

PORTUGAL

Singtel TV Ch142 & StarHub Ch220, tomorrow, 2.50am

ROAD TO FINAL

- Group F: **Portugal 1 Iceland 1**
- Group F: **Portugal 0 Austria 0**
- Group F: **Portugal 3 Hungary 3**
- Last 16: **Portugal 1 Croatia 0 (after extra time)**
- Q-finals: **Portugal 1 Poland 1 (aet, Portugal win 5-3 on penalties)**
- S-finals: **Portugal 2 Wales 0**

MEMORABLE MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- 1966 World Cup: Led by an inspired Eusebio, Portugal knocked holders Brazil out in the group stage, then came back from 0-3 down to beat North Korea 5-3. Unfortunately, Eusebio was nullified by Nobby Stiles as England edged them 2-0 in the semi-finals.
- Euro 2004: Hosting a major tournament for the first time, Portugal went all the way to the final, even though their so-called Golden Generation (Luis Figo, Nuno Gomes and Rui Costa) were on their last legs. Despite featuring a young Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal were unable to find a way past Greece in the final, losing 0-1.

SQUAD LEADERS

- Goals**
Cristiano Ronaldo, Luis Nani (three each)
- Assists**
Ronaldo, (three)
- Passing**
William Carvalho (92%)
- Interceptions**
Pepe (12)



Cristiano Ronaldo v Samuel Umtiti

A few weeks ago, Umtiti was probably France's ninth-choice centre-back. He was uncapped until the quarter-final. But the new Barcelona signing may have to get used to facing Real Madrid's Ronaldo. He was a solid presence against Germany. The unflagging Ronaldo, forever shooting and with his aerial ability, is a stiffer test.



Pepe v Antoine Griezmann

They met six weeks ago in the Champions League final, when Pepe and Real Madrid came out on top and Griezmann missed a penalty. Now the Portuguese is perhaps the best centre-back in Euro 2016 and Griezmann much its finest striker. He darts around target man Olivier Giroud intelligently with terrific movement and wonderful finishing.



FINAL FACE-OFF

PROBABLE LINE-UP

Portugal
4-4-2



KEY BATTLES

Renato Sanches v

A contest between the next generation of dominant central midfielders. Pogba and Sanches have both spent time on the bench in this tournament but both

France
4-3-3



Paul Pogba v

look integral now. They have similar qualities – pace, strength and a catalytic habit – and if Pogba has more skill, it means Sanches has to follow him back.



Portugal and France are one victory away from being the best team in Europe. How do they stack up against each other for the finale of Euro 2016?

ROAD TO FINAL

- Group A: **France 2 Romania 1**
- Group A: **France 2 Albania 0**
- Group A: **France 0 Switzerland 0**
- Last 16: **France 2 Ireland 1**
- Q-finals: **France 5 Iceland 2**
- S-finals: **France 2 Germany 0**

MEMORABLE MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- Euro 1984: France won their first major football trophy thanks to one man - the irrepressible Michel Platini, who scored nine goals in just five matches at this tournament. The France captain scored hat-tricks against Belgium and Yugoslavia.
- 1998 World Cup: They have had great players before (Platini, Just Fontaine), but not until Zinedine Zidane and Co rode a tide of popularity as hosts did France finally clinch their first World Cup. They got a bit of luck too - in the final which they won easily 3-0, Brazil's Ronaldo was a shadow of his lethal self after suffering fits.

SQUAD LEADERS

- Goals**
Antoine Griezmann (six)
- Assists**
Griezmann, Olivier Giroud, Dimitri Payet (two each)
- Passing**
Blaise Matuidi (92%)
- Interceptions**
Patrice Evra, N'Golo Kante (11 each)



Cedric Soares v Dimitri Payet

Two who have timed their surge. Soares only came into the Portugal team for the last 16. Payet had to convince Didier Deschamps he had the mettle to accompany his quality. Now the set-piece specialist has been the most creative player in Euro 2016. Soares will have to work out when to pass him on to William Carvalho or Joao Mario.



Adrien Silva v Blaise Matuidi

Matuidi began the tournament in undistinguished form but improved when Kante went off against Ireland and he assumed more responsibility. The selfless Silva did a fine job of harrying Croatia's Luka Modric and may be asked to repeat that to stifle Matuidi, though he could also be detailed to track Pogba or Moussa Sissoko.



STATS ATTACK

4

Match between Portugal and France in a major tournament. The French have won the previous three, all in semi-finals (Euro 1984, Euro 2000, World Cup 2006).

1975

Portugal's last victory against France dates back to April 1975, in a friendly (2-0).

20

Cristiano Ronaldo has played in more games than any other player at the European Championships (20).

2

Didier Deschamps could become the second person to win the European Championships as a player and as a manager, after Bertie Vogts (player in 1972, coach in 1996).