



Football Association of Slovenia

Region: Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

World Cup appearances: 1 (2002)

Best World Cup finish: First Round **Current FIFA Ranking:** 25th

Continental titles: None

Country's population: 2,003,136 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$27,900 **Life expectancy:** 77.12

SLOVENIJA



| Group C | Pts | W | D | L | GF | GA |
|---------------|-----|---|---|---|----|----|
| England | | | | | | |
| United States | | | | | | |
| Slovenia | | | | | | |
| Algeria | | | | | | |

| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------|------|----|
| Samir Handanovic | G | 1 | Udinese (Italy) | 39 | 0 |
| Jasmin Handonovic | G | 12 | Mantova (Italy) | 3 | 0 |
| Aleksander Seliga | G | 16 | Sparta Rotterdam (Netherlands) | 1 | 0 |
| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
| Miso Brecko | D | 2 | Koln (Germany) | 30 | 0 |
| Bojan Jokic | D | 13 | Chievo (Italy) | 33 | 1 |
| Marko Sular | D | 4 | Gent (Belgium) | 16 | 2 |
| Bostjan Cesar | D | 5 | Chievo (Italy) | 41 | 3 |
| Matej Mavric | D | 22 | TuS Koblenz (Germany) | 32 | 1 |
| Branko Illic | D | 6 | Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) | 36 | 0 |
| Elvedin Dzinic | D | 3 | Maribor (Slovenia) | 0 | 0 |
| Suad Filekovic | D | 19 | Maribor (Slovenia) | 14 | 0 |
| Robert Koren | M | 8 | West Bromwich Albion (Eng.) | 45 | 4 |
| Aleksander Radosavljevic | M | 18 | Larissa (Greece) | 18 | 14 |
| Andraz Kirm | M | 17 | Wisla Krakow (Poland) | 25 | 2 |
| Andrej Komac | M | 20 | Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel) | 40 | 0 |
| Dalibor Stevanovic | M | 21 | Vitesse (Netherlands) | 15 | 1 |
| Rene Khrin | M | 15 | Internazionale (Italy) | 3 | 0 |
| Valter Birsa | M | 10 | Auxerre (France) | 33 | 2 |
| Milivoje Novakovic | F | 11 | Koln (Germany) | 37 | 14 |
| Nejc Pecnik | F | 7 | Nacional (Portugal) | 7 | 2 |
| Zlatan Ljubijankic | F | 9 | Gent (Belgium) | 16 | 4 |
| Zlatko Dedic | F | 14 | Bochum (Belgium) | 23 | 3 |
| Tim Matavz | F | 23 | Groningen (Netherlands) | 0 | 0 |

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

Samir Handanovic may be the best goalkeeper in his group which, behind the most organized defense in the tournament, leads to things like a diabolical 0.4 goals per game allowed in UEFA qualifying.

Bojan Jokic gives **Matjaz Kek** an option going forward on the left flank and a threat on goal from 28 yards in.

Milivoje Novakovic is unlikely to see a lot of chances, but with those the 6'4" target saw in qualifying, he was efficient in converting, including a brace in a crucial 2-1 win over Slovakia near the beginning of qualifying.

Novakovic's job is made easier by the work of **Zlatko Dedic** - a high work, high willingness player who was rewarded with a goal in the first leg of Slovenia's playoff with Russia.

Keys to success:

Slovenia just needs to keep doing what got them through qualifying. In defeating Russia, they showed the potential to beat anybody in their group, but given the styles of the nations they were drawn with, the Slovenes need not search for a magic bullet. Matjaz Kek's men have a formula for success in place.

Outlook:

When your nation is as big as a Los Angeles suburb, it's difficult to have huge expectations, but the Slovenes should dare to dream. There is nothing about the United States and Algeria that says those nations will have any more success scoring on Slovenia than the likes of Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland had in qualifying.