



11th World University Futsal Championship

Koper Slovenia
August 24-31, 2008

www.susa.org/wufc2008

Day 1, Monday, 25th August 2008

Welcome to the 11th World University Futsal Championships. The Daily Bulletin will keep you up to date with all the statistics, results and important information throughout the Championship. There will be interviews, features and match reports from our team of reporters as well as some photos from our photographers. More in depth reports and all the photos taken can be found by visiting the official website of the championship: www.susa.org/wufc2008. I hope you all have a fantastic championship and I wish you the best of luck.

Today, I will be watching the final game with interest. Great Britain take on hosts Slovenia. I have some friends in the GBR team, so I will be hoping they can perform, although I am not too sure they will be able to get a result from this game. Slovenia will be hoping to use home advantage to progress perhaps further than they are expected to, just as Poland did two years ago when they beat Portugal in the quarter final. It's easy to predict the favourites to progress, but it's difficult to predict who will be the surprise package. I have a feeling that whoever comes through group D will have a chance of causing an upset to reach the semi final. So, with that, I am going to go with France, who are very new to futsal, to be the surprise package.

Once again, enjoy the Championship whether you are watching, playing or in anyway involved.

Damon Shaw, Editor

Preview

Today sees the kick off of the 11th World University Futsal Championship and the first day always has some interesting games with teams taking

time to acclimatise and get into their full flow.

Group A

China take on Kazakhstan in the Elementary School, while all eyes will be on Great Britain versus Slovenia. Group A will be a battle for second place with Slovenia surely having enough strength to see off their opponents to top the group. Any of the three teams could sneak into second place and it will all depend on their development since 2006. China finished 16th, Great Britain 14th and Kazakhstan 9th. Kazakhstan will hope to dispose of China today to put one foot in the next round.

Group B

With Ukraine arriving very late they could struggle against Portugal, who will want to improve on the quarter finals of 2006, but the match between the two favourites should be irrelevant if they go on to win their remaining games with Kyrgyzstan and Slovakia. They meet today and whoever loses will struggle as they then face two hot favourites.

Group C

The two favourites once again take part in an early showdown. Brazil take on Czech Republic while Malaysia face Israel, two comparatively inexperienced teams. Malaysia are playing in their first ever Futsal WUC, while Israel have only competed on a handful of occasions. Brazil knocked Czech Republic out in the quarter final in 2006 with a 5-1 win. Nothing other than a Brazil victory should be predicted and with Malaysia and Israel almost certainly hoping they can shock Brazil or Czech Republic later in the week, it is a must win game for both.

Group D

Group D could be a very close group with four strong teams in it. Despite being new to futsal, both France and Turkey have put a lot into developing futsal in their own countries so have made large strides in a short space of time. Uruguay, discoverers of futsal, are definitely not here to make up the numbers and will be hoping to make an impression in their first WUC. Today they face Turkey, while Serbia take on France. Both games could go either way, so it will be interesting to see who makes progress, though the experience of Serbia should see them though, leaving the others to play for runners-up spot.

Today's matches

All matches will be played in Koper Elementary School Sports Hall and Bonifika Sports Hall, Koper, which are located next to each other.

14:15
Uruguay vs. Turkey (1)
Serbia vs. France (2)

16:30
Kyrgyzstan vs. Slovakia (3)
Ukraine vs. Portugal (4)

18:45
Malaysia vs. Israel (5)
Brazil vs. Czech Rep (6)

21:00
China vs. Kazakhstan (7)
Slovenia vs. Great Britain (8)



Referees at the opening ceremony

www.susa.org/wufc2008

FISU World University Championship 2008 – Futsal



Official match ball

This is the 11th World University Futsal Championship ran under the auspices of FISU, the international governing body for University Sport. The first edition was run in 1984 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with Brazil being crowned first World University Futsal Champions on home soil. This trend was to continue, with Italy taking gold in 1990 in Parma and Spain claiming first prize at home in Malaga in 1992. There was no Championship in 1988, but from 1990 there was an edition every two years.



Brazil are hoping to go one better than 2006

The current holders are Russia, who defeated Brazil 4-1 in the final in Poznan in 2006. Russia did not enter this years' Championship, so there will be no defense of their title. No country has ever defended the title, yet three nations share 8 of the editions; Russia (3), Ukraine (2) and Brazil (3). (Spain and Italy won one each, making 10.)

Only two of the former champions are in this edition, so there is a chance for

one of the other favourites to add their name to the history books.

Brazil were the last nation to win in front of their own supporters in 2000, so history is against Slovenia going all the way this time. Indeed the championship has only been held outside of Europe on two occasions (1984 and 2000), both times in Brazil. Spain and Brazil have twice hosted it, yet Eastern Europe will have 5 championships after 2012 with Serbia and Ukraine hosting the next two in 2010 and 2012 respectively.

The Opening Ceremony

The 11th World University Futsal Championship was officially declared open tonight by Dr. Rado Bohinc and Vice-Mayor, Jani Bacic. The opening ceremony took place in Adria Ankaran holiday resort, where all the teams are staying. Each team was presented to the audience before the opening speeches commenced.

There was a fantastic atmosphere as all the competitors, officials and volunteers came together for the first time. All the teams were proudly carrying their national flags and there was a real sense of national pride as each country paraded across the forecourt and lined up facing the stage. The FISU anthem was played before the evening's entertainment, in the form of a local dance school, who were hip-hop champions of Europe.



Malaysia display the FISU flag while the anthem is sang

After the entertainment and closing speeches, teams proceeded to line up

for photos on the stage to remember this great occasion.



Slovenian representative makes the pledge on behalf of the athletes

The formalities are now over and tomorrow sees the big kick off as Brazil take on Czech Republic in the game of the day, while hosts Slovenia open their campaign against Great Britain at 21:00 in the Bonifika Sports Hall. Ukraine, the final team to arrive, take on Portugal in another mouth watering contest at 16:30. For full schedule visit the official website.

Brainteaser

Every day there will be a couple of brainteasers to have a go at. The answers will be published ONLY on the official website – www.susa.org/wufc2008

To start you off there are a couple of easy ones and as the final approaches the questions will get more and more difficult, just like the games themselves.

1. Juan Carlos Ceriani discovered FUTSAL during the 1930 FIFA World Cup, but what is his nationality?

2. Brazil won the first FIFA Futsal World Cup in 1989 in the Netherlands, but who are the current World Champions?

Answers will be online before the matches tomorrow!