

# Final Four

O<sub>2</sub> World  
MAY 1-3

BERLIN 2009



**REGAL  
FC BARCELONA**



**2009 FINAL FOUR BERLIN OFFICIAL PROGRAM**





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# Welcome TO BERLIN



## EDUARDO PORTELA

ULEB PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome you to Berlin, the capital of Germany that will become for four days the center of basketball and social nexus for the basketball family. In this 2009 Final Four, I would like to invite you to enjoy with us these days of basketball in its most pure essence.

The culmination of a great season arrives to Berlin, with the participation of four prestigious clubs which are blessed with magnificent players and passionate and loyal fans: CSKA Moscow, Panathinaikos Athens, Olympiacos Piraeus, and Regal F.C. Barcelona. These teams, will deliver a world class show. I do not want to forget the 20 other teams that have participated in this Euroleague Basketball season, without their efforts and hard work Euroleague would not shine as brilliantly as it does today.

Another mention must be done to thank all the National Leagues for all the work developed, collaborating and helping to make basketball grow globally.

Everything is ready for this important event, but I would personally like to highlight the arena that this year will host the Final Four, AEG's brand new O2 World, which is one of the most modern sport facilities in Europe and in the world, that can hold up to 13.500 fans, so that it is very difficult to find better facilities to celebrate this Final.

Good luck!



## JORDI BERTOMEU

EUROLEAGUE BASKETBALL CEO

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Berlin, for the 8th edition of the Euroleague Basketball Final Four, which is celebrated in the wonderful city of Berlin, where the four best teams of the Competition will challenge each other to become the Euroleague Basketball Champion.

Since this past October, we have been able to enjoy this great competition, where the best teams in Europe have played almost 200 exciting games to reach this moment. Once again we can count on the presence of four clubs with great tradition and prestige in European and world basketball, Regal F.C. Barcelona, CSKA Moscow, Olympiacos Piraeus and Panathinaikos Athens. All four teams will offer one of the largest spectacles in the sporting world and fans will be able to see the games in over 172 countries.

Bringing the top European basketball to as many fans across the globe the main goal of Euroleague Basketball from its foundation in 2000. This path has been followed by trying to open our frontiers to new countries and markets but always keeping in mind our most valuable input, having the most historic and best European Basketball teams year after year participating in Euroleague Basketball with a solid European project.

This is the first Final Four that we are organizing with our partner AEG, the leading facilities, live sports and entertainment organization, that opens the door of the most modern and spectacular facilities in Europe to the Final Four, following the strategy of the company to give to all devoted fans an improved product every year and we are certain that the O2 World is one of the best facilities to host such an important event.

As we do every year, off the court there will also be a great number of activities that will be taking place over the weekend. Including the street ball events, the Nike International Junior Tournament – a grass roots programme that we have developed to bring a spotlight onto the future talents, the teams who will participate in this event includes the city's own junior team Alba Berlin as well as; Union Olimpija Ljubljana, La Caja de Canarias Gran Canaria, Montepaschi Siena, Lietuvos Rytas, Unicaja, FMP and KK Hemofarm Stada.

I would like to show my deepest gratitude to all the Euroleague Basketball partners, Nike, Sportingbet, GNT0, Cosmote and Efes Pilsen that support the competition and believe in the Euroleague Basketball project, feeling real devotion for it. I would also like to thank our 45 broadcast partners who, thanks to them we would not be able to enter into the homes of all the basketball fans across the globe.

We are also very proud with the collaboration we are developing during the whole season with the Nelson Mandela's "46664" campaign, trying to raise the awareness on the people who have not been as fortunate as us.

Welcome you all to the Final Four and I hope you enjoy it.

Let the games begin.



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# Welcome TO BERLIN



## DETLEF KORNETT

CEO Anschutz Entertainment Group in Germany

The Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) in particular AEG Sports and the o2 World are proud to host this year's Euroleague Final Four. We would like to welcome all the Basketball-Fans from Athens, Barcelona, Moscow, Piraeus and from all over Europe and hope they will have a great time - win or lose - at our venue and in Germany's Capital, Berlin. The Euroleague Final Four is one of the most prestigious international sporting events and we are grateful for the opportunity to host it. We are also proud that we managed to bring this event to Berlin in close partnership with Euroleague Basketball.



This year's Final Four showcases arguably the biggest names in European Basketball. CSKA Moscow is the defending Champion and the dominant team of this decade. They will face Barcelona in the first semifinal, the 2003 champions. The second semifinal will see one of the most intense rivalries in all of sports between four time champion Panathinaikos Athens and Olympiakos Pireaus, certainly one of the high points this weekend.

All of this will be staged in our venue, the most modern arena in Europe, right in the heart of one of the most exciting cities in the world. I'm sure that this weekend will be one to remember as 13,500 spectators will be on hand for all games to create a unique atmosphere at the o2 world.

My best wishes for a successful, peaceful tournament to all four teams and their great fans. Have a great Final Four weekend at the o2 World in Berlin.

Detlef Kornett

## Official Program CREDITS

**Euroleague Basketball Marketing & Media Department (c). All Rights Reserved**

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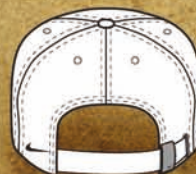
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# Schedule

## Friday May 1st, 2009

18:00 - Semi-Final B  
REGAL FC BARCELONA - CSKA MOSCOW  
21:00 - Semi-Final A  
OLYMPIACOS - PANATHINAIKOS

## Sunday May 3rd, 2009

17:00 - 3rd & 4th Place  
Loser Semi-Final A - Loser Semi-Final B  
20:00 - Final  
Winner Semi-Final A - Winner Semi-Final B

All tip-off times are local to Berlin (CEST) and GMT+2.

# FINAL FOUR Referees

**Commissioners**  
Uli Sledz (Germany)  
Eduard Tartaglia (Croatia)



Juan Carlos  
**Arteaga**  
Spain



Shmuel  
**Bachar**  
Israel



Ilija  
**Belosevic**  
Serbia



Romualdas  
**Brazauskas**  
Lithuania



Sasa  
**Pukl**  
Slovenia



Fernando  
**Rocha**  
Portugal



Lazaros  
**Voreadis**  
Greece



Jakub  
**Zamojski**  
Poland





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# Roll of Honour 1958 - 2008

Year	Place	Winner	Finalist	Score(s)	Top Scorer	Winning coach
1958	Riga (USSR)	ASK Riga (USSR)	Akademik Sofia (Bulgaria)	86-81	Y-Kruminsh (SK) 32	A. Gomelski
	Sofia (Bulgaria)			84-71	V.Radev (Akademik) 19	
1959	Riga (USSR)	ASK Riga (USSR)	Akademik Sofia (Bulgaria)	79-58	Y. Kruminsh (ASK) 27	A. Gomelski
	Sofia (Bulgaria)			69-67	Y.Kruminsh (ASK) 29	
1960	Tbilisi (USSR)	ASK Riga (USSR)	Dinamo Tbilisi (USSR)	61-51	V.Muznieks (ASK) 22	A. Gomelski
	Riga (URSS)			69-62	Y.Kruminsh (ASK) 29	
1961	Riga (USSR)	CSKA Moscow(USSR)	ASK Riga (USSR)	87-62	V. Zubkov (CSKA) 19	E. Alekseyev
	Moscow (USSR)			61-66	V.Zubkov (CSKA) 25	
1962	Geneva (Swi)	Dynamo Tbilisi (USSR)	Real Madrid (Spain)	90-83	W. Hightower (Real) 30	O. Korkija
1963	Madrid (Spain)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	Real Madrid (Spain)	69-86	C.Sevillano (Real) 27	E.Alekseyev
	Moscow (URSS)			91-84	C.Luyk (Real) 22	
	Moscow (URSS)			99-80	G.Volnov (CSKA) 26	
1964	Brno (CSSR)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Spartak Brno (CSSR)	99-110	F.Konvicka (Spartak) 30	J. Hernandez
	Madrid (Spain)			84-64	E.Rodriguez Real) 30	
1965	Moscow (USSR)	Real Madrid (Spain)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	81-88	C. Luyk (Real) 30	P. Ferrandiz
				76-62		
1966	Bologna (Italy)	Simmenthal Milan (Italy)	Slavia Prague (CSSR)	77-72	Jiri Zidek (Prague) 22	Cesare Rubini
1967	Madrid (Spain)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Simmenthal Milan (Italy)	91-83	Steve Chubin (Milan) 34	Pedro Ferrandiz
1968	Lyon (France)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Spartak Brno (CSSR)	98-95	Miles Ajken (Real) 26	Pedro Ferrandiz
1969	Barcelona (Spain)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	Real Madrid (Spain)	103-99	Vladimir Andreev (CSKA)37	A. Alachatchan
1970	Sarajevo (Yug.)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	79-74	Sergey Belov (CSKA) 21	Aza Nikolic
1971	Antwerp (Belgium)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	69-53	Sergey Belov (CSKA) 24	A. Gomelski
1972	Tel Aviv (Israel)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	Jugoplastika Split (Yug.)	70-69	Petar Skansi (Split) 26	Aza Nikolic
1973	Liege (Belgium)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	CSKA Moscow (USSR)	71-66	Sergey Belov (CSKA) 36	P. Ferrandiz
1974	Nantes (France)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	84-82	Dino Meneghin (Varese) 25	Sandro Gamba
1975	Anvers (Belgium)	Ignis Varese (Italy)	Real Madrid (Spain)	79-66	Bob Morse (Varese) 30	Sandro Gamba
1976	Geneva (Switz.)	Mobilgirgi Varese (Italy)	Real Madrid (Spain)	81-74	Bob Morse (Varese) 28	Ralph Klein
1977	Belgrade (Yug.)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	Mobilgirgi Varese (Italy)	78-77	J.Boatwright (Maccabi) 26	Manolo Sainz
1978	Munich (Germany)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Mobilgirgi (Italy)	75-67	Walter Szczerbiak (Real) 25	Bogan Tanjevic
1979	Grenoble (France)	Bosna Sarajevo (Yugoslavia)	Emerson Varese (Italy)	96-93	Zarko Varajic (Bosna) 47	Manolo Sainz
1980	Berlin (Germany)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	89-85	Earl Williams (Maccabi) 31	Rudy D'Amico
1981	Strasbourg (France)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	Sinudyne Bologna (Italy)	80-79	M.Bonamico (Bologna) 26	Valerio Bianchini
1982	Cologne (Germany)	Squibb Cantù (Italy)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	86-80	Bruce Flowers (Cantù) 23	Giancarlo Primo
1983	Grenoble (France)	Ford Cantù (Italy)	Billy Milan (Italy)	69-68	W.Bryant & A.Riva (Cantù)18	Valerio Bianchini
1984	Geneva (Switz.)	Banco di Roma (Italy)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	79-73	JA.San Epifanio (Barcelona)31	Mirko Novosel
1985	Athens (Greece)	Cibona Zagreb (Yugoslavia)	Real Madrid (Spain)	87-78	Drazen Petrovic (Cibona) 36	Zeljko Pavlicevic
1986	Budapest (Hung.)	Cibona Zagreb (Yugoslavia)	Zalgiris Kaunas (Lithuania)	84-82	Arvydas Sabonis (Zalgiris) 27	Dan Peterson
1987	Lausanne (Switz.)	Tracer Milan (Italy)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	71-69	Lee Johnson (Maccabi) 24	

Year	Place	Winner	Finalist	Score	Final Four MVP	Winning coach
1988	Gent (Belgium)	Tracer Milan (Italy)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	90-84	Bob McAdoo (Milan)	Franco Casalini
1989	Munich (Germany)	Jugoplastika Split (Yugoslavia)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	75-69	Dino Radja (Split)	Boja Maljkovic
1990	Saragoza (Spain)	Jugoplastika Split (Yugoslavia)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	72-67	Toni Kukoc (Split)	Boja Maljkovic
1991	Paris (France)	Pop 84 Split (Yugoslavia)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	70-65	Toni Kukoc (Split)	Zeljko Pavlicevic
1992	Istanbul (Turkey)	Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia)	Joventut Badalona (Spain)	71-70	Predrag Danilovic (Partizan)	Zelimir Obradovic
1993	Athens (Greece)	Limoges CSP (France)	Benetton Treviso (Italy)	59-55	Toni Kukoc (Benetton)	Boja Maljkovic
1994	Tel Aviv (Israel)	Joventut Badalona (Spain)	Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece)	59-57	Zarko Paspalj (Olympiakos)	Zelimir Obradovic
1995	Zaragoza (Spain)	Real Madrid (Spain)	Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece)	73-61	Arvydas Sabonis (Real)	Zelimir Obradovic
1996	Paris (France)	Panathinaikos Athens (Greece)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	67-66	Dominique Wilkins (Panathin.)	Boja Maljkovic
1997	Rome (Italy)	Olympiacos Piraeus (Greece)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	73-58	David Rivers (Olympiakos)	Dusan Ivkovic
1998	Barcelona (Spain)	Kinder Bologna (Italy)	AEK Athens (Greece)	58-44	Zoran Savic (Kinder)	Ettore Messina
1999	Munich (Germany)	Zalgiris Kaunas (Lithuania)	Kinder Bologna (Italy)	82-74	Tyus Edney (Zalgiris)	Jonas Kazlauskas
2000	Thessaloniki(Greece)	Panathinaikos Athens (Greece)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	73-67	Zeljko Rebraca (Panathinaikos)	Zelimir Obradovic
2001	Paris (Fra.)-Suprol.	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	Panathinaikos Athens (Greece)	81-67	Arriel McDonald (Maccabi)	Pini Gershon
2001	Bologna (Italy)	Kinder Bologna (Italy)	Tau Ceramica Vitoria (Spain)	65-78, 94-73, 80-60, 79-96, 82-74	Manuel Ginobili (Kinder)	Ettore Messina
	Vitoria (Spain)					
2002	Bologna (Italy)	Panathinaikos Athens (Greece)	Kinder Bologna (Italy)	89-83	Dejan Bodiroga (Panathin.)	Zelimir Obradovic
2003	Barcelona (Spain)	FC Barcelona (Spain)	Benetton Treviso (Italy)	76-65	Dejan Bodiroga (FCB)	Svetislav Pesic
2004	Tel Aviv (Israel)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	Skipper Bologna (Italy)	118-74	Anthony Parker (Maccabi)	Pini Gershon
2005	Moscow (Russia)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	Tau Cerámica (Spain)	90-78	S. Jasikevicius (Maccabi)	Pini Gershon
2006	Prague (Czech Rep.)	CSKA Moscow (Russia)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	73-69	T. Papaloukas (CSKA)	Ettore Messina
2007	Athens (Greece)	Panathinaikos Athens (Greece)	CSKA Moscow (Russia)	93-91	D. Diamantidis (Panathinaikos)	Zelimir Obradovic
2008	Madrid (Spain)	CSKA Moscow (Russia)	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	91-77	T. Langdon (CSKA)	Ettore Messina





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# Regular Season

## STANDINGS

### GROUP A

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Unicaja	8	2	771	698	73
Olympiacos	6	4	815	748	67
Maccabi Electra	6	4	815	811	4
Cibona	5	5	760	772	-12
Air Avellino	3	7	754	814	-60
Le Mans	2	8	747	819	-72

### GROUP B

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Regal FC Barcelona	9	1	813	650	163
Montepaschi Siena	8	2	835	750	85
Panathinaikos	7	3	763	707	56
Asseco Prokom	2	8	675	734	-59
Zalgiris	2	8	716	812	-96
SLUC Nancy	2	8	706	855	-149

### GROUP C

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Tau Ceramica	8	2	916	808	108
Lottomatica Roma	6	4	814	786	28
Fenerbahce Ulker	6	4	779	755	24
Alba Berlin	4	6	691	748	-57
DKV Joventut	4	6	800	810	-10
Union Olimpija	2	8	725	818	-93

### GROUP D

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
CSKA Moscow	7	3	774	644	130
Real Madrid	6	4	740	707	33
AJ Milano	5	5	734	745	-11
Partizan	5	5	706	687	19
Efes Pilsen	4	6	713	762	-49
Panionios On Telecoms	3	7	668	790	-122





# Top 16

## STANDINGS

### GROUP E

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Olympiacos	5	1	496	446	50
Tau Ceramica	4	2	556	474	82
AJ Milano	2	4	455	529	-74
Asseco Prokom	1	5	444	502	-58

### GROUP F

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Regal FC Barcelona	5	1	508	429	79
Real Madrid	5	1	505	487	18
Maccabi Electra	2	4	459	481	-22
Alba Berlin	0	6	427	502	-75

### GROUP G

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
Panathinaikos	5	1	503	428	75
Partizan	4	2	420	434	-14
Unicaja	2	4	484	461	23
Lottomatica Roma	1	5	441	525	-84

### GROUP H

TEAM	W	L	PTS +	PTS -	TOTAL PTS.
CSKA Moscow	5	1	454	377	77
Montepaschi Siena	4	2	472	456	16
Cibona	2	4	423	456	-33
Fenerbahce Ulker	1	5	384	444	-60

# Playoffs

## STANDINGS

Game 1	Score
Regal FC Barcelona - Tau Ceramica	75 - 84
CSKA Moscow - Partizan	56 - 47
Olympiacos - Real Madrid	88 - 79
Panathinaikos - Montepaschi Siena	90 - 85

Game 2	Score
CSKA Moscow - Partizan	77 - 50
Olympiacos - Real Madrid	79 - 73
Regal FC Barcelona - Tau Ceramica	85 - 62
Panathinaikos - Montepaschi Siena	79 - 84

Game 3	Score
Montepaschi Siena - Panathinaikos	53 - 72
Real Madrid - Olympiacos	71 - 63
Tau Ceramica - Regal FC Barcelona	69 - 62
Partizan - CSKA Moscow	56 - 67

Game 4	Score
Tau Ceramica - Regal FC Barcelona	63 - 84
Montepaschi Siena - Panathinaikos	84 - 91
Real Madrid - Olympiacos	75 - 78

Game 5	Score
Regal FC Barcelona - Tau Ceramica	78 - 62





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## REGULAR SEASON, TOP 16 & Playoff

# Leaders

### RANK

Name	Team	Games	Av.	Val.
MCINTYRE, L.	MONTEPASCHI S.	19	19,84	377
SPLITTER, TIAGO	TAU CERAMICA	17	17,82	303
ELIYAHU, LIOR	MACCABI E. TEL A.	16	17,56	281
RAKOCEVIC, IGOR	TAU CERAMICA	21	16,76	352
BOUROUSIS, I.	OLYMPIACOS P.	20	16,10	322
REYES, FELIPE	REAL MADRID	20	15,80	316
McELROY, I.	ALBA BERLIN	16	15,75	252
LORBEK, ERAZEM	CSKA MOSCOW	19	15,68	298
NAVARRO, JUAN C.	R. FC BARCELONA	19	15,68	298
LAVRINOVIC, K.	MONTEPASCHI S.	17	14,94	254

### POINTS

Name	Team	Games	Av.	Pts.
RAKOCEVIC, IGOR	TAU CERAMICA	21	17,95	377
MCINTYRE, T.	MONTEPASCHI S.	19	17,26	328
LOGAN, DAVID	ASSECO PROKOM S.	15	16,87	253
NAVARRO, J.C.	R. FC BARCELONA	19	14,84	282
KAUKENAS, R.	MONTEPASCHI S.	18	14,78	266
ARROYO, C.	MACCABI E. TEL AVIV	15	14,60	219
ELIYAHU, LIOR	MACCABI E. TEL AVIV	16	14,00	224
SPLITTER, TIAGO	TAU CERAMICA	17	14,00	238
HAWKINS, DAVID	ARMANI J. MILANO	16	13,75	220
REYES, FELIPE	REAL MADRID	20	13,45	269
HUTSON, ANDRE	LOTTOMATICA ROMA	16	13,12	210

### ASSISTS

Name	Team	Games	Av.	As.
PAPALOUKAS, T.	OLYMPIACOS P.	20	5,25	105
COOK, OMAR	UNICAJA	16	5,12	82
MCINTYRE, T.	MONTEPASCHI S.	19	4,42	84
PRIGIONI, PABLO	TAU CERAMICA	21	4,33	91
ARROYO, CARLOS	MACCABI E. TEL AVIV	16	3,88	62
SPANOLIS, V.	PANATHINAIKOS A.	17	3,82	65
NAVARRO, J.C.	R. FC BARCELONA	19	3,74	71
TEPIC, MILENKO	PARTIZAN B.	19	3,26	62
DIAMANTIDIS, D.	PANATHINAIKOS A.	19	3,16	60
JASIKEVICIUS, S.	PANATHINAIKOS A.	20	2,80	56

### STEALS

Name	Team	Game	Av.	St.
LOGAN, DAVID	A. PROKOM S.	15	2,67	40
STONEROOK, A.	MONTEPASCHI S.	20	2,40	48
GREEN, M.	FENERBAHCE U. I.	16	2,00	32
JAABER, I.	LOTTOMATICA ROMA	16	1,94	31
LEBEL G. JR.	MONTEPASCHI S.	20	1,75	35
MCINTYRE, T.	MONTEPASCHI S.	19	1,74	33
CALLOWAY, E.	CIBONA ZAGREB	16	1,62	26
LAVRINOVIC, K.	MONTEPASCHI S.	17	1,59	27
DIAMANTIDIS, D.S	PANATHINAIKOS A.	19	1,53	29
EWING JR, DANIEL	ASSECO PROKOM S.	15	1,53	23

### REBOUNDS

Name	Team	Game	Av.	Reb.
BOUROUSIS, I.	OLYMPIACOS P.	20	7,30	146
ILYASOVA, ERSAN	R. FC BARCELONA	20	7,30	146
BURKE, PATRICK	ASSECO PROKOM S.	15	6,87	103
LASME, Y.	PARTIZAN B.	19	6,58	125
ELIYAHU, LIOR	MACCABI E. TEL AVIV	16	6,56	105
REYES, FELIPE	REAL MADRID	20	6,50	130
LAVRINOVIC, K.	MONTEPASCHI S.	17	6,41	109
BURRELL, RONALD	ASSECO PROKOM S.	16	6,19	99
HUTSON, ANDRE	LOTTOMATICA ROMA	16	5,69	91
MICKEAL, FENTON	TAU CERAMICA	19	5,63	107
STONEROOK, A.	MONTEPASCHI S.	20	5,45	109

### BLOCKS

Name	Team	Games	Av.	Bl.
VAZQUEZ, F.	R. FC BARCELONA	21	1,81	38
SPLITTER, TIAGO	TAU CERAMICA	17	1,59	27
LASME, Y.	PARTIZAN B.	19	1,53	29
NDONG, B.	UNICAJA	15	1,33	20
EZE, BENJAMIN	MONTEPASCHI S.	20	1,20	24
ARCHIBALD, R.	UNICAJA	15	1,13	17
MORRIS, T.	CSKA MOSCOW	19	1,11	21
VASILOPOULOS, P.	OLYMPIACOS P.	15	1,07	16
MCDONALD, W.	TAU CERAMICA	21	1,00	21
KHRYAPA, VIKTOR	CSKA MOSCOW	19	0,95	18

## weekly mvp's

### REGULAR SEASON

Week 1 MVP: Will McDonald, Tau Ceramica  
 Week 2 MVP: Pops Mensah-Bonsu, Joventut  
 Week 3 MVP: Igor Rakocevic, Tau Ceramica  
 Week 4 MVP: Mike Hall, AJ Milano  
 Week 5 MVP: Edu Hernandez, DKV Joventut  
 Week 6 MVP: Lior Eliyahu, Maccabi Electra  
 Week 7 MVP: Rawle Marshall, Cibona  
 Week 8 MVP: Sani Becirovic, Lottomatica Roma  
 Week 9 MVP: Immanuel McElroy, Alba Berlin  
 Week 10 MVP: Oguz Savas, Fenerbahce Ulker

## monthly mvp's

October 2008 MVP: Ersan Ilyasova, Regal FC Barcelona  
 November 2008 MVP: Sani Becirovic, Lottomatica Roma  
 December 2008 MVP: Lior Eliyahu, Maccabi Electra  
 January 2009 MVP: Igor Rakocevic, Tau Ceramica  
 February 2009 MVP: Novica Velickovic, Partizan  
 March 2009 MVP: Erazem Lorbek, CSKA Moscow

### TOP 16 & PLAYOFFS

Top 16 Week 1 tri-MVP's: Fischer, Pekovic, Eliyahu  
 Top 16 Week 2 MVP: Novica Velickovic, Partizan  
 Top 16 Week 3 MVP: Ersan Ilyasova, Regal FCB  
 Top 16 Week 4 MVP: Tiago Splitter, Tau Ceramica  
 Top 16 Week 5 co-MVP's: Charles Gaines, Mike Hall  
 Top 16 Week 6 MVP: Mike Batiste, Panathinaikos  
 Playoffs, Game 1 MVP: Romain Sato, Montepaschi Siena  
 Playoffs, Game 2 MVP: Erazem Lorbek, CSKA Moscow  
 Playoffs Game 3 co-MVPs:  
 Ramunas Siskauskas, Matjaz Smodis of CSKA Moscow  
 Playoffs Game 4 MVP: Terrell McIntyre, Montepaschi Siena  
 Playoffs Game 5 MVP: Ersan Ilyasova, Regal F.C. Barcelona





# Nominations



**VASSILIS  
SPANOULIS**  
Panathinaikos



**IGOR  
RAKOCEVIC**  
Tau Ceramica



**JUAN CARLOS  
NAVARRO**  
Regal FC Barcelona



**TERRELL  
MCINTYRE**  
Montepaschi Siena



**THEODOROS  
PAPALOUKAS**  
Olympiacos



**RAMUNAS  
SISKAUSKAS**  
CSKA Moscow

**NIKOLA  
PEKOVIC**  
Panathinaikos

**ERAZEM  
LORBEK**  
CSKA Moscow

**TIAGO  
SPLITTER**  
Tau Ceramica

**IOANNIS  
BOUROUSIS**  
Olympiacos



*Alphonso Ford  
Best Scorer*

**IGOR  
RAKOCEVIC**  
Tau Ceramica

**DIMITRIS  
DIAMANTIDIS**  
Panathinaikos

*Best  
Defender*

**NOVICA  
VELICKOVIC**  
Partizan

*Rising  
Star*



15



# Olympiacos Piraeus

## Return of the Reds



### Club Info

President: Socrates Kokkalis  
 Foundation year: 1925  
 Address: Alexandras Square 18534 Zea  
 Port-Piraeus - Greece  
 Arena: PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP STADIUM  
 Website: [www.olympiacos.org](http://www.olympiacos.org)

### Trophy Case

Euroleague: 1997  
 Greek National League : 1948-49, 1959-60, 1975-76, 1977-78, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97  
 Greek National Cup: 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1994, 1997, 2002

After a decade-long effort, one of the Europe's signature clubs, Olympiacos Piraeus, has regained its place among the basketball elite with a berth in the 2009 Final Four. Olympiacos fans have already painted their seaport town red with joy, and now they wish to carry both their color and emotion to the German capital in support of their heroes. With an iconic Greek legend on its bench and a stable of diverse talents at his command, Olympiacos will try in Berlin to duplicate the club's 1997 run to the Euroleague trophy. Although that was their only continental crown so far, the Reds had already played two previous title games and would reach an additional Final Four, all in the span of six years in the 1990s. Now, on the way to its fifth Final Four, Olympiacos plans to make Berlin a place of destiny at the start of a new golden era.

Olympiacos was founded in the 1930s and won the first of its nine Greek League titles in 1949. Over the years, the Reds had surges of great accomplishments, including Greek League crowns in 1960, 1976 and 1978, as well as four Greek Cup titles over five seasons ending in 1980. But none of those achievements compared to the 1990s, when Olympiacos proved itself one of the best teams in Europe. In that decade, Olympiacos won its first Euroleague crown, reached three more Final Fours, won five consecutive Greek championships and claimed two Greek Cups. The first of those Final Fours came in 1994 in Tel Aviv, where the Reds bested rival Panathinaikos in the semifinals, but fell in the title game to DKV Joventut in a thriller.



**Theodoros Papaloukas**

**Yotam Halperin**

**Josh Childress**

**Ioannis Bourousis**

**Nikola Vujcic**

### Road to Final Four

#### Regular Season

1	W,	at Air Avellino	69 - 83
2	W,	vs Unicaja	83 - 72
3	L,	at Cibona	85 - 76
4	W,	vs Maccabi Electra	84 - 65
5	W,	at Le Mans	93 - 98
6	W,	vs Air Avellino	91 - 66
7	L,	at Unicaja	60 - 56
8	W,	vs Cibona	93 - 64
9	L,	at Maccabi Electra	96 - 83
10	L,	vs Le Mans	68 - 78

#### TOP16

11	L,	at AJ Milano	76 - 74
12	W,	vs Tau Ceramica	73 - 70
13	W,	at Asseco Prokom	68 - 93
14	W,	vs Asseco Prokom	84 - 71
15	W,	vs AJ Milano	84 - 81
16	W,	at Tau Ceramica	80 - 88

#### Playoff

17	W,	vs Real Madrid	88 - 79
18	W,	vs Real Madrid	79 - 73
19	L,	at Real Madrid	71 - 63
20	W,	at Real Madrid	75 - 78

### Olympiacos Roster

No.	Player	Country	Pos.	Height	Born
4	PAPALOUKAS, THEODOROS	Greece	Guard	2.00	1977
5	PELEKANOS, MICHALIS	Greece	Guard	1.98	1981
6	CHILDRESS, JOSH	USA	Forward	2.03	1983
7	VUJCIC, NIKOLA	Croatia	Center	2.11	1978
8	MILOSEVIC, IGOR	Serbia	Guard	1.92	1986
9	BOUROUSIS, IOANNIS	Greece	Center	2.10	1983
10	HALPERIN, YOTAM	Israel	Guard	1.96	1984
11	GREER, LYNN	USA	Guard	1.86	1979
13	VASILOPOULOS, PANAGIOTIS	Greece	Forward	2.02	1984
14	VOUGIOUKAS, IAN	Greece	Center	2.11	1985
16	PRINTEZIS, GEORGIOS	Greece	Forward	2.02	1985
17	ERCEG, ZORAN	Serbia	Center	2.11	1985
18	TEODOSIC, MILOS	Serbia	Guard	1.95	1987
21	SCHORTSANITIS, SOFOKLIS	Greece	Center	2.06	1985
24	PARGO, JANNERO	USA	Guard	1.88	1979

Head Coach

GIANNAKIS, PANAGIOTIS

Greece



The Reds made it back to the title game the following season in Saragossa, Spain – again beating Panathinaikos in the semifinals – only to come up short against Arvydas Sabonis and Real Madrid. Their long-awaited Euroleague crown finally came in 1997, when David Rivers led the Reds over Barcelona at the Final Four in Rome. Olympiacos made one more Final Four visit in 1999, when it lost to eventual champion Zalgiris Kaunas in the semifinals. After that, Olympiacos took a step back – its only trophy since has been the Greek Cup in 2002 – but now the Reds are back and looking as strong as ever.

Its road to the 2009 Final Four started more than a year ago when Olympiacos tabbed the one and only Panagiotis Giannakis, one of Greece's top players and coaches ever, to take over the bench. During the off-season, Giannakis attracted superstar signings that started with former Euroleague and Final Four MVP Theo Papaloukas, who had formerly played with Olympiacos, and five-time All-Euroleague center Nikola Vujcic. Both of those players already owned two Euroleague titles, as did another import, combo guard Yotam Halperin. Olympiacos also recruited forward Jösh Childress in a signing that made waves for its unexpectedness. Papaloukas became the fourth Olympiacos player to have already enjoyed national team success under Giannakis – the 2005 European championship and the 2006 World Championships silver medal – joining Ioannis Bourousis, Panagiotis Vasilopoulos and Sofoklis Schortsanitis. Other holdovers like scoring ace Lynn Greer, apprentice guard Milos Teodosic plus eager forwards Georgios Printezis and Zoran Erceg, assured the Reds enough depth and diversity to dream big. Olympiacos hit the ground running, winning five of its first six Euroleague games to seize first place in its regular season group. A slump followed, however, and after three losses in four games, the Reds finished second. The team also lost Childress for six weeks due to injury, but picked up guard Jannero Pargo to help make up for the absence. Alarm bells rang when Olympiacos also started the Top 16 by losing on the road, but a resurgence was close at hand. Vujcic and Papaloukas took charge in five consecutive victories with which the Reds claimed first place in their Top 16 group and won home-court advantage for the Quarterfinal Playoffs.

The win streak reached seven as Olympiacos handed Real Madrid defeats in their first two playoff games. Papaloukas proved he was on form when it counted by tying the Euroleague playoff record of 13 assists in the series opener, while Vasilopoulos and Greer made big plays and small at the ends of both games. After dropping Game 3 on the road, Olympiacos followed Bourousis, who had a career-best night to cap his career-best season, to a Game 4 victory and a long-awaited return to the Final Four.

With a cast of former champs, ambitious new arrivals and capable youngsters, Olympiacos will be both an outsider and insider at its first Final Four of the decade. All-time Euroleague record-holders Vujcic, in overall performance index rating, and Papaloukas, in steals and assists, guarantee winning know-how, just as Giannakis will make sure that his team plays the right way. Mix in talent of every size and shape, and the Reds offer a potent mix of possibilities as they take their first of what surely will be more continental title shots in the new century.

#### Average Statistics - All phases

Player	G	GS	Min	Pts	2FG		3FG		FT		Rebounds			As	St	To	Blocks		Fouls		Rkg
					%	%	%	%	%	O	D	T	Fv				Ag	Cm	Rv		
BOUROUSIS, IOANNIS	20	7	21:17	12.4	64.7%	21.7%	63.3%	2.3	5	7.3	0.7	0.8	1.4	0.6	0.3	2.6	3.6	16.1			
CHILDRESS, JOSH	15	14	23:57	8.7	52.7%	16.7%	62.5%	1.2	3.5	4.7	1.1	1	1.8	0.5	0.3	1.2	2.5	10.4			
ERCEG, ZORAN	18	1	11:11	4.7	65.6%	42.9%	53.6%	0.6	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.2	2.2	1.6	3.8			
GREER, LYNN T.	20	7	24:33	11.6	46.5%	41.1%	86.1%	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.6	0.7	1.5	0.2	0.2	2	3.3	10.3			
HALPERIN, YOTAM	20	13	22:14	8	64%	48.9%	78.4%	0.2	1.6	1.7	1.6	1	0.6	0.1		1.5	1.9	9.7			
MILOSEVIC, IGOR	4	1	2:53					0.3	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.3				1	0.5	0.5			
PAPALOUKAS, T.	20	2	24:43	8	78.5%	37.1%	61.3%	0.2	2.8	3	5.3	1.3	2.6	0.1	0.1	2.2	1.9	12.1			
PARGO, JANNERO	10	7	13:27	3.8	44.4%	30%	66.7%	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.5	0.4	1.6			0.1	1.6	0.8	1.5		
PELEKANOS, MICHALIS	11	3	7:04	1.4	37.5%	22.2%	60%	0.5	1.1	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2		0.7	0.3	1.5			
PRINTEZIS, GEORGIOS	18	13	18:51	9.1	65%	50%	46.2%	0.8	2.7	3.5	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.4	1.9	1.9	8.8			
SCHORTSANITIS, S.	13	1	8:21	4.4	58.3%	62.5%	0.5	1.2	1.8	0.3	0.2	1.5	0.1	0.2	1.8	1.5	2.8				
TEODOSIC, MILOS	15	9	14:37	3.2	27.8%	32.3%	100%	0.2	0.8	1	1.8	0.6	1.1			0.1	2.4	0.7	1.5		
VASILOPOULOS, P.	15	4	18:52	4.5	40.9%	43.3%	61.1%	0.7	1.9	2.6	0.7	0.5	1	1.1	0.2	2.5	1.1	4.4			
VOUGIOUKAS, IAN	5	0	2:49	0.8	50%		100%	0.2	0.2	0.4			0.2			1	0.2	0.4			
VUJCIC, NIKOLA	19	18	22:03	11.2	57.7%	28.6%	62.3%	1.1	2.7	3.8	2.7	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.4	1.2	3.2	14.2			
Average			201:00	81.0	58.8%	37.1%	66.9%	08.9	24.5	33.4	16.2	07.9	14.6	02.8	02.0	20.6	21.7	91.3			

Final Four  
BERLIN 2009







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# STAR TURN

## Nikola Vujcic

As a two-time Euroleague champion, five-time All-Euroleague selection and arguably the greatest passing big man in the world, Nikola Vujcic already has enjoyed his fair share of success. This season, his magic touch rubbed off on a new team, Olympiacos Piraeus, that had been waiting a decade to return to the Final Four. Not anymore. With Vujcic as top scorer over seven consecutive victories between the Top 16 and the playoffs, the Reds ended their Final Four drought in style. Now the Euroleague's top-ranked player all decade, and second-best in both total points and rebounds, Vujcic making his fifth Final Four appearance, including four of the previous five seasons with Maccabi Tel Aviv. He will not lack for motivation or know-how as he tries to make Olympiacos reach even higher in Berlin.

### How special is making your fifth Final Four with a new team, Olympiacos?

"It's very special. This is why we play basketball, to be in the place where they are giving out trophies and to have the opportunity to win the biggest one. To be at this Final Four is also an achievement that makes lots of people from Olympiacos very happy because they and their fans have been waiting a long time, 10 years, for it. Seeing all their excitement and appreciation in the last few weeks and after we qualified for the Final Four makes me even more proud and happy that we did this."

### With several newcomers like you, how did the team come together in time to reach the Final Four?

"Because so many of us came here new, it took time in the beginning for all of us to adjust to each other and to understand what Coach Giannakis wanted from us. On the other side, it was great to get a couple of new guys who have been so many times in the Final Four. They not only knew how to handle the pressure but also how to help others become team players and play well enough for us to make the Final Four. When you have Theo Papaloukas, a guy who has been to seven Final Fours in a row - if anyone can teach you something, it's him. He even teaches me, because he's beating me, seven Final Fours to five!"

### What have you learned from previous experience about preparing for a Final Four?

"Of course, the Euroleague has been making the Final Four more and more exciting every year, with all the events and shows surrounding the games. It's easy to get over-excited in an atmosphere like that, but you have to do your work and not think too much about anything but the big game. As time passes, I am getting more involved in some of the other things, but I try to stay as focused as possible on the basketball in order to lift that trophy. That is the biggest challenge for me, to try to win one more time."

### Having been both a favorite and an underdog at Final Fours, which do you prefer and which is Olympiacos now?

"If you are a favorite, of course, it is harder sometimes, but it also means you have a team to fight for the trophy. So I always prefer to go as the favorite. However, I really think that of the five Final Fours that I have been to, this year's is probably the hardest one to say, 'OK, this team is likely to do it'. The system this year, with best-of-five playoffs, really makes for fewer surprises and assures that the best teams are in Berlin."

### You've seen and played in great rivalries before. How do you rate the Reds vs. the Greens in the semifinals?

"Of course, everyone has heard stories about these teams in basketball, football and other sports. But when you feel it on your skin, then you get the real point of the rivalry. It's really something special that I don't think you can get anywhere else in the world of sports. I just hope it will stay within the boundaries of sport. When it's only about sports, the atmosphere that these two groups of fans can generate is truly something amazing."





# The Coach

## Panagiotis Giannakis

A symbol of Greek basketball greatness for 30 years, Panagiotis Giannakis of Olympiacos Piraeus may well be making his Final Four coaching debut in Berlin, but experience will be no problem for him. Giannakis was a five-time Final Four participant as a player and the captain of Greece's first continental club champion, Panathinaikos, in 1996. Lately, he has ranked among the world's most-accomplished national team coaches by leading Greece to a European Championships title and a World Championships silver medal in the last four years. Now, in his first full Euroleague season, Giannakis has enhanced an already enormous reputation by lifting the Reds to their first Final Four in a decade. If Olympiacos can add even one victory in Berlin - in the team's historic semifinal matchup against Panathinaikos - the legend of Giannakis, the coach, will be sealed forever, too.

**What does making the Final Four as a coach in your first Euroleague season mean to you?**

"It is a great honor for me and for everyone at Olympiacos to participate in this great feast of basketball. Our objective is to create a team that will have continuity and consequence. A team that will not only reach the top, but will remain there for lots of years. You cannot achieve that in one moment. It requires patience and persistence. Our team has already made the first step, but we still have a lot of ground to cover."

**Is making the Final Four after a 10-year absence a sign that the Reds are back for good?**

"It's not enough to achieve something important just once and then ruin everything you have built. We are building a stable foundation in order to be among the best for many years. We are building a team that will have the spirit of a winner and will always aim for the top. It certainly is important for Olympiacos to be in the Final Four, but it will be even more important if this objective is achieved every single year from now on."

**What lessons from all your experience will help you most as you prepare for Berlin?**

"Every day I tell not only my players, but all my collaborators and all the Olympiacos fans, that anything can be done if you have patience. It's possible that many people might not like this word, but I don't use it so simply. My experience and life in basketball have led me to create this philosophy. The second thing I tell my team, and which I think they now understand, is that we shouldn't look at the game clock or the scoreboard unless it is the last minute of the game, and that we should never give up during a game. The Greek national team succeeded because of that mentality and I believe that Olympiacos will also be successful because of it."

**To prepare for this season, you reshaped Olympiacos a lot last summer. What kind of team were you trying to build?**

"We want to build a team that has durability. A team that will stay at the top for many years. A team where each one will play for the other and not for themselves. A team that will want to and will be able to win every game regardless of the opponent and the arena. A team that will have patience and direction in its game. A team that will fight until the end of every game for victory."

**What do you consider to be the quality level of this particular Final Four in Berlin?**

"I believe that this year's Euroleague quality was from the beginning at a very high level and we have seen some excellent games. They say that this Final Four will be the best we've seen in the last few years, and it is certain that the level of all four teams is very high, something that the players must show in the court. All the necessary ingredients are present, but we must also see them in action."



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# Panathinaikos Athens

*Four-star generals, trying for five*



## Club Info

President: Pavlos Giannakopoulos  
 Foundation year: 1922  
 Address: Kifisias Av. 38, Athens - Greece  
 Arena: O.A.K.A.  
 Website: www.paobc.gr

## Trophy Case

Euroleague: 1996, 2000, 2002, 2007  
 Intercontinental Cup: 1996  
 Greek National League: 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1953-54, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1976-77, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1983-84, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08  
 Greek National Cup: 1979, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1993, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

## Road to Final Four

Regular Season	1 W,	vs Zalgiris	78 - 51
	2 L,	at R. FC Barcelona	90 - 66
	3 W,	at SLUC Nancy	70 - 80
	4 W,	vs Montepaschi Siena	81 - 76
	5 W,	at Asseco Prokom	60 - 67
	6 W,	at Zalgiris	69 - 80
	7 L,	vs R.FC Barcelona	76 - 87
	8 W,	vs SLUC Nancy	83 - 69
	9 L,	at Montepaschi Siena	82 - 77
	10 W,	vs Asseco Prokom	75 - 53
TOP16	11 W,	vs Partizan	81 - 63
	12 W,	at Unicaja	69 - 81
	13 W,	vs Lottomatica	92 - 67
	14 W,	at Lottomatica	71 - 90
	15 L,	at Partizan	63 - 56
	16 W,	vs Unicaja	103 - 95
Playoff	17 W,	vs Montepaschi	90 - 85
	18 L,	vs Montepaschi	79 - 84
	19 W,	at Montepaschi	53 - 72
	20 W,	at Montepaschi	84 - 91

The stars arrayed above the three-leaf clover on its logo say plenty about Panathinaikos, the most successful club in modern European club competition. Those four stars represent the Euroleague trophies that Panathinaikos has won since 1996, making the Greens not only the top European team in that time span, but also the best of a Final Four era that dates back two full decades to 1989. Over the entire 50-year history of European club basketball competition, Panathinaikos now ranks fifth on the all-time continental winners list and has the highest winning percentage in European title games - four victories out of five, or 80 percent - of any team ever with more than two titles. Should they maintain such consistency by winning again in Berlin, the Greens would join Maccabi Tel Aviv and Pallacanestro Varese in third place all-time with five continental championships each, one behind CSKA Moscow and three behind Real Madrid. Win or lose in Berlin, however, the Greens will remain the most-crowned Euroleague team of the last quarter-century.

Panathinaikos has been the dominant basketball force in Greece for decades thanks to a total of 29 Greek League and 12 Greek Cup titles. Much of that trophy haul came in two golden eras, one of which is still in progress. The Greens harvested 12 domestic titles between 1967 and 1984, and are now up to 10 more since 1998. Panathinaikos waited a half-century after its first domestic crown, in 1946, to put its stamp on Europe, too. After having reached and lost to archrival Olympiacos at Final Fours in 1994 and 1995, everything changed



**Dimitris Diamantidis**

**Sarunas Jasikevicius**

**Vassilis Spanoulis**

**Mike Batiste**

**Nikola Pekovic**

## Panathinaikos Roster

No.	Player	Country	Pos.	Height	Born
4	ALVERTIS, FRAGISKOS	Greece	Forward	2.06	1974
5	KECMAN, DUSAN	Serbia	Guard	1.97	1977
6	SPANOLIS, VASSILIS	Greece	Guard	1.93	1982
7	PERPEROGLU, STRATOS	Greece	Forward	2.03	1984
8	BATISTE, MIKE	USA	Forward	2.04	1977
9	FOTSIS, ANTONIS	Greece	Forward	2.09	1981
10	HATZIVRETTAS, NIKOS	Greece	Guard	1.95	1977
11	NICHOLAS, DREW	USA	Guard	1.93	1981
12	TSARTSARIS, KOSTAS	Greece	Forward	2.09	1979
13	DIAMANTIDIS, DIMITRIS	Greece	Guard	1.96	1980
14	PEKOVIC, NIKOLA	Montenegro	Center	2.10	1986
15	SAKOTA, DUSAN	Greece	Forward	2.05	1986
16	SHERMADINI, GIORGI	Georgia	Center	2.16	1989
17	VERGINIS, DIMITRIOS	Greece	Guard	1.91	1987
19	JASIKEVICIUS, SARUNAS	Lithuania	Guard	1.93	1976
Head Coach					
	OBRADOVIC, ZELJKO	Serbia			



for the Greens in 1996. A star-studded cast including legends Panagiotis Giannakis, Dominique Wilkins and Fragiskos Alvertis made Panathinaikos the first Euroleague champion from Greece by outlasting Barcelona 67-66 in Paris thanks to a last-gasp blocked shot by Stojko Vrankovic. In 2000, the Greens returned to the summit of continental basketball by topping Maccabi Tel Aviv in Thessaloniki, Greece as Dejan Bodiroga and Zeljko Rebraca led the way. After its only loss in a continental final, to Maccabi in the 2001 SuproLeague title game, Panathinaikos rebounded the following year to down Kinder for the 2002 Euroleague title in Bologna, Italy. Bodiroga, Ibrahim Kutluay and Lazaros Papadopoulos helped the Greens become the first modern European champions to capture the trophy on the other finalist's home court. After losing to Maccabi in the 2005 semifinals, the Greens were back two years later, enjoying homecourt advantage in Athens for the first time in their Final Four history. With Dimitris Diamantidis, Mike Batiste, Ramunas Siskauskas and Dejan Tomasevic starring in the final, Panathinaikos dethroned CSKA 93-91 in an all-time thriller that may have also set a record for decibel levels generated by the team's adoring fans.

In Berlin, the Greens are targeting their second Euroleague crown in three years and fourth since the turn of the century. Guided for a 10th consecutive season by Obradovic, Panathinaikos returns to the Final Four with six champions from that 2007 team plus two more with previous Euroleague titles. Among them are former Final Four MVPs Diamantidis and Sarunas Jasikevicius, current and former All-Euroleague selections Nikola Pekovic and Vassilis Spanoulis, and former Alphonso Ford Top Scorer Trophy winner Drew Nicholas. They are just part of an 11-deep rotation, each player of which was important to the team's Final Four run. The Greens faced adversity with a 24-point loss to another Final Four team, Regal FC Barcelona, in the season's second game. Despite bouncing back with four straight wins, a home loss to Barcelona ended the team's 18-game home-court winning streak, resulting in a 7-3 record and a third-place finish in their regular season group. For the Top 16, however, Panathinaikos turned things completely around. The Greens took their new group by storm, winning the first four games in order to qualify early for the Quarterfinal Playoffs. They eventually finished 5-1 in the Top 16, losing only at Partizan in front of a Euroleague record crowd of 22,567, before seizing first place and homecourt advantage in the newly expanded, best-of-five playoffs. A tough quarterfinals matchup against Montepaschi Siena, a team that had already beaten the Greens in the regular season, meant that theirs would be no ordinary playoff series. After splitting their first two games in Athens, Panathinaikos dominated Game 3 on the road and held off Montepaschi's late charge in Game 4, also in Siena, to win the series 3-1. Rarely before had any team won back-to-back road games in a European playoff to reach the Final Four.

The Greens will not lack motivation in Berlin. Obradovic can add another Euroleague title to the six that already make him the winningest coach in European history and one of the all-time greats of the sport. Alvertis, in his 19th season with the Greens, could become just the fourth player in European history to wear five continental crowns. And Jasikevicius could be the first to win titles with three different European clubs. With an unparalleled winning tradition at its back, Panathinaikos is hoping to soon need more room in its already overflowing trophy case.

#### Average Statistics - All phases

Player	G	GS	Min	Pts	2FG		3FG	FT	Rebounds			As	St	To	Blocks		Fouls		Rkg
					%	%	%	O	D	T	Fv				Ag	Cm	Rv		
ALVERTIS, FRAGISKOS	1	0	3:46																-2
BATISTE, MIKE	20	14	22:44	12.6	65.6%	12.5%	70.4%	1.6	3.4	4.9	0.3	0.9	2.1	0.4	0.3	1.7	3.6	14.6	
DIAMANTIDIS, DIMITRIOS	19	12	27:03	8.8	58.7%	44.4%	85.7%	1.2	3.3	4.5	3.2	1.5	2.1	0.5	0.1	1.7	3.2	14.9	
FOTSIS, ANTONIS	20	7	23:21	7	66.7%	42.4%	68.4%	1.5	3	4.5	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.1	1.7	0.8	9.1	
HATZIVRETTAS, NIKOS	15	4	8:21	1.9	33.3%	35.3%	83.3%	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3		0.1	1.5	0.3	0.1	
JASIKEVICIUS, SARUNAS	20	4	19:54	9.2	51.8%	34.4%	89.5%	0.2	1.2	1.4	2.8	0.6	2	0.1	0.3	2.3	2	7.2	
KECMAN, DUSAN	17	2	9:00	2.2	50%	43.8%	100%	0.2	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.9	
NICHOLAS, ANDREW	20	14	23:37	8.8	46.8%	42.3%	61.5%	0.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.9	1.1	6.6	
PEKOVIC, NIKOLA	19	7	18:14	13	63.6%		76.1%	1.8	2.1	3.9	0.4	0.4	2.2	0.7	0.4	2.7	5.2	14.4	
PERPEROGLU, STRATOS	19	17	18:17	5.5	54.2%	33.3%	81%	0.4	2.2	2.5	0.9	1	0.9	0.3	0.2	2.2	1.6	6.1	
SAKOTA, DUSAN	9	0	8:08	3.2	83.3%	31.6%	100%	0.7	0.8	1.4	0.3					1.6	0.3	1.9	
SHERMADINI, GIORGI	1	0	10:16	1			50%			1	1		1	1	1	2	1	-4	
SPANOULIS, VASSILIS	17	7	25:07	9.9	54.9%	25%	87.1%	0.4	2.2	2.5	3.8	1.2	2.3		0.6	2.4	3.7	11.5	
TSARTSARIS, KOSTAS	17	12	13:35	3.8	44.7%	30%	54.2%	1.1	2.5	3.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.1	2	1.5	4.9	
Average			201:00	79.9	57.9%	36.8%	77.6%	09.2	23.1	32.3	14.2	09.1	14.4	03.2	02.2	21.2	22.2	90.2	

Final Four  
BERLIN 2009



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# STAR TURN *Mike Batiste*

With white socks pulled up to his knees and those knees pulled up near the rim for another monster dunk, Panathinaikos big man Mike Batiste has patented a signature pose of success over his last six seasons in Athens. Since arriving in 2003, Batiste has been the unfailing constant in the Panathinaikos frontcourt during a flood of domestic trophies and one truly memorable Euroleague championship season. Indeed, just as no fan of the Greens will forget Batiste's crucial turnaround jumper to secure the 2007 Euroleague title for Panathinaikos, none will lose sight of him in Berlin, either. As the team's second-best scorer and top rebounder this season, Batiste is ready to keep Panathinaikos dangerous in the paint for their third Final Four together, one which he plans to finish with two hands around a new trophy.

**Having won the Euroleague just a couple years ago, how important is being back at the Final Four to try for another title?**

"Any chance to be crowned Euroleague champion again is always a blessing. For me personally, and I know for my teammates and our fans, we are very grateful for this opportunity. The Euroleague is one of the biggest competitions in the world, and to get to the Final Four is not easy at all. Every team is good and each phase - from the regular season to the Top 16 to the playoffs - is a challenge. It adds up to a very difficult road to the Final Four, so I am very grateful to not only be there, but to try to win it again, like we did two years ago. We will be very ready because we know that we're playing a great team in Olympiacos, our closest rival, in the semifinals. And now people all over the world will get to see what's so special about that rivalry."

**After six seasons, what does it mean to you to wear Panathinaikos green?**

"The key to it, number one, is the history and the tradition. Every time you walk into the gym for practice, you see the green championship banners hanging over your head. That's a blessing from all the guys who have been here before you and won championships for Panathinaikos. It's a long list of great players who make you feel fortunate to play on a team like Panathinaikos with big-time history, big-time tradition and great players coming through here and succeeding."

**How would you describe the Panathinaikos-Olympiacos derby for people who will watch it for the first time in Berlin?**

"First, you'll get to see one of the biggest rivalries in sports, not just Europe, but around the world. Honestly, it has to be one of the top five or 10 rivalries in all of sports. These are two organizations with history, with tradition and with fans who support them to the very end. It's big, man, and people from around the world will get to see what it's all about. You hear about it, people talk and tell stories, but to see these two teams come together against one another is something really, really special. And we're going to give the people what they want. We have big-name players on our team, they have big-name players on their team. When we clash, it's going to be an opportunity to see something special."

**What do take to Berlin from that night almost two years ago when you won the Euroleague in Athens?**

"Number one, I remember the experience of playing and winning at European basketball's highest level of competition. Being on that cloud is the most natural high any person can get in sports. To be crowned a champion of the Euroleague is the most coveted thing in European basketball. It's one of the biggest trophies you can imagine winning. So it's big for us to be back, and from experience we know that if we go with the right mentality, we'll have a chance to win it all again. You have two games to play at the highest level. In the back of my mind, I know that once you put out maximum effort, the end result is being crowned a champion. That's what I'm taking from 2007 to 2009."



**Final Four**  
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# The Coach Zeljko Obradovic

In an 18-year head coaching career, he has reached 11 Final Fours and won six of them. No one else comes close. Both of those records make Zeljko Obradovic of Panathinaikos the most successful European coach ever and one of the greatest in the history of elite pro basketball. A trophy winner at every stop during his career, Obradovic boasts one Euroleague crown each with Partizan Belgrade, Joventut Badalona and Real Madrid, all having become before three more with Panathinaikos, for whom he has now coached 10 seasons. He has also won a pair of Saporta Cup titles, 16 national championships and cups, plus four medals with the Yugoslav national team. At age 49, two years after he and Panathinaikos claimed their last Euroleague crown together, Obradovic is poised to add to their legacy at the 2009 Final Four in Berlin.

## How is getting to the Final Four different now compared to when you first started coaching?

"I have been a coach now 18 years, and the first time I made a Final Four, in Istanbul in 1992, we had a young team and I was a young coach, with no experience. With the years you learn, and you keep learning every day. That is fundamental. All of us in life have to learn new things every day. As a coach, there are a lot of opportunities to do a little better each day. It was difficult 18 years ago to reach the Final Four. Now, what has happened is the Euroleague has changed in a way that there are more teams with more quality now. Each year, of the 24 teams, there are 16 minimum that have some chance of going to the Final Four. I think it gets more difficult each year, and it was already difficult 18 years ago. But I also think that the system now - regular season, Top 16 and best-of-five playoffs - favors the teams with the most quality. Without doubt, I think the four best teams are in the Final Four this season."

## It is rare in any sport, anywhere, for a coach to stay 10 years in one club. Why has that been possible with you and Panathinaikos?

"First, I think that it is thanks to the fact that we have good results. Also, my relationship with the owners, the Giannakopoulos brothers, is very good. I am also very happy working with my staff, the assistant coaches and everyone involved with the team. Finally, I have a relationship with the people of Panathinaikos, the fans, that goes beyond respect. I understand when a coach is respected, but they love me here, and that gives me a lot of reasons to be happy. But as I said first, results are the boss in our work. After so many years, I think we have played in 20 finals and won 17 titles. That is what matters most, to be honest."

## What is the most important aspect of getting ready for a Final Four?

"To arrive there on your best form. You are playing against the best teams and players in Europe. It's most important to be in good physical and psychological shape. There is never a need to motivate players at a Final Four, so what's key is to be at the top of your game and then to play with calm. Of course, neither one is easy."

## Having seen the best basketball of the last 25 years as a player and a coach, how good can this Final Four be?

"Everyone is already saying, before it starts, that it's probably the best Final Four ever. Just thinking of the size of the clubs, what they mean, and those four names - Panathinaikos, CSKA, Barcelona and Olympiacos - everyone is saying the same thing. I have talked with people in Greece, Italy, Spain, Serbia and other places, and everyone has the same opinion. For the Euroleague, it is something important for the season to have come out like this, with four teams of great quality fighting for the title. It's going to be a great Final Four. I want the best team to win. That is my desire and that of everyone who loves basketball."







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# Regal FC Barcelona

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## REGAL FCBARCELONA

President: Joan Laporta  
Foundation year: 1926  
Address: Aristides Mallo, S/N 08028  
Barcelona - Spain  
Arena: PALAU BLAUGRANA  
Website: www.fcbarcelona.com

### Club Info

#### Trophy Case

Euroleague: 2003  
Korac Cup: 1987, 1999  
Saporta Cup: 1985, 1986  
Spanish National League: 1958-59, 1980-81,  
1982-83, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90,  
1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99, 2000-01,  
2002-03, 2003-04  
Spanish National Cup: 1943, 1945, 1946, 1947,  
1949, 1959, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983,  
1987, 1988, 1991, 1994, 2001, 2003, 2007  
Spanish SuperCup: 2004

Boasting one of the most famous club names in the world of sports, Regal FC Barcelona arrives to the 2009 Final Four with every intention of claiming its second continental title of the decade. After seven previous Final Four appearances and five defeats in continental title games, Barcelona won the 2003 Euroleague crown before its home fans to finally break through to glory. In Berlin, the team will be making its record 10th appearance at a Final Four, and to win again, history shows that Barcelona will have to overcome some familiar foes. All three of this year's other semifinalists have stopped Barcelona's title hopes in the past, and in fact the semifinal matchup with defending champion CSKA Moscow marks their third such showdown this decade. Barcelona won their 2003 semifinal on the way to that season's historic title, while the opposite happened when they met in 2006 and CSKA pushed through to its own long-awaited trophy. This time around, Barcelona has plenty of confidence after welcoming back a signature superstar and following a young coach to the most victories of any Euroleague team so far.

Barcelona has always been a major contender for crowns, going back to the 1940s, when it won the Spanish Cup five times. The club was a founding member of the Spanish League in 1956 and won its first league title just three years later. Barcelona's first major European success came in the 1980s when it reached the 1984 Euroleague final before falling to Virtus Roma. Next came Saporta Cup titles in both 1985 and 1986 plus the Korac Cup in 1987 with the great Juan Antonio San Epifanio as team leader. Soon an even greater run would begin with an appearance at the first Final Four, in 1989. That was one of six berths in European basketball's signature event over the next decade. In 1990 and 1991, led by Epi, Nacho Solozabal and Audie Norris, Barca reached back-to-back Euroleague finals only to fall twice to Jugoplastika Split.



**Jaka Lakovic**

**Juan Carlos Navarro**

**Gianluca Basile**

**Ersan Ilyasova**

**David Andersen**

### Road to Final Four

#### Regular Season

1	W,	at SLUC Nancy	54 - 82
2	W,	vs Panathinaikos	90 - 66
3	L,	at Montepaschi	71 - 61
4	W,	vs Asseco Prokom	74 - 62
5	W,	at Zalgiris	60 - 75
6	W,	vs SLUC Nancy	91 - 68
7	W,	at Panathinaikos	76 - 87
8	W,	vs Montepaschi	87 - 61
9	W,	at Asseco Prokom	64 - 76
10	W,	vs Zalgiris	90 - 68

#### TOP16

11	L,	at Real Madrid	85 - 83
12	W,	vs Maccabi Electra	85 - 65
13	W,	vs Alba Berlin	85 - 69
14	W,	at Alba Berlin	57 - 75
15	W,	vs Real Madrid	90 - 79
16	W,	at Maccabi Electra	74 - 90

#### Playoff

17	L,	vs Tau Ceramica	75 - 84
18	W,	vs Tau Ceramica	85 - 62
19	L,	at Tau Ceramica	69 - 62
20	W,	at Tau Ceramica	63 - 84
21	W,	vs Tau Ceramica	78 - 62

### Regal FC Barcelona Roster

No.	Player	Country	Pos.	Height	Born
-	RABASEDA, XAVIER	Spain	Forward	2.01	1989
-	HERNANDEZ, ALEJANDRO	Spain	Guard	1.90	1987
5	BASILE, GIANLUCA	Italy	Guard	1.92	1975
6	BARRETT, ANDRE	USA	Guard	1.75	1982
8	TRIAS, JORDI	Spain	Forward	2.06	1980
9	BARTON, LUBOS	Czech Rep.	Forward	2.00	1980
10	LAKOVIC, JAKA	Slovenia	Guard	1.86	1978
11	NAVARRO, JUAN CARLOS	Spain	Guard	1.91	1980
13	ANDERSEN, DAVID	Denmark	Center	2.12	1980
17	VAZQUEZ, FRAN	Spain	Center	2.09	1983
19	SAMB, MAMADOU	Senegal	Center	2.08	1989
20	DEDOVIC, NIHAD	Bosnia - Herz.	Guard	1.96	1990
21	ILYASOVA, ERSAN	Turkey	Forward	2.07	1987
24	SADA, VICTOR	Spain	Guard	1.92	1984
25	SANTIAGO, DANIEL	Puerto Rico	Center	2.16	1976
44	GRIMAU, ROGER	Spain	Guard	1.96	1978
Head Coach					
	PASCUAL, XAVIER	Spain			



Barcelona lost in the semifinals in 1994, suffered a heart-breaking loss to Panathinaikos in the 1996 final and went down to Olympiacos in the 1997 title game, too. Barcelona also made it to the 2000 Final Four in Thessaloniki, losing in the semis. All the while, the team was resolutely collecting trophies in Spain, with 10 national titles and eight national cups in the 1980s and 1990s. The turn of the century brought continued domestic success, but the moment that will always live in the memories of Barcelona fans came in 2003. That's when Dejan Bodiroga and Gregor Fucka led the club to its first Euroleague title at Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona in front of nearly 17,000 fans. Barcelona's long wait to join the exclusive club of continental champions was over, forever.

To prepare for a new title attempt this season, Barcelona had an active summer of team-building highlighted by the return of homegrown superstar Juan Carlos Navarro after one season away. A second major decision was to keep Xavi Pascual as head coach after he had taken over on an interim basis midway through last season. Barcelona also signed three-time Euroleague champ David Andersen, veterans Lubos Barton and Daniel Santiago, and another former player, Victor Sada, while retaining core contributors like Jaka Lakovic, Ersan Ilyasova, Fran Vazquez, Gianluca Basile and Roger Grimau. The new and the old faces came together quickly, perhaps aided by a pre-season trip across the Atlantic Ocean, just days before the Euroleague started, to play in the Euroleague Basketball American Tour '08. Barcelona returned more than ready for the Euroleague regular season, storming to a competition-best 9-1 record thanks to a seven-game winning streak. Then, despite starting the Top 16 with a loss against archrival Real Madrid, Pascual's men rebounded to win five games in a row, earning homecourt advantage in the Quarterfinal Playoffs. The team's resilience was proven again after it lost that advantage along with Game 1 of the playoffs against mighty Tau Ceramica, which was trying to reach its fifth consecutive Final Four. Barcelona bounced back strong, however, winning three of the next four - including the second-ever Game 5 in European competition - by an average of 20 points as Ilyasova, Navarro, Lakovic and Vazquez dominated. A giant was going back to the Final Four.

Although Navarro is the only player remaining from the 2003 Euroleague title team, the opportunity to raise Barcelona's status as a world basketball powerhouse will not be lost on any roster member in Berlin. A reigning world champion and Olympic silver medalist, Navarro will be counted on for his exquisite shot and growing leadership skills. Barcelona can also rely on the unique experience of Andersen. Now the first player ever to qualify for the Final Four with four different teams, Andersen can also become the first to win Euroleague titles wearing three different jerseys. Confidence will not be lacking in Barcelona's traveling party. With the club's many years of frustration long gone, Barcelona comes to Berlin as another former champion, on equal footing with the rest, ready to seize the title once again.

Final Four  
BERLIN 2009



#### Average Statistics - All phases

Player	G	GS	Min	Pts	2FG		3FG		FT		Rebounds			As	St	To	Blocks		Fouls		Rkg
					%	%	%	%	%	%	O	D	T				Fv	Ag	Cm	Rv	
ANDERSEN, DAVID	21	7	20:10	10	51.5%	36.6%	80%	0.9	3.2	4.1	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.3	1.6	2.1	10.2			
BARRETT, ANDRE	13	1	12:21	3.6	52.4%	27.3%	87.5%	0.4	0.8	1.2	1.7	0.4	0.9	0.4	1	4.5					
BARTON, LUBOS	21	8	14:00	4.1	81.5%	31.6%	77.8%	0.8	1.8	2.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2		1	0.5	5.8			
BASILE, GIANLUCA	21	12	23:03	8.2	51.7%	52.6%	91.7%	0.3	1.7	2	1.9	1.2	0.9	0.2	2	1.3					
DEDOVIC, NIHAD	3	0	3:17								0.3	0.3									-1
GRIMAU, ROGER	21	0	16:30	6.4	56.6%	28.6%	81.6%	0.8	1.8	2.5	0.7	0.9	1	0.2	0.4	2.1	2.2	6.8			
ILYASOVA, ERSAN	20	15	21:44	11.2	48.1%	42.5%	83.3%	2	5.3	7.3	0.8	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.3	1.9	2	13.9			
LAKOVIC, JAKA	16	9	22:10	9.4	46.2%	40.6%	86.1%	0.1	1.1	1.2	2.7	0.8	1.5	0.1	1.4	2.6	9.6				
NAVARRO, JUAN CARLOS	19	19	27:50	14.8	49.5%	37%	92.6%	0.1	1.6	1.7	3.7	1.4	2	0.1	1.3	3.8	15.7				
REY, XAVI	2	0	1:52	1	100%			0.5		0.5						0.5					1
SADA, VICTOR	19	11	17:21	2	37.5%	20.8%	84.6%	0.7	1.5	2.2	2.8	1.1	1.1	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.9	4.1			
SAMB, MAMADOU	1	0	10:56	5	66.7%		25%				2	1	2			2		5			
SANTIAGO, DANIEL	21	18	14:33	6.1	54.3%		77.1%	0.9	1.6	2.5	0.5	0.3	1.4	0.9	0.5	2.7	2.6	5.9			
TRIAS, JORDI	10	2	9:36	3.2	69.2%	33.3%	72.7%	0.5	1.8	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3		0.6	0.6	4.7			
VAZQUEZ, FRAN	21	3	19:48	9.1	67.5%		61%	2	2.9	4.9	0.7	0.2	0.6	1.8	0.2	2.7	1.5	12			
Average			200:00	81.2	54.9%	38.4%	81.3%	09.9	24.4	34.3	15.2	08.1	12.1	04.5	02.1	18.6	19.4	95.9			





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# STAR TURN *Gianluca Basile*



REGAL  
FCBARCELONA

Since the turn of the new century, not a single Euroleague player has appeared in more games or made more three-pointers than shooting ace Gianluca Basile of Regal FC Barcelona. Now, at age 34, Basile is looking for the ultimate reward to a stellar career: his first Euroleague title. In Berlin, Basile will be making his third Final Four appearance in five years. In 2004, he reached the title game with Fortitudo Bologna, only to lose to a Maccabi team that was on a mission in front of its home fans in Tel Aviv. Two years later, in Prague, he and Barcelona couldn't get past the semifinals as eventual champion CSKA stood in the way. The third time, they say, is the charm: if so, no player would be more deserving. Having thrilled fans across the continent throughout his career, expect Basile to be as motivated as anyone to help Barcelona achieve Euroleague glory again.

**After having won almost everything else possible in your career, what would a Euroleague title mean to you now?**

"Truth be told, I signed with Barcelona with this goal, to try to win the Euroleague title. I think that this is the perfect place to do it. We have not been lucky in the four seasons I have played here. We made it to the Final Four in 2006, but things did not go as we planned in Prague. We were a good team, but faced a great CSKA and were not able to make it to the final. I think that we played really well this season. We had a very good regular season, losing just one game against Montepaschi in Siena. Then, we only lost against Real Madrid once in the Top 16. We did a great job in the Quarterfinal Playoffs against Tau Ceramica, physically and psychologically speaking. Tau was the team we had the most trouble against so far - until now. We lost Game 1, but managed to recover and win the series."

**Has playing and winning the longest playoff series made Barcelona more battle-tested going to Berlin?**

"I think that those five games against Tau allowed us to improve our self-confidence and believe even more in ourselves. We beat a very good team, but earlier in the season we beat Panathinaikos in Athens and Maccabi in Tel Aviv. We beat Montepaschi by almost 30 points in Barcelona and even when we lost in Siena, we led for 30 minutes. We had a great season before the playoffs and beating Tau allows us to be a stronger, more confident team. We now face a very strong team in CSKA, which is ready for games like this, with players used to this kind of pressure, knowing that you cannot make mistakes in Final Four. If you make a mistake, you are out. I believe that nobody can make predictions in this Final Four. All four teams have equal chances to win the title. There are no favorites."

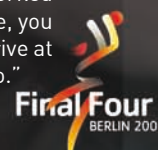
**After losing in 2006 to CSKA, how do you feel about having a new semifinal opportunity against them in Berlin?**

"I believe that life always gives you a second chance. We have to take advantage of that, keeping that in mind, but also doing what we usually do before any important game. You can win or lose, but in life you have to be yourself and do what you have to do, prepare well for games like this. If you give 100 percent and lose, you go home knowing that you gave everything you could. This is what you have to do."

**Having been to three previous Final Fours, what is your philosophy about how a player should approach the event?**

"It is a spectacular event where you can feel pressure everywhere knowing that everyone there can be the next Euroleague winner.

At the same time, you have to get ready in the best way possible and go there knowing you have no doubt about your game. You should get there having already worked hard. If you doubt even a little bit once you are there, you are already on your way out. You have to work to arrive at the Final Four already knowing what you have to do."



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# The Coach

## Xavi Pascual

After waiting through seven Final Four appearances before lifting a Euroleague trophy, Regal FC Barcelona knows about the value of patience. So does Xavi Pascual, the team's rookie head coach. Largely unknown a year ago, Pascual has guided Barcelona with resolve and ingenuity to a shot at its second continental crown. Pascual spent 18 seasons working up through the ranks of Spain's lower divisions until getting a seat on Barcelona's bench as a assistant four years ago. Now in his first complete season as head coach, Pascual enters the 2009 Final Four already having proven plenty by leading Barcelona to the best record in the Euroleague so far. If his season gets any better in Berlin, where Pascual can become a continental champ sooner than all but a few coaches in European history, his days of anonymity will be officially over.

**How does it feel to make the Final Four in your first full season as a first-division head coach?**

"So far I am happy, knowing that I have to work every day and that reaching the Final Four is just another step forwards. We are all looking forward to stepping on court in Berlin, but to reach the next level, we must beat CSKA and make it to the final."

**There were many highlights during the season for Barcelona. At what point did you realize that this team was good enough to challenge for the Euroleague title?**

"We knew we had our chances from the very beginning of the season, because of our potential. We knew we had to work hard to be better than the previous day and that is what we did. We had a very strong season, even though some people say we had ups and downs. I think there was a moment when we had injuries and were left with just one point guard, and that is when we struggled a bit.. Even with that, and in general terms, we have been growing as a team, finding the right way."

**How much can playing the longest playoff series, and winning two do-or-die games in it, help your team in Berlin?**

"Of course, the team comes out stronger after this series. We had to work hard because it was really tough to lose Game 1 at home. We had been looking forward to the series because we worked hard to get the homecourt advantage, so losing Game 1 hurt us a lot. We were able to bounce back right away and change our mentality for the road games. We were also able to recover after losing Game 3. Therefore, this series should give us extra confidence because we know we are on the right path."

**What lessons did you learn as an assistant coach at the 2006 Final Four in Prague that might help you in Berlin?**

"It is tough, because that game was long ago. The Final Four has always had very open games in which anything can happen. Knowing this, we will try to come to Berlin as confident as we can. We have to prepare well for the game against CSKA, knowing that we have to be mentally strong to face anything that can happen on court in a game like this. Sometimes you can have a slow start and lose your chances early without the right mentality. At the same time, you can have a strong start, but see your opponent get back in the game. You cannot lose because you haven't been strong enough. You have to be confident and know that you are doing the right thing, look forward and be conditioned for anything happening during the game."

**What would a second Euroleague title mean now to Barcelona and its fans?**

"I believe that the Euroleague title has always been the ultimate goal for all Barcelona fans, for all of us. We only have one Euroleague title despite our great run in European basketball throughout the years. So far we only have that single trophy in our roll of honors, but we aim to bring the second one home."



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# CSKA Moscow

*Setting standards of excellence*



## Club Info

President: Sergey Kushchenko  
 Fundation year: 1924  
 Address: Leningradsky Prospect, 39 125167  
 Moscow - Russia  
 Arena: UNIVERSAL SPORTS HALL CSKA  
 Website: www.cskabasket.com

## Trophy Case

Euroleague: 1961, 1963, 1969, 1971, 2006, 2008  
 Russian League: 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94,  
 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99,  
 1999-00, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06,  
 2006-07, 2007-08  
 Russian National Cup: 2005, 2006, 2007  
 Soviet Union National League: 24 titles  
 Soviet Union National Cup: 1972, 1973, 1982

## Road to Final Four

### Regular Season

1 W,	vs AJ Milano	90 - 64
2 W,	at Panionios	52 - 86
3 W,	at Real Madrid	54 - 58
4 W,	vs Efes Pilsen	90 - 68
5 W,	at Partizan	62 - 63
6 L,	at AJ Milano	80 - 79
7 W,	vs Panionios	93 - 61
8 L,	vs Real Madrid	78 - 82
9 W,	at Efes Pilsen	55 - 74
10 L,	vs Partizan	63 - 66

### TOP16

11 W,	at Fenerbahce	48 - 66
12 W,	vs Cibona	87 - 61
13 L,	at Montepaschi	74 - 56
14 W,	vs Montepaschi	95 - 71
15 W,	vs Fenerbahce	77 - 60
16 W,	at Cibona	63 - 73

### Playoff

17 W,	vs Partizan	56 - 47
18 W,	vs Partizan	77 - 50
19 W,	at Partizan	56 - 67

Already one of the most accomplished clubs in world basketball history, defending champion CSKA Moscow arrives at the 2009 Final Four looking to expand on its long list of accolades. CSKA is unique for having modernized a half-century-old winning tradition to meet the challenges of a new millennium. Last season, with its sixth title, the Russian giants took over second place among the most successful teams ever in European competition. A new victory would make CSKA the first club to win three titles in each of two different decades. In addition, CSKA could become just the eighth European team to repeat as champion and the fifth to win three trophies in a span of four seasons. That is not to forget a record that, merely by arriving in Berlin, CSKA has put even further out of reach: seven consecutive appearances at the Final Four, three more than any other team since the format was introduced in 1989.

For decades upon decades, CSKA dominated the former Soviet Union League by amassing 25 championships between 1945 and 1990 while making legends of players like Sergei Belov, Vladimir Tkachenko, Stanislav Eremin, Vladimir Andreev, Anatoly Asthakov, Armenak Alaschatschan, Gennadi Volnov and Sergei Tarakanov. Most legendary of all, the late head coach Alexander Gomelskiy became so synonymous with CSKA's winning reputation over the decades that the Euroleague named its coach-of-the-year award for him. CSKA was among the early dominant teams in European club competition, winning its first title in 1961 against three-time defending champion ASK Riga.



JR. Holden

Trajan Langdon

Ramunas Siskauskas

Matjaz Smodis

Erazem Lorbek

## CSKA Moscow Roster

Num.	Player	Country	Position	Height	Born
6	ZISIS, NIKOS	Greece	Guard	1.95	1983
7	KEYRU, VICTOR	Russia	Forward	2.00	1984
8	SMODIS, MATJAZ	Slovenia	Forward	2.05	1979
9	SISKAUSKAS, RAMUNAS	Lithuania	Forward	1.98	1978
10	HOLDEN, J.R.	Russia	Guard	1.85	1976
12	LORBEK, ERAZEM	Slovenia	Center	2.08	1984
15	ZABELIN, ARTEM	Russia	Center	2.15	1988
20	VORONTSEVICH, ANDREY	Russia	Forward	2.04	1987
21	LANGDON, TRAJAN	USA	Guard	1.92	1976
23	SHVED, ALEXEY	Russia	Guard	1.95	1988
24	KAUN, SASHA	Russia	Center	2.13	1985
31	KHRYAPA, VIKTOR	Russia	Forward	2.03	1982
34	PLANINIC, ZORAN	Croatia	Guard	1.99	1982
44	MORRIS, TERENCE	USA	Center	2.07	1979
Head Coach					
MESSINA, ETTORE			Italy		



Soon, CSKA lifted two more trophies, in 1963 and 1969, as part of its classic rivalry with the other powerhouse of that era, Real Madrid. From its three additional finals between 1970 and 1973, CSKA took a new crown in 1971 over defending champion Varese with Gomelskiy on the bench and Belov as the superstar. Although CSKA always remained a force at home, nearly a quarter-century passed before it was a major European challenger again. The team reached Final Fours in 1996 and 2001, losing both times in the semifinals. In 2003 at Barcelona, the team's current streak of Final Four appearances began. The first three of those resulted in semifinal losses, too. It wasn't until head coach Ettore Messina took over CSKA's bench in the summer of 2005 that things turned around. In Prague the next spring, CSKA bested two-time defending champion Maccabi Tel Aviv 73-69 to win its first Euroleague title in 35 years as Theodoros Papaloukas was named MVP, while David Vanterpool and Matjaz Smodis made huge fourth-quarter contributions. A year later, CSKA was back in the title game at the 2007 Final Four against Panathinaikos on the latter's home court, falling 93-91 in the closest final over 90 points in continental history. CSKA came back even better last season and stormed to its second title in three years, defeating Maccabi 77-91 as Trajan Langdon, J.R. Holden, Ramunas Siskauskas, Smodis and Papaloukas starred. The victory moved CSKA into second place on the all-time winners list with six Euroleague trophies.

In Berlin, CSKA seeks to play in a fourth straight title game - something no European team has been able to do since 1980 - and to win its third title in four seasons. CSKA entered this season as the team to beat - and that hasn't changed. Following its triumph in Madrid, CSKA underwent a roster shakeup as Messina welcomed five new faces to a core lineup made up of 2008-09 MVP Siskauskas, Final Four MVP Langdon, team captain Smodis and the club's longest-tenured player, Holden. Among the newcomers were All-Euroleague big man Terence Morris, former Rising Star Award winner Erazem Lorbek and Zoran Planinic, who was fresh off back-to-back Final Four appearances. Their experience and game smarts helped ease the transition as CSKA opened the Euroleague with five straight wins. A rough patch of three losses in its last five regular season games didn't keep CSKA from winning its group. Messina's men also started the Top 16 strong, with convincing wins against Fenerbahce Ulker and Cibona behind an outstanding Siskauskas. Despite an 18-point loss in Siena - the club's worst Euroleague defeat since 1999 - CSKA bounced back to beat Montepaschi at home by 24 and clinch a playoff spot early. CSKA would win its Top 16 group with a 5-1 record, ensuring homecourt advantage in the Quarterfinal Playoffs. The champs used that advantage to sweep Partizan Belgrade 3-0 in their best-of-five series and thus keep CSKA's new golden age going strong with another trip to the Final Four.

A new crown in Berlin would further distinguish CSKA, its coach and its captain. For CSKA, it would mean a seventh continental title, one short of tying its ages-old rival, Real Madrid, the all-time leader. For Messina, his fifth title would rank him second, exclusively, among Europe's most successful coaches ever. Smodis, the club's first non-Russian captain, would become just the 11th player to win four Euroleague titles, just the second to do so with two different teams. More important than numbers, yet another success would enhance the gold standard of excellence with which CSKA has already started the second half-century of European club competitions.

#### Average Statistics - All phases

Player	G	GS	Min	Pts	2FG	3FG	FT	Rebounds			As	St	To	Blocks		Fouls		Rkg
					%	%	%	O	D	T				Fv	Ag	Cm	Rv	
HOLDEN, J.R.	14	13	28:57	7.4	38.8%	39.1%	75%	1.9	1.9	3.3	0.8	1.8	0.2	1.4	1.5	7.1		
KAUN, SASHA	8	0	3:49	0.5	25%		25%	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.8	
KEYRU, VICTOR	5	0	9:16	4	80%	50%		1.2	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.4			1	0.4	3.6	
KHRYAPA, VIKTOR	19	8	18:47	6.3	66.7%	41.9%	75%	0.9	3.6	4.5	1.4	1.2	1.7	0.9		2.8	2.3	10.1
LANGDON, TRAJAN	19	19	28:30	10.3	55%	43%	87.1%	0.3	2.1	2.4	1.4	1	1.2		0.1	2	2.5	10.4
LORBKE, ERAZEM	19	13	23:48	12.6	59.9%	47.1%	66.7%	2.3	3.2	5.4	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.7	0.4	2.3	3.9	15.7
MORRIS, TERENCE	19	9	21:35	7.4	55%	50%	52.9%	1.7	3.5	5.2	1.3	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.3	1.7	0.7	10.5
PLANINIC, ZORAN	17	4	19:25	7.5	53.2%	34.1%	68.8%	0.3	1.5	1.8	2.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	2.9	2.8	7.5
SAVRASENKO, ALEKSEY	8	3	15:14	4.8	57.7%		57.1%	1.6	1.4	3	0.3		0.8	0.1		2.6	1.4	4
SHVED, ALEXEY	3	0	3:13	2.3		100%	100%	0.3		0.3	1	0.3	0.3			1.3	5	
SISKAUSKAS, RAMUNAS	16	14	28:40	11	52.9%	31.5%	89.5%	0.9	2.3	3.3	1.9	0.8	1.5	0.4	0.1	1.9	4.3	13.4
SMODIS, M.	13	10	21:33	10.5	38.6%	41.7%	84.4%	0.8	2	2.8	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.1	0.3	2.5	3.6	9.5
VORONCEVICH, A.	6	0	2:46	1.2	40%	100%		0.7	0.7				0.5			0.3	0.2	0.7
ZISIS, NIKOS	19	2	17:50	5.8	57.1%	35%	90%	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.9	0.3	0.8		0.3	1.6	1.6	6.2
Average			200:00	75.2	53.6%	40.7%	75.5%	08.9	22.5	31.4	14.3	06.5	11.0	03.6	01.7	19.1	22.1	88.9

Final Four  
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# STAR TURN

## Matjaz Smodis

Only 10 men in European club basketball history have won four or more continental titles, but they could soon have company in CSKA Moscow power forward Matjaz Smodis. Indeed, a new Euroleague crown would not only make him the 11th member of that exclusive fraternity, but Smodis would also become just the second among them to win titles with more than one club. Smodis began collecting trophies in his native Slovenia before joining his current coach, Ettore Messina, at Kinder Bologna of Italy for their first Euroleague title together, in 2001. Five years later, they met up again to lift 2006 and 2008 Euroleague crowns with CSKA, while losing the 2007 final by just two points. The first non-Russian team captain in CSKA's long and glorious history, Smodis missed some early games this season with injury, but returned to lead the charge to the Final Four, his sixth and the club's seventh in a row. A rare combination of inside post-up and outside three-point threat, Smodis is a walking mismatch for defenses and another of CSKA's big-game shot-makers. If he moves up the ladder of Europe's most successful players ever, Smodis will no doubt be earning every step higher that he takes.

**Having qualified for plenty of Final Fours before, do you appreciate it more as you get older?**

"Of course, because now I know how hard it is to get to a Final Four. You have to basically be blessed physically and talent-wise enough to even be on a good team that's consistent enough to come to the Final Four. To be able to do that every year makes it that much more unusual."

**Even though CSKA's in its seventh straight Final Four, each season is different. What has been unique about this one for CSKA?**

"I would say the fact that even after changing a lot of players this summer and losing a couple more during the season with injuries, we still managed to stay competitive and be one of the best teams in Europe."

**Before the season, you were named CSKA's first non-Russian captain ever. How much did that responsibility weigh on you in terms of keeping the team's Final Four streak alive?**

"I didn't see it as an extra pressure in terms of the Final Four. It was something, let's say, that I felt made it a little more difficult to me to keep doing well. Being captain gives you more responsibility because you have to take things into your hands, on the court and off, read situations, how they are developing and not developing. It has been hard. I like it, but I am still learning and I still feel like I need more time to adjust to the new role."

**Back-to-back titles is about the only thing that this CSKA team has not yet accomplished in the Euroleague. How much would a repeat resonate with those of you who have won single titles already?**

"That would be the cherry on the cake, basically. Winning back-to-back is something that none of us has done yet. We came close two years ago, but we failed. I think it would mean a lot for us and basically would be the crowning moment of a very special four years in CSKA."

**When you left Slovenia almost 10 years ago, could you have imagined becoming a three-time Euroleague champion by now?**

"I wouldn't have imagined it at all. At that point, I was just leaving to find security for my family, trying to do my best and earn money for them. It wasn't about winning or doing something special. It was just about putting myself in a position to do well for my family."

**One link among all your Euroleague titles, and the quest for a new one now, is Coach Ettore Messina. What has he meant to your career?**

"He's a great teacher, a great coach, and surely someone who has helped me, and not just on the court, but also growing up as a person. As I grow on the court, I also grow off the court. Basically, it has been a learning experience with him, and for sure he's a big part of my life. I am very grateful to be able to work with him."



Final Four  
BERLIN 2009



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# The Coach

## Ettore Messina

Recognized world-wide for his basketball expertise, CSKA Moscow head coach Ettore Messina has built a monument to success from his 33-year career on the bench. From his beginnings as a teenage coach of juniors in his native Italy until now, Messina has collected trophies in bunches. At 49, Messina arrives to Berlin with the chance to move alone into second place among the most successful coaches in European history. His four previous Euroleague titles, split between CSKA and Kinder Bologna, already place him among the all-time greats in coaching. Just as remarkable, Messina has reached Euroleague finals in seven of the last 11 seasons with three different clubs. He has never been stopped in the semifinals. Now, as a defending champion in search of his first back-to-back continental titles, Messina will have all eyes on him at the 2009 Final Four.

**Ettore, the Final Four has become like a second home for both you and CSKA over the years. Is just getting there still a measure of success for you?**

"For sure, to be in the Final Four is a great measure of success, especially this year, when we had to make some major changes, had to go through the first part of the season losing two or three games, which forced us to find a different way to get through and become a Final Four team. And obviously, together with measuring success, there is also more and more pressure after you win titles. You are always expected to be there, but it's not always the case that you will be. So at this moment, we are happy to be going, and we want to enjoy a great weekend, even if as always you never know what will happen in a Final Four."

**How do you avoid complacency and motivate teams that have already accomplished so much?**

"Personally, I am very proud that this is the second time that we come back after winning the title to make the Final Four again. As you know, only Maccabi and Kinder have been able to do that in the last 10 years after winning the Euroleague. A lot of great teams didn't make it back the year after winning, so that was great motivation in itself, to come back, and a tremendous goal to accomplish. But like I said, to keep going adds pressure on a club, an organization, the players and the coaches."

**Can you put seven consecutive Final Fours - both for CSKA and for J.R. Holden - in perspective?**

"To me, it's absolutely astonishing for J.R. Holden to be in his seventh consecutive Final Four, an unbelievable record, really, for both him and CSKA. It's a great proof of belonging to excellence. In J.R.'s case, I think it has a lot to do with the great work ethic he has and his willingness to do what his teams need every year and to adjust to the different requirements that his coaches have made of him in these years. It should also be noted that he has had just two coaches in those seven years with CSKA. I think that continuity in coaching and management - we had just one major management change, when Sergey Kushchenko left and Andrey Vatutin took over - helps a lot. Not changing much over the years has helped the club maintain a strong philosophy."

**From a historical perspective, how would you rate this Final Four going into it?**

"It's one of the top Final Fours ever. There is a lot of talent. If I am not mistaken, all four teams won their Top 16 groups, but two of them managed to regain homecourt advantage after early losses in the playoffs. I am sure many people think that, as the four teams with the highest budgets and expectations, we would all be here in the final act. But great players and big budgets don't always mean you know how to use them correctly. So it's a great accomplishment for each team, and now, based on the players and the teams that will be on the floor, I think it will be one of the top Final Fours in the history of the Euroleague."



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# Basketball and Berlin, from the heart

## Ademola Okulaja

One of Berlin's most successful players ever, Ademola Okulaja, came to basketball after having tried several other sports as a boy in the city. "Then I moved to streetball, and that's where I fell in love with the sport," Okulaja recalls. "You're outside. One-on-one, three-on-three, five-on-five. No refs. No rules. It's man against man, and if you're too soft, you sit on the sidelines." He was never soft. During his out-of-nowhere rise to international prominence - teenage European trophy winner with Alba Berlin, University of North Carolina team MVP, World Championships medalist, double-digit scorer in four different countries - he earned a spot-on nickname: "The Warrior". It rings truer now than ever as Okulaja battles cancer discovered before he was to leave for the Olympics last summer. After nine months of cancer therapy, Okulaja enrolled in Euroleague Basketball's Master in Sports Marketing and Communication and, as part of the course, is going home to Berlin for the Final Four as a student. "I am not a guy to put my head in the sand and quit," Okulaja says. "That's the reason I am in the marketing course, as something to work on for my future. My mentality is to keep fighting no matter what is thrown in front of me."

## Matej Mamie

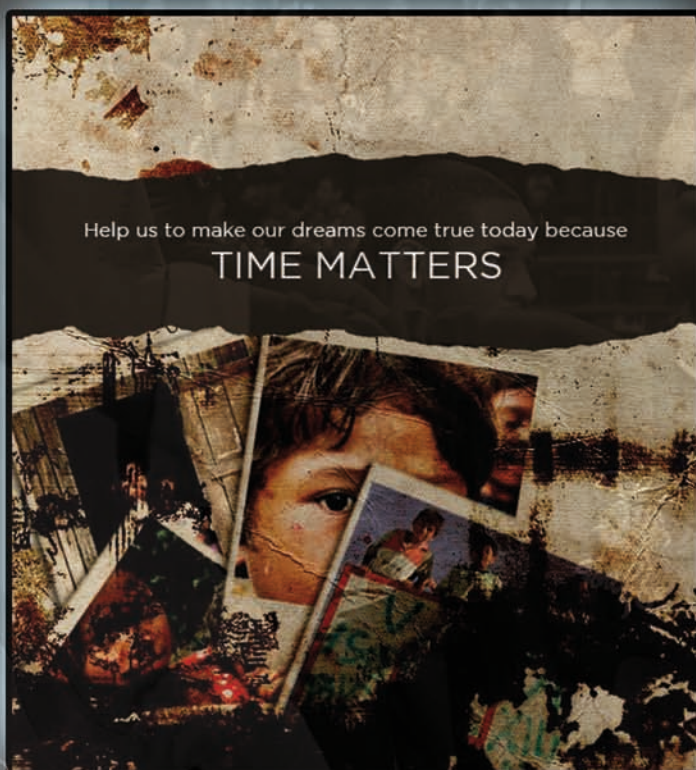
Call him the adopted son of Berlin basketball. In just two seasons after his arrival from Croatia, Matej Mamie had formed a unique bond with Alba Berlin, which made him its captain, and its fans, who named a club for him. Their bond was about to get stronger beyond anything expected, however. A month into his third season in Berlin, going for another in a career full of rebounds, Mamie crashed to the floor. This time, he did not get up. In the weeks that followed, as he battled back from near-paralysis, Mamie had more at his side than the best medical professionals Alba could find. He also had thousands of Alba basketball lovers behind him every step of the way. And three months later, Mamie made a triumphant return, walking into their arms before an Alba home game. "For sure, this thing happened to me at the moment when I was playing the best basketball of my life," Mamie recalls. "I was the captain of the team and at that time had such a perfect connection with the Alba fans. Of course, how they handled things around me after the injury, how they gave me support, helped my recovery so much. I will never forget."





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At Euroleague Basketball, we strive to inspire, encourage and empower people to make a real difference in someone else's life through our Corporate Social Responsibility Program: Euroleague for Life.

Euroleague for Life is dedicated to using the popularity and visibility of our teams, players and league as a call to action in support of those in need.

Euroleague for Life co-operates with various humanitarian organizations, as well as with hospitals, schools and companies, to develop a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) action in each country where we hold an event. At times, the co-operation goes beyond a single event and extends through the whole season to build an even stronger relationship between Euroleague Basketball and its partners.

Our program focuses on four different areas: the promotion of basketball and the practice of sports in general; the promotion of social responsibility campaigns; cooperation in development programs; and special emergencies actions.

Since its founding in the 2006-07 season, Euroleague for Life has been co-operating with important organizations such as UNICEF and Nelson Mandela's 46664 Foundation, focusing our efforts on the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We have also developed different CSR actions in each one of our past events:

- 2006-07 CBA CHALLENGE, Kunshan (China): honoring disabled children on-court before a national television audience.
- 2006-07 FINAL FOUR, Athens (Greece): Euroleague stars visit Aghia Sophia Hospital in Athens.
- 2007-08 FINAL FOUR, Madrid (Spain): Euroleague stars meet with the European Basketball Wheelchair Championship teams.
- 2007-08 and 2008-09 TORINO (Italy): Fund-raising through childrens' visits to the games.
- 2008-09 FINAL FOUR, Berlin (Germany): Children Cancer Station at the Virchow-Hospital

This year, we have also organized a visit to the Children's Cancer Station at the Virchow Hospital in Berlin on April 30th. Two or three players from each one of the Final Four teams, together with other stars from Alba Berlin, will visit the children at the hospital. The players will deliver some gifts to the children and will be available for pictures and signatures with them. Once again, Euroleague for Life will try to bring smiles back to the faces of some of the children living in the hospital.





# *Naturally 7 to perform at 2009 Final Four*

**NATURALLY7**

**Final Four**  
BERLIN 2009

The one-of-a-kind vocal group Naturally 7 will perform live during the 2009 Final Four for all the basketball fans in attendance at the magnificent o2 World in Berlin. Naturally 7 sings in a distinct a cappella style they call "vocal play" that has won the group devoted audiences in Europe and their native United States.

"Basketball and Berlin - what a great combination!" the band said in a statement about their Final Four performances. "We're looking forward to some great games in one of our favorite places and meeting some of the best people around - a definite double-double."

The performance of Naturally 7 at the 2009 Final Four follows a Euroleague Basketball tradition of bringing distinctive, world-class entertainment to the live audiences at the season's signature event. In recent years, other Final Four performers have included Terence Trent D'Arby in Barcelona, Noa in Tel Aviv and Sarbel in Athens. Naturally 7 has now recorded four albums: "Non Fiction", "Christmas ...It's A Love Story", "Ready II Fly" and "What Is It?" which spawned the #1 German hit "Music is the Key".

What makes Naturally 7 special is that every instrument sound that they sing is created from the human voice. There are no actual drums, guitars, horns, flutes or any other instrument that is heard when listening to them perform; it's the band members playing each of their vocal instruments.

"They are just incredible," Coldplay lead vocalist Chris Martin said in a recent interview. "We saw this group yesterday. They are seven guys from New York and they do this incredible music, but the catch is that none of them have any instruments. They just do it all with their voices and it was really kind of mind-blowing."







# 09 EB NIJT *Opening the Door to Become Europe's Junior Club Champion*

## Schedule

### Thursday April 30th, 2009, Velodrom

14.00h. Court 1  
UNION OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA VS. LA CAJA DE CANARIAS G. CANARIA  
14.45h. Court 2  
LIETUVOS RYTAS VS. KK HEMOFARM STADA  
16.15h. Court 1  
UNICAJA VS. MONTEPASCHI SIENA  
17.00h. Court 2  
FMP VS. ALBA BERLIN

### Friday May 1st, 2009, Velodrom

12.00h. Court 1  
UNION OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA VS. LIETUVOS RYTAS  
12.45h. Court 2  
LA CAJA DE CANARIAS G. CANARIA VS. KK HEMOFARM STADA  
14.15h. Court 1  
UNICAJA VS. FMP  
15.00h. Court 2  
MONTEPASCHI SIENA VS. ALBA BERLIN

### Saturday May 2nd, 2009, Velodrom

12.00h. Court 1  
LIETUVOS RYTAS VS. LA CAJA DE CANARIAS G. CANARIA  
12.45h. Court 2  
KK HEMOFARM STADA VS. UNION OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA  
14.15h. Court 1  
FMP VS. MONTEPASCHI SIENA  
15.00h. Court 2  
ALBA BERLIN VS. UNICAJA

### Sunday May 3rd, 2009, O2 World

12.00h. Main Court  
1ST PLACE GROUP A VS. 1ST PLACE GROUP B  
(All games played at Velodrom except for Final at O2 World)

2009 will see the seventh edition of the Euroleague Basketball Nike International Junior Tournament come to Berlin, where eight teams featuring the best that Europe has to offer at the U18 level will battle it out over four days to return home as the sole European Champion. As part of a project that Euroleague commenced to implement in 2003, three different classification tournaments have been held around Europe this year, with the finalists of each qualifying for the event in Berlin.

The first classification tournament was the "Torneo Citta di Roma", organised by Stella Azzurra from December 27th-29th in Rome, Italy. La Caja de Canarias Gran Canaria defeated Montepaschi Siena 68-57 in the final. The second classification tournament was the "Torneig de Basquet Junior Ciutat de L'Hospitalet", organised by CB L'Hospitalet from January 4th-6th in L'Hospitalet, Spain. Lietuvos Rytas defeated Unicaja 87-70 in the final. The third classification tournament was the "Euroleague Basketball Nike International Junior Classification Tournament Belgrade", organised by FMP from February 13th-15th in Belgrade, Serbia. FMP defeated KK Hemofarm Stada 77-63 in the final. The last two participants are Euroleague representatives ALBA Berlin and Union Olimpija Ljubljana.

The tournament field contains the defending champions (FMP), who are also the only team to have won the event before. CSKA Moscow lead the table of winners with three titles (2004, 2005, 2006), followed by Zalgiris Kaunas with two (2003, 2007), rounded out by FMP with one (2008).

Teams have been drawn into two groups, and will each play a total of three games in a round robin system from Thursday April 30th to Saturday May 2nd. Group games will be played in the Velodrom (Paul-Heyse-Strasse 26) and entrance to all games is free. The two group winners will then face off in the Final, which will take place in the O2 World on Sunday May 3rd.



3 MICIC, DORDE  
4 VONCINA, LUKA  
5 SARAJLIJA, MIRZA  
7 GLAVAS, MIHA  
8 LEBEDINTSEV, ANDRIY  
9 GRUM, LUKA  
11 MORINA, GEZIM  
12 SIRNIK, MATIC  
14 RADULOVIC, BOJAN  
15 BUDA, NEJC  
17 LONCAREVIC, MLADEN  
22 PETROVIC, FILIP  
HC BASSIN, LUKA

4 VALATKEVICIUS, LINAS  
5 VARANAUSKAS, OVIDIJUS  
6 PECIUKEVICIUS, A.  
8 REDIKAS, DOVYDAS  
9 DAMBRAUSKAS, PAULIUS  
10 NAZAROVAS, DEIVIDAS  
11 PIPIRAS, DOMANTAS  
12 VALANCIUNAS, JONAS  
13 MATULIONIS, OSVALDAS  
14 BRUSOKAS, KAROLIS  
15 KADZEVICIUS, MANTAS  
16 DUCHOVSKIS, POVILAS  
HC LINARTAS, MARIUS

4 CAZORLA, JONAY  
6 JAROS, MILAN  
7 SANTANA, FABIO  
9 DELGADO, DAVID  
10 RODRIGUEZ, RAFAEL  
11 KONATE, BAKARY  
12 LOPEZ, ALEJANDRO  
13 DOMINGUEZ, SAMUEL  
14 DIAZ, CHRISTIAN  
15 LOPEZ, JESUS  
17 ALVARADO, OSCAR  
HC GARCIA, VICTOR

4 VULIC, MILAN  
5 LAMBIC, PETAR  
6 MILOSEVIC, DORDE  
7 KNEZEVIC, NEMANJA  
8 SMILJKOVIC, A.  
9 TRIPKOVIC, MILOS  
10 ALAVANJA, DORDE  
11 CIROVIC, MARKO  
12 PETKOVIC, MILOS  
13 ANDUSIC, DANILO  
14 IGRUTINOVIC, LUKA  
15 NIKOLIC, LUKA  
HC MAKSIMOVIC, B.



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Alumni from the event who have gone on to play in the Euroleague is becoming a list of players who are consolidating themselves on the European stage. They include Omri Casspi (Maccabi Elite Tel Aviv), Jonas Maciulis, Mantas Kalnietis, Sarunas Vasiliasukas & Zygimantas Janavicius (Zalgiris Kaunas), Mirza Begic (Union Olimpija Ljubljana), Milos Teodosic (Olympiacos Piraeus), Luksa Andric (Cibona Zagreb), Luca Vitali (Armani Jeans Milano), Luigi Datome (Lottomatica Roma) & Dusan Sakota (Panathinaikos Athens).

Future stars that may well write their next chapter in Berlin include returning All Tournament Team selection Dejan Mustli of FMP, the inside outside duo of Simone Centanni and Nika Metrevelli of Montepaschi Siena, U16 MVP of the 2007 European Championships Jonas Valanciunas of Lietuvos Rytas, although should history repeat itself, new players will step up and make a name for themselves.

The winning team will not only be crowned the kings of Europe, but in the process will book their place in the Nike Global Challenge, taking place in Portland, USA in August 2009. There they will represent Europe against teams from USA, Canada, Senegal and the rest of the world, hoping to defeat the best the rest of the world has to offer and prove that the old continent is basketball's true home.

On paper the favourites to win their groups and make it to the Final are Lietuvos Rytas and FMP, but it is guaranteed that the other six teams will be raring to go and eager to upset their rivals. When all is said and done thirteen great games will have been played, making the 2009 Euroleague Basketball Nike International Junior Tournament the perfect complement of the Final Four.



- 4 POZAS, JOSE
- 5 DEL RIO, JOSE MARIA
- 6 LIMA, AUGUSTO
- 7 CIANO, NICOLAS
- 8 PEREZ, DANIEL
- 9 FERREIRA, RUBEN
- 10 PINAZO, JORGE MANUEL
- 11 SABONIS, TAUTYDAS
- 12 FALL, MALICK
- 13 LORENZO, MIGUEL
- 14 GUERRA, ALVARO
- 15 ORTIGA, MIGUEL
- 18 FREIRE, RAFAEL
- HC LAZARO, JESÚS



- 4 MILJENOVIC, NENAD
- 5 PONJAVIC, ALEKSANDAR
- 6 OGNJENOVIC, DUSAN
- 7 DURAN, FILIP
- 8 MLADENOVIC, STRAHINJA
- 9 SILADI, NIKOLA
- 10 ZARIC, IVAN
- 11 VUKASOVIC, NIKOLA
- 12 MILOVANOVIC, MILAN
- 13 SPASIC, LAZAR
- 14 DEKIC, BRANISLAV
- 15 MUSLI, DEJAN
- HC GUSA, VANJA



- 4 CENTANNI, SIMONE
- 5 INGROSSO, TOMMASO
- 7 METREVELI, NIKA
- 8 LOGI, ANDREA
- 9 CAPACCIO, VINCENZO
- 10 SORRENTINO, G.
- 11 RAMENGHI, FRANCESCO
- 13 MONALDI, DIEGO
- 14 IANNUZZI, ANTONIO
- 15 PUCCI, ALESSANDRO
- 16 SEVERINI, GIOVANNI
- 17 UDOM, MATTIA
- 18 SABATINO, NUNCIO
- 19 SGOBBA, GIORGIO
- HC GRICCIOLI, GIULIO



- 4 BOGDANOV, MARTIN
- 5 GIFFEY, NIELS
- 6 KLEIN, KONSTANTIN
- 7 ZIEGENHAGEN, MALTE
- 8 WENZEL, BRIAN
- 9 RAEBEL, GIANLUCA
- 10 FULLE, SEBASTIAN
- 11 BRIGHT, KEVIN
- 12 LOTZE, FRIEDRICH
- 13 MUELLER, ERIK
- 14 RAFFINGTON, JUSTIN
- 15 VILLARZU, DAWIT
- HC ROEDL, HENRIK

## Group B





# City of Berlin

## Attractions

### Alexanderplatz

Layer upon layer of Berlin's urban history is located in Alexanderplatz, interweaving centuries of social, political, and architectural history and repeatedly the subject of public debate and urban design competitions.

### Berliner Dom

The Berliner Dom (Berlin Cathedral), completed in 1905, is Berlin's largest and most important Protestant church as well as the sepulchre of the Prussian Hohenzollern dynasty. This outstanding high-renaissance baroque monument has linked the Hohenzollerns to German Protestantism for centuries and undergone renewed phases of architectural renovation since the Middle Ages.

### Brandenburger Tor

The Brandenburg Gate is one of Berlin's most important monuments – a landmark and symbol all in one with over two hundred years of history. A former symbol of the divided city, it drew visitors who used to climb an observation platform in order to get a glimpse of the world behind the Iron Curtain, on the other side of the barren "death-strip" which separated east from west Berlin, geographically and politically.

### Checkpoint Charlie

Checkpoint Charlie, along with Glienicker Brücke (Glienicker Bridge) was the best known border-crossing of Cold War days. The sign, which became a symbol of the division of Cold War Berlin and read like a dire warning to those about to venture beyond the Wall – YOU ARE NOW LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR – in English, Russian, French and German – stood here.



### Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas

Berlin's Holocaust Memorial, located in Mitte on a stretch of the former "death strip", where the Wall once stood near the Brandenburg Gate, is Berlin's stunning monument to the Holocaust, dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Nazi genocide of World War II. Impressive in its awesome grey soberness, rather than sombreness, it includes an underground Ort der Information (Information Centre) located on the south-eastern side of the memorial grounds, accessible via two flights of stairs or a lift.

### Friedrichstrasse

For an exclusive shopping experience in Mitte try the Friedrichstradtpassagen and its 'Quartiers'. Quartier 206 for upmarket high-end international designer wear in an art deco atmosphere or the French emporium Galeries Lafayette, in Quartier 207. The spectacular building by Jean Nouvel is also known for its stunning luminous glass cone in the entrance. More stores and a large food hall with abundant international specialties in Quartier 205 provide an ideal lunch-break stopover.

The three buildings are located between the subway stations "Stadtmitte" and "Französische Strasse".

## Shopping

### Potsdamer Platz Arcades

Right in the centre of the New Berlin just off Potsdamer Platz are the 'Arkaden'. The lively shopping mall spreads on three floors in a pleasant, airy setting with over 100 shops. Ideal for easy browsing for fashion and accessories to electronic devices. A good choice of gastronomic selections, many cafés and an Italian ice-cream parlour make the Arkaden a popular meeting place before or after a movie at the nearby Cinestar in the Sony Center – where non-dubbed films are screened in the original version.

### Hackescher Markt

Hackescher Markt and Hackesche Höfe (courtyards) is a great place to head for a lively mix of shops, bars and cafés. Set away from mainstream boulevards right this is the place to soak in the New Berlin's local atmosphere. The district, known as Shennunviertel, along the Schönhauserstrasse is a magnet for those looking for trendier, smaller shops, independent fashion labels or outrageous shoes. A great corner of former East Berlin bustling with young energy, creativity and innovative esprit.





**2009 NIKE INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TOURNAMENT**

**APRIL 30th - MAY 3rd VELODROM & O<sub>2</sub>WORLD**

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