

GENERAL

The first FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship was held in Canada, while the second was played in Asia. After China PR (1991 and 2007), Thailand was the second Asian country to host a FIFA women's world championship.

NEW - As of 2006 the tournament will be organised an U-20 World Championship which the following teams have presently qualified for: CONCACAF: USA, Canada, Mexico; CONMEBOL: Brazil, Argentine; UEFA: France, Germany, Finland, Switzerland und the host Russia.

A total of 18 different teams have qualified for at least one of the final competitions (2002 & 2004). The continental breakdown [AFC (5), CAF (1), CONCACAF (3), CONMEBOL (1), OFC (1) and UEFA (7)] underlines the excellent development work of the leading lights in women's football, as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany and the USA all qualified for both final competitions.

Six teams made their debut in Thailand: all three AFC representatives (China PR, Korea Republic and hosts Thailand) as well as three of the four UEFA teams (Italy, Russia and Spain).

A glance at the FIFA Women's World Ranking, which does not take U-19 results into account and is therefore of little relevance to this competition, reveals one stand-out statistic: while Denmark represented Scandinavia in 2002, there were no Scandinavian teams present in 2004. Conversely, Spain were only in 21st place in the world ranking and therefore behind more than a dozen other European teams, but the Spanish U-19 girls started the 2004 event as European champions.

MATCHES

As in Canada in 2002, the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship featured 12 teams and there were a total of 26 matches.

The second semi-final in Bangkok on 24 November was the 50th match in the history of the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship.

The previous U-19 world champions, the USA, have a proud record at the final competition, with eleven victories in twelve matches and a goal difference of +34 (40 for, 6 against). In 2002, the USA were also the most lethal in front of goal (26 goals) and they boasted the second and third best goalscorers (Kelly Wilson – 9 and Lindsay Tarpley – 6). Canada's Christine Sinclair topped the list with ten goals.

Reigning U-19 world champions, Germany, trail the USA in the all-time ranking. They scored 19 goals in the 2004 edition of the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship, bringing their total number of goals to 28 in this competition. With 12 matches played – 7 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses – they do not yet pose a threat to the USA's almost perfect record.

As in the previous Finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup, neither the Final of the 2002 nor 2004 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship enjoyed a flurry of goals. The USA scraping past hosts Canada 1-0 in 2002, and Germany beat China PR 2-0 – each goal coming 10 minutes from the whistle (4'; 83'). Previous FIFA Women's World Cup Finals:

1991	NOR v. USA	1-2
1995	GER v. NOR	0-2
1999	USA v. CHN	0-0
2002	CAN v. USA	0-1 (U-19)
2003	GER v. SWE	2-1
2004	GER v. CHN	2-0

GOALS

101 goals were scored in Canada. Germany's Isabell Bachor scored the 100th goal (her country's equaliser in the play-off for third place against Brazil). The match finished 1-1 after 90 minutes and the Europeans eventually came out on top after a thrilling penalty shootout (4-3). After the second U-19 in Thailand 2004, the goal tally had risen to 193.

Intriguingly, the average number of goals per game (3.9) after the inaugural 2002 edition was as high as in women's football in general over the last 20 years.

With ten goals in the 2002 event, Christine Sinclair (CAN) topped the list of goalscorers. She was followed by Kelly Wilson (USA) with 9 goals. Top goalscorer in the 2004 event was Canada's Brittany Timko on 7 goals. Along with Sinclair and Wilson, the third-highest scorer in the tournament overall is Marta (BRA, Olympic silver 2004) with six goals in 2002, and three in 2004.

Four players, representing three different countries, have scored a hat trick in the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship. Inevitably, Christine Sinclair (CAN) is at the front of the pack, having scored five of her country's six goals in a 6-2 victory over England. But Brazil's Marta scored the very first hat trick in a 4-0 victory over France. USA's Kelly Wilson makes up the 2002 trio, having scored her three goals in a 6-0 stroll against Denmark. The sole hat trick in 2004 came from top goalscorer, Brittany Timko (CAN), in Canada's 7-0 victory over hosts Thailand.

Three of the leading countries in women's football also topped the goalscoring charts at the 2002 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship: once again, the USA lead the way with 26 goals (at an average of 4.3 goals per game), ahead of Brazil and Canada, each with 16 goals (2.7). In similar fashion, the teams with the most goals in 2004 were Germany with 19 goals (an average of 3.2 per game), Canada on 13 goals in 4 games (3.2) and USA, also with 13 goals but carried over 6 games (2.2).

In 2002, the quickest goal was scored by the USA's Megan Kakadelas after just three minutes of a 6-0 victory over Chinese Taipei. She was pipped at the post in 2004 by Angie Woznuk's (USA) second minute goal against Russia.

Eight goals were scored in each of the two games with the most successful strikes on goal: Brazil beat Mexico 5-3, while Canada overcame England 6-2. In 2004, the biggest-margin victory in the history of the U-19 competition was recorded when burgeoning Canada beat the fledgling Thai squad 7-0.

Although the golden goal rule has since been abolished, one other statistic underlines the excitement of women's football at youth level: only three of the eight matches in the second phase of the 2002 event were decided in regular playing time. The golden goal rule came into play three

times, with the penalty shootout decisive twice. In 2004, fans were treated to two tie-breakers as Germany and Nigeria faced a quarter-final penalty shoot-out, while Brazil and Russia took their 2-2 score into extra time. Brazil's Sandra scored her country's final two goals to secure their place in the semi-finals.

PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES, FANS

The youngest player to have taken part in a U-19 final competition is Canada's Sydney Leroux, who was just 14 years and 6 months old. Her team mate, Jodi-Ann Robinson, was 2004's youngest goalscorer, aged 15 years and 7 months when she scored her goal against Thailand. Interestingly, the youngest goalscorer in 2002 was also a Canadian – 2004 captain Kara Lang, who contributed to Canada's 3-2 victory over Denmark in 2002 aged 15 years and 10 months. Signs of a promising future for women's football in Canada...

Three coaches also appeared in a final competition as a player before leading their charges to the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship: Ian Bridge (Canada) played in the FIFA World Cup™ (1986), the FIFA World Youth Championship (1979) and the Olympic Football Tournament (1984); Silvia Neid (Germany) played in the FIFA Women's World Cup (1991 & 1995) and the Olympic Football Tournament (1996). Both Bridge and Neid coached Canada and Germany respectively to the 2002 and 2004 U-19 World Championship. Leon Cuellar (Mexico) played in the FIFA World Cup™ (1978) and took his team to Canada in 2002. Elisabetta Bavagnoli (Italy) coached her team to the 2004 tournament in Thailand – during her playing career she participated in the FIFA Women's World Cup 1991.

With a total of 295,133 fans at an average of 11,351 per match, the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship Canada 2002 set a benchmark that will be difficult to beat. The record attendance for a single match is held by the 2002 final, with an impressive 47,784 fans watching the USA defeat Canada 1-0 with a golden goal in Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium to claim the title. The 2004 event in Thailand attracted 288,324 spectators overall: 11,089 per match on average.