



The talented girls from Helsinki

The G17 EC tournament attracts a lot of teams from all around Europe, and one of the teams participating every year is HJK Helsinki. This year the girls are stronger than ever, and have already qualified for the semifinals. Their team consists of mainly girls from the year 1992, even though you are allowed girls from the year 1991, and that is why it is even more impressive that they are in the semifinals. 9 of the girls from the Finnish team play on the youth national team home in Finland, 8 of them from the year 1992.

Helsinki has been competing in the G17 EC for 3 years, and this year it has been the biggest success so far. The last 2 years they haven't qualified for the final rounds, but their coach Peter Lundström explains that it is because the girls from the year 1992 are just more talented. Only a few of the girls who are on the team now have been to Football Festival® Denmark before. The quite simple explanation of their good results is, that the age group of 1992 have success on the national team as well, which have reflected on the club Helsinki. Helsinki is the biggest club for girls in Finland, and the place to be, if you want to get anywhere with your football.

Semifinal: HJK Helsinki – KR Reykjavik 0 – 1

HJK Helsinki dominated the match from the start. They put a massive pressure on the Icelandic defence and everybody around the pitch was sure that it was a matter of time before the semifinal was decided and the strong Finnish team was in the final.

But a well organized Reykjavik team refused to lose. Instead they scored half way through the first half on one of the first attempts towards their opponents goal.

In the second half the picture was the same. HJK Helsinki was in ball possession most of the time but Reykjavik defended well and the goalkeeper was playing very well.

KR Reykjavik managed to keep the Finnish team from scoring and could put the arms in the air when the referee ended the match.

The victory was a surprise. HJK Helsinki were one of the top favourites in this year's tournament, but the heroic fight from KR Reykjavik is one of the highlights until now.

Unfortunately the match was stopped ten minutes because of an injury to one of Reykjavik's players. She must leave the pitch on a stretcher and was in a lot of pain.

Her teammates did the job done without her, and made the way to tomorrow's final against Montpellier SC.

Peter Lundström believes that the tournament has a very high standard, and they have been very pleased with their opponents. He is a bit surprised about some of the results in the groups, and some teams have been disappointing unlike others who have been a surprise. Some of the other teams have appointed Helsinki as an outsider to the title, but they are very humble when it comes to their own chance of winning. They believe that the French team and defending champions from Montpellier is the favourite to take home the title.

Unfortunately for Helsinki they lost their semifinal against Reykjavik 1-0, unlike Montpellier who won their semifinal 4-1. Hopefully they will have more luck at Football Festival® Denmark next year.

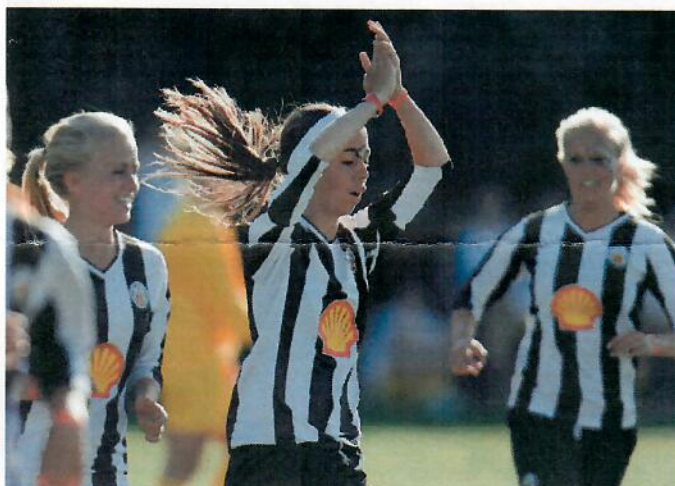


Photo: Allan Baden

KR Reykjavik players celebrates after the only goal of the match.

Semifinal: Montpellier SC – Skovbakken IK 4-1

The defending champions Montpellier SC is again ready for the final. They won a well deserved 4-1 victory against host club Skovbakken.

It was clear from the start that the French players were better technical but Skovbakken tried with hard work and fight in the midfield to stop the French attacks.

After 23 minutes scored Montpellier after a cornerkick and after this goal there was really no doubt of which team, who will go through to tomorrow's final. The French manage to score to more goals in the first half, and down 0-3 it was just up to Skovbakken to keep down the score in the second half.

They succeeded with this and the final result was 4-1.

Therefore was Skovbakken the first team who scored a goal against Montpellier SC in this tournament.