

Denmark's Underdog Story



1) Discussion

- a) What do you know about Danish football?
- b) Who are some of your favourite Danish players?
- c) Can you think of any unlikely tournament winners?

2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

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| | a) Refusing to follow the rules or what is normal. |
| 1) Exclusion (noun) | b) Successfully dealing with or defeating a challenge or difficulty. |
| 2) Fate (noun) | c) Not letting something or someone be part of a specific thing or event. |
| 3) Powerhouse (noun) | d) Something or someone very strong, influential, or dominant in a particular area. |
| 4) Overcome (verb) | e) People or teams not expected to win, but who might surprise others by succeeding despite disadvantages. |
| 5) Underdog (noun) | f) The belief that events are decided by a force beyond human control, like destiny. |
| 6) Defy (verb) | |



b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Exclusion Fate Powerhouse Overcome
Underdog Defy

- 1) Despite their _____ status, the team showed great determination and skill, eventually winning the match.
- 2) The coach's strategic planning helped the team _____ a strong opponent in the knockout stage.
- 3) The team faced _____ from the tournament for playing an unregistered player.
- 4) From 1958 to 1970, Brazil became a _____ of world football. Winning 3 World Cups.
- 5) It seemed _____ that Bayern Munich would win the 2012 Champions League, with the final in Munich, but Chelsea won after a penalty shootout.
- 6) Leicester City _____ the odds to win the 2015-2016 Premier League title.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) What was so special about Denmark's Euro 1992 performance?

Denmark's Euro 92 Campaign

In 1992, Denmark achieved a surprising victory in the UEFA European Championship, making it a tale of underdog triumph. Denmark didn't initially qualify for the tournament but got a chance due to the exclusion of Yugoslavia because of the Yugoslav Wars. With only 10 days to prepare, Denmark found themselves in a challenging situation.

The team faced England, France, and Sweden in the group stage. The first match against England ended in a 0-0 draw, and Denmark suffered a 1-0 loss to Sweden in the second match. The team's fate depended on defeating France in the last group game. In a thrilling match, Denmark won 2-1, securing a spot in the knockout stage.

In the semifinals, Denmark faced the Netherlands. The match ended 2-2 after extra time, and Denmark won 5-4 in the penalty shootout. Kim Vilfort's crucial goal in the shootout was particularly memorable.

The final featured Denmark against Germany, a football powerhouse. In a stunning turn of events, Denmark won 2-0 with goals from John Jensen and Kim Vilfort, becoming the champions of Europe against all expectations.

This victory is a remarkable story of determination and teamwork. Denmark's journey from late inclusion to European champions showcased the unpredictable nature of football. The players, led by coach Richard Møller Nielsen, overcame challenges and proved that with resilience and organisation, even underdogs can achieve greatness.

The 1992 Euro win holds a special place in football history as an inspiring example of what can be achieved when a team comes together, defying the odds to lift the trophy and write their names into football history.



4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Denmark's Euro 92 win?
- b) Has your country ever won a tournament?
- c) Can you think of any other underdog stories in football?

