

Olympic swim champ Paltrinieri sidelined with glandular fever before Tokyo Games



Winner Ukraine's Mykhaylo Romanchuk (up) and second-placed Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri react after the final of the Men's 800m Freestyle Swimming event

AFP | Milan

Olympic swimming champion Gregorio Paltrinieri is suffering from glandular fever a month before his 1,500m title defence in Tokyo, the Italian swimming federation (FIN) announced.

"Paltrinieri is suffering from mononucleosis although his symptoms are light," FIN president Paolo Barelli said.

"We'll know the effects of the infection day by day," added Barelli of the infectious viral illness commonly

known as mononucleosis or mono.

"Paltrinieri is a phenomenal champion and he'll fight to the last metre to take the medals he dreams of in Tokyo.

"He has never given up on anything."

The 26-year-old has cut back on training and will not take part in the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome starting Friday.

Paltrinieri, a two-time world champion over 1,500m, took silver over 800m and 1,500m at this year's European championships in Budapest.

Tomorrow's games

Copa America

Bolivia vs Uruguay (00:00, Cuiaba)

Chile vs Paraguay (03:00, Brasilia)

Results

*Scores as of closing

EURO 2020			
Slovakia	0	5	Spain
Sweden	3	2	Poland
Germany	2	2	Hungary
Portugal	2	2	France

Sweden scores late to beat Poland at Euro 2020

Claesson's late strike for Sweden seals top spot with victory over Poland

Two goals from Robert Lewandowski weren't enough to save Poland, who fought hard but still go home

AFP | London

Viktor Claesson scored an injury-time winner as Sweden beat Poland 3-2 in Saint Petersburg yesterday to clinch top spot in Group E and knock their opponents out of Euro 2020.

Emil Forsberg struck twice, the first coming after just 81 seconds, but Robert Lewandowski's double gave Poland hope of qualifying before Claesson's late goal sent Sweden through as group winners.

Sweden will likely play Ukraine in the last 16 after pipping Spain to first place, with Slovakia exiting alongside Poland following a crushing 5-0 defeat in Seville.

Janne Andersson's side, safe in the knowledge they were assured of a place in the next round before kickoff, made a dream start as Forsberg scored for the second game in a row, netting the second-fastest goal in European Championship history.

The RB Leipzig attacker collected a loose ball just outside the Poland area after Kamil Glik flattened Alexander Isak, riding into the second half for his first appearance after testing positive for Covid-19 just before the tournament.

With Poland needing victory to avoid elimination Le-



Poland's Grzegorz Krychowiak, left, and Sweden's Emil Forsberg vie for the ball

wandowski hit the crossbar twice in a matter of seconds, incredibly failing to convert his own rebound from point-blank range after connecting with Piotr Zielinski's corner.

Zielinski forced Robin Olsen into a pair of flying saves with shots from distance either side of halftime, with the Sweden goalkeeper also making a fine stop from Grzegorz Krychowiak's long-range shot.

Juventus winger Dejan Kulusevski came on 10 minutes into the second half for his first appearance after testing positive for Covid-19 just before the tournament.

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Poland had not scored more than once in any of their previous 13 matches at the finals

His driving run and pass set up Forsberg to curl in Sweden's second on 59 minutes, but Poland responded to set up a thrilling finish.

Lewandowski halved the deficit with a brilliant solo effort on 61 minutes, bending into the top corner to become his country's all-time leading scorer at the tournament.

Poland had not scored more than once in any of their previous 13 matches at the finals, but Lewandowski took advantage of confusion between Victor Lindelof and Marcus Danielson to equalise six minutes from time.

As Poland desperately pushed for a winner, Sweden snatched all three points right at the death when Kulusevski played in fellow substitute Claesson to slot beyond Wojciech Szczesny.

Modric leads Croatia into Euro 2020 last 16 at Scotland's expense

Scotland's Euro 2020 dreams dashed as Croatia and Modric turn on the style

Scotland got their first goal of the tournament but Luka Modric made the difference to end the hosts' last-16 hopes

AFP | London

Scotland's hopes of reaching the knockout stage of a major tournament for the first time were ended in a 3-1 defeat to a Luka Modric-inspired Croatia at Hampden Park on Tuesday that took the World Cup runners-up into the last 16 of Euro 2020.

After ending a 23-year wait just to qualify for a major tournament, another historic feat was beyond Steve Clarke's Scotland side who were undone by a moment of magic from Modric.

Callum McGregor cancelled out Nikola Vlasic's early opener to give the hosts hope heading into half-time.

But Modric showed the class that made him the man to break Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo's grip on the Ballon d'Or in 2018, a stunning strike with the outside of his foot just after the



Croatia's midfielder Luka Modric (C) shoots to score the second goal hour mark restoring Croatia's lead.

"No one is sure how Luka manages that," Croatia boss Zlatko Dalic said of the 35-year-old.

"We expect that Luka will go down, lose his strength, but he is the force that pulls the whole team.

"Anything I would say about Luka would not be sufficient. I'm very proud to have such a player as part of our team."

Ivan Perisic's header rubbed

salt into Scottish wounds 13 minutes from time as Croatia pipped the Czech Republic to second place in Group D behind England.

Dalic's side will face the runners-up from Group E, featuring Spain, Sweden, Slovakia and Poland, in Copenhagen next Monday.

Scotland's preparation had been blighted by the loss of Billy Gilmour to a positive test for coronavirus after the 20-year-

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CROATIA BOSS ZLATKO DALIC

old had shone on his first international start in the 0-0 draw against England on Friday.

Without the Chelsea midfielder, Scotland lacked anyone close to the class of Croatia's midfield maestros who eventually ran the hosts into the ground with nearly two-thirds of possession.

"Overall Croatia were the better team on the night and sometimes you just have to accept that," said Clarke.

"We're disappointed we haven't managed to get out the group stage. We'll all sit down, take stock, look and see what we can do better in the future and make sure it is not 23 years before we are at the next tournament."

Just as against the Czechs and England in their opening two games, Scotland were made to pay for not taking their chances.

Roared on by 12,000 fans inside Hampden, Che Adams was inches away from connecting with John McGinn's dangerous cross early on.

Chasing shadows

Croatia had barely threatened before they went in front on 17 minutes.

Perisic headed down a lofted ball into the box and Vlasic found space between three Scotland defenders to fire low into the corner.

Croatia then had Scotland chasing shadows for a spell as the midfield trio of Modric, Marcelo Brozovic and Mateo Kovacic took control of the game.

"Modric was incredible," said Arsenal defender Kieran Tierney. "I think tonight was a big learning curve for us all.

"They've been there before, the quality they showed it was hard for us to get going."

Modric's blistering drive from outside the box was brilliantly tipped over by David Marshall.

But Scotland bounced back to

net their first major tournament goal since 1998.

McGregor pounced on a loose ball at the edge of the box and, on his weaker right foot, the Celtic midfielder drilled into the bottom corner to spark jubilant scenes.

Scotland went down the tunnel at half-time with a spring in their step, but the physical exertions of holding England four days earlier took their toll as the energy levels of Clarke's men dipped in the second period.

Modric's deft touch finally broke Scottish hearts on 62 minutes.

Croatia calmly worked the opening at the edge of the box before the Real Madrid midfielder caressed the ball into the top corner with the outside of his right foot.

Along with Modric, Perisic has consistently been one of his country's key performers at major tournaments for nearly a decade.

The Inter Milan winger's flicked header from a Modric corner dropped in off the inside of the post for his ninth goal at a World Cup or European Championship to end any hope of a Scottish revival.