

Euro 2016 qualifiers

Perfect 10 for England

Vilnius, Lithuania

England made it a perfect 10 wins out of 10 in their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign as they completed the road to France with a 3-0 defeat of Lithuania earlier this week.

Roy Hodgson's side had long since booked their place in next year's tournament, but they were keen to finish with an impressive 100 per cent record before focusing on the December draw for the finals.

And even with an under-strength team, there was never any doubt England would do just that after Everton midfielder Ross Barkley opened the scoring midway through the first half at the LFF Stadium.

Lithuania goalkeeper Giedrius Arlauskis unluckily deflected Harry Kane's shot into his own net for the second and Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain struck after the interval to seal the stroll.

England are just the sixth team to win all of their matches in a European Championship qualifying campaign.

It is also the first time England have gone through qualification, in its current



England's gunner Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (L) and Lithuania's Linas Klimavicius vie for the ball format, without dropping a point.

Spain were the last team to achieve a 100pc qualification

record in the Euros en route to winning the 2012 tournament.

But, despite being unbeaten in 15 matches, the low

standard of their Group E opposition means Hodgson's team are still something of an unknown quantity and have

plenty to prove before they can dream of emulating Spain's achievement.

"This is an achievement. I am very proud of the players' performances," Hodgson said.

"I thought we were excellent, in the first half especially. There was a lot of hard work put in.

"The quality of play was good and 10 wins out of 10 is very satisfying. We've got to take a lot of pride in that."

Although it was a smooth night on the pitch, the English FA will be concerned by a brief outbreak of crowd trouble before kick-off as England supporters at one end of the stadium traded punches with their Lithuania rivals.

With top seeding and qualification as group winners already confirmed, Hodgson selected an unfamiliar side that the generous would politely label as experimental rather than severely weakened.

Stoke City's Jack Butland started in goal three years after his last cap and Jonjo Shelvey, Jamie Vardy, Kyle Walker and stand-in captain Phil Jagielka also featured among eight changes from Friday's 2-0 win over Estonia. (AFP)

Premier League 2015
Matchday 9 2016

In the Spotlight Jurgen Klopp



Unveiled to great fanfare as Liverpool's new manager, the charismatic German faces a tough 1st game at Spurs

Statistic

102

Southampton's 3-1 win at Stamford Bridge made them the first away team to score more than twice against Chelsea in 102 league games

Match of the Week

Everton Man Utd



Steamrollered 3-0 by Arsenal on their last outing, third-place United travel to Goodison Park, where they have lost on their last 3 visits

Fixtures

Saturday 17 October

Tottenham Liverpool 12:45

Chelsea Aston Villa 15:00

Crystal Palace West Ham 15:00

Everton Man Utd 15:00

Man City Bournemouth 15:00

Southampton Leicester 15:00

West Brom Sunderland 15:00

Watford Arsenal 17:30

Sunday 18 October

Newcastle Norwich 16:00

Monday 19 October

Swansea Stoke 20:00

Ton-up Malik leads Pakistan charge in first test Abu Dhabi

Shoaib Malik hit a fighting hundred to cap an impressive return to Test cricket after five years as he led Pakistan's charge in the first Test against England in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Malik was unbeaten on 124 for his third Test hundred -- his first against England -- to guide Pakistan to 286-4 at close on the opening day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Malik added an invaluable 168 for the second wicket with opener Mohammad Hafeez who missed his century by two runs after Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat on a flat pitch which is expected to take turn on the last two days.



Italian cyclist Elia Viviani of Sky team celebrates after winning stage four at the Abu Dhabi tour

US Open winner out in Tianjin Open

Beijing

US Open champion and Tianjin Open top seed Flavia Pennetta made a spectacular first round exit on yesterday at the hands of a qualifier ranked more than 400 places below her.

The Italian world number eight went out to Ukrainian Lyudmyla Kichenok -- ranked 414 -- in straight sets, 6-3, 7-5.

Pennetta saved seven break points in the second set but ultimately went out in an hour and 38 minutes.

No satisfaction for Ronaldo despite fourth Golden Boot



C. Ronaldo (File)

Madrid

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo admitted yesterday he felt no satisfaction despite winning a record fourth Golden Boot as the top scorer in Europe's domestic leagues last season.

"It's a special moment," said the 30-year-old Portuguese striker during a ceremony in the Spanish capital. "But I'm

not satisfied, I always want more. "I know I'm the only one to have won four Boots but I want more, I want the fifth and sixth if possible."

Ronaldo scored 48 goals in 35 Spanish league games last season to claim his third Golden Boot with Real Madrid after 2011 and 2014. He also won one with Manchester United in 2008. No other player

has won four. His Argentine rival Lionel Messi, who scored 43 goals with Barcelona to finish second top scorer last season, has won the award three times in 2010, 2012, 2013.

Messi however is the only player to win European football's top individual award, the Ballon d'Or, four times, with Ronaldo winning three

times. Ronaldo won the Ballon d'Or title for the top European footballer for the past two years but Messi guided Barcelona to the triple of La Liga, Copa Del Rey and Champions league titles.

"Obviously (winning a new Golden Boot) implies also winning things collectively, trophies with the team," said Ronaldo, whose side failed to

win a major trophy last season. "Real Madrid is a team that must win titles every year. This season it's the same, we want to win the championship, the Champions League if possible, and the Cup."

Two weeks ago Ronaldo scored his 500th career goal and then equalled Raul's club record tally of 323 goals for Real Madrid.