



Patience is important

**GERMANY
5 WINS**

HEAD TO HEAD
Played: 8
Draws 3

**GREECE
0 WINS**

REUTERS, Gdansk

Germany are planning to bide their time and eventually wear down defensive-minded Greece when they meet in the Euro 2012 quarterfinals on Friday.

The Germans advanced through Group B with three wins from three games but are bracing for a much tougher defence than what they faced against Portugal, Netherlands and Denmark.

Greece conceded only five goals in 10 qualifiers, though they also let in three goals in three Group A games, advancing as runners-up behind the Czech Republic.

"We got a small taste of what we can expect when we faced the Danes," said Germany holding midfielder Sami Khedira of their 2-1 victory on Sunday.

"Greece are a very compact team, tactically very strong, well organised and aggressive. They are also fast on the breaks and if you see that they had three or four chances in the tournament so far and scored three goals you can tell they are masters of efficiency.

"So patience will be necessary from our side. We have to move because if we remain static it will be very difficult against them. We have to wear them out, tire them out and

keep moving."

Germany have yet to find the form that took them to third place in the World Cup two years ago but they have shown they have matured into a team who may lack spark but can be equally effective when it comes to winning games.

"We are calmer now, more clever and we keep our composure for longer," said Khedira when asked to compare this team with that of two years ago. "We are more concentrated over 90 minutes," he said.

The Germans, who will have defender Jerome Boateng back after missing the last game through suspension, will meet either England or Italy in the last four should they advance against the seemingly weaker Greeks.

Asked whether he was happy to have avoided a potential match-up with world and European champions Spain in the semifinals if they beat Greece, Khedira refused to speculate.

"Our focus is only on Greece because you know surprises happen in football."

Greece coach Fernando Santos has yet to reveal who will replace the inspirational midfielder but it is likely to be Grigoris Makos, a more defensive player, who will try to break up German attacks early.



German forwards Mario Gomez (R) and Lukas Podolski warm up during a training session in Gdansk on Wednesday ahead of their Euro 2012 quarterfinal against Greece.

England fined over crowd trouble

REUTERS, Warsaw

The English FA has been fined 5,000 euros (\$6,400) after England fans tried to invade the Kiev pitch during their 3-2 win over Sweden in Euro 2012 Group D on Friday, UEFA said in a statement.

UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Body said on Wednesday that England can lodge an appeal within 24 hours of the decision.

England, who won Group D and face Italy in the quarter-finals in Kiev on Sunday, are the latest team to be punished by UEFA for crowd trouble at the finals in Poland and Ukraine.

The Croatian Football Federation was fined 80,000 euros by European soccer's ruling body on Tuesday for racist chants directed at Italy striker Mario Balotelli while other teams have also had problems with their supporters at the championship.

'Spain are favourites'

AFP, Gniewino

French football legend Zinedine Zidane said on Thursday there was nothing wrong with the tactics deployed by Spanish coach Vicente del Bosque at Euro 2012 despite growing criticism back in Spain.

Zidane, an advisor to Real Madrid president Florentino Perez, said the criticism was ill-founded and that Spain, who topped Group C after coming through it unbeaten, remained favourites going into Sunday's quarterfinal with France.

Del Bosque's tactic of not starting with a recognised striker, which he did in the opening 1-1 draw with Italy, has attracted criticism in some quarters but Zidane, who turns 40 on Saturday, was having none of it.

"One hears a lot said that Spain are not playing well or that they are playing without a straight No.9 or any other number of things, but they know very well where they are going and where they want to go," Zidane told Spanish radio station Cope.

Zidane, who played under del Bosque at Real Madrid and scored a stunning goal in their Champions League final win over Bayer Leverkusen in 2002, said the world champions were clear favourites for the game.

France slipped up in their final match losing 2-0 to already eliminated Sweden which saw them end up second in the group to England and the intimidating prospect of playing the Spanish.

Loew to mind his language

AFP, Gdansk

Germany coach Joachim Loew has said he will watch his language ahead of Friday's Euro 2012 quarterfinal with Greece after learning a deaf German lip-reader is tweeting his pitch-side comments.

"I have said some pretty hefty expletives, I have to admit that. So I will probably have to beware of that a little bit more in the future," said Loew after learning about football-fan Julia Probst.

Under her Twitter account EinAugenschmaus (A Feast for the Eyes), the 30-year-old reads the lips of Germany's players and coaches whenever the cameras zoom in on their faces during matches.

Under the hashtag #Ableseservice (reader service), the Germans' comments are then immediately tweeted and Probst has picked up Loew occasionally swearing.

"Come on Thomas, don't give the ball away!" is just one tweet Probst posted seconds after Loew had admonished Thomas Mueller from the German bench for giving the ball away during Germany's 2-1 win over Holland at Euro 2012.

Friction in French camp

AFP, Donetsk

In 2010, it started with a headline in L'Equipe. Two years on, France's leading sports newspaper has lifted the lid on fresh tension in the French squad at Euro 2012.

Thursday's edition of the widely read paper claimed to document what happened in France's changing room after their 2-0 loss to Sweden on Tuesday in Kiev.

Striker Olivier Giroud had already admitted to reporters that there was "a shouting match" and L'Equipe laid things bare.

It began, according to their report, with an exchange between Alou Diarra and Samir Nasri, who was stung by his team-mate's complaint that he had not received enough defensive support in midfield.

Things were then reported to have escalated when Laurent Blanc scalded Hatem Ben Arfa for talking on his mobile phone.

The Newcastle United winger, angry at his substitution in the 59th minute, allegedly blasted Blanc for taking him off instead of other under-performing players and challenged the coach: "Send me home if you're not happy with me!"

Both Blanc and his assistant, Alain Boghossian, have played down the incident, but Florent Malouda admitted the players' comportment had "awoken some old demons".

Malouda is one of 10 survivors from the French squad whose internecine quarrels were broadcast to the world by L'Equipe during the last World Cup.

The revelations sent the camp into meltdown. Anelka was expelled from the squad, captain Patrice Evra promised to root out the "mole" responsible for the leak, and the players went on strike in protest at Anelka's treatment.

This time around, France's players and staff have reacted very differently.

Mindful of the damage liable to be caused by repeated denials, Blanc and his players have openly admitted that tempers flared following the loss to Sweden but have sought to portray the friction as a positive thing.

"There were words spoken but it was the normal exchanges you get in a changing room," said Boghossian.

"It would have been worse if there had been nothing."



Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casillas dives for the ball during a training session in Gniewino on Wednesday.

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Hart ready to take a penalty

AFP, Krakow

England goalkeeper Joe Hart has revealed he is ready to take a penalty if Sunday's Euro 2012 quarterfinal against Italy goes to a shoot-out.

England have won just one penalty shoot-out in six attempts since 1990, a record of failure which has weighed heavily on successive English sides over the past two decades.

However the supremely confident Hart told a press conference he would welcome the responsibility to be one of England's five penalty-takers should the opportunity arise at Kiev's Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

"If they let me, I would put my name forward 100%," the Manchester City stopper said. "Hopefully it won't come to that (taking penalties) but I would back myself (to take a penalty) in a tournament.

"If penalties are required then so be it," said Hart, who is one of the few players in the England squad to have tasted victory in a shoot-out.

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উন্মুক্ত স্থানে প্লাস্টিক-টায়ার পোড়ানো আর না

- খোলা জায়গায় আবর্জনা, বর্জ্য পুড়িয়ে পরিবেশ বিষাক্ত করবো না
- সমাজকে কোনো ধোঁয়ামুক্ত রাখবো

বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করি
বাসযোগ্য ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ি

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর নির্ধারিত বায়ু এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ (CASE) প্রকল্প পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়

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