



Hellenic Football Federation (Greece)

Region: Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

World Cup appearances: 1 (1994)

Best World Cup finish: First Round **Current FIFA Ranking:** 13th

Continental titles: European Championships (2004)

Country's population: 10,749,943 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$32,100 **Life expectancy:** 79.8



World Cup Qualifying		
Opponent	GF	GA
@Luxembourg	3	0
@Latvia	2	0
Moldova	3	0
Switzerland	1	2
@Israel	1	1
Israel	1	2
@Switzerland	0	2
@Moldova	1	1
Latvia	5	2
Luxembourg	2	1
Ukraine	0	0
@Ukraine	1	0
	20	11
Record: 6-3-3		

Group B	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA
Argentina						
South Korea						
Nigeria						
Greece						

Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Kostas Chalkias	G	1	PAOK (Greece)	27	0
Alexandros Tzorvas	G	12	Panathinaikos (Greece)	8	0
Michalis Sifakis	G	13	Aris (Greece)	2	0
Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Giourkas Seitaridis	D	2	Panathinaikos (Greece)	69	1
Nikos Spiropoulos	D	4	Panathinaikos (Greece)	19	0
Vangelis Moras	D	5	Bologna (Italy)	11	0
Avraam Papadopoulos	D	8	Olympiacos (Greece)	14	0
Loukas Vyntra	D	11	Panathinaikos (Greece)	29	0
Vasilis Torosidis	D	15	Olympiacos (Greece)	26	2
Sotirios Kyrgiakos	D	16	Liverpool (England)	58	4
Sokratis Papastathopoulos	D	19	Genoa (Italy)	10	0
Stelios Malezas	D	22	PAOK (Greece)	0	0
Christos Patsatzoglou	M	3	Omonia (Cyprus)	43	1
Alexandros Tziolis	M	6	Siena (Italy)	19	0
Giorgios Karagounis	M	10	Panathinaikos (Greece)	93	6
Sotiris Ninis	M	18	Panathinaikos (Greece)	4	1
Kostas Katsouranis	M	21	Panathinaikos (Greece)	69	8
Sakis Prittas	M	23	Aris (Greece)	0	0
Georgios Samaras	F	7	Celtic (Scotland)	34	5
Angelos Charisteas	F	9	Nuremburg (Germany)	84	24
Dimitris Salpigidis	F	14	Panathinaikos (Greece)	36	3
Theofanis Gekas	F	17	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger.)	47	20
Pantelis Kapetanios	F	20	Steaua Bucuresti (Romania)	3	0

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

The veteran, central midfield pairing of captain **Giorgios Karagounis** and fellow Panathinaikos teammate **Kostas Katsouranis** enable **Otto Rehhagel** to be very flexible with his formation. Whether the formation is five at the back or three, three forwards or one, his Pana pairing is at its heart.

Theofanis Gekas led UEFA qualifying with 10 goals, including four against Latvia toward the end of qualifying. He will work in front of **Georgios Samaras**, playing wide left as one of the Greek's most creative players.

Sotirios Kyrgiakos is the most recognized name on the team sheet by virtue of his early season move to Liverpool. He is part of a back line which, though known for being stalwart, gave up a goal per game in UEFA's weak group 2.

Keys to success:

Is it enough to be dogged and organized? Probably not, so the key to Greek success will be combining that approach with timely scoring, particularly Gekas. Differences in opinion on the team's potential likely center on this question: Was Gekas' qualifying form replicable?

Outlook:

Second place is within reach, but so is fourth. You can see the Greeks giving sometimes tactic-less Argentina fits, but you can see the disciplined Koreans picking them apart. Many positive prognostications about Greece implicitly refer to 2004, but the 2006 qualifying cycle and 2008 European Championships tell us 2004 is too long ago. Greece is a contender, not a favorite, to get out of Group B.