Euro Odds Forecast Spain and Germany Are The Teams To Beat In Poland and Ukraine

Friday 8 June, 2012

Football fans all over Europe will be eagerly anticipating the start of Euro 2012 on Friday afternoon which kicks off with the Group A match between Co-hosts Poland and Greece in Warsaw. That game is followed in the evening with the other Group A fixture between Russia and the Czech Republic.

From Friday until the 19th June there will be two games played every day until the Quarter Final stage begins on June 21st.

In total, 16 teams are split in to four groups and will each play a minimum of three games before two teams from each group progress to the last eight with the other eight heading home early.

Defending European champions Spain, who won the competition four years ago and have since won the World Cup in 2010 have been installed the tournament favourites by the bookmakers at odds of 11/4. They have been drawn in Group C, along with Italy, Republic of Ireland and Croatia. Their opening fixture against Italy on Sunday could prove to be a crucial encounter for both teams as both of these "European Heavyweights" will be wanting to start on a winning note. However, it is Spain who are the favourites to win the game and they head to Poland and the Ukraine with the vast majority of their victorious World Cup squad barring the omission of their all time top score, David Villa and his absence could be the difference between Spain continuing their domination of International football and another team taking advantage if they struggle to score goals and many are tipping Germany as the team most likely to topple the Spanish and they are the 3/1 second favourites to lift the trophy.

The Netherlands, who have been drawn alongside Germany in the so-called "Group of Death" which also includes Portugal and Denmark are rated as a 6/1 chance to win the competition ahead of 10/1 shots France and England who can be backed at 14/1!

England and France have also been drawn in the same group and the two play each other in Donetsk on Monday 11th June.

The tournament will host a total of 31 matches over a period of 24 days and will conclude in the Olympic Stadium in Kiev on Sunday 1st July. All matches will be covered by the BBC and ITV in the UK but in worldwide terms, each match is expected to average viewing figures of 150 million. Many sports commentators are suggesting that the final could well attract a bigger audience than the Opening ceremony of this years Summer Olympics in London, even bigger than the 237 million who watched the 2008 final between Spain and Germany.

Such is the commercial success of European Championship football, UEFA have been prompted to make the tournament even bigger in 2016. France, who will be hosting Euro 2016, will see 24 teams competing with 51 matches played, which is only surpassed by the World Cup.

For more information about Euro 2012, including team news, latest odds and live scores once the tournament starts, visit european-championship.betting-directory.com/ or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/europeanchampionship

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