. Because of the size of the price you will not be able to get too much money on with B365 so I'm not going to record it as an official bet. But my advice is to have a tenner each way if you can.

Romania:

Written off by many when the draw was made and there is no doubt that they face a big task to qualify from this group. It is not an unachievable task however and the Romanians have some real quality in their side. They have an experienced keeper in Bogdan Lobont, formerly of Ajax, whilst Contra and Rat are good attacking full backs. Cristian Chivu will sit in front of the back line and is a very talented player. They have some good attacking players too with former Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu the one you are most likely to have heard of. Strike partner Marica also has a good reputation as does wide player Nicolae Dica. The Romanians won their group beating the Dutch at home and drawing away. This will give them confidence when the two meet again and if they can avoid defeat in the opener against France they will have an outside chance of progressing. With everyone expecting them to come bottom there will be very little pressure on the Romanians and I think they are worth a small punt to come second in the group behind Italy.

Group C recommended bets:

1/4 pt group C straight forecast Italy 1st, Romania 2nd 28/1 Skybet.

Group D

Greece:

They say lightning never strikes in the same place twice and if Greece were to retain their trophy it would be another huge upset. Four years ago they had the element of surprise but now everyone knows all about them and more importantly, how to beat them. It is a team with a great work ethic who try to keep things tight at the back and then nick a goal at the other end. Dellas and Kyrgiakos are a tough centre back pairing whilst the midfield trio of Basinas, Katsouranis and Karagounis are better than they are sometimes given credit for. Gekas is the main goal threat up front and was the Bundersliga's top scorer two seasons ago. The Greeks won their group comfortably winning ten games out of twelve but their last two friendly results in the run up to the tournament have been poor, a 3-2 defeat to Hungary followed by a 0-0 draw with Armenia. I think Greece are capable of getting out of their group but Spain and Russia are the most likely to progress.

Russia:

Managed by Guus Hiddink the Russians have one of the best coaches at the tournament. His record is outstanding, taking Holland to the semi finals of France 98, followed by a fourth place finish with Korea in 2002 and then qualification with Australia for the 2006

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

World cup finals. He recently told Chelsea where to go and is one of the most sought after managers in the game. He is not without a few decent players to work with either. Igor Akinfeev is a very capable goalkeeper, Vladimir Bystrov is a lightening quick winger and Andrei Arshavin a very skillful attacker. The fact that Arshavin will be suspended for the first two games is a big blow, as is the potential loss of forward Pavel Pogrebnyak who was injured in training last week. Roman Pavluchenko will come in up front and is a decent replacement for Pogrebnyak but the Russians generally don't have a great deal of strength in depth. Ex Sevilla striker Alexander Kerzhakov was surprisingly left out of the squad and Hiddink is not afraid to upset people. One of his first actions as Russian manager was to discard former captains Titov and Smertin as he let the players know who was boss. Russia are the second best team in Group D in my opinion and should progress along with Spain to the latter stages. A potential quarter final against Italy is likely to prevent them going any further however.

Spain:

Seem to be amongst the favourites at every major tournament and consistently let their backers down time and time again. However, this is arguably the most talented squad they have ever had and on paper they are by far the best team in the tournament in my opinion. Iker Casillas is regarded as one of the top three keepers in the world whilst Real Madrid teammate Sergio Ramos has had a fantastic season too. The midfield is overflowing with technically gifted players and will include the likes of Barcelona's Iniesta and Xavi, Fabregas (the player with the most assists in the Premiership) and either Marcos Senna or Xabi Alonso protecting the back four. Fernando Torres is possibly the deadliest striker in Europe right now with over thirty goals in his first season in the Premiership. He notched twenty four league goals breaking Ruud Van Nistelrooy's record for the most goals in a debut season by a foreign player and generally doesn't appear to have any weaknesses. Spain are likely to field a 4-3-3 formation with Torres as the main striker so the majority of goals should come through him. Although he is trading at 9/1 on Betfair to be the tournaments top scorer you can still get 10/1 with Betfred who seem keen to lay him. For those of you who don't know, Betfred are a Manchester based company whose owner Fred Done is a huge Man Utd fan. It appears that his anti Liverpool feelings are clouding his judgement as I can't think of many other reasons you'd want a large position on Fernando Torres at 10/1? Spain will also have the option of playing 4-4-2 with David Villa partnering Torres and the two of them together make a formidable partnership. Coach Aragones has plenty of other options available to him too with wide men Joaquin and Riera in the squad along with Valencia's David Silva. Some commentators have highlighted the Spanish defence as a weak point but whilst it may not be as strong as other positions, I do not think it is particularly weak or that it will be a problem. The Spanish should have no problem winning their group and I think they can go all the way this time. They have been heavily backed in the last week and the 6/1 I was going to recommend as a bet is now gone. 11/2 is still available but is getting a little short considering the likes of Germany and Italy have strong chances too. Boylesports are offering your money back if you back a team to win the tournament and they lose in the final. They are only 5/1 Spain now but with the money back offer it might still be worth a bet. I'll leave it up to you to decide.

Sweden:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Coach Lars Lagerback is the longest serving manager in the tournament and he has guided Sweden to five consecutive major tournaments. However, this is one of the weakest Swedish sides he has led into a tournament and they face a difficult task to get out of the group. Goalkeeper Isaksson has been a bench warmer for Man City all season whilst Olof Mellberg is their only defender with any real quality. Freddie Ljungberg is a shadow of his former self after several injuries in recent years and former legend Henrik Larsson has once again been called out of retirement to save the day. In his youth Larsson was capable of carrying Sweden almost single handedly but at 36 his influence is waning. Enigmatic striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will have to have a big tournament if Sweden are to reach the latter stages. Sweden are still capable of reaching the next round in what will be an interesting contest with Russia and Greece. I personally think the Russians will do it but wouldn't be hugely surprised if either Sweden or Greece sneaked through.

Group D recommended bets:

1pt Fernando Torres top tournament goalscorer 10/1 Betfred.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

STATSONSPORT: EURO 2008 EXPERT

Website address: <http://www.statsonsport.com>

StatsOnSport provide predictive form analysis for those who bet on football, cricket, tennis, golf, formula one and rugby union. For any given event or match, their analysts use proprietary modelling software to extract the key trends from their extensive databases. Identifying likely outcome is one part of the process and the other is to evaluate the information against market price. To see how they do it, how successful they have been and how their range of products suits all types of punters, visit www.statsonsport.com.

Their international football analysis is based on two primary factors - the most relevant data for the team in question based on their performance and that of their opponents, and the SOS rankings. Based on over 25,000 international matches, they believe the SOS rankings are more reliable than FIFA's and have proved to be highly successful when applied to international tournaments and qualifiers (Copa America 12% profitable yield, Euro qualifiers 9% profitable yield). As well as previewing the tournament, they shall be analysing all the Euro 2008 matches.

A typical example of what they do is provided with their analysis of the likely surprise package for the tournament and for in-play bettors which teams have the strongest half-time trends.

STATSONSPORT EURO 2008 ANALYSIS

Surprise Packages

Since the start of Euro '96, every major tournament has delivered a surprise package. In this time, nine European teams from outside the world's top 15 have won at least one knockout match in a European Championship or World Cup. In getting to the tournament, none of these nine teams had lost more than once on the road. Five of them had an unbeaten away record. Among this year's finalists, there are seven teams from outside the top 15 who could emulate these achievements, but only one who went unbeaten in away qualifiers: Greece. Four other teams lost once: Poland, Romania, Turkey and Croatia. Russia lost twice and Austria did not have to qualify.

Since 1996, eight other teams from outside the world's top 15 were unbeaten away during the qualifiers and six of those eight sides got out of their group in the finals tournament, and five made it all the way to the semi-finals. Suddenly, 11/8 on the Greeks qualifying looks attractive and 6.2 to make it through to the final four is another to consider, but they would meet one of the Group of Death teams in the quarter-finals.

Why Greece can shock the world again:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Year	Comp	Team	Rank	Grp Pos	Res	Away Qualifying Record					
						Pld	Win	Draw	Loss	Gls F	Gls A
2008	Euro	GRE	18			6	5	1	0	1.83	0.50
2006	WC	SRB	17	4	Grp	5	3	2	0	1.60	0.20
2006	WC	UKR	23	2	QF	6	4	2	0	1.67	0.50
2004	Euro	CZE	17	1	SF	4	3	1	0	2.25	1.00
2002	WC	TUR	22	2	SF	6	5	1	0	1.50	0.33
2002	WC	SVN	27	4	Grp	6	2	4	0	1.33	1.00
2000	Euro	ROM	17	2	QF	5	4	1	0	2.20	0.40
2000	Euro	POR	19	1	SF	5	3	2	0	2.60	0.60
1996	Euro	FRA	16	1	SF	5	2	3	0	1.00	0.20

Strongest H/T trends

Group A:

Portugal

The Portuguese should look to get on the score sheet early because the full-time result has been the same as the half-time result in seven of their most recent eight competitive matches.

Czech Republic

Since the start of qualifying for World Cup '06, the full-time result has been the same as the half-time result in 26/29 of the Czech Republic's competitive games on home, away or neutral turf.

Group B:

Germany

The full-time result was the same as the half-time result in 11/12 of Germany's qualifiers.

Croatia

Croatia have won 5/15 group-stage games at finals tournaments (five tournaments since 96), but been ahead at half-time in none of the 15. 10/15 have been drawn at the break and they've lost 4/5 when trailing.

Group C:

Italy

The Italians have won 10/11 finals matches that they have led at half-time since World Cup '94.

France

The last team to lead France at half-time in a competitive match was England, who were 1-0 up at the interval of their group-stage clash in Euro 2004, since when the French have avoided that situation in 32 matches, home, away or neutral.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Netherlands

At all stages of finals tournaments, there has been at least one first-half goal in 17/31 of Netherlands' matches. 0/17 of those games have been level at half-time.

Group D:

Spain

Under Luis Aragones, 7/8 of Spain's wins over top-50 opposition have been by two goals or more.

Russia

Away from Russia, the national side has held on to win 16/17 matches in which it has held the half-time lead (6/6 versus top-50 teams) since it re-entered international competition.

Sweden

Since Lars Lagerback took on a managerial role in 2000, Sweden have lost only 1/13 finals games in 90 minutes when the venue has been neutral.

Go to www.statsonsport.com for our full tournament preview and match analysis.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GREG GORDON: EURO 2008 EXPERT

Website address: <http://www.scottish-football-bet.co.uk/>

Greg Gordon is a true expert when it comes to betting and during the football season, he operates his very own Scottish Football advisory service. He utilises his professional contacts, his eye for betting value and his inside out knowledge of the 42 teams in the Scottish league to beat the bookmaker.

Greg over the past season on Scottish Football produced a profit of 35 pts and a Return on Investment of around 12% to indicate his success in this market. Each of his tips also come with extremely detailed analysis as to why it has been selected, which is a hallmark of all Greg's work.

Greg also has an in-depth knowledge of the International game and it is this combined with his own ratings system that has enabled him to provide detailed analysis of each team in the Euro 2008 tournament.

Greg is offering his advisory service for free during Euro 2008 and if anyone is interested in following him please contact him at mail@scottish-football-bet.co.uk

He currently at the time of press has one bet listed (many more will follow, so do ensure you email him to pick them up for free as the tournament progresses.)

GREG GORDON: EURO 2008 BETS

Here are the bets currently advised by Greg Gordon for Euro 2008. For details on how he arrived at these selections, please read the analysis below.

Italy to win Euro 2008
7/1 general. 1pt

Current best odds - 7/1 with
[Bet365](#), [Totesport](#) &
[Ladbrokes](#)

Check the exchanges for
better odds

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GREG GORDON: EURO 2008 ANALYSIS

First of all it is worth discussing the ratings system that Greg uses to help form his analysis.

About the International ELO ratings as used for the Euro Championships:

The World Football Elo Ratings are based on the Elo rating system, developed by Dr. Arpad Elo (not to be confused with Birmingham-based Beatles-soundalikes ELO who racked up twenty hit singles in their 1970s heyday). Dr Elo's system is used by FIDE, the international chess federation, to rate chess players. In 1997 Bob Runyan adapted the Elo rating system to international football and posted the results on the Internet. He was also the first maintainer of the World Football Elo Ratings web site. The system was adapted to football by adding a weighting for the kind of match, an adjustment for the home team advantage, and an adjustment for goal difference in the match result. What I particularly like about the Elo ratings are that they allow you to look at close match-ups with a view to exploiting bookmaker's price variances. Invariably, on any given card, the stats will suggest that some opponents are well matched even where the bookmakers' prices suggest not. As such, these ratings are ideal for throwing up draws, low scoring games or handicap bets that favour unfashionable teams against more illustrious opponents.

GROUP A CZECH REPUBLIC

Team Name and Group: Czech Republic Group A

Tournament odds: 20/1 Centrebet

Group odds: 12/5 to win the group, 4/6 to qualify (both Paddy Power).

ELO ratings: 1881

Fixture dates:

7th June v Switzerland, Basel 5pm

11th June v Portugal, Geneva 745pm

15th June v Turkey, Geneva 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-5-1 Cech, Jankulovski, Ujfalusi, Rozenhal, Grygera; Plasil, Polak, Jarolim (or Matejovsky), Galasek, Sionko; Koller

Manager: Karel Bruckner became Czech coach in 2002 and will retire after the tournament, aged 68. His greatest strength and, critics say, also his greatest weakness, is that he remains too loyal to a small pool of players and has not experimented enough in pursuit of squad depth for this tournament. Bruckner's inclinations are primarily attacking and based on retaining possession and crisp passing, however circumstances

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

dictate he will have to improvise here. His greatest achievement is in steering The Czechs to the Euro 2004 semi finals.

Team Overview: For the first time since 1996, The Czech Republic will arrive in Switzerland undeserving of their tag as perennial underdogs in major finals. A list of key absentees, including captain and playmaker Tomas Rosicky, ensures that The Czechs will open the group as a very much known quantity lacking the elements of both creativity and surprise.

By common consensus the Czechs were the best team of Euro 2004 and can rightly claim to having been unlucky in defeat to eventual winners Greece. However, despite boasting significant tournament experience, the side that competes these group games is one markedly diminished over the last four years.

Top level international contests tend to be won or lost through the contributions of each side's star men and the Czechs have been seriously depleted in key positions since the last European Championships.

Both Pavel Nedved and Karel Poborsky are now retired and injury has also robbed The Czechs of playmaker Tomas Rosicky. The result is a severe lack of creativity in midfield which will be glaring against the better sides here and their disappointed coach Karel Bruckner confirms: "Rosicky's injury is our biggest problem. We played several qualifiers without him be he is still a great loss".

Beanpole striker Jan Koller has just about emerged from a fallow spell for club and country this season after joining Nurnberg from Monaco in search of first team football. However, despite a record of 50 goals in 80 caps, Koller, now aged 35, may not prosper when employed in a lone striker role if Czech Republic look to bolster their midfield in Rosicky's absence.

If Bruckner does field Koller as a lone striker then both Portsmouth's Milan Baros and rising star Martin Fenin of Eintracht Frankfurt will look to become involved from the bench if The Czech's are chasing goals.

Having looked very open, playing a high tempo 'off the cuff' counter-attacking style in qualification, coach Bruckner may opt to keep things tighter here, knowing his side are unlikely to create a lot of chances given the composition of the squad at his disposal.

Another key weakness could be at the back. In qualification, The Czech's looked especially vulnerable in the air and when defending setpieces and if they opt for a more attacking outlook they are sure to be vulnerable to swift counter-attacking teams or opposing midfields happy to play through them.

AC Milan left back Jankulovski has also injured an injury hit season and, though named in the squad, it remains to be seen what part he can play in Switzerland. If Jankulovski breaks down, Fiorentina's Ujfalusi would move to left back from the centre - weakening an already problem central area for The Czechs.

Peter Cech in goal, defender Tomas Ujfalusi and the versatile midfielder Jan Polak will have key roles to play here as The Czech's chances could well hinge on how effectively they repel better quality opponents as they look to steal a goal themselves.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Polak, in particular has a reputation for hard running, boundless stamina and closing down opponents. Better in the centre than on the left, the Anderlecht midfielder also boasts a decent shot from distance. With just one man up front and precious little natural width it will be essential that The Czech's find goals from throughout their team. Shots from distance and setpieces may represent their best chance of scoring.

Mood: The qualification campaign started in controversy following a hotel sex scandal as key players celebrated Tomas Ujfalusi's 29th birthday and ended with the euphoria of a 3-0 win in Germany. However, many believe that final victory in Germany was a largely false result and should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Certainly, The Czech media aren't holding out much hope for their side. They reckon that this Czech vintage definitely lack the flair of former sides and that key injuries and retirements have shown up Bruckner's lack of options. Koller, Baros and Rozenhal go into the tournament on the back of poor club form and the press believe that the squad lacks likely scorers and depth in key positions.

Motivation: Karl Bruckner is retiring after these finals and will look to go out on a high with his final group of players. Other than that, The Czechs will be no more galvanised for battle than any of the other participants.

Pitch/Venues:

Basel: Home of FC Basel, 42,000 capacity

Geneva: Home of FC Servette, 30,084 capacity. Modern stadium completed in 2003

Devil's Advocate: There is no doubt that The Czech's possess an experienced squad and with the weight of expectation less than they have been used to in preceding tournaments they will go into the competition free from pressure and able to express themselves. They will take confidence from the unheralded wins of both Greece and Denmark in 2004 and 1992, especially in a year with no outstanding in form contenders, and their group looks winnable if they hit the ground running with a confidence boosting opener. If the stalwarts find their form and a few new faces emerge from the pack then who knows, these Czechs could prove worthy dark horses again.

Tournament prospects/vibes: It all comes down to the first game and establishing a bit of momentum but it is difficult to see The Czech's mounting a bid beyond the knockout stages. Getting out of Group A would probably represent a fair farewell for Bruckner - but even that is by no means a certainty.

GROUP A PORTUGAL

Team Name and Group: Portugal Group A

Tournament odds: 79/10 Pinnacle

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

BETTING BROADCAST: PODCASTS

Website address: <http://www.bettingbroadcast.com>

Here at the Secret Betting Club we also produce a number of free betting podcasts for you to listen to. Betting Broadcast at <http://www.bettingbroadcast.com> has been developed as a central location for all our audio communication from us here at the Secret Betting Club. You can listen to the latest podcasts as well as previous editions either by streaming them over the Internet or by downloading to your computer.

To date we have published 12 podcasts, all of which are between around 10 and 15 minutes long. In addition at the Betting Broadcast site you can also listen to the hour-long interview podcast special that SBC editor Mike Bishop did with professional gambler Matt Watson and a 2nd interview with Mike Marsland from Big Mike Betting.

All podcasts come in MP3 format, which ensures they are the smallest file size possible without compromising quality.

Send on your Podcast Feedback and News

Send all your podcast related material to mike@secretbettingclub.com. Mark all emails with the word 'Podcast'.

We are especially interested in receiving any stories or information that you wish for us to discuss in a future podcast.

What is a Podcast?

A podcast is simply a short audio recording that you can stream over the Internet or download to your computer. In our case each recording is often no longer than 15 minutes long and most Internet connections should be able to download it in 20 minutes maximum. Alternatively you can 'stream' the Podcast so it plays directly off the Internet, meaning you do not have to download it.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Group odds: to win group 7/5 Sportingbet, Pinnacle, to qualify 4/9 extrabet

ELO ratings: 1833

Fixture dates:

7th June Turkey, Geneva 745pm

11th June Czech Republic, Geneva 5pm

15th June Switzerland, Basel 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-2-3-1 Ricardo; P Ferreira/Caneira, Carvalho, Pepe, Miguel; F Meira, Veloso; R Quaresma/Simao, Deco, Ronaldo; Gomes/H Almeida

Manager: Aged 59, Scolari made his name as a disciplinarian coach winning the Libertadores Cup with both Palmeiras and Gremio. Appointed Brazil coach in 2001 he won The World Cup the following year. He then took Portugal to the final of Euro 2004 and the semis of the 2008 World Cup. He is likely to move to a European club job after the finals. He enjoys a good rapport with his players and is known for forging teams with good spirit.

Team Overview: On paper everything is in Portugal's favour this summer. They have a World Cup winning coach, Europe's best player in Ronaldo and a 'straightforward' group ahead of them. Nonetheless, it is hard to escape the conclusion that Portugal's perennial problem - the lack of a world class striker - will once more come back to haunt them.

Pauleta failed to impress on numerous international stages and yet Portugal's options are even less appealing following his retirement - Hugo Almeida and Makukula are inexperienced and untested. Nuno Gomes is a paragon of inconsistency.

A lack of firepower ensures that there is both an inordinate burden on the shoulders of Man United's Cristiano Ronaldo and an inevitable vulnerability about Portugal, as Greece proved in the semis of Euro 2004.

Were it not for his stellar campaign just passed, Ronaldo would have assumed the status of 'key man' for Portugal almost by default.

Deco is out of form and friendless at Barcelona and his commitment to the Portuguese cause has been questioned following two call offs during qualification. But Scolari insists that the 30-year-old's place in the Portugal side at this summer's finals will not be under threat providing he shows the right attitude in the weeks leading up to the competition. "If I trust a player I will call him up," Scolari said. "I will have 20 days to work with the players before the competition begins."

Real Betis Balompié goalkeeper Ricardo is another experienced international encountering problems in Spain, having been demoted to the substitutes' bench by coach Francisco Chaparro. Yet, according to Scolari, the former Sporting custodian has every chance to retaining his No1 jersey with the national team in Austria and Switzerland.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Figo, Pauleta and Costinha have all retired since the 2006 World Cup Finals and as a result, Portugal look short of both experience and leadership in key positions. It is believed that Scolari will consult the personality profiles of his squad compiled by psychologist Regina Brandao in March before choosing his captain for the finals. That is not the most encouraging of signs.

Unlucky Jorge Andrade, the key centre half and a potential leader, misses his second successive tournament through injury.

But perhaps the biggest shock is the omission of Inter's Maniche from Scolari's squad. A star at Euro 2004, the 47 times capped 31-year-old has played for four clubs in three seasons and his consistency has suffered as a result. However, Maniche, with seven international goals, is currently his country's most prolific midfielder and his shooting from distance in particular has been a key component in Portugal's armoury in previous tournaments.

The key threat will inevitably come from wide areas with Ronaldo given licence to roam and swap wings with Ricardo Quaresma, Simao or his Man United team-mate Nani who has latterly come into contention for a wide left berth.

The experienced defence of Miguel, Ricardo Carvalho, Pepe and Paulo Ferreira should more or less pick itself ensuring that although Portugal may struggle to score they will at least be solid at the back. Indeed, the addition of the naturalised Pepe, who plays his football for Real Madrid, in the centre should ensure that an already formidable defence is even more resolute than usual.

However, looking again at the qualifying campaign footage, there are some crumbs of comfort for potential opponents. Not matter how they pack their box Portugal have shown a marked recent susceptibility to free kicks delivered from the right hand side.

Mood: After a number of near misses, Portugal's people and media seem united in their belief that Portugal can go one better this time and cite Ronaldo, Ricardo Carvalho and Ricardo Quaresma as the men to bring the trophy home.

However, behind the scenes Scolari must be worried about the loss of form of Deco and he is on record bemoaning the showbiz lifestyle of part-time model and key midfielder Veloso and other 'overweight', nightlife-loving stars. All is rosy so far on a tide of optimism but there is every chance that the press and people will turn if Portugal waver beneath the weight of possibly unrealistic expectation.

Motivation: Nothing in particular springs to mind. Ronaldo, in common with all the tournament's key players, will appreciate the stage to showcase his talents - especially if Real Madrid intend to prise him from Old Trafford. Ronaldo's supporting cast will presumably also want to show they are more than a one man team.

Pitch/Venues:

Basel: Home of FC Basel, 42,000 capacity

Geneva: Home of FC Servette, 30,084 capacity. Modern stadium completed in 2003

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Devil's Advocate: Strong at the back, technically gifted and strong in possession why can't Portugal win the title? After all, Ronaldo has swept all before him this season and in such a rich vein of form there is no reason why his goals won't paper over the cracks in Portugal's front line. The group looks eminently winnable if Portugal can get off to a good start against inconsistent Turkey and once it gets to the knockout stages their mean defence should ensure they can hold their own in a one off game against anyone.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Portugal should probably have enough in the tank to qualify from Group A. After that, it is anyone's guess where they will finish. So much of their fate will depend on the contributions of Deco and Ronaldo. Portugal look hard to beat but short on goals. As such, their fate could be settled by the vagaries of luck - either good or bad - at key moments. They certainly look like a team best watched initially.

GROUP A SWITZERLAND

Team Name and Group: Switzerland Group A

Tournament odds: 277/8 Pinnacle

Group odds: 4/1 to win group (Bet365), 5/4 to qualify (Bet365)

ELO ratings: 1760

Fixture dates:

7th June v Czech Republic, Basel 5pm

11th June v Turkey, Basel 745pm

15th June v, Portugal, Basel 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-1-3-2 Benaglio; Magnin, Djourou, Senderos, Degen; Inler; Fernandes, Barnetta, Behrami; Frei, Vonlanthen

Manager: Kobi Kuhn will end a seven year tenure as Swiss boss when he retires after the tournament, aged 64. Having qualified for both Euro 2004 and The World cup two years ago, Kuhn has consolidated Switzerland's position in a 'mid-table' grouping of European nations but the lack of any world class individuals to call on ensures that there is little more that Kuhn can do to promote Switzerland's progress in this 'tennis and sailing nation'.

Team Overview: As the home of both FIFA and UEFA, Switzerland is effectively the centre of world football but the Swiss passion for bureaucracy and organisation is not matched by a popular love of football in this affluent financial centre. As such, it is hard to escape the impression that the Swiss will take more pride from a tournament organised well than from a good showing from the national team.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Throughout the last decade, Swiss youngsters have threatened to excel at various youth levels but so far, no-one has really stepped up at full international level. The main reason is that Switzerland's domestic league represents a significant gulf in class below the major European nations. And those that do make it abroad more often than not find themselves cast as bit-part players and benchwarmers.

As hosts, Switzerland's preparations have been solely comprised of friendlies - a fact that ensures Kobi Kuhn will face an awkward challenge at the tournament. The signs are not good in advance with defeats to USA, Nigeria, England and a 4-0 reversal v Germany in Basel framing their preparations.

Kuhn has also been forced to recast his side as injuries ensure centre back Patrick Muller and playmaker Javier Margairaz miss out. Switzerland's key goal threat, Dortmund's Alexander Frei, is 'just about' recovering from an injury-wrecked 12 months.

The Swiss use a strict zonal defence system which tends to mitigate against Phillippe Senderos' lack of pace at the back. However, the 4-1-3-2 system does put an inordinate responsibility on Gokhan Inler who anchors the Swiss midfield alone. He is a strong tackler and good reader of the game but with just 15 caps (many of them in friendlies) there is a chance that the Udinese man's international inexperience could be exposed here.

Switzerland boast 'lively' rather than incisive players in advanced positions with Vonlanthen and Barnetta the most unpredictable. FC Basel's 19-year-old wunderkind Eren Derdiyok is the one unknown quantity in the squad, and the man most likely to make an impact from nowhere at the tournament.

Going into the tournament the signs are not well starred (with tune-up friendlies against Slovakia and Liechtenstein to come) and much will hinge upon the result of Switzerland's opener against the Czechs on June 7th. Squad morale and the interest of the unsupportive Swiss public could be hanging by a thread by then if things start badly.

Switzerland's instincts are both cautious and counter-attacking and both adventurous full-backs Degen and Magnin are crucial to this style of play. However, Switzerland's lack of goals probably stems from a deficit of pace up front and though Switzerland could enjoy decent possession at times they look seriously short of a cutting edge - just as they were in the World Cup two years ago. Indeed, the Swiss couldn't even muster a goal in the last 16 penalty shoot-out against Ukraine. That game goes down in history as the dulllest of the 2006 tournament. No wonder then that the natives won't get behind their team.

Mood: Few can carp over the meticulous Kobi Kuhn's achievements but with nothing to prove going into the tournament, there is a suspicion that things may have grown a bit stale in the camp and that Kuhn has stayed on too long.

Motivation: Kuhn's impending retirement and home advantage will be motivation enough but Switzerland's ambitions may not stray much further than posting a respectable showing in the three games.

Pitch/Venues:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Basel: Home of FC Basel, 42,000 capacity

Geneva: Home of FC Servette, 30,084 capacity. Modern stadium completed in 2003

Devil's Advocate: Home advantage and familiar surroundings must count for something but there are too many negatives surrounding the Swiss for even the Devil's Advocate to get overly creative. An insipid strikeforce, an unreceptive local population and a squad lacking battle-hardened Champions League starters ensures that qualifying from the group is probably the best they can hope for.

Tournament prospects/vibes: See above.

GROUP A TURKEY

Team Name and Group: Turkey Group A

Tournament odds: 50/1 Tote, Sportingbet

Group odds: 7/1 Coral to win, 21/10 Tote to qualify

ELO ratings: 1777

Fixture dates:

7th June v Portugal, Geneva 745pm

11th June v Switzerland, Basel 745pm

15th June v Czech Rep, Geneva 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-5-1 Volkan*; Hakan Balta, Servet*, Gokhanzan, Hamit Altintop; Arda, Emre Belozoglu, Mehmet Aurelio, Basturk, Sabri; Nihat

*Both major injury doubts along with Gökhan Gönül

Manager: Charismatic disciplinarian Fatih Terim has threatened bullied and harangued his talented charges in pursuit of re-establishing order and pride to a notoriously inconsistent squad in his second spell as Turkey coach. By instinct an attacking 4-4-2 man, here Terim may play-up his greater midfield options in a 4-5-1 that also looks like being the dominant formation at the tournament. The coach has earmarked the first game against Portugal as crucial to unlocking Turkey's subsequent fortunes in the competition.

Team Overview: At time of writing, Turkey have the potential to be Euro 2008's one surprise package - for no other reason than the fact that not even Fatih Terim's squad know how their team will line up against Portugal on 7th June.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

A third place finish in the 2002 World Cup was supposed to herald a bright new dawn for the Turks but, having failed to qualify for the two subsequent major tournaments, they remain the ultimate enigma - by turns brilliant, by turns excremental.

If Fatih Terim was looking for a bit of slack, following a qualification campaign that saw his side forced to play three home games behind closed doors and universal criticism in their domestic media, he will be feeling seriously disappointed.

Turkey have just been hit by the news that defensive duo Servet Çetin and Gökhan Gönül will be out for the next three weeks through injury, putting their appearance at EURO 2008 in doubt.

Galatasaray centre-back Servet picked up a groin injury five minutes from the end of the season, leaving the pitch during his side's final league game against Gençlerbirliği Oflaşspor. Scans revealed the injury to be worse than feared, but unwilling to rule him out of this summer's tournament altogether, Turkey coach Fatih Terim has put Servet's club-mate Emre Güngör on standby.

Adding to his concerns, Terim must also contend with the potential loss of Fenerbahçe SK right-back Gökhan Gönül, who has been forced to miss training with a foot injury. The 23-year-old joins goalkeeper Volkan Demirel in the treatment room, prompting Terim to curse his luck. "We are in Antalya to relax, not for training," he said from the Turkish coastal resort. "However, it is sad to see my players getting injured before we even start training. Volkan Demirel and Servet Çetin's groin injury were bad enough but Gökhan Gönül's injury was a very unpleasant surprise."

The veteran trainer will make a final decision on Gökhan Gönül in the next few days, depending on the pace of the player's recovery. He must announce his final 23-man squad for Austria and Switzerland on 28 May. The youngster would be a considerable loss as he has arguably been Turkey's best newcomer on the international stage for some time. Servet would also be missed given his courageous displays and status as a fans' favourite. The 27-year-old has a knack for scoring crucial goals as well, including the equaliser in Turkey's 2-2 draw with Malta in qualifying.

Following a tough qualification campaign that saw Turkey draw with both Malta and Moldova and lose to Bosnia and Greece (at home) Terim claims that no-one in his squad can be sure of their place or too down-hearted and he has promised 'radical changes' if he deems them necessary ahead of the tournament.

The loss of Gökhan Gönül would be particularly keenly felt in a Turkey defence that has been constantly rotated in qualification and has shown a consistent inability to defend setpieces. Bayern Munich's Hamit Altintop is another for whom a metatarsal injury in March must cast some doubt over his fitness at these finals.

What flair there might be in Terim's transitional side could come from pacey wide-men Gokdeniz Karadeniz and Arda Turan. With Emre and Basturk or Middlesbrough's Tuncay Sanli operating in the space behind lone striker Nihat, Turkey are likely to keep a compact shape with ten men behind the ball as soon as possession is lost.

Terim believes that his side have made 'significant errors' when his side have adopted his favoured 4-4-2 and the coach is likely to be especially cautious in the 'crucial'

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

opener against Portugal. It is worth bearing in mind though, that Terim is notorious for springing surprises and that nothing looks set in stone here.

Should Turkey be chasing goals, Gokhan Unal or Semih Senturk are likely to be called upon as impact players. However, there is little experience or international goals from the forwards on Turkey's bench. That said, in the likes of Nihat, Tuncay and Basturk Turkey do boast potential match winners - as long as they are on their games.

On paper at least, there is no reason why Turkey will not qualify from Group A (presumably at the expense of The Czechs and Switzerland) however, with so much uncertainty prior to the tournament for Turkey it may be a tall order for them to find a compelling system and cohesive line up this late in the day.

Mood: Despite the setbacks and uncertainty over the team's composition the mood in the camp appears very positive with both Terim and Villareal striker Nihat expecting a positive showing in Switzerland. Terim, like Scolari, appears to be a players' coach adept at forging the right kind of spirit in his charges and that can serve them well in a compressed run of tournament games where momentum is everything. Perversely, Turkey's domestic media believe their side can go all the way this time - if the first game shows that view to be hopelessly optimistic then the mood in the camp could quickly degenerate in the wake of a press backlash.

Motivation: Nihat says that the squad are taking motivation from the fact that, outside Turkey, their chances have been universally written off. Fatih Terim is effectively in the shop window for a new job and has been linked with Chelsea amongst others this season. A good showing would boost his attractiveness to potential employers - much the same can be said for his predominately home-based squad.

Pitch/Venues:

Basel: Home of FC Basel, 42,000 capacity

Geneva: Home of FC Servette, 30,084 capacity. Modern stadium completed in 2003

Devil's Advocate: All the ingredients are here - a charismatic and inventive coach, a forward in Nihat who is at the top of his game in Spain and technically gifted players who on their day will match anyone. If Terim instills the consistency and spirit that has been lacking pre-tournament then Turkey can go far with a squad top heavy with home-based players who will see the competition as their showcase for a lucrative move to Western Europe.

Tournament prospects/vibes: The vibes say this Turkish side are less talented than in previous tournaments but worryingly, just as combustible. However, a rash of games in quick succession could allow Turkey to build both a momentum and form that was lacking from their qualification campaign. Turkey, like the dark horses they are perennially pegged as, could be anything once the action starts. We will be reserving judgement until the first game starts - even if that means that by then the cat is well and truly out of the bag.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GROUP B

AUSTRIA

Team Name and Group: Austria Group B

Tournament odds: 125/1 Betdirect, Stan James

Group odds: 16/1 to win Tote, 9/2 to qualify Bet365

ELO ratings: 1562

Fixture dates:

8th June v Croatia, Vienna 5pm

12th June v Poland, Vienna 745pm

16th June v Germany, Vienna 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-4-2 Payer; Pogatetz, Stranzl, Prodol, Garics; Fuchs, Ivanschitz, Aufhauser, Leitgeb; Linz, Kuljic

Manager: Josef Hickersberg has his work cut out here in the third year of his second spell as Austria coach. An inveterate tinkerer, Austria have yet to settle their side despite fielding five different formations in their last five games. The 60 year old is notoriously low key a fact, critics say, which ensures he cannot motivate an already mediocre pool. Hickersberg also presided over the worst result in Austria's history - a 1-0 defeat to The Faroes in 1990.

Team Overview: With the best will in the world it is hard to imagine Austria featuring in a major championships other than as hosts. In the worst slump in their history and rated inferior to the likes of Oman, Ethiopia and Uzbekistan at 94 on Fifa's rankings this is the poorest national side anyone can remember.

Despite the nominally attacking 4-4-2 formation, coach Hickersberg favours caution and it would be no surprise to seem him field a defensive 4-5-1 line up in the curtain raiser against Croatia.

Experience-wise, Austria are best served in defence where Stranzl (Spartak Moscow) and Pogatetz (Middlesbrough) provide good leadership. Panathinaikos' Ivanschitz is Austria's captain and key creative player along with Salzburg's Leitgeb.

Up front, Linz and Kuljic have excelled domestically only to flop on the international stage. Linz of Sporting Braga is a particular negative presence due to his lack of physical strength.

Austrian football, as in many minor European leagues, has been systematically undermined by the preference of major clubs for fielding over-rated foreign imports over inexperienced Austrian nationals. And with only a handful of Austrian footballers (Ivanschitz, Garics, Pogatetz, Harnik) having made any kind of impression abroad the gulf in big game experience, when it comes to international fixture, is emphasised by FIFA's ranking.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Another negative factor is the stereotypically slow-tempo of Austrian league football which simply does not prepare Austrian players for top flight international competition.

Mood: Unsurprisingly the mood is downbeat in Vienna - so much so that a prominent supporter, and son of a former Austrian international, organised a much-publicised petition that implored the authorities to withdraw the team from the tournament.

As such, Austria enjoy the ignominy of being both out of their depth here and almost certainly the least fancied hosts in the history of The European Championships. There is no pressure on the players however. It is expected that the tournament will come too soon for Austria's emergent generation who should benefit greatly from the exposure to top level tournament play.

Motivation: As hosts, Austria will try and put on a show for their fans. Hickersberger will want to show he is a better manager than he is widely given credit for. Of course, a good showing here would also pave the way for transfers abroad for Austria's domestic-based players.

Pitch/Venues: Ernst Happel Stadium, Vienna - capacity 53,008. This stadium named after the Austrian father of Catenaccio has hosted four European Cup Finals and will also host the final.

Devil's Advocate: Austria will enjoy fervent support - at least relative to co-hosts Switzerland. There is little of no pressure of expectation on them and their squad of back-up men and home-grown players should at least carry some element of surprise through unfamiliarity. However, even the Devil's Advocate can only see one solitary shock result somewhere within the group games phase as an attainable goal for Austria.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Three creditable results against France, England and Ghana are the pick of the last two years' form. That is some cause for optimism. The fact that Austria lost a 3-0 lead to lose 4-3 to Holland last time out suggests Austria are only here to make up the numbers and may be as bad as ever.

GROUP B CROATIA

Team Name and Group: Croatia Group B

Tournament odds: 14/1 Tote

Group odds: 13/5 to win group (Paddy Power, Skybet, Betdirect), 4/7 to qualify Extrabet

ELO ratings: 1847

Fixture dates:

June 8th v Austria, Vienna 5pm

June 12th v Germany, Klagenfurt 5pm

June 16th v Poland, Klagenfurt 745pm

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Full-strength team and formation: 4-4-2 Pletikosa; Pranjic, Simunic, R Kovac, Corluca; Kranjcar, N Kovac, Modric, Srna; Olic, Petric

Manager: Former Croatia legend Slaven Bilic has been national team boss since 2006 having previously worked with a number of his current players as U21 coach. He has a law degree, speaks four languages and plays guitar in two bands - a fact that ensures he enjoys the reputation as something of a charismatic renaissance man. As an avowed idealist in a tournament chock full of pragmatic coaches, Bilic's brand of slick, possession-based, high tempo football deserves its great stage here. So far the suave Bilic has been a sports editors' dream but this tournament will show unequivocally whether there is substance behind the hype that accompanies this latest anointed 'special one' everywhere he goes.

Team Overview: Croatia's standard set-up is a dynamic 4-4-2 that reverts to a 4-1-3-2 against theoretically weaker opponents.

However, Bilic is not without his problems entering the tournament. Arsenal's Eduardo is out and with him has probably gone any realistic hope Croatia held of winning the competition. With him too, has probably gone the kind of goalmouth opportunism that can wrestle results against the run of play.

In Eduardo's absence, Croatia will have to play every game at their optimum in order to progress in the tournament's knockout stages.

The coach's defensive mainstays Robert Kovac (Dortmund) and Dario Simic (Milan) are both short of games at their clubs this season and as a consequence, left back Simunic is likely to revert to the centre, probably at the expense of Simic.

In midfield, Tottenham bound Modric and Portsmouth's Kranjcar dictate Croatia's play and their qualification program was noticeable for the number of attacks linking Corluca and Srna on the right. So much so, that opposition coaches must be wondering whether they can nullify Croatia's obvious attacking thrust by cutting of the duo's supply in wide areas.

At 37, Salzburg's Niko Kovac could also prove brittle as Croatia's midfield anchor - especially when forced to cover for what is a particularly sluggish central defence. If anything Croatia look unbalanced in favour of their sides' attacking outlook. If they are to prosper in this tournament, it is likely then that they will feature in particularly high scoring games. Not least because this side evince the confidence that they believe they can outscore anybody and that appears to be their preferred style of play.

Mladen Petric with 9 goals in 22 caps is a certain starter in attack but he may not adapt well to the role of Croatia's primary attacking focus in Eduardo's absence. The erratic, but exciting, Olic will probably fight it out for the second striker's berth with Parma's Budan, who is more a conventional target man.

However, Bilic's ace in the hole could turn out to be Schalke's Ivan Rakitic, a midfielder whose versatility (he can play in four or five positions) probably ensures he will see most action as an impact substitute where his pace and excellent ball skills should provide a stern test for tiring defenders, especially on the break.

Mood: Luka Modric believes that the Croatia squad's greatest strength is its collective spirit therefore it will surely pay to keep a close eye on reports detailing any shift in the mood of their camp.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

So far so good. The withdrawal of Eduardo through injury may have diminished Croatia's chances but it has also ensured that expectations remain in check, to the point of being muted.

Media pundit and former defensive stalwart Igor Stimac says: "With Eduardo we could have been champions of Europe; without him we might not even make it through the group."

So, a happy camp and restrained expectations on the one hand but on the other, Croatia are probably yet to be set a truly stern test. They demolished England at a very opportune time but until proven otherwise they remain an obvious 'talking horse' in terms of this tournament.

Motivation: Bilic and his players will want to promote their exciting brand of football and their own credentials on the summer's biggest stage. Back home a fanatical national will dare to dream given even the slightest cause for optimism on the field and that may bring its own momentum. National glory and potential future earnings in Western Europe will be the prime motivation here though for these talented footballers.

Pitch/Venues:

Ernst Happel Stadium, Vienna - capacity 53,008. This stadium named after the Austrian father of Catenaccio has hosted four European Cup Finals and will also host the final.

Worthersee Stadium, Klagenfurt - capacity 32,000. Home of FC Karnten a steeply raked, atmospheric arena most famous for its solar panel heated water supply.

Devil's Advocate: With so much in Croatia's favour - a dynamic style of play, a smart coach, a unified squad and a weakish group - The Devil's Advocate is forced to take a negative slant on Croatia.

What if the current hype surrounding Croatia is little more than an overreaction to what was after all England's self-destruction in the final qualifier? What if Croatia's impressively compact shape is wrecked in the absence of Eduardo and what if this talented, yet untested group of players let their own press go to their heads? Equally, will ability alone be enough to prosper in a tournament comprised of hard-headed pragmatists?

Just one poor result early on and surely the whole show would begin to unravel, right?

Tournament prospects/vibes: However Croatia fair against the big guns you'd have to assume that on known form they will have too much in hand for both Austria and workmanlike Poland.

A favourable result and performance over Germany in the second game could see Croatia qualified after two games, and with a tail-wind behind them, they'd be off and running.

Fielding a top-heavy line up of six attack-minded players Croatia may have no problem creating chances. Without Eduardo, converting them may however become an issue.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Further back, the burden on a paceless defence could be too onerous if smarter sides can beat Croatia at their own exhilarating counter-attacking game.

Croatia should escape the group stages and by then we should have a good idea as to the calibre of their credentials.

GROUP B GERMANY

Team Name and Group: Germany Group B

Tournament odds: 4/1 general

Group odds: 8/11 to win Betfred, 1/7 to qualify Extrabet

ELO ratings: 1938

Fixture dates:

8th June v Poland, Klagenfurt 745pm

12th June v Croatia, Klagenfurt 5pm

16th June v Austria, Vienna 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-4-2 Lehmann; Jansen, Metzelder, Mertesacker, Lahm; Schweinsteiger, Ballack, Frings, Schneider; Gomez/Kuranyi, Klose

Manager: One of the younger coaches at the tournament, 48-year-old Joachim Low may lack the profile of his predecessor Jurgen Klinsmann but he enjoys a similar respect from both his players and Germany's media. As Klinsmann's assistant in 2006, Low was credited as the architect of the World Cup host's drive towards the semi finals. It is more of the same this time, though the coach believes he has greater squad depth than two years ago.

Team Overview:

With Euro 2008 taking place in neighbouring Austria and Switzerland, the Germans will start their second tournament in succession with 'home' advantage. Under Jurgen Klinsmann, Germany hosted The World Cup in 2006, entering the tournament with tempered expectations they built an unexpected momentum that took them to the semi finals where they lost in extra time to eventual winners Italy after extra time.

This time, the Germans enter Euro 2008 as firm favourites in the bookmakers' lists and the folks back home expect a good showing on their doorstep from Joachim Low's side.

Germany, a general 4/1 chance to lift the trophy, are significantly shorter in the betting than World Champions Italy (15/2), France (9/1) and Spain (7/1) - a clutch of teams with very little between them. Results over the last two years, and the immediate context of this tournament suggest that their just isn't the justification for backing the Nationalmannschaft at such a skinny price.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

The fact is, Germany's best matches in qualification (4-1 away in Slovakia and 2-1 in Prague) were over a year ago. A 0-0 home draw against an effectively U21 Wales side and a 3-0 defeat at home to The Czechs are much fresher in the memory and must offer cause for caution.

Added to this, half of Germany's starting line-up against Poland could take the field severely short of match sharpness after a season where form dips and injuries have afflicted the spine of Germany's team in their club roles. Frings, Metzelder, Ballack and Schneider have been subject to long lay offs this term - but will they be turned up fresh or simply unfit to play a system based on stamina and hard running? Only time will tell.

Secondly, regulars such as Lehmann at Arsenal and Podolski at Bayern have assumed the roles of second stringers at their clubs while Schweinsteiger, a key provider of Low's attacking thrust, has confirmed this season what many have long suspected - he lacks the stamina to compete hard 90 minute tests and behind the hype that surrounds his gilded cage existence at Bayern hype rather than talent has become his defining currency.

Germany should be good enough to escape the group - allowing their under-utilised stars to play themselves into form and fitness - however, a positive result for a potentially rampant Croatia in the second game would set up a tricky 'derby' against hosts Austria in the final group tie to ensure qualification.

Joachim Low's Germany play a compact 4-4-2, defending with a high line. Goalkeeper Lehmann, as a result, operates as an auxiliary sweeper, rushing from his goal to avert danger when required.

The emphasis is on powerful running rather than flair or individual inspiration.

The full backs and wide midfielders get up and down, Ballack supports the forwards arriving late in the box in his role as part holding midfielder, part creative fulcrum. Critics say that Ballack's defensive duties in this 4-4-2 system diminish the captain's creative contribution to the detriment of the team.

Last August at Wembley, Low experimented with a 4-1-4-1 line-up with Kuranyi employed as a lone striker and right back Lahm employed as a sitting midfield anchor. Out of sorts England may not have provided the sternest of tests but many believe that this set-up could be the answer in Austria in a tournament where most sides will field variants on a five man midfield and lone striker.

Another alternative is for Ballack to feature at the peak of a narrow midfield diamond. With the wide men tucking in, the captain could be relieved of his defensive duties. However, this system asks a lot of both full backs stamina and Low may not tinker until his side face a better class of opponent in the knock-out stages.

Low's 4-4-2 is essentially a throwback to an earlier time with the creative thrust coming from crosses from wide areas for a central strike pairing of a big man (Gomez, Kuranyi) and the mobile, intelligent predator - Klose.

Stuttgart's Mario Gomez (9 caps 5 goals) has been earmarked as a potential surprise package in Austria - which is possibly just as well given Germany's potential for one dimensional football in their current set-up. Gomez is a powerfully built, opportunistic striker - typically German then, despite his Spanish parentage.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Mood: Third place in 2006 was much better than anyone, particularly German fans, expected from their team. As a result, expectations are high - perhaps unrealistically high this time. Results, the fitness of key men, and the reaction of a pumped up German media will all condition the mood of a camp which is always potentially combustible as long as Michael Ballack is involved. For the moment it is the calm before the storm but that could all change as soon as doubts emerge.

Motivation: Low wants to complete the project he started with Klinsmann in 2006's World Cup by going one better here, the players want to take advantage of their 'home from home' setting and they will be well backed the biggest invasion into Austria since 1938.

Pitch/Venues:

Ernst Happel Stadium, Vienna - capacity 53,008. This stadium named after the Austrian father of Catenaccio has hosted four European Cup Finals and will also host the final.

Worthersee Stadium, Klagenfurt - capacity 32,000. Home of FC Karnten a steeply raked, atmospheric arena most famous for its solar panel heated water supply.

Devil's Advocate: Germany lack genuine flair in midfield, key men are short of match time and their 4-4-2 set up should see them consistently over-run in midfield. Germany look beatable as long as opponents cut off their supply in wide areas and stand tall defending setpieces. Lehmann, erratic at the best of times, will surely suffer from having played just 12 times in his final season as an Arsenal player. The Devil's Advocate feels that the Germans have been overrated on the back of three results v England, Slovakia and The Czechs - other performances in a middling qualification program don't bear much scrutiny.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Germany should be good enough to skate through a weakish looking group although an adverse result against Croatia could put the cat amongst the pigeons. There are a series of negatives surrounding Germany that have not been factored into the 4/1 price to win the competition and it seems likely they could just fall short again for the second tournament in succession. They look especially vulnerable to both flair and an inspired performance from exactly the kind of world class individual (a Ronaldo, a Torres, a Toni) that their own squad appears to lack (with the exception of Klose).

GROUP B POLAND

Team Name and Group: Poland Group B

Tournament odds: 50/1 Sportingbet

Group odds: 15/2 to win group (Bet365, Tote), to qualify 2/1 Bet365

ELO ratings: 1763

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Fixture dates:

8th June v Germany, Klagenfurt 745pm

12th June v Austria, Vienna 745pm

16th June v Croatia, Klagenfurt 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-5-1 Boruc; Zewlakow, Jop, Bak, Wasilewski; Kryzynowek, Lewandowski, Zurawski, Dudka, Blaszykowski; Smolarek

Manager: The charismatic 65-year-old Dutchman Leo Beenhakker has been in charge of Poland for two years, a period in which he has endeavoured to instil a winning mentality within players that boast significantly less talent on paper than their international predecessors. The job has called on all his experience gleaned at Ajax, Vitesse Arnhem and while winning a hatrick of titles at the helm of Real Madrid in the late 1980s. Poor coaching, poor infrastructure and an outdated league football culture, that is big on stamina and low on skill, cast Poland's domestic game as a poor relation on a European scale. However, Beenhakker has forged a side with an emphasis on overseas players (Dudka is the only home-based player likely to start) and he has made them hard to beat.

Team Overview:

Beenhakker's game plan relies on frustrating opponents by dominating midfield possession. Dudka and Shakhtar Donetsk's Lewandowski shield the back four and, as with Germany, the key creative thrust is confined to the wide men Blaszykowski or Lobodinski on the right and Kryzynowek or Smolarek on the right.

Maciej Zurawski was named 'Magic' during a spell of diminishing returns with Celtic and is now plying his trade in Greece with Larisa. He plays either as a lone striker, as an attacking midfielder or out wide for the Poles, for whom he enjoys heroic status. That said, his time at Parkhead suggests that he has a suspect attitude when faced with physical confrontation and at 32, his contribution may be on the wane. He also seems like a peculiarly ineffectual choice to don the armband of Poland's captain.

Ebi Smolarek (29 caps, 13 goals) is likely to take the sole strikers role or share a partnership with Wisla Krakow's Matusiak (14 caps, 6 goals) if Beenhakker lines up in a 4-4-2.

Smolarek, son of Polish legend Włodzimierz Smolarek, is known as Der Hash Bomber after testing positive for cannabis while with Feyenoord. He scored nine goals in a qualifying campaign that included good wins over Portugal and Belgium, where Poland actually topped Group A.

Poland's preparations for the finals have showcased both the good and the bad of this Polish side with a 2-0 win over The Czech's in Larnaca and a shocking 3-0 defeat in Krakow to The USA. On their day as Beenhakker suggests, Poland are hard to beat but the self-destruct impulse familiar from previous tournaments is never far from the surface either. Poland struggled despite good group draws in 2002 and 2006, both times failing to qualify for the knock-out phase despite boasting better players than can be found within their current pool.

Another possible negative could be the dip on form of inspirational goalkeeper Artur Boruc for both club and country. For Celtic, his status as a terrace hero after playing to

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

the bigoted elements within the Parkhead support has largely deflected attention from a poor season by his own standards. He was also made the scapegoat for Poland's recent 3-0 friendly defeat to the USA. Clearly agitating for a move away from Scotland to the promised land of a major European club, Boruc will see Euro 2008 as the perfect stage to promote his aims. However, there is a suspicion that the keeper has lost form and focus in a season's where 'The Holy Goalie's' inflammatory antics have overshadowed his efforts on the field.

Mood: Beenhakker has got the fans and players united behind him with a simple message based on clear tactical instructions and team motivation. This time, according to Ebi Smolarek, the camp will be less sensitive to media criticism of their performances in Austria and he believes a unified and relaxed squad will be the basis for a successful tournament.

Motivation: Poland have never beaten Germany in international competition but they know that they must gain at least a point from the opening game to give themselves a fighting chance of progressing. As with many sides here, it will be all about the opening game for Poland.

Pitch/Venues:

Ernst Happel Stadium, Vienna - capacity 53,008. This stadium named after the Austrian father of Catenaccio has hosted four European Cup Finals and will also host the final.

Worthersee Stadium, Klagenfurt - capacity 32,000. Home of FC Karnten a steeply raked, atmospheric arena most famous for its solar panel heated water supply.

Devil's Advocate: In topping a group including Portugal in qualification the Poles have shown they will be no pushovers - despite a deficit of star men.

Poland's passionate fans believe their side can be 'the new Greece' at Euro 2008. They have an equally enigmatic foreign coach as Greece's Otto Rehagel after all, and a similarly hard to beat side. As long as they can avoid defeat to Germany in their opening game they will harbour confident hopes of gaining enough against Austria and/or Croatia to allow them to qualify from Group B. After that, tournament play is all about sound defence and taking their chances when they come along. At opposing ends of the pitch, Poland's fate may ride on the contributions of both Boruc and Smolarek.

Tournament prospects/vibes: This is a team without one genuine star - a fact that ensures optimum team effort is Poland's sole unconditional ticket out of Group B. Put simply, both Germany and Croatia will draw their squads from a significantly superior pool of talent and have far better options on paper (and probably in practice). Yes, effort sometimes succeeds when talent under-performs but it is likely that Poland will face a reckoning at some stage when faced with equally committed but more gifted opponents.

Getting out of Group B is probably the summit of Poland's ambitions in Austria although that task looks plenty hard enough even though they can be backed at 2/1 to go through to the knockout phase.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GROUP C FRANCE

Euro 2008 France

Team Name and Group: France Group C

Tournament odds: 9/1 Skybet, Boyles

Group odds: 9/4 to win group Boyles, 8/15 to qualify Boyles, Bet365

ELO ratings: 1981

Fixture dates:

9th June v Romania, Zurich 5pm

13th June v Holland, Berne, 745pm

17th June v Italy, Zurich 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-4-2: Coupet; Abidal, Gallas, Thuram, Sagnol; Malouda, Makelele, Vieira, Ribery; Henry, Anelka/Benzema

Manager: Raymond Domenech the former U21 boss took over the senior side in 2004, guiding France to the 2006 World Cup Final and defeat against Italy. He blamed the ball boys at Hampden as his team slunk to an ignominious defeat against Scotland in qualification and claimed, apparently without irony, that he picked his squads with reference to players' star signs. He has ended the international careers of both David Trezeguet and Ludovic Giuly without ceremony and he enjoys the reputation as a cold fish who thrives on conflict. He says: "Everyone has a right to comment, even journalists. If I have to be criticised to help bring this squad together then so be it."

Team Overview: Coach Raymond Domenech enjoys seemingly endless options with his versatile players capable of playing in multiple positions. However, there is no doubt the coach would trade some of that flexibility for both the consistency of performance and individual quality that his predecessors Aime Jacquet and Roger Lemerre enjoyed from their teams.

There is no doubt France are in transition and seeking to find a new identity following the passing of the generation of Zidane and co. Coupet, Vieira and Sagnol have been cursed by niggling injuries that may inhibit them permanently. Malouda, Abidal and Henry have struggled to adapt at new clubs with Henry, in particular, a shadow of the player who carried all before him in England.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

And how long can Thuram and Makele defy the passing years? Is a tournament that demands playing every four days at the end of a long, hard, club season a bridge too far for two of Les Bleus' greatest servants?

In recent times France have been able to bridge the gap between youth and experience with a seemingly endless, and seamless, procession of new talent that could be slotted into an already successful squad machine as required. Latterly the disparity between callow youth and grizzled veterans within the national team structure has grown noticeably wider.

Currently France is a side comprising ageing stars with literally nothing left to prove and talented youngsters lacking the experience of top level tournament play. At 25, Bayern Munich's Franck Ribery (25 caps, 3 goals) is one of the few current French stars who can boast the requisite combination of talent, youth and big game experience that this unbalanced squad lacks.

Currently, the likes of Lyon's Karim Benzema and Hatem Ben Arfa are all potential at international level and if the likes of Vieira, Makelele and Henry are now in decline it is possible to argue that France are going into the finals of a major tournament without a single world class player (on current form) for the first time since Michel Platini established his international credentials in the late 1970s.

Domenech's preference appears to be for a traditional 4-4-2 set-up in which Benzema or Anelka partner Henry up front. Malouda and Ribery occupy the wide berths, in the role of traditional wingers. Vieira and Makele anchor the midfield. With both the wrong side of 30, a key issue will be their mobility (or possibly the lack of it) in Switzerland.

Sagnol, Abidal and centre halves Thuram and Gallas are on paper at least, a very solid, no-nonsense back four.

Mexes, Evra and Escude are more than capable deputies for first choice defenders but in the creative positions reliable squad men are hard to come by. The likes of Nasri and Toulanan for example lack extended exposure at international level. The likes of Govou and Cisse have been well tried (both have over 30 caps) and consistently found wanting.

An alternative formation is for Domenech to line up in a 4-2-3-1 as he did against England in March, with Ribery in a free role alongside a withdrawn striker and possibly Govou on the right of a midfield trident behind Henry. However, this is about as radical as it gets for the instinctively conservative Domenech.

Just as in England, the French academy system has failed to produce the successive generations of talented footballers its creators must have hoped for. The inherent flexibility in Domenech's squad is almost certainly the natural conclusion of a process of shaping young players with an emphasis on stamina, collective play and tactical coaching as opposed to developing raw talent to be able to autonomously express itself in match situations.

At the moment, France are good rather than great and that must make them vulnerable somewhere along the line. It will probably take a big tournament from Henry, Anelka and Vieira or the emergence of a younger man (perhaps Benzema, Ben Arfa or Toulana) to propel France much beyond the quarter finals. And of course, in this so-called 'Group of Death' there are no guarantees that an off colour France side would even get that far.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Mood: Domenech has instilled a media embargo during the finals befitting his seeming preference for forging a squad that thrives on conflict. The date of the French Cup Final on May 24th will also see no break for those involved between league and international duty.

At this stage it is difficult to discern the mood of France's main men. Trezeguet's omission will no doubt have focussed minds on the task ahead but with a media blackout in place, unsurprisingly, no-one is saying too much ahead of the opening game.

Motivation: Warhorses such as Vieira, Makelele and Henry may suffer from having nothing to prove at international level anymore - especially at the end of frustrating club campaigns. The youngsters in the squad will want to match the achievements of the 1998 and 2000 sides that they presumably were raised on. It remains to be seen whether anyone will feel overly motivated to go that extra mile for the apparently unlikeable Domenech.

Pitch/Venues:

Pro Letzigrund, Zurich - Capacity 31,000. The home of FC Zurich is notable for an athletics track around the perimeter. Could a lack of atmosphere be an issue here?

Wankdorf Stadium, Berne - Capacity 32,000. The home of BSC Young Boys

Devil's Advocate: Les Bleus are great competitors, regardless of the individual qualities of the team they might field, and that might be enough to see them through 'The Group of Death'. With a favourable draw, theoretically at least, things might even get easier for France after being tested by Italy, Holland and Romania in their first three games. In a tournament where there are question marks over most of the market principles, France should at least be able to build their challenge on the back of a sound defence. If Ribery can step up in Switzerland than France could find the kind of inspiration that their challenge lacks on paper.

Tournament prospects/vibes: France are hard to evaluate unseen. The Italy factor is also likely to cast a long shadow over proceedings, with the memory of Zidane's sending off in 2006 and the desire for revenge still fresh in the memory. France's prospects probably rely on them having already qualified prior to the clash with Italy. Otherwise, there is a danger that the final group game could come to overshadow France's tournament, exacting a psychological and physical toll on the players. The 9/1 price to win Euro 2008 suggests that the compilers don't have a strong line on France either at this stage.

GROUP C ITALY

Team Name and Group: Italy Group C

Tournament odds: 15/2 (Paddy Power, Skybet)

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Group odds: 7/4 to win the group general, 1/2 to qualify Paddy Power

ELO ratings: 2001

Fixture dates:

9th June v Holland, Berne 745pm
13th June v Romania, Zurich 5pm
17th June v France, Zurich 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-1-4-1 Buffon, Zambrotta, Materazzi, Cannavaro, Panucci; De Rossi; Di Natale, Gattuso, Pirlo, Camoranesi; Toni

Manager: Given Roberto Donadoni's low-key coaching pedigree (based on success at Lecce and Livorno), the challenge for the 44-year-old former Milan star at Euro 2008 is to step out of the shadow of Marcelo Lippi and his World Cup winners, stamp his imprint on Italy and address what is a very poor European Championship record.

The early signs are that everything is falling into place for the markedly pragmatic coach and there is an assured confidence in the Italian camp that the illustrious double (last won by France) of consecutive World Cup and Euro victories is definitely on. On paper too, this looks like an even better, more balanced side, than the one Lippi led to victory in Germany too years ago.

Team Overview: In a tournament with no outstanding teams, Roberto Donadoni's Italy could carry all before them simply through boasting fewer negatives than their market rivals.

Donadoni has created a classic Italian side. The defensive bedrock is firmly in place but this side also play an intelligent, tight, possession-oriented game that can seamlessly notch up a gear with no little flair.

Buffon, Cannavaro and Materazzi in defence, De Rossi and Pirlo in midfield and powerful striker Luca Toni are the spine of a side that can be relied upon to cede very little. De Rossi, as the midfield anchor/defensive shield is fulcrum on which all else turns.

Against stronger sides, Pirlo drops deeper to form a 4-2-3-1 formation or a halfway house 4-5-1.

With three ball winners in central positions, the flair is provided by Di Natale and Camoranesi from wide. Indeed, the only negative is that these lightweight ball players could be bullied out of games, denying service to Toni.

That said, both men bring variety to Italy's play that justifies their inclusion. Boriello and late call-up Cassano are potential impact substitutes, generally replacing Toni and Di Natale in the final 20 minutes of games.

Mood: 'Italy expects' and recent results such as an impressive win at Hampden (which offers a telling formline with France) and a 3-1 friendly win over Portugal in February augur well. The players have recovered from the inevitable World Cup hangover, recovering their physical and mental energies, along with their appetite for

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

competition. The fact that none of these players featured beyond the quarter finals stage in this season's Champions League should also ensure that Donadoni's camp are better rested and prepared than previous Italian Euro Championship sides. There is a unified, settled squad and a quiet confidence emanating from the Italian camp.

Motivation: Donadoni will want to confirm his credentials, distinct from the shadow of Marcelo Lippi's achievements, in Switzerland. His players, especially captain Cannavaro and Buffon, will be looking to atone for the heartbreak of a Golden Goal defeat to France in 2004.

Pitch/Venues:

Pro Letzigrund, Zurich - Capacity 31,000. The home of FC Zurich is notable for an athletics track around the perimeter. Could a lack of atmosphere be an issue here?

Wankdorf Stadium, Berne - Capacity 32,000. The home of BSC Young Boys

Devil's Advocate: Italy may be world champions but their record in this tournament is woeful - one win in 40 years. The Golden Goal defeat to France in 2004 is a timely reminder that sometimes the form teams don't win at a level where the margins between success and failure are tiny. Italy often start poorly in tournaments - like their club sides they prepare to peak in the final stages of competitions - but in a group comprising themselves, France, Holland and Romania, especially as their first game is against the Dutch, who at this stage are of uncertain providence due to the tactical tinkering of Marco Van Basten. Van Basten of course, knows all about Italian football from his golden years spent in Milan. With old foes France lying in wait for Italy in the final group game there will be no second chances for the Italians and they must hit the ground running to triumph here.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Forty years have passed since Italy last won the Euro Championships but the omens are good for that jinx to be lifted in Switzerland. As current World Champions, and also a side seemingly still on the upgrade (having added flair to 2006's doggedness), Italy deserve to be tournament favourites. They are value at 15/2 to lift the title and, to our mind at least, they represent a better betting proposition than Germany (4/1), 'talking horses' Spain (13/2) and Portugal, an identically rated 15/2.

GROUP C HOLLAND

Team Name and Group: Holland Group C

Tournament odds: 14/1 (Boyles, Stan James, Betdirect)

Group odds: 11/4 to win group (Bet365, Coral, Betfred), 5/6 to qualify Betfred

ELO ratings: 1940

Fixture dates:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

9th June v Italy, Zurich 745pm
13th June v France, Berne 745pm
17th June v Romania, Berne 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-2-3-1 Van Der Sar; De Cler, Mathijsen/Bouma, Heitinga, Melchiot; Van Bronckhorst, De Zeeuw; Sneijder, Van Der Vaart, Van Persie; Van Nistelrooy

Manager: So much for Marco Van Basten's brave new dawn that should have been geared to winning Euro 2008.

The Dutch legend will depart the manager's office after the tournament for Ajax and it is difficult to believe that he has not already been part diverted towards a major restructuring job in Amsterdam.

Van Basten's tenure in the national hotseat has been one of diminishing returns and his heroic status has been downgraded as a result. With Dutch football experiencing its poorest talent pool since the pre-Cruyff era, Van Basten acceded to a player's request to ditch the classic Dutch 4-3-3 in favour of a pragmatic 4-2-3-1 that ekes the most out of Holland's currently diminished options.

Team Overview: In footballing terms, Holland are the classic pantomime horse - with the rear bearing no relation to the front. In this case, it's an apposite simile as the semi-thoroughbred attacking quartet couldn't be more different from a particularly 'ugly' defensive six comprised of creaking veterans and hesitant defenders.

Holland's main problem is their back four, where only Heitinga of Ajax is assured of his place. Mathijsen (woeful in a 4-3 win over Austria), Bouma and Ooijer have all been tried without unearthing a reliable combination at the back.

At full back Wigan's Mario Melchiot (just 20 caps despite being aged 32) and Tim De Cler will likely get the nod to start.

Demy DeZeeuw and 'lightweight' veteran Gio Van Bronckhorst of Feyenoord should sit in front of the back four creating a shield for the creative trident of Sneijder, Van Der Vaart and Van Persie to express themselves and supply Ruud Van Nistelrooy (a player who domestic critics such as Cruyff insist cannot play 'the Dutch way').

With their weakest links in central defensive positions in midfield and at the back Holland have both an extremely unbalanced look about them and an extremely weak looking spine.

Milan's defensive midfielder Clarence Seedorf (who led the players' calls for a change of system), Robben and Afellay offer varyingly appealing midfield options.

Huntelaar of Ajax, offers cover for Van Nistelrooy and Celtic's Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink will inevitably be thrown on as a target man if Holland are chasing goals late on. The lack-lustre Celtic striker is not particularly rated in his homeland (for good reason), yet he did turn the recent friendly against Austria in Vienna when Holland recovered from a gobsmacking 3-0 half time deficit to win 4-3.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Mood: The mood in the camp couldn't be more downbeat with results such as 1-0 wins over Albania and Luxembourg and a 2-1 win over Belarus have plunged Dutch football into a cul-de-sac of soul searching. No one, it seems, including Jan Wouters who spoke to one of my contacts last week, believes that the cut and shut Dutch are capable of anything at this tournament. Others such as Gunter Netzer, Hard Gras editor Henk Spaan and Dutch rent a quote Simon Kuper claim the spirit of Total Football is dead.

David Winner, author of Brilliant Orange, sums up the malaise thus: "One moment Holland was confident, happy and prosperous, the next a seething vortex of anxiety, self-doubt, suspicion and xenophobia." It seems that the feel-bad factor has cut the Dutch population's cultural identity to the quick. The Dutch football establishment, meanwhile, is steeling itself for a bloody nose.

Perversely, bitter in-fighting and a surfeit of self confidence have consistently derailed Dutch challenges since they won this tournament 20 years ago, with Van Basten the star striker, so perhaps with no expectations his side will be able to play their football without pressure and adapt to the straitened circumstances of the new era.

Motivation: The motivation is simple. If they have any professional pride, the Dutch will want to prove to the world that they are a better side than they have been given credit for. A desire to set the record straight can, in the right hands, prove to be a powerful inspiration.

Pitch/Venues:

Pro Letzigrund, Zurich - Capacity 31,000. The home of FC Zurich is notable for an athletics track around the perimeter. Could a lack of atmosphere be an issue here?

Wankdorf Stadium, Berne - Capacity 32,000. The home of BSC Young Boys.

Devil's Advocate: As Sir Alex Ferguson says, no team are either as good or as bad as they are depicted in the press and so it could prove in Switzerland. Holland lack the flamboyance of old but football in the present day is more of a team game than ever and Holland have one just one tournament in 34 years playing the Dutch School tactics. Hard Gras' Henk Spaan is optimistic: "As soon as the influence of Cruyff can be banished there is a chance of a good national team. Dutch players will still be clever, technical and intuitive like Van Der Vaart and Van Persie is the new Bergkamp - only more of a killer."

There is a heavy burden on both Holland's offensive and defensive units as a result of an obvious talent imbalance in the squad but if Holland can paper over the cracks with a pragmatic game plan then who knows what teamwork, focus and a desire to prove the critics wrong can achieve?

Tournament prospects/vibes: With so much unknown about Holland and their mood, system and outlook prior to the tournament a best price of 14/1 looks decidedly non-committal on the part of the compilers. Non-committal is exactly how we should be at this early stage too. My instinct is that Holland will be poor in Switzerland but having spent the last 34 years generally confounding positive expectations, 2008 could be the year when this unheralded national team sticks with their form and turns the doomsday forecasts back home on their heads.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GROUP C ROMANIA

Team Name and Group: Romania Group C

Tournament odds: 50/1 Tote, Betfred, Sportingbet

Group odds: 12/1 to win group (Bet365, Blue Square, Skybet), 7/2 to qualify (Bet365, Betfred)

ELO ratings: 1872

Fixture dates:

9th June v France, Zurich 5pm

13th June v Italy, Zurich 5pm

17th June v Netherlands, Berne 7pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-2-3-1 Lobont; Rat, Tamas, Goian, Contra; Chivu, Cocis; Mutu, O. Petre, F. Petre; Marica

Manager: Former Steau forward Victor Piturca is another coach in his second spell with his national team. He enjoys a reputation as an unflappable, thoughtful tactician who is not afraid of difficult decisions such as taking on Romanian legend Gheorge Hagi over bonuses. That one ended in Piturca's sacking first time around.

Piturca has also twice tactically outwitted Marco Van Basten in a home win and away draw in qualification and their teams meet again in the third group tie. Piturca believes there is nothing between his side and Holland. However, both France and Italy have beaten Romania whenever they have matched up in the past. As a result, Romania are geared up to catch France cold in a first match that is viewed as 'vital' by their domestic media.

Team Overview: Piturca says: "We have a chance, even though it is small, and we'll play as a team who have nothing to lose and everything to win."

It is a state of mind that should find expression in Piturca's dynamic, counter attacking style, led by keeper Bogdan Lobont who constantly looks to start quick attacks wherever possible - usually through flying winger Florentin Perez of CSKA Sofia.

Goian, Chivu and Mutu are the talented spine of Piturca's Romanians. Dorin Goian will be an unfamiliar name to most but the towering centre half is an accomplished defender who is just as comfortable in the opponent's area (he has scored five Champions League goals in 25 European games for Steaua).

Chivu (Inter) and Mutu (Fiorentina) are the two present day players whose quality would have seen them equally at home in the 1994 World Cup side of Hagi and Popescu.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

At international level, Cristian Chivu, a veteran of Ajax, Roma and Inter, is utilised as a composed presence in midfield where he plays in a holding role (on the left of Lokomotiv Moscow's Razvan Cocis). Razvan Rat is a memorably named Champions League regular with Shakhtar Donetsk and his surging runs from left back exemplify the confidence of a technically gifted side whose lesser-known players will inevitably carry and element of surprise in Switzerland.

With 27 goals in 60 caps, Fiorentina's Adrian Mutu offers the main attacking threat, despite playing behind lone striker Ciprian Marica (23 caps 8 goals) of Stuttgart.

Determined winger Banel Nicolita and defensive utility man Mirel Radoi (both Steau) are the others most likely to press for a starting spot in Switzerland.

Romania are another team clinging to the 'new Greece' tag but, in terms of style of play, Romania have more in common with Croatia. Like them they look most convincing on the front foot.

Mood: Romania is split between the pessimists who recall the side's dismal last showing at Euro 96 where they scored only once and returned home pointless. Others have adopted Piturca's line that Romania have nothing to lose and everything to win. Everyone appears convinced that Romanian football is at a crossroads and that results will condition what happens next. No one though is under any illusions that being in 'The Group of Death' is pretty much the hardest draw imaginable. "It is the hardest group but also the most attractive", Piturca says. After an eight year wait and three successive play-off defeats in major championship qualification campaigns the pressure is off to a great extent. Romania are just pleased to be in Switzerland but that doesn't mean they are content to make up the numbers.

Motivation: The tournament is a massive shop window for all concerned and the players will want to compare favourably with the class of 1994 that got to The World Cup quarter finals in America.

Pitch/Venues:

Pro Letzigrund, Zurich - Capacity 31,000. The home of FC Zurich is notable for an athletics track around the perimeter. Could a lack of atmosphere be an issue here?

Wankdorf Stadium, Berne - Capacity 32,000. The home of BSC Young Boys

Devil's Advocate: If Piturca can outwit Van Basten for a third time to gain three points in the final then two draws against Italy and France would see Romania into the knock outs. It's a tall order but stranger things will happen and it is a group where the more fancied sides could cut their own throats leaving the back door open for the supposed makeweights. More likely though, Romania will make a few friends along the way with good individual performances and some nice football along the way.

Tournament prospects/vibes: At 50/1 nobody is expecting Romania to win Euro 2008 but their style alone should ensure they will pose good teams problems, so perhaps they can be supported on a game by game basis where prices allow. A 3-0 home win over Russia in a March friendly offers decent encouragement that Romania won't let their fans down this time around.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

GROUP D GREECE

Team Name and Group: Greece Group D

Tournament odds: 28/1 Totesport

Group odds: 9/2 to win group (Wm Hill, Skybet), 5/4 to qualify Paddy Power

ELO ratings: 1836

Fixture dates:

10th June v Sweden, Salzburg 745pm

14th June v Russia, Salzburg 745pm

18th June v Spain, Innsbruck 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-3-3 Nikopolidis; Torosidis, Dellas, Kyrgiakos, Seitaridis; Karagounis, Basinas, Katsouranis; Amanatidis, Gekas, Haristead

Manager: 'A German coach' who plays 'the German way' according to Angelos Haristead, Otto Rehgel still uses an interpreter (nicknamed Mini Otto) after more than five years in the job. Nonetheless, the 69-year-old is unlikely to garner any dissention in Greece after guiding the team to an unexpected tournament triumph in 2004. The current holders will lack the element of surprise this time but their model of squad unity and collective organisation (based on stern defence, setpieces and counter attacks) is currently the blueprint for all unfancied European sides.

Team Overview: The formation is officially 4-3-3 but the Greek set-up is probably as far away from Holland's classic Total Football formation as you are likely to get.

Rehgel claims that his Greeks will be more flexible this time than the were when boring their way to the final four years ago. They notably employed a 4-4-2 in a 2-1 friendly win over Portugal in March although the style remained a high tempo, pressing game where the Greeks harried their more technically gifted opponents.

Around ten of the 2004 squad remain in and around the current Greece set-up with striker Georgios Samaras claiming that the atmosphere and style of play remain the same four years on.

Veteran keeper Nikopolidis plays behind a regular back four of Seitaridis (54 caps), Torosidis (11 caps) and central defenders Dellas (39 caps) and Kyrgiakos (36 caps). Height in the centre, pace in the full back positions and good international experience are the defining characteristics of this back line.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

The midfield three is equally experienced with Basinas (86 caps) of Mallorca holding the central position alongside playmaker Karagounis (71 caps) and pacy defensive midfielder Katsouranis (46 caps) of Benfica.

Haristeas (63 caps 18 goals), scorer of the Final winner in 2004 has remained a fixture with Rehgel despite falling out of the picture at Nurnberg. His key threat is in the air although, as it is a Rehgel team, he will also be expected to defend from the front closing down defenders in possession.

Gekas of Bayer Leverkusen is both Greece's primary striker and top scorer in the Bundesliga last season with 20 goals for Bochum. A no-nonsense, physical forward, his wife is expecting twins during the tournament, which could prove to be a distraction.

On the left, Amanatidis (24 caps 2 goals) is essentially a conventional winger with good stamina. He also plays his football in Germany with Eintracht Frankfurt.

Arguably, this is a stronger Greek squad than in 2004 - mainly due to the fact that Rehgel has superior options from the bench if things are going wrong.

Giannakopoulos, formerly of Bolton, has become an impact sub in the twilight of his career. His experience (72 caps 12 goals), decent ability and reliable long range shot are his key attributes. Tziolis is regarded as the defensive midfield heir to 2004 captain Theo Zagorakis.

Up front, Limberopoulos' energy can revitalize Greece on an off day. He also boasts great experience (58 caps 12 goals) and a good long range shot. Salpigidis (19 caps 1 goal) is a straight swap for Haristeas. He is the smallest member of the squad but is a particularly determined character despite lacking the ability of some of his teammates (such as the frustrating Samaras).

Mood: With a settled and experienced squad marshalled by a much-loved coach, Greece are in an ideal position to go well again. Having won the tournament last time, expectations are inevitably lower ahead of Austria - few believe lightning can strike twice. Greece can play with both confidence and more freedom this time and they will be confident of qualifying presumably ahead of Russia and Sweden.

Motivation: The Greeks will want to show they are no 'one tournament wonders' and for the younger squad members based domestically such as Tziolis, Torosidis and Antzas this tournament could be a lucrative shop window.

Pitch/Venues:

Wals Siezen Heim Stadium, Salzburg - capacity 30,000. Red Bull Salzburg's artificial pitch has been replaced with turf for Euro 2008. It will be worth noting if the newly laid pitch offers any advantage to the likes of Greece and Sweden who will be keen to see play broken up.

Tivoli Neu Stadium, Innsbruck - capacity 30,000. The home of FC Wacker Tirol was completed in 2000 and extended for Euro 2008. Innsbruck boasts mild, continental weather which should favour both Spain and Greece.

Devil's Advocate: Greece have the form in the book and a possibly even better squad this time. Group qualification certainly doesn't look beyond them and their tight,

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

pressing game will give little away if they maintain their form of recent friendly wins over Finland and Portugal (both 2-1).

Tournament prospects/vibes: Any team that wants to beat Greece will be forced to roll up their sleeves for a result. However, while Greece look comfortable in favourable match positions, their side's lack of game-changing, quality individuals and non-reactive tactics suggests that at some stage Greece's collective effort will just fall short and that could be enough to seem them beaten by a better side for whom things simply click on the day.

At 28/1 they are an unappealing betting prospect to win Euro 2008.

GROUP D RUSSIA

Team Name and Group: Russia Group D

Tournament odds: 33/1 (Tote, Betfred)

Group odds: 5/1 general to win group, 6/4 to qualify Bet365

ELO ratings: 1751

Fixture dates:

10th June v Spain, Innsbruck 5pm

14th June v Greece, Salzburg 745pm

18th June v Sweden, Innsbruck 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-5-1 Akinfeev; A. Berezutsky/Zhirov, Shirokov, Ignasevich/Kolodin, Anyukov; Zhirkov/Torbinsky, Zyryanov, Bilyaletdinov, Semshov, Bystrov; Pavlyuchenko/Pogrebnyak

Manager: Guus Hiddink enjoys the reputation of something of a football alchemist having transformed the base metal of South Korea and Australia into something approaching gold in recent major tournaments. A shrewd and fearless tactician who also enjoys a reputation as a lucky coach, Hiddink exploited Croatia's result at Wembley to see his Russians slink into the Euro finals at the expense of England. He has also coached Holland, Valencia, Real Madrid and PSV Eindhoven before reinventing himself as something of a football equivalent of St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes. Linked with every major vacancy, it is hard to know what Hiddink's motivation is. A lavish \$2.4m annual salary, subsidised by Roman Abramovich, may provide the biggest clue - he was also convicted of evading taxes worth 1.4m Euros in 2007, for which he earned a six month suspended sentence and a hefty fine.

Hiddink's outspoken nature constantly threatens to lead him into confrontation - but never seems to effect his popularity with the football public. He sent Holland's Edgar Davids home following an argument at Euro 96 and during a league game at Valencia's

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Estadio Mestalla, he ordered a racist banner to be removed from one of the stands. His open attacking brand of football has appealed to fans at every club he has managed.

Team Overview:

Despite Hiddink's reputation for cavalier football the Dutchman seldom takes risks until his hand is forced. This is a conventional 4-5-1 side until called on to change the game.

Russia's initial problems stem from the two game suspension of their playmaker and captain Andrei Arshavin of Zenit St Petersburg.

Indeed, the Russian's could already be out after two hard games before he returns.

Also, all five defensive slots remain up for grabs on the eve of the finals.

Keeper Akinfeev is out of sorts at CSKA after a long injury lay-off. His teammates in defence, the Berezutsky twins and Ignashevich were mainstays in qualification but failed to convince in a sluggish defence. Semshov and Zyryanov will anchor the midfield but, in the absence of Arshavin the creative roles remain to be cast. Bilyaletdinov (central attacking midfielder) and Torbinsky (dynamic winger and sometime impact sub) should feature alongside the tricky, extremely fast Bystrov on the right. Bystrov could be the one Russian to step up in Arshavin's absence. He has pace to burn but his final ball is erratic.

In the lone striker role, Spartak's Roman Pavlyuchenko is a typical target man - good in the air, he links up poorly with the midfield and lacks the mobility expected of an international striker.

Of the back up men only Sychev, 'The Russian Michael Owen' and formerly of Marseille, and ex-Sevilla man Kerzhakov have had any notable exposure abroad. Hiddink ended the international careers of former captains Smertin and Titov with his scorched earth rebuilding. Now there appears to be an experience void at the heart of Russia's team.

Mood: The Russians are asking 'how long can we rely upon Hiddink's luck?' after Russia qualified for the finals with a whimper (1-0 v Andorra) rather than a bang. The press think Arshavin's suspension will effectively see their challenge stillborn. They claim he is their one creative inspiration. The press also cite the lack of a commanding centre half and a deficit of pace at the back as major negatives. They, and you'd expect Russia's more insular nationalist fans, will tolerate Hiddink only as long as results offer him protection. The team seem united behind the charismatic coach (for now) but there are clearly divisive voices in operation in the background and who knows how they are chipping away at players' morale.

Motivation: Transfer opportunities and professional ambition are the motivations here - the same as for everyone else. More so, in the case of Russia with their wholly home-based squad.

Pitch/Venues:

Wals Siezen Heim Stadium, Salzburg - capacity 30,000. Red Bull Salzburg's artificial pitch has been replaced with turf for Euro 2008. It will be worth noting if the newly

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

laid pitch offers any advantage to the likes of Greece and Sweden who will be keen to see play broken up.

Tivoli Neu Stadium, Innsbruck - capacity 30,000. The home of FC Wacker Tirol was completed in 2000 and extended for Euro 2008. Innsbruck boasts mild, continental weather which should favour both Spain and Greece.

Devil's Advocate: Guus Hiddink isn't called lucky for nothing but surely getting out of the group must be the summit of Russia's ambitions?

Tournament prospects/vibes: Russia have never reached the second round of a top-level competition and that lack of an in-built success gene means that self-confidence could be an issue - in spite of Hiddink's motivational skills.

The run of the group games, starting with Spain who they have never beaten, Greece and Sweden has done them no favours. Spain, going by past form, tend to save their best form for the group games before petering out in a later round.

Russia, who failed to make Germany 2006, reached these finals after coming second to Croatia in Group E. Guus Hiddink's team sealed qualification in their final game, capitalising on England's home defeat by Croatia to climb into second spot after Dmitri Sychev earned a 1-0 win in Andorra. They posted a record of W7 D3 L2. Again the result against England may ensure they are overrated here and a deceptively easy qualifying campaign, where they played no one of quality, ensures they are yet to be tested. Romania beat the Russians 3-0 in a Bucharest friendly in March. That, and the generally negative mood enveloping Hiddink's team, suggests to me that Russia could struggle.

GROUP D

SPAIN

Team Name and Group: Spain Group D

Tournament odds: 13/2 Blue Square

Group odds: Evens to win group Blue Square, 1/4 to qualify (Boyles, Sportingbet, Extrabet)

ELO ratings:

Fixture dates:

10th June v Russia, Innsbruck 5pm

14th June v Sweden, Innsbruck 5pm

18th June v Greece, Salzburg 745pm

Full-strength team and formation: 4-1-2-3 Casillas; Capdevilla, Pablo, Puyol, Sergio Ramos; Senna/Xabi Alonso; Xavi, Fabregas/Iniesta; Silva/Villa, Fernando Torres, Iniesta/Fabregas

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Manager: Most closely associated with Athletic Madrid, for whom he played and has managed four times, 69-year old Luis Aragones has coached every other major club in Spain bar Real Madrid. Aragones' exclusion of Raul (and his links to Real's city rivals) ensure he is unlikely to get the call to The Bernebau anytime soon.

Irascible, unpredictable and distinctly unreconstructed it is hard to know whether Aragones is an asset or a millstone around his talented players' necks.

Since losing in Belfast and Stockholm, Spain were unbeaten in 12 qualifiers and Aragones has reconfigured his side in a ball-playing, possession-based playing style that appears to suit his players.

However, the Aragones of racist outbursts and altercations with fans and journalists is never far from the surface. Spain could implode just as easily as they can enchant. La Liga produces great domestic-based players but its best managers are generally imported. Aragones, a manager who worryingly refers to himself in the third person, is an accident waiting to happen and if Spain are to win Euro2008 they may have to do so in spite of, rather than because of, their coach.

Team Overview: Spain have a surfeit of small, agile and supremely talented ball players and as such, their tactics (a high tempo pass and move style) pretty much suggest themselves. So much so, that if things aren't going Spain's way it is hard to imagine what their Plan B might be.

Luis Aragones' recent pronouncements have focussed on Spain's need to stand tall and compete at Euro 2008 as a prelude to playing their best football - and on their day few can match Spain's fluid passing.

Aragones' 4-1-2-3 is a formation born out of necessity. The coach's minimum requirement is that his set-up must incorporate Xavi, Iniesta and Fabregas.

The excellent Marcos Senna of Villarreal relies on sublime positioning rather than brute force as the midfield's defensive pivot. He also provides excellent setpiece delivery. Senna's main competition comes from Liverpool's Xabi Alonso.

But while the midfield picks itself, Spain's defence is a definite Achilles heel. Pablo and Marchena are rudimentary defenders at best, while Puyol's poor positioning has come under scrutiny this season. Full-backs Capdevilla and Sergio Ramos provide the width in Spain's play as Aragones plays with 'false wingers' who drift inside in support of Liverpool's Fernando Torres. Given what is required of Sergio Ramos and Capdevilla stamina-wise a game every four days could be a very tall order. And if the full backs under-perform, Spain's game-plan will fall apart.

In goal Real Madrid's Iker Casillas continues to live up to his Saint Iker nickname while Fernando Torres has enjoyed the season of his life at Liverpool with 33 goals, breaking Ruud van Nistelrooy's record of most league goals scored in the debut season (van Nistelrooy scored 23). For the first time in his career, the striker dubbed El Nino enjoys the support of the whole of Spain and will carry the nation's hopes in Switzerland.

With Riera, Silva and Joaquin in the squad, Aragones also has the option of playing two up front and two genuine widemen - though that would mean sacrificing probably two of his three main men.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Spain have an abundance of riches in possession but it is how they will fare without the ball that could decide their fate in Switzerland. The sitting midfielder, whether Senna or Alonso, will have to have a big tournament and if the defence are as flaky as the club form of some of Spain's central defenders then possibly even Casillas' heroics won't be able to save them.

In terms of unalloyed talent few can match Spain. At their best they are potentially unstoppable but Spain have done nothing in a major finals since winning the 1964 Euros, as the hosts. Since then they have contrived all sorts of cruel and unusual ways to self destruct.

Mood: Aragones has built a young, talented and loyal squad and for the moment Spain can dream of lifting the trophy - especially if they perform to type and coast through the group stage. But if things go wrong, the know-alls of Spain's press corps will form an orderly queue as they line up to kick the team when its down and exact a bit of payback on their non-media friendly national coach.

Motivation: With no major tournament win since 1964 - 44 years of hurt is a lot of motivation.

Pitch/Venues:

Wals Siezen Heim Stadium, Salzburg - capacity 30,000. Red Bull Salzburg's artificial pitch has been replaced with turf for Euro 2008. It will be worth noting if the newly laid pitch offers any advantage to the likes of Greece and Sweden who will be keen to see play broken up.

Tivoli Neu Stadium, Innsbruck - capacity 30,000. The home of FC Wacker Tirol was completed in 2000 and extended for Euro 2008. Innsbruck boasts mild, continental weather which should favour both Spain and Greece.

Devil's Advocate: Spain has the best players in the tournament and will play the best football of the competing nations. This is the year Spain will get it right on and off the field and triumph in style.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Spain's diminutive midfield may make pretty patterns but it remains to be seen if they can physically compete in the knockout games. The likes of Pablo and Marchena look out of their depth - along with a number of the Valencia contingent who have endured a particularly poor club season at The Mestalla. Barcelona's Puyol has creaked this term too.

Fernando Torres' international record of 15 goals in 46 games doesn't suggest he is the saviour in waiting he has been hailed as either. Eight strikers scored 15 or more goals in The Premiership this season which probably puts Torres' Liverpool feats into a bit of context. It will be harder to score goals at Euro 2008 (the top scorer generally nets around five times in the competition) and a formation of three narrow front men could see Torres crowded out in the box where chances come his way.

The layers' instinct to oppose Spain has been correct for every tournament since The Beatles released A Hard Day's Night and common sense suggests Spain will find at least one team too good this time - because they always do. Certainly, there is no reason why they should be a shorter price than The World Champions Italy or France (a similarly unpredictable betting prospect this time).

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Spain are the team the bookies love to lay as every tournament comes around - and they've bought bookie's wives' fur coats and foreign holidays aplenty over the last 44 years. If Spain aren't being simply 'unlucky' in tournaments they are likely to be the architects of their own downfall, undone by bickering and head-turning hype.

Generally, the rule of thumb with Spain in tournaments is to support them in the group games, where inevitably they flatter to deceive, and then avoid them like the plague as soon as they face a significant challenge in the knockout stages.

GROUP D SWEDEN

Team Name and Group: Sweden Group D

Tournament odds: 33/1 general

Group odds: 5/1 to win the group general, 11/8 to qualify Bet365

ELO ratings: 1760

Fixture dates:

10th June v Greece, Salzburg 745pm

14th June v Spain, Innsbruck 5pm

18th June v Russia, Innsbruck 745pm

Full-strength team and formation:

Manager: Conservative, methodical, hard-headed, Lars Lagerback is the classic Swedish coach. And having guided Sweden through five successful qualification campaigns he is unlikely to move too far from the tried and tested once again.

The bedrocks will be organisation and hard work but significant injuries and the diminished quality of Sweden's current pool ensures that this team is not a patch on the class of 94 who gained the bronze medal at The World Cup in America and were briefly second in FIFA's world rankings as a result.

Expectations at home are unrealistically high with qualification taken for granted, and common sense says that Sweden can't continue to produce indefinitely from an ever-diminishing pool of talent. After eight years with the national team and 18 years in the Swedish FA set-up there is just a suspicion too that things may turn a little stale this time as Lagerback's unwillingness to experiment either tactically or with younger personnel comes back to haunt him in a group where every side present will fancy their chances of claiming three points.

Team Overview: 4-1-3-2 It will be business as usual for The Swedes at Euro 2008 but following a series of key pre-tournament injuries Lars Lagerback looks up against it.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Midfield anchor, and key man in coach Lagerback's system, Thomas Linderoth has undergone hip surgery and he has been joined on the treatment table by left back Erik Edman. The result is that Lagerback has been forced into changes that will see two men out of position in Sweden's line up. The attack-minded Kim Kallstrom doesn't look like a natural defensive midfield pivot while Edman's replacement Mikael Nilsson has played the majority of his football at right back.

Sweden are set up to play on the counter so much will depend on the link up play between the attacking midfielders and strikers. An injury diminished Freddie Ljungberg, now at West Ham, looks a shadow of the player who thrilled crowds at Arsenal. Christian Wilhelmsson has gone through five clubs in three seasons, while Anders Svensson has returned to Elfsborg from The Championship and Southampton.

However, it is at the back that Sweden look most vulnerable. Keeper Andreas Isaksson, having failed to consolidate the promise that saw him signed for Juventus, is out of favour at Man City. His last appearance resulted in an 8-1 defeat by Middlesborough.

The centre half pairing of (Juventus bound) Mellberg and Majstorovic looks vulnerable to sharp passing teams with intelligent forwards. Mellberg is a solid no-nonsense defender but his distribution rarely strays from safety first long balls. Mellberg is no organiser either and both Hiddink and Aragones in particular, will have done their homework.

Lagerback claims to have an embarrassment of riches in attack - not least with Henrik Larsson announcing his third comeback into international football. Decent man and excellent footballer as Larsson undoubtedly is, it is hard to imagine though that his team-mates who did the dirty work getting Sweden to the tournament will not be peeved by the return of the prodigal son (at the expense of one of their number).

Johan Elmander (33 caps 11 goals) of Toulouse is likely to be fighting it out with FC Copenhagen's Marcus Allback (71 caps 30 goals) for a starting berth alongside their one world class presence, Inter's enigmatic frontman Zlatan Ibrahimovic (49 caps 18 goals). Larsson, who will be 37 in September, is likely to be used as an impact sub.

Other than Ibrahimovic who enjoys a virtual free role in attack, Lagerback's rigid system based on zonal defence and a safety first approach poses too few questions to the best opponents and has been increasingly criticised in Sweden as boring, predictable and one dimensional. There is an onerous burden on the out of position Kallstrom, in particular, to seamlessly reproduce Tobias Linderoth's role in the international side. If he can't Sweden could be overrun - especially by the Spanish.

Mood: The fans are bored with Lagerback and complacent on the back of years of success. It could be a recipe for disaster. In qualification, Mellberg, Ibrahimovic and Wilhelmsson were sent home after a late night out and Ibrahimovic refused to play for The Swedes for several months. It would be no surprise to find both complacency and resentments bubbling away within the squad.

Motivation: Sweden have set their standards high in previous tournaments and they will be looking to carry on in a similar vein here.

Pitch/Venues:

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Wals Siezen Heim Stadium, Salzburg - capacity 30,000. Red Bull Salzburg's artificial pitch has been replaced with turf for Euro 2008. It will be worth noting if the newly laid pitch offers any advantage to the likes of Greece and Sweden who will be keen to see play broken up.

Tivoli Neu Stadium, Innsbruck - capacity 30,000. The home of FC Wacker Tirol was completed in 2000 and extended for Euro 2008. Innsbruck boasts mild, continental weather which should favour both Spain and Greece.

Devil's Advocate: A 2-0 win over Spain suggests Sweden may not be finished yet and with Ibrahimovic back in the fold perhaps they can defy the odds. Former captain Glenn Hysen believes Sweden have the power to trouble Russia and Greece and how they do thereafter will depend on the draw they come up against. Sweden tend to struggle against high tempo teams and teams who can play through them - there are plenty of those at Euro 2008. Sweden might do OK, but luck will have to play its part, says a decidedly lukewarm Devil's Advocate.

Tournament prospects/vibes: Sweden look like a team at the end of a productive cycle as opposed to one enjoying rude health. Key injuries have hit them hard and Ibrahimovic aside, they look very predictable. Sweden nearly always qualify for the knockout phase before sinking without trace. They will face a real struggle to get that far this time in a group where there is little to separate Sweden, Greece and Russia.

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

RACING PROOFING: TIPSTER VERIFICATION

Website address: <http://www.racingproofing.com>

If you are interested in making further money betting via Horse Racing, then be sure to visit our free Racing Proofing website.

It is a tremendous resource where we proof many popular Horse Racing tipsters and verify their advice for you to view. Currently there are around 30 different advisory services listed and ranked, with the ability to view detailed performance in a downloadable spreadsheet file format.

The Racing Proofing website is manually updated and every bet double-checked for accuracy, availability of odds to ensure that results that are listed are as accurate as possible.

Racing Proofing is also helping to weed out even further those less-desirable services who give this industry a bad name and to add a much needed professional proofing service to the betting advisory arena.

Racing Proofing is regularly updated every 10 to 14 days so keep checking back to see the latest progress for each tipster.

FRIDAY FREEBIE: EASY MONEY EVERY WEEKEND

If you are interested in making some free extra cash each weekend then look no further than our Friday Freebie.

Every Friday we study the latest Bookmaker & Casino bonuses to create risk free cash making opportunities for you!.

There's no form to study, no dodgy tipsters, just make some quick bets and make some easy money just in time for the weekend.

We send each Friday Freebie directly to your email address, so if you want to sign up to receive these please visit <http://www.racingproofing.com/fridayfreebie/index.html>

Euro 2008 Betting Issue

The best Euro 2008 advice in association with www.secretbettingclub.com

Disclaimer

The views expressed within this article are based on the authors experience alone. Any money used within the services mentioned is done so at the risk of the individual.