



Ankara Arena is among the five venues in four Turkish cities hosting World Basketball Championship matches



Remember the vuvuzela horn from the 2010 World Cup? There is no place for that instrument in Turkey

2010 FIBA WORLDS

AUGUST 28, 2010 WWW.TODAYSZAMAN.COM

IT'S TIME TO RUMBLE AS THE 2010 FIBA WORLDS BEGIN

After a near-endless number of grueling practice sessions, tough warm-up matches - you name it - the stage is ready for the biggest and the greatest basketball event on the face of the earth as the 2010 FIBA World Championship kicks off in Turkey today and runs through Sept. 12. The championship, which returns to the European continent for the first time in 12 years, will be played in four cities - Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir and Kayseri - and will feature 24 teams, with 288 players playing 80 games. Two new venues have been built especially for the championship. **By OKAN UDO BASSEY** CONTINUED ON PAGE 08





Turkey, Leaps forward to a brighter future With a bright generation

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From the editor

Turkey is currently hosting the biggest basketball event on the planet -- the 2010 FIBA World Championship -- which begins today and runs until Sept. 12.

Turkey and the Turkish Basketball Federation in particular, have worked overtime to make to make this championship come alive and all of the preparations -- including new world-class courts -- were completed ahead of time.

Thousands of basketball fans will come to Turkey to watch this extravaganza, while hundreds of millions of others will be following the competitions from their respective countries on TV.

Twenty-four nations qualified for the tournament and will be competing in round-robin play in four groups in the cities of İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Kayseri. The four victors in each group will then go on to compete in İstanbul for a single-elimination tournament that will decide the new world basketball champion on Sept. 12, 2010.

Spain is the defending world champion, having defeated Greece in Japan in 2006. Greece had ousted the

United States in the semifinals, relegating the so-called "Redeem Team" to a bronze medal.

But Team USA bounced back two years later to clinch the 2008 Olympic victory, beating its nemesis Spain in Beijing for the gold medal. However no player from that US team roster will be featuring in the 2010 FIBA World Championship, while Spain has come to it with eight players from Beijing.

The "12 Giant Men" -- as the Turkish men's basketball team is popularly called -- will receive tremendous support from their basketball-loving home fans and so are expected to go beyond their sixth-place finish at Japan 2006.

Today's Zaman is proud to mark this historic event with a 40-page all-color supplement to give readers an insight into the 2010 FIBA World Championship.

On this note we wish all basketball fans, both foreign and local, a pleasant and exciting championship.

Okan Udo Bassey

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All hail Dr. Naismith, inventor of basketball: Many people are curious about how "hoops," the slang term for basketball, originated. Dr. James Naismith is known worldwide as the inventor of basketball. The concept of basketball was born from Naismith's school days in the area where he played a simple child's game known as duck-on-a-rock outside his one-room schoolhouse.



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Turkey manager Harun Erdenay hopes Turkey will earn a medal on home soil: First definitely we aim to advance to the semis, and then win a medal, Turkish national basketball team's manager Harun Erdenay, who was a player in Turkish national team, says as their goals.

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Turkey ready for the big occasion: We have completed the hard work to ensure that the 2010 FIBA World Championship, slated to take place from today to Sept. 12, will become the most spectacular and successful World Championship ever. Turkey will undoubtedly be in the spotlight during this momentous event, says Turkish Basketball Federation President Demirel.

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Orhun Ene expects boost for Turkish basketball: Turkey's assistant coach Orhun Ene, who was also one of the "12 Giant Men," expects a successful tournament for Turkey without injuries. In addition to Turkey's success as a team, Ene expects the championship will contribute to the sport in general in the country while boosting the love of basketball.



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TODAYS ZAMAN

August 28, 2010

Public Relations Contact Information: +90 212 454 84 54

Publication Type: Periodical,

Daily Headquarters: Today's Zaman, 34194

Yenibosna, İSTANBUL.

Phone Number: +90 212 454 1 444

Fax: 0212 454 14 97,

Web Address: <http://www.todayszaman.com>,

Printed at: Feza Gazetecilik A.Ş. Tesisleri.

Advertisement Phone: +90 212 454 82 47,

Fax: +90 212 454 86 33.

Today's Zaman abides by the rules of press ethics.

Spain's Pau Gasol (2nd R) raises the Naismith trophy beside teammates Carlos Jimenez (R), Felipe Reyes and Rudy Fernandez (2nd L) after their world basketball championships final win over Greece in Japan 2006.



PHOTO □ REUTERS, JUCY NICHOLSON



Turkish fans are seen chanting while brandishing Turkish flags as their team became the champion by trouncing Italy with 81-56 at the Efes Pilsen Istanbul World Cup Final Four in September 2005.

PHOTO □ TODAY'S ZAMAN

TIME TO RUMBLE AS 2010 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS IN TURKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The winner will qualify automatically for the London 2012 Olympics. All eyes for sure will be on defending champion Spain, which beat Greece in the final to win the 2006 FIBA World Championship in Tokyo; while Argentina and the United States are expected to put up a good fight for the title.

Host Turkey, sixth in Tokyo in 2006, is also a top favorite because it will get tremendous support from its home supporters -- the sixth player. And be rest assured the Turks will definitely give as much as they get -- or even more. In short Turkey, ranked just behind Russia, is expected to make a surprising run. With the likes of Hidayet "Hedo" Türkoglu, who will be playing in his last Worlds, Ersan İlyasova, Ömer Aşık, Semih Erden, Kerem Gönlüm and Co. in its line-up, Turkey seems capable of taking any bull by the horn.

The United States, the so-called "Dream Team" now known as the "Redeem Team," has won more championship medals than any other nation on the globe, but it is hardly a certainty for the gold medal. The last American success was in Toronto in 1994, where they routed the Russians 137-91 in a one-sided final.

Their 1994 team comprised the likes of Shaquille O'Neill, Reggie Miller and Alonzo Mourning, so it was perhaps no surprise the Americans won. They finished third in 2006, and will be aiming to go at least one step further and reach the final in this tournament. But that is a tough call indeed

FIBA: From 1932 to the present day

The International Basketball Federation (French: Federation Internationale de Basketball), more commonly known by the French acronym FIBA, is an association of national organizations that governs international competition in basketball. The association was founded in Geneva in 1932, two years after the sport was officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Its original name was Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur. Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland were the eight founding members. During the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, the federation named James Naismith

(1861-1939), the founder of basketball, as its honorary president.

FIBA has organized a FIBA World Championship for men since 1950 and a World Championship for Women since 1953. Both events are now held every four years, alternating with the Olympics. In 1989 FIBA opened the door to Olympic participation by professionals such as players from the NBA in the United States. At this point, the Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur became the Federation Internationale de Basketball, but retained FIBA as an abbreviation. The federation headquarters moved to Munich in 1956, then returned to Geneva in 2002. *Istanbul Today's Sports*

The inaugural FIBA World Championship took place in 1950 in Buenos Aires, and the event has gone from strength to strength ever since.

The current format of the tournament begins with 24 nations split into groups of six. Once the sides have played each other once, the top four teams in each group progress to the last 16. The remaining teams then take part in a knockout competition until the champion is crowned.

Teams eliminated in the quarters will also take part in classification matches to determine their final standing in the competition, and later the eliminated semifinalists will slug it out for third place.

Money talks

The 2010 FIBA World Basketball Cham-

pionship in Turkey has attracted record-breaking sponsorship from some of the biggest brands in the world.

Nokia, Mercedes-Benz, Tissot, Champion, Molten and Turkcell are among the major companies aligning themselves with the event because of its mass global popularity, its clean image and the demographic of its audience.

Basketball is followed by 450 million people, making it the world's second most popular sport. Its fanbase -- globally connected, young and high-income -- is also very attractive to sponsors.

Sponsors for the 2010 FIBA World Basketball Championship fall into three categories:

Global Partners: Nokia, Bwin, Champion, Molten, Mondo, Sinalco,

Tissot and Zepter

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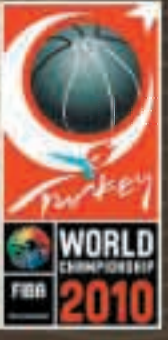
Turkey experienced host

Turkey is no stranger to hosting big championships. İstanbul successfully hosted the UEFA Champions League final in 2005 and in 2009 hosted the last UEFA Cup -- after which the competition was renamed the UEFA Europa League. İzmir hosted the 2005 Summer Universiade and Erzurum will be the host of the 2011 Winter Universiade.

Moreover, Turkey has been hosting the Formula One Grand Prix since 2005 and is also the host of numerous tennis, athletics, golf and water polo events, etc. That the International Olympic Committee (IOC) blatantly refuses to award the Olympics to Turkey and UEFA, European football's governing body, with the European Championship, defies logic and belief.

And it is as sure as death that the IOC and UEFA monarchs will be holding their heads in disbelief -- for their shortsightedness and misjudgment -- after a successful 2010 FIBA World Championship concludes on Sept. 12.

The Turks are hospitable and love basketball as well as other sports. On this note, we wish all guests and fans visiting Turkey for the 2010 Worlds a happy stay.



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PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WILL DEFINITELY PREVAIL

Dear basketball fans,

I welcome and greet you with the pride and happiness of undertaking yet another major sports event. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championship is regarded as the world's third biggest sporting event, and only three of its 15 former editions were hosted by European countries. We are proud to become the fourth country in Europe to host the 2010 FIBA World Championship, to take place in Turkey between today and Sept. 12.

The matches will be the scene of great excitement, to be played in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Kayseri, with the participation of 24 countries. Once again, we will have the opportunity to showcase our hospitality to the whole world.

Strong and ambitious teams from all over the

globe will exhibit a fierce struggle in the competition in our country. We are particularly excited to offer a venue for the meeting of world-famous basketball players and basketball fans in Turkey.

Peace and universal values are what make sports powerful. Such events are of great importance for promoting a country. It is the principal aim of these events to foster sports for peace and for health, with particular reference to Atatürk's motto of "Peace at home, peace in the world," and in consideration of the role of sports in creating individuals with sound reasoning. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to those who were involved in ensuring that this event was awarded to our country. I hope to see many more events like this one.

Faruk Özak
State Minister for Sports



PHOTO: A A

Faruk Özak

ALL ATTENTION ON TURKEY AS WORLDS BEGINS

The day has finally arrived when there are a good number of athletes who can take Turkey to the awards podium in all fields of sport. Turkish sport and athletes are sprinting to the finish thanks to our new projects on the one hand, and on the other we have come out ahead with the organization of a number of large sporting events. And now, we are set to host the world's third largest sports event, the 2010 FIBA World Championship.

I was in Malaysia in 2004 for the voting and was fortunate to experience the happiness and pride of that moment. I can easily say that from the moment we won the right to host this event we have been preparing for the championships. From Aug. 28 to Sept. 12, a 16-day basketball storm will blow from Ankara out to the world. And we are going to experience the satisfaction of watching it all happen.

Hosting international sporting events plays a big factor in improving a country's infrastructure. We have prepared five facilities -- two new ones and three renovations -- for the 2010 FIBA World Championship. The new sports arenas that we've built in Ankara and İstanbul are eye-catching with their modern structures. We are happy to now have two more multi-purpose sports centers -- for we now have new facilities not just for basketball but capable of hosting many types of events. Our new halls will add color to the championships and bring to them a special synergy.

In order to organize the 2010 FIBA World Championship -- which are an important promotional op-



Yunus Akgül

portunity for Turkey and a chance to gain recognition -- in a way that will make our nation proud, we have made use of all the resources available to us as a country. We have worked with great meticulousness. We have given our all at all levels of our projects, providing all the necessary support to ensure that the sport, the players and its fans will be proud of the results. The teams and guests traveling here from many countries for the competitions will enjoy Turkish hospitality along with the Turkish love of sport and will take home with them many good memories.

I believe firmly that the entire world's attention will be turned to Turkey and that the 2010 FIBA World Championship will be a great success. In these championships in our own country, we will achieve successful outcomes on our own turf and in front of our fans -- I truly believe this. We have a young and determined national team. Support team Turkey from the heart -- why not?

Yunus AKGÜL
General Director, Youth and Sports



PHOTO: MAHMUT BURAK BURKUK

Turgay Demirel

TURKEY READY FOR THE BIG OCCASION

Dear basketball fans,

Only a limited number of days are left before the start of the 2010 International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championship, which is the greatest sporting event our country has hosted.

We have completed the hard work to ensure that the 2010 FIBA World Championship, slated to take place from Aug. 28-Sept. 12, will become the most spectacular and successful World Championship ever. Turkey will undoubtedly be in the spotlight during this momentous event, which will showcase intense competition between the top 24 basketball teams.

Two new facilities which we gifted to the Turkish sporting sector with the help of the Youth and Sports General Directorate, the advertising and promotional activities taking place in connection with the 2010 FIBA World Championship and the frequent references being made to Turkey in connection with the championship can be listed as benefits we have obtained even before the championship has started.

Considering the fact that Turkey will be the center of attention all around the world during these 16 days, we can expect Turkey to occupy a prominent position on the international agenda both during and after the championship.

We will be participating in the World Championship for the third time after our participation in 2002 and 2006, when our national team secured ninth and sixth place, respectively. I believe this time we will place much higher with the enthusiastic support from the fans.

I have no doubt that our country, as the cradle of civilizations and cultures, will spectacularly host this great event. As the Turkish Basketball Federation and the Local Organizing Committee, we feel the excitement of receiving the rewards for our hard work and eventually being able to say, "We have done the best."

With regards,
Turgay Demirel
President of the Turkish Basketball Federation

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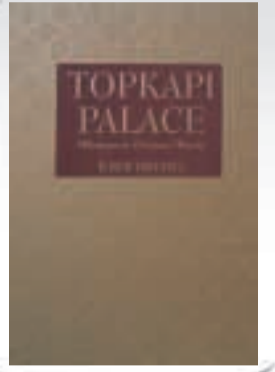
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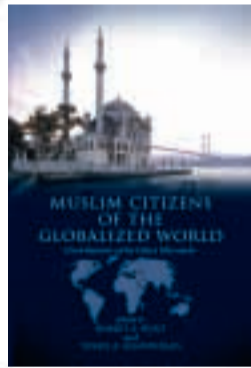
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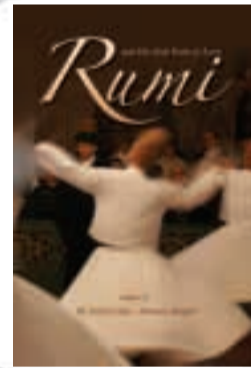
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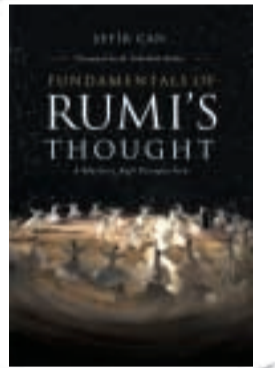
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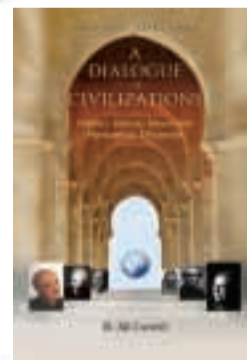
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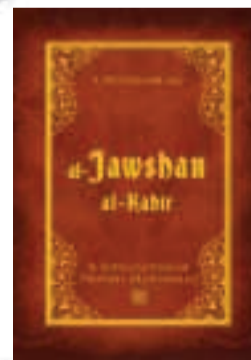
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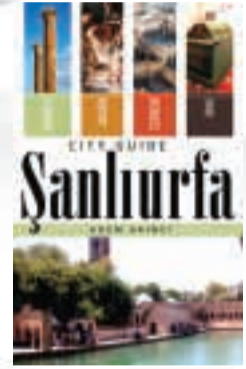
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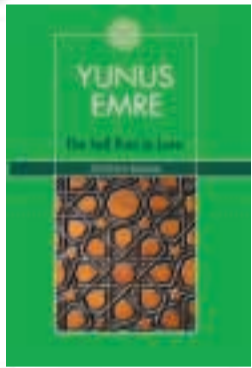
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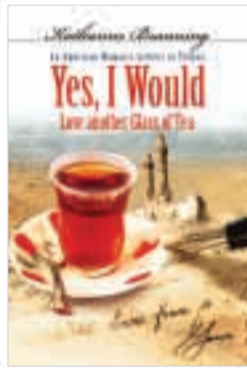
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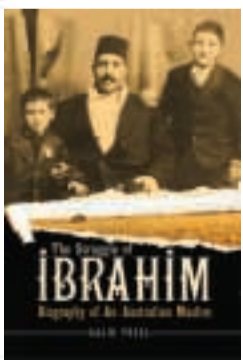
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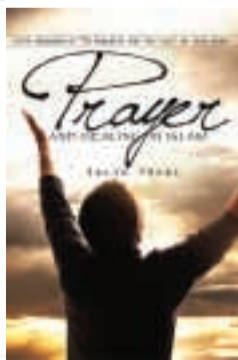
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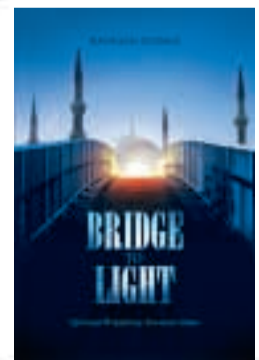
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ASSISTANT COACH ENE EXPECTS BOOST FOR TURKISH BASKETBALL

Turkey's assistant coach Orhun Ene, who was also one of the '12 Giant Men' several years ago, expects a successful tournament for Turkey without injuries. Ene also says he anticipates the championship will contribute to the sport in general in the country while boosting the love of basketball

MESUT YILDIRIM İSTANBUL

Fans are holding their breaths in anticipation as the FIBA 2010 World Basketball Championship starts in earnest with preliminary group matches in four Turkish cities and four venues. This year's event features top-class basketball nations including the US, defending champion Spain, top ranking Argentina and others. As an emerging basketball power, Turkey is keeping hopes high on home soil.

Turkey's assistant coach Orhun Ene, who was also one of the "12 Giant Men," the nickname of Turkish national basketball team, several years ago, also expects a successful tournament for Turkey without injuries. "We played in nine warm-up games. The scores were not important. What mattered was to form the backbone of the team. We had a bad tournament in Germany. The injury of Engin Atsür turned our plans upside down. We couldn't take our first-tier team on the basketball court there. The Efes Cup, on the other hand, was quite successful. We put the real Turkey out in the match against the tournament's favorite team Argentina -- Argentina outscored Turkey 93-89 in the match. We want a successful tournament without injuries," Ene said speaking to Today's Sports at the end of the warm-up games ahead of the big event.

In addition to Turkey's success as a team, Ene expects the championship will contribute to the sport in general in the country while boosting the love of basketball. "It is a pleasure to earn a bid to host such a tournament. I think this will make a significant contribution to both Turkish sports and Turkish basketball in the future. It is also important in attracting people's attention to the games and basketball per se. The championship has been a very important catalyst for renovating the existing basketball venues and constructing new ones in the four host cities. Above all, it is a big deal for a country to host such a major event," he said.

According to Ene, the fans who fill the venues will determine the just how memorable the event in Turkey will be. The arenas must be filled and especially the fans who enjoy basketball must be there, he noted. "I have been in international tournaments abroad. One of the things that catches my attention is the quality of the arenas and the atmosphere they create on the spectators. When we went to Japan in the previous Worlds, we saw that the arenas were of a very high quality. They were filled with fans but the spirit was low. In Europe, especially in countries like Turkey, the fans



PHOTOS □ TODAY'S ZAMAN, MESUT YILDIRIM

are more active and high spirited. In this regard, the atmosphere created by audiences is important. It is a part of the show."

'Team spirit matters more than stars'

Many teams lack their stars, mostly those who play at NBA, in the Worlds including Turkey's Mehmet Okur who plays for Utah Jazz. Ene does not believe that the missing stars will disadvantage the tournament's quality. The team spirit and the action on the court matters more, according to Ene.

"The US national team featuring NBA stars lost the competition with Greece in the World Basketball Championship 2006 in Japan. Thus, here the winners are those who are able to be a team and play with a certain synergy and organization on the court. NBA stars bring excitement to the tournament for sure. It is nice to have them but in this tournament, it is also important to be a team player. Even when such players are not available, the team can still certainly capture a high quality performance with their characters on the court and their coaches," Ene elaborated.

Ene also gave a message to our readers: "Turkey is a young country. I hope our youth will closely follow the tournament. My wish is that this [championship] will be an opportunity to enhance Turkish basketball and be a starting-point for many young players. I invite everybody to watch the basketball on the court and on television."

Turkey coach Bogdan Tanjevic, L, assistant coach Nihat İziç, C, and assistant coach Orhun Ene are shown above during the Turkey-Serbia EuroBasket 2009 match in Poland.



PHOTO: REUTERS, MUSTAFA ÖZER



PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN



Turkey manager: We want a medal on our home soil

MESUT YILDIRIM İSTANBUL

The time has come to see the fruits of years of preparations. The 2010 World Basketball Championship kicks off today in Turkey at four venues in four cities. It wasn't only the cities and the venues that prepared themselves for this big event, though. The Turkish national squad has also readied itself to try and conquer the championship.

Proving to be a successful country in the sport of basketball, Turkey has participated in two past world championships: taking home 9th and 6th place in 2002 and 2006, respectively. The Turkish national basketball team's manager, Harun Erdenay, said they are aiming for a medal in the 2010 competition.

"First, definitely the semis, and then a medal," Erdenay said, laying out their goals in an interview with Today's Sports at Istanbul's Sinan Erdem Dome as they were training for the warm-up games before the championship. "To begin with, I have to say that even to hold the 2010 championship in Turkey and to bring the most giant sport in the world with such an organization here and let Turkey see such good teams is itself a very big success for the [Turkish Basketball] Federation. We really have a very good team. ... We want to take a medal. Then we want to go to the Olympics. The defending champion of the world championship qualifies automatically for the Olympics," he said.

The Turkish manager says the championship will bring many benefits in sports terms. "The past world championship was watched by billions of people. Thus, Turkey will draw attention worldwide. When we host this tournament successfully, we will have more of a chance at hosting the Olympics. We have offered bids to host the Olympics before, but we have never hosted a European football championship, a European basketball championship or world athletics champi-



Erdenay was a player on the Turkish national team when Turkey placed highly in major international championships, including a silver medal at EuroBasket 2001 hosted by the nation. The following year, Erdenay announced his retirement from the national team after the 2002 World Basketball Championship. He currently works with his then-teammates as the national team's manager

onship. As we host such events more, our chances of hosting the Olympics will increase," Erdenay noted.

Erdenay was a player in the Turkish national team when Turkey was taking high ranks at major international championships, including a silver medal at EuroBasket 2001. The following year, Erdenay announced his retirement from the national team after the 2002 World Basketball Championship. He currently works with his former teammates and says he is now friends with the players. Among the players he works with, five of them -- Ömer Onan, Kerem Gönlüm, Hidayet Türkoglu, Kerem Tunçeri and Ender Arslan -- were once Erdenay's teammates.

'Missing players will not decrease interest'

Many teams will not be bringing their stars, primarily those who play in the US National Basketball Association (NBA), to the championship. There is also one Turkish NBA star who will not be able to take his place on the team: Mehmet Okur of the Utah Jazz. Erdenay does not think that the missing players will lower interest in the championship, though he acknowledges that their absence will be recognizable. "There have been tournaments when we lacked stars. But it is a team game, not like tennis or swimming. I think the tournament will attract great numbers anyway," he said.

Erdenay also has a final message for our readers. "Turkey is an incredibly beautiful country. The Turkish youths' interest in sports has dramatically increased in the past decade with encouragement from our state and prime minister, who used to be a professional athlete. Sports complexes are built everywhere and sports events take place all the time. The municipalities construct sports halls for children and they bring children to sports classes. I believe that these young people will be more clever and more developed both physically and mentally."

ANKARA

Ankara, which has been home to many civilizations since the Bronze Age Hatti civilization, is one of the oldest settlements in Turkey. The city has many tourist attractions and has been home to many civilizations. Ankara, the second-largest city in Turkey after İstanbul, is home to Atatürk's mausoleum, which draws millions of visitors every year. The Hacı Bayram-ı Veli shrine, around which Phrygians seem to have settled, and Roman monuments, which are mainly clustered to the east and west of Çankırı Caddesi, are also worth seeing. Ankara's unsung Selçuk treasures, two mosques hiding in Atpazarı, the Aslanhane Cami and the Ahi Elvan Cami, may also be interesting to include in a city tour. The newly renovated Birinci Büyük Millet Meclisi Binası (First National Assembly Building), a single-story edifice designed in 1917-20 while the War of Independence was still raging, and the İkinci Büyük Millet Meclisi Binası (Second National Assembly Building), an altogether grander two-story building designed in 1924, are also in Ankara. It is well worth taking a stroll along Çankırı Caddesi to admire the three bank buildings designed by the Italian architect Giulio Mongeri: Garanti Bankası (1926), Türkiye İş Bankası (1929) and Ziraat Bankası (1926-29).



Ankara Arena

The newly constructed Ankara Arena will host the games of Group C, which features China, Cote d'Ivoire, Greece, Puerto Rico and Turkey. The venue replaced the Ankara Atatürk

Sports Hall and will serve as the home of the Turkish basketball league teams Casa TED Kolejliler and Türk Telekom BK. The hall has space for 11,000 people.

PHOTO © TODAY'S SPORTS

İSTANBUL

Sinan Erdem

Sinan Erdem Dome will host top games of the tournament starting from the quarterfinals. With a capacity of 15,500 seats, the dome was named after Sinan Erdem, who served as president of the Turkey's National Olympic Committee from 1989 to his death in 2003. The multi-purpose venue will also host other major sporting events, including the 2012 IAAF World Indoor Championships and the 2011-2013 WTA Tour Championships.



Abdi İpekçi

The Abdi İpekçi Sports Hall, located in the city's Zeytinburnu district and also the oldest venue of the championship, will host Group B, featuring Brazil, Croatia, Iran, Slovenia, Tunisia and USA games. The venue was named after murdered journalist and human rights activist Abdi İpekçi. It can hold 12,500 people. Built in 1986, the hall is home to Turkish basketball league teams Efes Pilsen, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray. In addition to sports events, the venue also hosts cultural events.

İstanbul is by far the largest city in Turkey with its population of about 11 million. Despite not being the capital, it is the center of the country in many ways, including culturally and financially. İstanbul is also the fifth largest city in the world and the second-largest metropolitan area in Europe by population. The city is the only one in the world stretching over two continents -- Asia and Europe. İstanbul has a long history and served as the capital of the Roman Empire (330-395), the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (395-1204 and 1261-1453), the Latin Empire (1204-1261) and the Ottoman Empire (1453-1922). Turkish author Necdet Sakaoglu writes in the "İstanbul Ansiklopedisi" that 135 names have been used for the city so far. This year, the city celebrates its title as a 2010 European Capital of Culture. The city has many places worth exploring including Hagia Sophia (Aya Sofya), the Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet Camii), Topkapı Palace, the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı), the Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarnıcı), the Galata Tower, the Chora Museum (Kariye Müzesi), the Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı), Dolmabahçe Palace and the Eyüp Sultan Mosque.

İZMİR

Turkey's third largest city after İstanbul and Ankara, İzmir is a beautiful city in the country's Aegean region. One of the oldest settlements in the Mediterranean basin, the city has a long history, and some sources suggest that İzmir's urban record stretches back 3,500 years. The city was governed by various peoples in the past, including the Lydians, Persians and Ottomans. İzmir has been a Turkish city since Seljuk commander Çaka Bey captured it in 1076 along with a number of Aegean islands. A city known for its great sea, nature and sun, İzmir is an attractive destination for tourists; it is also a favorite of culture lovers because of the historic places in this province. These include the ancient city of Ephesus, the Basilica of St. John in Selçuk, the Temple of Artemis, İsabey Mosque and Seljuk Castle. Selçuk's Şirince Village is a place that everyone should visit because of its peach orchards and magnificent architecture. The old stone houses in Alaçatı, in the Çeşme area, and the surfing will make guests' stay even more enjoyable.



Halkapınar Sports Hall

İzmir Halkapınar Sports Hall is the venue for the İzmir matches. The hall will host defending champions Canada, Spain, France, Lebanon, Lithuania and New Zealand in Group D games. Constructed in 2005, the arena

has a 10,000-person capacity. The hall also hosts gymnastics, volleyball and fencing competitions. The European Seniors Fencing Championship in July 2006 took place at the Halkapınar Sports Hall.

KAYSERİ



Kadir Has Arena

The Kadir Has Arena is the venue of the 2010 FIBA World Championship matches in Kayseri, the easternmost city hosting the event. The arena, along with the Kadir Has Football Stadium, the home of Spor Toto Super

League team Kayserispor, is part of the Kadir Has Sports Complex. With a 7,200-person capacity, the arena will host Group D matches, which feature Angola, Argentina, Australia, Germany, Jordan and Serbia.

Kayseri is one of the oldest cities in Turkey, with some sources suggesting that it has been in continuous settlement since 3000 B.C. Kayseri, one of the most important commercial centers in modern Turkey, has always been a major trade hub, located near the historic Silk Road. The city was ruled by several peoples over the centuries including the Arabs, Romans and Seljuks.

Kayseri has many attractions to offer its guests. The best known of all of Kayseri's historic monuments is the iconic Döner Kümbet (Revolving Tomb), an elaborately carved 12th century structure that serves as the final resting place for the Selçuk Shah Cihan. Ulu Cami (Great Mosque), in the back streets behind the covered bazaar, Hunat Hatun Mosque, Çifte Medrese (twin seminaries complex) and the 12th century Avgunlu Medresesi are among Kayseri's other architectural treasures. The city's best-known dish is mantı, small dumplings filled with meat and served with yogurt and melted butter. Pastırma and sucuk are other samples of Kayseri cuisine.



PHOTO © REUTERS. ADREES LATIF

Spain's world basketball team players pose for a group photo with the Naismith Trophy after they defeated Greece at the World Basketball Championships final in Saitama Japan in 2006.

ALL HAIL DR. NAISMITH, INVENTOR OF BASKETBALL

OKAN UDO BASSEY | ISTANBUL

▶ Basketball is the second most popular sport in the world after soccer. It is a game loved by men and women, boys and girls, and many people are curious about how “hoops,” the slang term for basketball, originated.

Dr. James Naismith is known worldwide as the inventor of basketball. He was born in 1861 in Ramsay Township, near Almonte, Ontario. The concept of basketball was born from Naismith's school days in the area where he played a simple child's game known as duck-on-a-rock outside his one-room schoolhouse. The game involved attempting to knock a “duck” off the top of a large rock by tossing another rock at it. Naismith went on to attend McGill University in Montreal.

As a matter of fact, Naismith sought a vigorous indoor game to keep his students occupied and at proper levels of fitness during the long winters he spent in the US. After rejecting other ideas as either too rough or poorly suited to walled-in gymnasiums, he wrote the basic rules and nailed a peach basket onto a 10-foot (3.05-meter) elevated track. In contrast with modern basketball nets, this peach basket retained its bottom, so balls scored into the basket had to be poked out with a long stick each time. A soccer ball was used to shoot goals.

Women's basketball began in 1892 at Smith College when Senda Berenson Abbott, a physical education teacher, modified Naismith's rules for women. Basketball was originally played with a soccer ball. The first balls made specifically for basketball were brown, and it was only in the late 1950s that Tony Hinkle, searching for a ball that would be more visible to players and spectators alike, introduced the orange ball that is now in common use.



Dr. James Naismith is known worldwide as the inventor of basketball. He was born in 1861 in Ramsay Township, near Almonte, Ontario. The concept of basketball was born from Naismith's school days in the area where he played a simple child's game known as duck-on-a-rock outside his one-room schoolhouse

Dribbling, the bouncing of the ball up and down while moving, was not part of the original game except for the “bounce pass” to teammates. Passing the ball was the primary means of ball movement. Dribbling was eventually introduced but limited by the asymmetric shape of early balls. Dribbling only became a major part of the game around the 1950s as manufacturing improved the ball shape.

In 1946, the Basketball Association of America (BAA) was formed. Its main aim was to organize top professional teams and, thus, promote the popularity of the professional game. The first game under the association was played in November 1946, in Toronto. The two teams were those of the Toronto Huskies and the New York Knickerbockers. The BAA became the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1949, and today it is the top professional basketball league in the world. The NBA-backed Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) began in 1997.

The International Basketball Federation was formed in 1932. The eight founding nations of the federation include Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland. Since the federation started with only amateur players, its acronym was FIBA, with “A” standing for amateur. Basketball made its entry into the Olympic Games only in 1936. The first final was won by the United States, after defeating Canada.

In 1950 the first FIBA World Championship for men was held in Argentina. The first FIBA World Championship for Women was organized three years after the men's one (1953) in Chile. Women's basketball was added to the Olympics in 1976. It was in 1992 that professional players were introduced in the Olympic Games, after FIBA dropped the distinction between them and amateurs.

KEEP YOUR VUVUZELAS AT HOME OR FACE EXPULSION!

Remember the ear-splitting vuvuzela trumpets at the South Africa 2010 World Cup finals in early summer? There is no place for that instrument at the 2010 FIBA World Championship, which starts in earnest in four Turkish cities today.

FIBA, world basketball's governing body, announced earlier this month that the horns will be banned from the Turkey tournament. The organizers said vuvuzelas used indoors could damage hearing and make it difficult to communicate on the court. "We want fans to enjoy themselves and make lots of noise, but not at the risk of spoiling it for others," FIBA Secretary-General Patrick Baumann said in a statement earlier this month.

"The vuvuzela is simply not appropriate in a confined space such as a basketball arena. It's a very loud instrument, and some medical experts believe the decibel level and frequency can be harmful to hearing."

Violators face expulsion

FIBA warned that the instruments will be confiscated by security and that the ban will be enforced at all of its indoor tournaments, such as the women's world championships this year. Anyone bringing a vuvuzela to a FIBA venue risks expulsion.

FIBA called the vuvuzelas "controversial instruments" and cited a surgeon from St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, who said the horns can produce a sound reaching 120 decibels. The doctor added that sustained exposure could cause permanent hearing damage.

Baumann said there also was a competitive reason for the ban. "Besides our responsibility to protect the well being of athletes and fans alike, the sound level in an indoor sport arena could create communication problems between the referees, and that could have a direct negative impact on the game," he said.

FIFA, football's governing body, supported the use of vuvuzelas in South Africa despite criticism from the TV audience, saying they were part of the country's culture.

International basketball already features plenty of crowd noise, such as Lithuanian fans, who bang drums and chant throughout games. "Previous tournaments have shown us that it's possible to have a carnival atmosphere and passionate support without the vuvuzela," Baumann said. **Istanbul**, Today's Sports



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FIBA Rankings

Rank	Country	Current Points	+/- Points*
1.	Argentina	865.0	0.0
2.	USA	861.0	0.0
3.	Spain	759.0	20.0
4.	Greece	529.0	20.0
5.	Serbia	459.0	-10.0
6.	Lithuania	382.0	1.0
7.	Germany	322.0	-7.0
8.	Italy	300.0	-8.0
9.	China	254.7	0.0
10.	Puerto Rico	252.6	0.0
11.	Australia	234.0	0.0
12.	Angola	205.0	0.0
13.	New Zealand	193.0	0.0
14.	Brazil	181.6	0.0
15.	France	181.0	1.0
16.	Croatia	181.0	1.0
17.	Russia	179.0	-2.0
18.	Turkey	163.0	-29.0
19.	Canada	124.2	0.0
20.	Slovenia	123.0	11.0
21.	Iran	89.1	0.0
22.	Nigeria	85.6	0.0
23.	Venezuela	74.0	0.0
24.	Lebanon	63.0	0.0
25.	Israel	57.0	-3.0
26.	Dominican Rep.	45.4	0.0
27.	Korea	44.1	0.0
28.	Qatar	39.5	0.0
29.	Uruguay	37.6	0.0
30.	Mexico	36.8	0.0
31.	Panama	33.0	0.0
32.	Japan	32.1	0.0
33.	Egypt	28.8	0.0
34.	Algeria	25.4	0.0
35.	Latvia	24.0	-5.0
36.	Kazakhstan	20.8	0.0
37.	Senegal	20.4	0.0
38.	Jordan	19.5	0.0
39.	Poland	16.0	10.0
40.	Virgin Islands	14.4	0.0
41.	Cote d'Ivoire	13.6	0.0
42.	Chinese Taipei	13.5	0.0
43.	Tunisia	13.4	0.0
44.	Bulgaria	12.0	6.0
45.	Cameroon	11.0	0.0
45.	Ukraine	11.0	-3.0
47.	Central African Rep.	10.6	0.0
48.	Mali	10.2	0.0
49.	Portugal	10.0	0.0
49.	Bosnia/Herzegovina	10.0	-6.0
49.	Macedonia	10.0	0.0
52.	India	8.4	0.0
52.	Syria	8.4	0.0
54.	Morocco	8.0	0.0
55.	Kuwait	7.8	0.0
56.	Philippines	7.5	0.0
57.	Cape Verde	7.2	0.0
58.	Czech Republic	6.0	0.0
58.	Great Britain	6.0	0.0
60.	Mozambique	5.4	0.0
60.	Uzbekistan	5.4	0.0
60.	South Africa	5.4	0.0
63.	Hong Kong	4.8	0.0
63.	Indonesia	4.8	0.0
65.	Rwanda	3.4	0.0
66.	Saudi Arabia	3.3	0.0
67.	Sweden	3.0	0.0
67.	UAE	3.0	0.0
69.	Gabon	2.0	0.0
70.	Malaysia	1.8	0.0
71.	Libya	1.6	0.0
72.	Madagascar	1.4	0.0
73.	Sri Lanka	0.9	0.0
74.	DR Congo	0.8	0.0
75.	Congo	0.6	0.0
75.	Liberia	0.6	0.0

*compared to the last FIBA Ranking

Turkish basketball is rising up on our wings.



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and Turkish National
Basketball Team



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**TURKISH
AIRLINES**

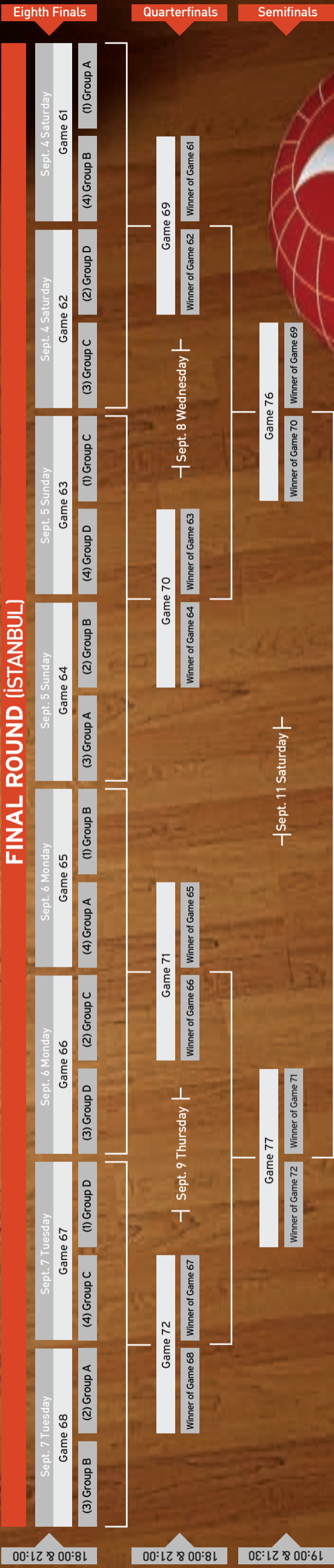


2010 FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND

Group	City	Day	Time	Matchup
B ISTANBUL	Aug. 28 Saturday	16:30	Tunisia - Slovenia	
		19:00	USA - Croatia	
	Aug. 29 Sunday	14:30	Slovenia - USA	
		19:00	Croatia - Iran	
	Aug. 30 Monday	16:30	Slovenia - Croatia	
		19:00	Tunisia - Iran	
Sept. 1 Wednesday	16:30	Croatia - Tunisia		
	19:00	Iran - USA		
Sept. 2 Thursday	16:30	USA - Tunisia		
	19:00	Slovenia - Iran		
A KAYSERI	Aug. 28 Saturday	16:30	Australia - Jordan	
		19:00	Angola - Serbia	
	Aug. 29 Sunday	16:30	Jordan - Angola	
		19:00	Serbia - Germany	
	Aug. 30 Monday	16:30	Jordan - Serbia	
		19:00	Australia - Germany	
Sept. 1 Wednesday	16:30	Serbia - Australia		
	19:00	Germany - Angola		
Sept. 2 Thursday	16:30	Angola - Australia		
	19:00	Argentina - Serbia		
C ANKARA	Aug. 28 Saturday	16:00	Greece - China	
		18:30	Russia - Puerto Rico	
	Aug. 29 Sunday	16:00	China - Ivory Coast	
		18:30	Puerto Rico - Greece	
	Aug. 31 Tuesday	16:00	Russia - Ivory Coast	
		18:30	Puerto Rico - China	
Sept. 1 Wednesday	16:00	China - Russia		
	18:30	Ivory Coast - Greece		
Sept. 2 Thursday	16:00	Puerto Rico - Ivory Coast		
	18:30	Greece - Russia		
D IZMIR	Aug. 28 Saturday	16:00	New Zealand - Lithuania	
		18:30	Canada - Lebanon	
	Aug. 29 Sunday	16:00	Lithuania - Canada	
		18:30	Lebanon - France	
	Aug. 31 Tuesday	16:00	New Zealand - Lebanon	
		18:30	France - Canada	
Sept. 1 Wednesday	16:00	Canada - New Zealand		
	18:30	Lebanon - Spain		
Sept. 2 Thursday	16:00	Spain - Canada		
	18:30	Lebanon - Lithuania		

FINAL ROUND (ISTANBUL)

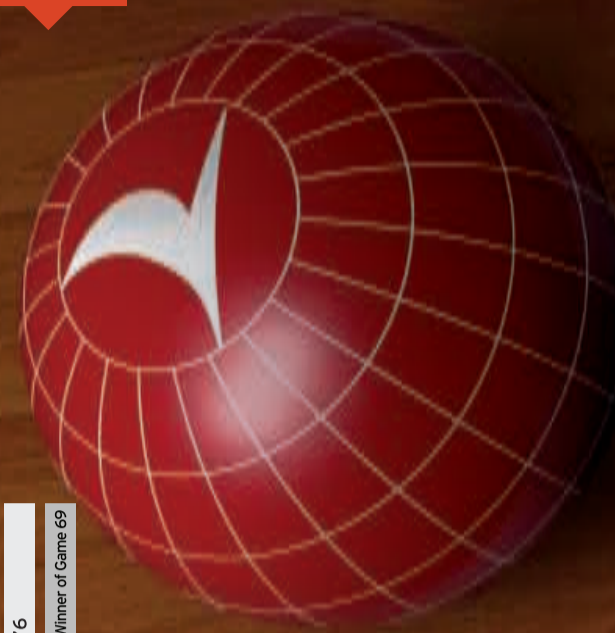


CLASSIFICATIONS

Game	Date	Time	Matchup
Game 74	Sept. 10 Friday	18:00 & 21:00	Game 73
Loser of Game 72	Loser of Game 71		Loser of Game 69
Game 78	Sept. 12 Sunday	15:00	Game 75
Winner of Game 74	Winner of Game 73		Loser of Game 73
FIFTH PLACE			SEVENTH PLACE

ORDER OF GAMES YET TO BE ANNOUNCED

TURKEY2010.FIBA.COM



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ARGENTINA

Argentina's national basketball team is no stranger to continental and global medals. Argentina has won the South American Championships title 12 times and earned gold at the 2001 FIBA Americas Championship, which also featured the US. The team dominated the last two Olympic Games, winning gold in Athens in 2004 while becoming the bronze medalist in 2008. The team has taken part in all Summer Olympics since 1948. Winner of the first World Basketball Championship in 1950, Argentina is a regular participant the Worlds too. The team has made an appearance in the tournament 11 times. Argentina won a second medal in the tournament in the US in 2002, when the team won silver. In the last Worlds, which took place in Japan, Argentina advanced to the semis by leading Group A -- which also included France, Nigeria, Serbia and Montenegro, Lebanon and Venezuela -- and outclassing Turkey in the quarter final. However, Spain, which eventually won the title, took the South American out of the running for the gold. Argentina lost to Spain by a tiny margin, 74-75. In the match for the bronze medal, the US defeated Argentina, sending them back home empty-handed. Following the Summer Olympics in 2008, Argentina topped FIBA's men's ranking and the team still holds the position. In the 2010 FIBA World Championship, Argentina is in Group A with Angola, Australia, Germany, Jordan and Serbia. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stages in Istanbul. Argentina will play the group matches in Kayseri.

FIBA Ranking: 1

Key Players: Luis Scola, Carlos Delfino, Andres Nocioni

Overview: This Argentina team will try to make the farewell tour for the group known as the "Golden Generation" memorable one. The origin of the name goes to the fact this same group are the ones who claimed silver at the 2002 FIBA World Championships, gold at the 2004 Olympics and bronze at the 2008 Olympic Games. Although they will be without its star, Manu Ginobili, there's no shortage of skill on a squad destined to make noise.

ARGENTINA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Oberto, F.	35	2.08	Center
Gutierrez, L.	32	2.00	Forward
Spivotola, L.	30	2.06	Forward
Nocioni, A.	31	2.01	Forward
Cequeira L.	25	1.80	Guard
Kammerichs, F.	30	2.05	Forward
Prigioni, P.	33	1.91	Guard
Delfino, C.	28	1.98	Guard
Gonzalez, R.	32	2.11	Center
Quinteros, P.	31	1.86	Guard
Gutierrez, J.	27	2.05	Center
Jasen H.	32	1.99	Forward
Cequeira L.	25	1.80	Guard

Coach: Sergio Hernandez (Argentina)



PHOTO □ REUTERS

Luis Scola

FIBA Ranking: 5

Key Players: Nenad Krstic, Milos Teodosic
Overview: Before last year's Euro Basket 2009 in Poland, this team hadn't finished in the top-five in any international event since winning gold in 2002 at the World Championship in Indianapolis. Yet they still managed to find a youthful resurgence that helped them regain their place atop the European rankings.

SERBIA

One would not be misguided to look for Serbia's basketball's roots in the former Yugoslavian national team, which was once made up of players from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia, too. As one of the most important representatives of the Yugoslavian school, Serbia has only taken part in the recent international championships as the successor of the Serbia and Montenegro team. The Serbian team took part in EuroBasket 2007 and 2009. Coming 13th among 16 teams in the 2007 tournament, Serbia made a successful return to the event in 2009 event, achieving silver. Entering the championship after the qualifying rounds, Serbia outscored Russia and Slovenia and advanced to the final against Spain. The game ended on a score of 85-63 in Spain's favor. Serbia did not qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games and the country will be represented in a world championship for the first time in Turkey. Serbia is in fifth place on the FIBA men's ranking. In Turkey 2010, Serbia was drawn in Group

A with Angola, Argentina, Australia, Germany and Jordan, all tough opponents with experience in top international tournaments. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Serbia will play the group matches in Kayseri.

SERBIA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Krstic, N.	27	2.13	Center
Perovic, K.	25	2.18	Center
Tepic, M.	23	2.00	Forward
Teodosic, M.	23	1.95	Guard
Velickovic, N.	24	2.07	Forward
Markovic, S.	22	1.99	Guard
Raduljica, M.	22	2.13	Forward
Paunic, I.	23	1.94	Guard
Macvan, M.	21	2.03	Forward
Savanovic, D.	27	2.04	Forward
Bjelica, N.	22	2.09	Forward
Popovic B.	27	1.90	Guard
Tripkovic U.	24	1.97	Guard
Erceg Z.	25	2.10	Forward
Marjanovic B.	22	2.22	Center

Coach: Dusan Ivkovic (Serbia)

Milos Teodosic



Joaquim Gomes

FIBA Ranking: 12

Key Players: Joaquim "Kikas" Gomes, Olimpio Cipriano

Overview: For years, the Angolan team has been associated as the African nation Charles Barkley eloquently referred to, "All I know about Angola is they in trouble." Times have changed and the Angolans have become one of Africa's most dominant team. By qualifying for this tournament, the Angolans were crowned African champions for the 10th time in the last 20 years.

ANGOLA

Ruling basketball on the African continent, Angola has won 10 out of last 11 FIBA Africa Championships with the exception of the champs in 1997, when the team was the bronze medalist. A regular participant in the Olympic Games and the FIBA World Basketball Championship, Angola has not yet earned a medal in either competition. Currently 12th in FIBA's world rankings, the African country's best result was in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, when they came 10th. In the following Summer Olympics, the Angolans came 11th out of 12 teams. Angola has competed in five summer games in a row. In the last Worlds in 2006, Angola competed in Group B against Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Panama and Spain. Winning three games (against Panama, New Zealand and Japan) and losing two others (against Spain and Germany), Angola qualified for the knock-out stage and competed against France. Despite being defeated by France, Angola achieved their best Worlds result. The team took the 10th place in Japan, where the championship was held. In the 2008 Beijing Olympics the team lost all five games, taking the 12th and last place. However, Angola returned with a strong hand, winning another golden medal at the FIBA Africa Championship in Tripoli, Libya, in 2009, earning a berth at the Worlds in Turkey. Angola is in Group A in the 2010 World Championship with Argentina, Australia, Germany, Jordan and Serbia, all tough opponents. The team has to finish in the group's top four to qualify for the knock-out stages in Istanbul. Angola will play the group matches in Kayseri.

ANGOLA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Lutonda, M.	39	1.85	Guard
Almeida, C.	34	1.93	Guard
Mingas, E.	31	2.00	Forward
Gomes, J.	30	2.00	Forward
Santos, S.	28	1.98	Forward
Morais, C.	25	1.90	Guard
Bonifacio, D.	26	1.89	Guard
Cipriano, O.	28	1.94	Forward
Mbunga, D.	25	2.06	Center
Ricardino, V.	32	1.93	Guard
Paulo, L.	24	1.98	Center
Joaquim, V.	20	2.09	Center
Barros, P.	21	1.97	Forward
Ambrosio, F.	23	2.01	Forward
Fortes, R.	26	1.93	Guard
Kiala, M.	20	1.98	Center
Moreira, Y.	19	2.04	Center
Abraao, F.	31	1.94	Forward

Coach: Luis Magalhaes (Portugal)

FIBA Ranking: 11

Key Players: Patrick Mills, David Andersen

Overview: It's been nearly 10 years since the Aussies have tasted a top-five finish at the Olympics or World Championship and with their star center, Andrew Bogut, out of action it's a trend that could likely continue.

AUSTRALIA

Overwhelmingly dominating the relatively weak FIBA Oceania region along with New Zealand, Australia regularly makes appearances in major international basketball events. The Australian Boomers, Australian slang for kangaroo, has won the FIBA Oceania Championships title 16 times and taken

home silver twice in the 18 championships they have taken part in. The years between 1988 and 2000 were a golden era for the Aussies, when they achieved remarkable results internationally in the Summer Olympics and World Basketball Championships. Earlier placing towards the bottom in the Olympics, the Boomers powered up and took fourth place in the 1988, 1996 and 2000

games. The Australian basketball team has made an appearance at 12 Olympic Games. Appearing at the FIBA World Basketball Championships nine times, Australia had its best results in the 1982 and 1994 Worlds, where they came fifth. The Boomers were also at the 2006 World Basketball Championship in Japan, where they qualified for the knock-out stage, after ranking fourth in Group C, which also included Turkey, Greece, Lithuania, Brazil and Qatar. Encountering the US in the knock-out stage, the Boomers didn't make it to the quarter finals. Australia holds 11th place in the FIBA men's ranking. In the 2010 FIBA World Championship, Australia is in Group A with Angola, Argentina, Germany, Jordan and Serbia. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stages in Istanbul. Australia will play the group matches in Kayseri.

AUSTRALIA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Nielsen, M.	32	2.09	Forward
Andersen, D.	30	2.11	Center
Maric, A.	26	2.08	Center
Markovic, S.	25	1.91	Guard
Martin, D.	26	1.88	Guard
Newley, B.	25	1.98	Guard
Gibson, A.	24	1.88	Guard
Inguardles, J.	23	2.04	Forward
Worthington, M.	27	2.02	Forward
Barlow, D.	27	2.05	Forward
Mills, P.	22	1.83	Guard
Baynes A.	24	2.08	Center

Coach: Brett Brown (USA)



David Andersen

JORDAN

Among the 44 Asian basketball federations within FIBA, Jordan has one of the highest FIBA men's rankings. In 38th place, Jordan earned a berth in the 2010 World Basketball Championship after winning a bronze medal at the FIBA Asia Championship 2009, which was hosted by China. Jordan outclassed Lebanon, which later got a wild card from FIBA for the Worlds, on their way to Turkey. In addition to taking part in the continental championship 11 times, another remarkable result is the fifth place they achieved in the Worlds in 2007. Among other local successes, Jordan won the William Jones Cup in 2009, the FIBA Asia Stankovic Cup in Kuwait in 2008 and the Arab Nations Cup in Egypt in 2007. The Jordanian team has not had an easy run-up to their first appearance at the championship due to unfortunate incidents. The Jordan Olympic Committee dissolved the Jordan Basketball Federation in July 2009. The development led to the suspension of the local league, which features all national team players with the exception of Zaid Abbaas. The Jordanian team tried to make up for lost time before the championship kicked off. In the 2010 World Championship, Jordan is in Group A with Angola, Argentina, Australia, Germany and Serbia, all tough opponents with experience in important international tournaments. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Jordan will play the group matches in Kayseri.

FIBA Ranking: 38

Key Players: Rasheim Wright

Overview: Set to make its inaugural appearance at the FIBA World Championships, Jordan can credit a large part of its recent success to head coach Mario Palma.

JORDAN				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Abbaas I.	30	2.01	Center	
Abbaas Z.	27	2.03	Forward	
Abuqoura A.	26	2.01	Center	
Adais A.	32	2.08	Center	
Alawadi M.	25	1.92	Guard	
Al-Khas Z.	34	2.06	Center	
Almaaytah J.	29	2.13	Center	
Alnajjar F.	25	1.92	Guard	
Al-Sous W.	27	1.83	Guard	
Daghles O.	31	1.99	Guard	
Fadayel N.	23	1.91	Forward	
Hadrab M.	26	2.01	Forward	
Mansour L.	22	2.03	Forward	
Qahwash I.	27	1.88	Guard	
Wright R.	29	1.94	Guard	
Soobzokov E.	32	1.98	Guard	
Coach: Mario Palma (Portugal)				



Rasheim Wright

GERMANY

FIBA Ranking: 7

Key Players: Jan Jagla

Overview: Going into Turkey, the Germans will be without the one man synonymous with the team over the past 10 years, Dirk Nowitzki. In his absence the Germans will try to revive a squad of aging veterans from the 2008 Olympic campaign with some young blood.

One of the most successful FIBA Europe teams, Germany has reached the pinnacle of European basketball. Germany won the FIBA European Basketball Championship, also known as EuroBasket, in 1993 when the country hosted the tournament. The Germans were also the silver medalist in EuroBasket 2005, which took place in Serbia and Montenegro. It is also remarkable that in EuroBasket 2001, hosted by Turkey, the team advanced to the semis, ranking fourth in the tournament. In global basketball events, Germany has taken part in four Olympics and another four Worlds. The German side was able to advance to the quarter finals twice in the Olympics, taking eighth place in 1984 and seventh place in 1992. Germany had limited success in its first two appearances in the FIBA World Basketball championships in 1986 and 1994. However, they upped their game in the last two tournaments, in 2002 and 2006. The team's greatest global achievement came in 2002 at the World Basketball Championship held in the US where Germany achieved bronze. In the last championship, which took place in Japan, Germany placed eighth. The German team is seventh in the FIBA men's ranking. In 2010 the World Championship, Germany is in Group A with Angola, Argentina, Australia, Jordan and Serbia. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Germany will play the group matches in Kayseri.



GERMANY				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Hamann, S.	29	1.96	Guard	
Jaguardla, J.	29	2.13	Forward	
Strasser, J.	28	1.89	Guard	
Wysocki, K.	28	2.04	Forward	
Greene, D.	31	1.86	Guard	
Idbihi, Y.	27	2.08	Center	
Mcnaughton, C.	28	2.11	Center	
Schaffartzik, H.	26	1.85	Guard	
Ohlbrecht, T.	22	2.10	Forward	
Staiger, L.	22	1.95	Guard	
Günther, P.	22	1.85	Guard	
Benzing, R.	21	2.08	Forward	
Harris, E.	21	2.01	Forward	
Schwethelm, P.	21	2.01	Forward	
Pleiß, T.	21	2.15	Center	
Toppert, C.	25	0	Guard	
Coach: Dirk Bauermann (Germany)				

USA

USA is by far the most successful national basketball team in the world. The American team dominated every championship in which they have taken part including the Olympic Games and the World Basketball Championships. In 16 Olympic Games that the US has competed in, the national basketball team never missed the podium, earning medals -- with an overwhelming majority of gold -- in all the events. There were two Olympics which were problematic for the US: In the 1972 Munich Olympics, the last three seconds of the final game between the US and the Soviet Union was controversially played three times. While the first two versions suggested a US-win, the final version led the Soviets to the gold medal. Despite an appeal by the US team, the jury decided to hand the gold medal to the Soviets. The US players refused to take the silver, which was never awarded. Then in 1980, the US did not participate due to a boycott against the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. The dream teams of the

US have won a total of 13 gold and 2 bronze medals in the Summer Olympics. Their undeniable dominance at the Olympics is not been reflected in the Worlds. The US does not have the largest number of gold medals. The country has participated in all championships, winning three gold, three silver and four bronze medals. At the 2006 World Basketball Championship hosted by Japan, the team led Group D, featuring Italy, Slovenia, China, Puerto Rico and Senegal, without a single loss. In the knock-out stage, the team outclassed Australia and Germany while advancing to the semis. However; after a defeat against Greece at the semis, the US team faced Argentina for the third place and won the bronze medal. Currently holding the second place after Argentina, the USA was drawn in Group B alongside with Brazil, Croatia, Iran, Slovenia and Tunisia. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in İstanbul. USA will play the group matches in İstanbul.

FIBA Ranking: 2

Key Players: Kevin Durant, Chauncey Billups

Overview: The United States has a completely different squad than the now famous "Redeem Team" of 2008, and will look to further the development of its national program by giving some of its rising stars a chance to shine.

USA			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Odom, L.	31	2.08	Forward
Guarday, R.	24	2.03	Forward
Rondo, R.	24	1.85	Guard
Centerurry, S.	22	1.91	Guard
Rose, D.	22	1.91	Guard
Billups, C.	34	1.91	Guard
Chandler, T.	28	2.16	Center
Durant, K.	22	2.06	Forward
Green, J.	24	2.06	Forward
Gordon, E.	22	1.91	Guard
Grangder, D.	27	2.03	Forward
Iguodala, A.	26	1.98	Forward
Lopez, B.	22	2.13	Center
Love, K.	22	2.08	Forward
Westbrook, R.	25	1.91	Guard

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (USA)



Kevin Durant

PHOTO □ AP, PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

BRAZIL

▶ Brazil is no stranger to global or local major basketball tournaments. The South American country won four American Championships in 1984, 1988, 2005 and 2009 and five Pan American Games in 1971, 1987, 1999, 2003 and 2007. In addition to a successful trend in continental tournaments, the Brazilians regularly show up in the Summer Olympic Games and the World Basketball Championships. While taking part in 13 Olympics at basketball, Brazil won three bronze medals in 1948, 1960 and 1964. The Brazilian national basketball team was unable to qualify for the last three Olympics. There is not a single World Basketball Championship that Brazil did not appear in. The country has one of the best records of the tournament history with two gold medals, which they won in 1959 and 1963. Also a winner of two other silver and bronze medals, Brazil has been in a dry spell in terms of medals at Worlds since 1978, when the Brazilians won a bronze medal in the Philippines. The last championship in Japan was a disappointment for most Brazilians because the team took the worst result in their long history of World Basketball Championships. Brazil was in Group C, which also featured Greece, Turkey, Lithuania, Australia and Qatar. The team outscored only Qatar and was unable to qualify for the knock-out stage. Brazil currently holds 14th place in FIBA men's ranking. At the 2010 Worlds, Brazil was drawn in Group B with Croatia, Iran, Tunisia, Slovenia and USA. The team has to finish in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Brazil will play the group matches in Istanbul.

BRAZIL

Player	Age	Height	Position
Giovannoni, G.	30	2.04	Forward
Splitter, T.	25	2.11	Forward
Varejao, A.	28	2.07	Center
Hilario, N.	28	2.11	Center
Guardarcia, A.	30	1.91	Guard
Barbosa, L.	28	1.91	Guard
De Souza, M.	26	2.07	Forward
Boracini, P.	26	1.93	Guard
Passos, H.	25	2.07	Center
Huertas, M.	27	1.91	Guard
Pereyra, M.	39	1.75	Guard
Neto, R.	18	1.84	Guard
Burger, J.	19	2.03	Forward

Coach: Ruben Magnano (Argentina)

Leandro Barbosa



FIBA Ranking: 14

Key Players: Leandro Barbosa, Anderson Varejao, Tiago Splitter

Overview: Under the guidance of new head coach Ruben Magnano, who had previously led Argentina to a silver at the 2002 FIBA World Championship and a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics, the nation most known for its soccer exploits will look to cash in on what some have called to be a golden generation of talent and try to regain its all-world form they used to have between the mid-fifties to the late seventies.

CROATIA

As a republic of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia began participating in FIBA events in 1992, when they joined the competition in their own right after the dissolution of Yugoslavia. However, the country was quick to show up in major tournaments. In the 1992 Summer Olympics in Spain, Croatia won a silver medal in the final game versus the US who were dubbed as the "Dream Team." In the following year, the Croatian team was a bronze medalist in the European Basketball Championship. The first appearance of Croatia in a World Basketball Championship was in 1994, where it earned a bronze medal at that tournament. In EuroBasket 1995, Croatia won another bronze medal. Croatia qualified for the 1996 Olympics and took seventh place. Since then, the team has been longing for a medal at the tournaments. Advancing up to the quarter finals in the last three European championships, Croatia could not go further than sixth place. The country missed out on the Olympics

FIBA Ranking: 15

Key Players: Roko Ukic, Ante Tomic

Overview: Croatia has seen a resurgence in its basketball might as of late. After claiming a bronze medal at the 1994 FIBA World Championship, the European nation's basketball level dropped until its revival at the 2008 Olympics and EuroBasket 2009 (both sixth-place finishes). These two small successes have them hungry to go for its second FIBA World Championship medal.

in 2000 and 2004 while getting a wild card from FIBA to take part in 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. They successfully took sixth place in the event. Croatia could not qualify for three world championships in a row but the sixth place in the 2009 EuroBasket has brought the country to the Worlds in Turkey. In 2010 Worlds, Croatia, holding 15th place in FIBA men's ranking, has drawn in Group B with Brazil, Iran, Tunisia, Slovenia and USA. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Croatia will play the group matches in Istanbul.

CROATIA			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Popovic, M.	28	1.86	Guard
Loncar, K.	27	2.10	Center
Kus, D.	32	1.92	Guard
Ukic, R.	26	1.96	Guard
Planinic, Z.	28	2.00	Guard
Simon, K.	25	1.97	Guard
Tomas, M.	25	2.02	Guard
Banic, M.	26	2.05	Forward
Zoric, Luka	26	2.11	Center
Tomic, A.	23	2.18	Center
Barac, S.	24	2.17	Center
Stipcevic, R.	24	1.83	Guard
Bogdanovic, B.	21	2.01	Guard
Radosevic, L.	20	2.08	Forward
Delas, M.	20	2.06	Forward
Vukusic, V.	28	2.03	Forward

Coach: Josip Vrankovic (Croatia)

Roko Ukic



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Arsalan Kazemi

IRAN

The second top ranking team in FIBA's Asia zone and at 21st place, Iran has a respectable place in basketball in the continent. The country halted the Chinese domination over the FIBA Asian Championship, winning the title in the past two events in 2007 and 2009. In the 2009 championship, Iran became gold medalist without losing a single game. The Iranian team outclassed Chinese Taipei, Kuwait and Uzbekistan in the preliminary round while defeating Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Japan and Kuwait in the eighth final round. In the knock-out stage, the team faced Qatar in the quarter finals and Jordan in the semis. Iran went on to beat Asia's top ranking team, China, 70-52 in the final. The success gave them a ticket to Turkey. The team has trended upwards in the continental championship but failed to achieve any remarkable successes in global events. Iran showed up at two Summer Olympics. The first appearance was in 1948, when Iran took 14th place and

FIBA Ranking: 21

Key Players: Hamed Haddadi, Arsalan Kazemi

Overview: Led by head coach Veselin Matic, who previously had coached the Polish national team, Iran saw great success immediately by defending its FIBA Asia Championship title last year. The Iranians will look to build on that success by making it to the knockout round of the world championship.

the second one came after 60 years, at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In Beijing, the team finished the tournament with no wins, however; the Olympics led to the opportunity for two Iranian players, Hamed Haddadi and Samad Nikkhah Bahrami, to go on to play abroad. In this, their first appearance in the Worlds, Iran has drawn in Group B with Brazil, Croatia, Tunisia, Slovenia and USA. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Iran will play the group matches in Istanbul.

IRAN			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Afagh H.	27	1.92	Guard
Akbari M.	24	1.96	Guard
Amini A.	26	1.91	Guard
Bahrami S.	27	1.98	Forward
Davari J.	27	1.86	Guard
Davoudi A.	24	1.78	Guard
Doraghi A.	26	2.10	Forward
Haddadi H.	25	2.18	Center
Kamrani M.	28	1.80	Guard
Kardoust A.	24	2.10	Center
Kazemi A.	20	2.01	Forward
Sahakian O.	24	1.96	Forward
Sohrabnejad H.	27	2.06	Forward
Tajik P.	30	2.00	Forward
Zandi I.	29	1.88	Guard

Coach: Veselin Matic (Serbia)

PHOTO □ AP, PAT SULLIVAN

TUNISIA

FIBA Ranking: 43
Key Player: Amine Rzig
Overview: This will be the first time Tunisia has ever participated in the FIBA World Championship after earning a berth with a bronze medal performance in the 2009 FIBA Africa Championship.

A regular in the FIBA Africa Championships, Tunisia have not yet taken part in either the World Basketball Championships or the Olympic Games. The country made 18 appearances in the African championships. At the first event that they qualified for, Tunisia advanced to the semis taking fourth place in Morocco 1964. The following year, the Tunisian team won a silver medal in the tournament that they hosted. Tunisia also achieved bronze medals in Egypt in 1970 and the Central African Republic in 1974 and took fifth place in Senegal in 1972. The Tunisian team was

among top eight teams in the championships after 1974 without winning medals. In the 2009 championship, Tunisia appeared on the podium for the first time since 1974 and earned another bronze in Libya. The African country earned a position at Turkey 2010 as the third and last African nation following its 2009 success. In their first appearance in a World Basketball Championship, Tunisia will play against tough opponents, Brazil, Croatia, Iran, Slovenia and USA. The team has to finish the group in top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Tunisia will play the group matches in Istanbul.

TUNISIA				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Romdhane M.	21	204	Center	
Braa H.	24	203	Forward	
Chennoufi Z.	22	202	SForward	
Dhifallah N.	28	196	Guard	
Ghyaza M.	24	203	Center	
Hdidane B.	26	201	Center	
Hdidane M.	24	206	Forward	
Hedidane A.	24	196	Guard	
Kevhrid M.	29	176	Guard	
Knioua N.	27	188	Guard	
Laghnej M.	24	190	Guard	
Lahmar M.	28	180	Guard	
Maoua A.	29	199	Forward	
Mejri S.	24	216	Center	
Slimane R.	30	2.05	Forward	
Rzig A.	30	198	Guard	
Coach: Adel Tlatli (Tunisia)				



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PHOTO © AP. FERNANDO BUSTAMANTE



FIBA Ranking: 20
Key Players: Goran Dragic, Bostjan Nachbar
Overview: Slovenia lost a few key players in Beno Udrih, who decided to quit the team because of playing time gripes, and Erazem Lorbek. Despite the setbacks, they do have enough talent to make them a threat in the tournament.

Goran Dragic

SLOVENIA

Slovenia, another one of the teams having roots in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, joined FIBA in its own right in 1992, one year after the country became independent. The Slovenian team participated in every European championship from 1993 onwards. The team took lower places in 16-team tournament until 2005, when the Slovenians advanced to the quarter finals and took the 6th place. Slovenia finished the following EuroBasket in the 7th place and it achieved its best degree in an international championship in EuroBasket 2009 in Poland. Drawn in Group C along with Serbia, Spain and Great Britain, Slovenia advanced to the next qualifying round. The Slovenians topped the qualifying group and moved to the knock-out stage. Defeating Croatia 67-65, Slovenia reached the semis where they were beaten by Serbia, missing a chance at the final. Competing for the third place, Greece outscored Slovenia and earned the last medal of the tournament. The fourth placing earned Slovenia a berth into the World Basketball Championships hosted by Turkey, also gaining the chance for a second appearance at the Worlds. Slovenia qualified in the 2006 World Basketball Championship in Japan but Turkey defeated Slovenia in Round 16 following the

group matches. Slovenia took 12th place in that tournament. The country has not competed at the Olympics. Slovenia holds 20th place in FIBA men's ranking. In Turkey, Slovenia will compete with Brazil, Croatia, Iran, Tunisia and USA. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul, where they will play the group matches.

SLOVENIA				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Jaguardodnik, G.	36	2.03	Forward	
Nachbar, B.	30	2.07	Forward	
Lakovic, J.	32	1.86	Guard	
Udrih, S.	31	1.95	Guard	
Becirovic, S.	29	1.96	Guard	
Brezec, P.	31	2.16	Center	
Udrih, B.	28	1.95	Guard	
Slokar, U.	27	2.10	Forward	
Zupan, M.	28	2.04	Center	
Capin, A.	28	1.86	Guard	
Rizvic, H.	26	2.13	Forward	
Vidmar, G.	23	2.10	Center	
Begic, M.	25	2.21	Center	
Dragic, Guard.	24	1.94	Guard	
Dragic, Z.	21	1.96	Guard	
Muric, D.	20	1.98	Guard	
Klobucar, J.	23	1.98	Guard	
Vranjkovic, M.	20	2.04	Forward	
Coach: Memi Becirovic				

TURKEY

The Turkish national basketball team, also dubbed the 12 Giant Men, has been playing in major international basketball events since 1936, when the country joined FIBA. Turkey appeared in two Olympic Games, two World Championships and 20 EuroBasket tournaments.

It showed up in a major international basketball event for the first time in the 1936 Olympics and took the bottom spot among 21 participating teams as a rookie. The Turkish team participated in a European basketball championship, the EuroBasket, for the first time in 1949, when only nine teams took part, and finished in fourth place. Two years later, Turkey ended up with a more prestigious result in the EuroBasket 1951, which featured top European teams, unlike the 1949 event. Advancing to the quarterfinals, Turkey took sixth place.

The following year, the country made its second and last appearance in the Olympics, coming in second to last. Turkey came in 22nd among 23 participating countries. The 2001 EuroBasket was a turning point in the nation's basketball history.

After coming in sixth in 1951, Turkey scored no better than eighth place until 2001, when it hosted the tournament. Outclassing Croatia and Germany in the quarterfinals and semis, respectively, Turkey advanced to the final.

Yugoslavia, which dominated the EuroBasket championships then, faced Turkey as an opponent in the finals. Turkey was defeated by Yugoslavia in the final and won its first-ever medal, a silver, in such a major basketball tournament. In addition to the superior performance of the team, fans played an important role in Turkey's success. This is also when the national team began to be called the "12 Dev Adam" (12 Giant Men).

The achievement also paved the way for Turkey to qualify for a World Basketball Championship for the first time ever. In the 2002 Worlds, Turkey came in ninth among 16 teams. In the following two EuroBasket tournaments, the country could not make it to the quarterfinals and finished the tournaments in 10th and 12th place, respectively. In the last Worlds, hosted by Japan, Turkey struggled in Group C along with runner-up Greece, Lithuania, Australia, Brazil and Qatar. Taking second place in the group, the team advanced to the Round of 16 and defeated Slovenia in that stage only to be beaten by Argentina in the quarterfinal. Turkey faced Lithuania in the classification round for fifth place, outscoring the Lithuanians in overtime. It next played against France, but lost, coming in sixth.

In 2007, Turkey came in close to last, finishing in 12th place among 16 teams. With a quick start in last year's EuroBasket, however, all this changed and Turkey became the undefeated leader of Group D in the preliminary round after winning all its games -- including those against Serbia, Spain and host nation Poland -- until the last game in the qualifying group versus Slovenia. In the quarterfinals, Turkey lost to Greece in overtime, thereby losing its place among the top four. Defeated by France and Russia, Turkey took eighth place in the end. Turkey is currently ranked 18th in the FIBA men's ranking.

TURKEY			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Tunçeri K.	31	1.94	Guard
Türkoğlu, H.	31	2.08	Forward
Onan, Ö.	32	1.94	Guard
Arslan, E.	27	1.90	Guard
Özer, C.	27	2.05	Forward
Gönüm, K.	33	2.08	Forward
Solak, F.	30	2.13	Center
Güler, S.	27	1.93	Guard
Akyol, C.	23	1.97	Forward
Savaş, O.	23	2.08	Center
İlyasova, E.	23	2.08	Forward
Erden, S.	24	2.11	Center
Büker, E.	25	1.93	Guard
Aşık, Ö.	24	2.14	Center
Ermiş B.	25	1.94	Guard

Coach: Bogdan Tanjevic (Montenegro)

FIBA ranking: 18

Key players: Hedo Turkoglu, Ersan İlyasova

Overview: Nine years ago, Turkey hosted EuroBasket 2001 and ended up with a silver medal. It is hoping the same perfect storm of good fortune and exceptional play will lead it to another great success on home soil in this year's world championship.



Hidayet "Hedo" Turkoglu

GREECE

One of the eight founding nations of FIBA, Greece has a long basketball tradition and is currently among the top ranking basketball countries in the world, holding fourth place in the FIBA men's ranking.

Greece appeared in 23 European basketball championships and won two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. The country showed up in five Worlds and won a silver medal. The Greeks have no medals from the Olympics, however.

Greece made its international debut in the 1949 European Basketball Championship in Egypt, also dubbed as the weakest EuroBasket ever, and won a bronze medal. Most leading basketball nations were absent from the tournament, refusing to travel to Egypt. During the following decades, the Greeks participated in many other international events, but did not do well until 1987.

In the EuroBasket 1987, hosted by Greece, the country beat teams favored in the tournament while reaching for the title. From 1987, a turning point in basketball for this country, the Greeks have won one gold (2005), one silver (1989) and one bronze medal (2009) in European championships. They appeared in the Olympics four times, but did not win any medals. The closest to this was in 1996, 2004 and 2008, when they took fifth place.

Greece qualified to take part in five Worlds. It won the silver medal after defeating the US in the semis in Japan in 2006. For Turkey 2010, Greece was drawn in Group C with China, Cote d'Ivoire, Russia, Puerto Rico and host nation Turkey. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knockout stage in Istanbul. Greece will play the group matches in Ankara.



Vassilis Spanoulis

FIBA ranking: 4

Key players: Vassilis Spanoulis, Dimitris Diamantidis

Overview: The storied history of Greek basketball will continue to be written, and its hoping to do one place better in this year's world championship after capturing silver at the 2006 world championship.

GREECE

Player	Age	Height	Position
Forvetotsis, A.	29	2.09	Forward
Tsartsaris, K.	31	2.09	Center
Zisis, N.	27	1.97	Guard
Vasileiadis, K.	26	2.00	Guard
Diamantidis, D.	30	1.98	Guard
Spanoulis, V.	28	1.92	Guard
Schortsanitis, S.	25	2.06	Center
Printezis, G.	25	2.06	Forward
Vougioukas, I.	25	2.11	Center
Kaimakoglou, K.	27	2.05	Forward
Mavrokefalidis, L.	26	2.11	Center
Vassilopoulos, P.	26	2.03	Forward
Perperoglou, S.	26	2.03	Forward
Bourousis, I.	27	2.13	Center
Pappas, N.	20	1.94	Guard
Calathes, N.	21	1.98	Guard
Papanikolaou, K.	20	2.03	Forward

Coach: Johas Kazlauskas (Lithuania)

COTE D'IVOIRE

FIBA ranking: 41

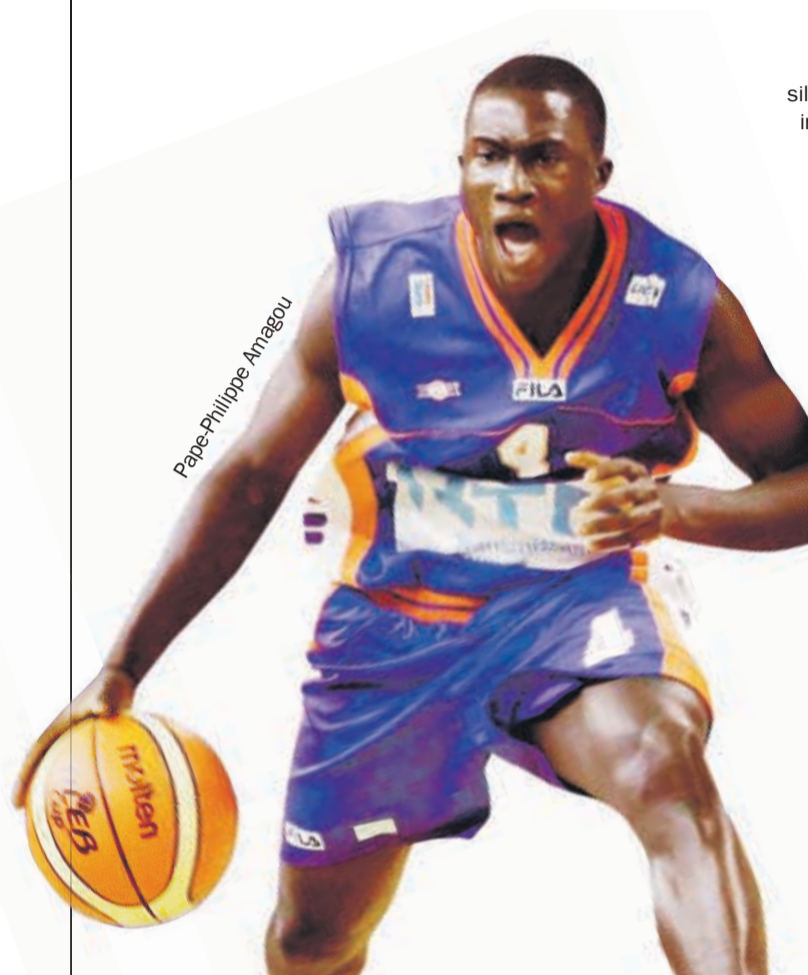
Key players: Pape-Philippe Amagou

Overview: After an inspired performance at the 2009 FIBA Africa Championship that saw it capture a silver medal, Cote d'Ivoire will be making its first FIBA World Championship appearance since 1986.

Cote d'Ivoire is a regular in the FIBA Africa Championship. The country's national basketball team has won two gold and three silver medals in the tournament. Cote d'Ivoire came into prominence in five events between 1978 and 1985, winning most of its medals in this period. The country won two silver medals in a row in 1978 and 1980, when Senegal clinched the gold. In the next championship, held in 1981, Cote d'Ivoire won the gold. Taking fourth place in 1983, Cote d'Ivoire returned to win the title in 1985, when it hosted the tournament.

Cote d'Ivoire was unable to score high enough to make it to the podium until last year's championship in Libya. In the 2009 FIBA Africa Basketball Championship, Cote d'Ivoire took second place in the preliminary-round group and advanced to the eighth round. The country came in fourth in this round after Angola, Nigeria and Mali. Outscoring Senegal and Cameroon in the knockout stage, respectively, the team became the finalist once more after more than a decade-long break. Defeated by the tournament's favored team, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire won the silver medal and earned a berth in Turkey 2010.

Although it never qualified for the Olympics, Cote d'Ivoire appeared twice in the Worlds in 1982 and 1986 and took 13th and 23rd place, respectively. Ranked 41st in the FIBA men's ranking, Cote d'Ivoire was drawn in Group C with China, Greece, Russia, Puerto Rico and host nation Turkey. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knockout stage in Istanbul. Cote d'Ivoire will play the group matches in the Turkish capital of Ankara.



Pape-Philippe Amagou

COTE D'IVOIRE

Player	Age	Height	Position
Abouo C.	21	196	Guard
Amagou P.	25	185	Guard
Assie B.	27	202	Forward
Diabate M.	23	182	Guard
Dibo R.	19	202	Forward
Kale J.	25	203	Forward
Koffi P.	25	190	Guard
Konate K.	30	187	Guard
Kone M.	29	211	Center
Lamizana H.	29	208	Center
Meite N.	22	196	Forward
Soumahoro I.	22	196	Forward
Toti M.	23	181	Guard
Touali S.	24	182	Guard

Coach: Randoald Dessarzin (Switzerland)

PUERTO RICO

Having joined FIBA in 1957 Puerto Rico is one of the most successful representatives of American basketball. Holding 10th place in the FIBA men's ranking, the country regularly shows up in major international tournaments, including the Summer Olympics and the World Basketball Championships because of its successful performance in the FIBA Americas Championship.

The first Americas championship they appeared in, and also hosted, Puerto Rico won the title. The fast start did not slow down for this country. In 14 championships they participated in, Puerto Rico won three gold, four silver and two bronze medals. The lowest record is seventh place the Puerto Ricans took in 2005. Puerto Rico earned a berth in Turkey 2010 thanks to the second place finish in the 2009 FIBA Americas Championship. It appeared in the Olympics nine times, taking the best result ever in an Olympiad in 1964 when Japan hosted the Games. Puerto Rico's best Olympic record is a fourth place, won in Japan.

A regular in the World Basketball Championship, Puerto Rico has been to the tournaments 11 times before. Just as with its Olympic records, Puerto Rico's best result in a world championship is fourth place it won in 1990, when Argentina was the host nation. For Turkey 2010, Puerto Rico was drawn in Group C with China, Greece, Cote d'Ivoire, Russia and host nation Turkey. The team has to finish the group among the top four to qualify for the knockout stage in Istanbul. Russia will play the group matches in Ankara.

FIBA ranking: 10

Key players: J.J. Barea, Carlos Arroyo

Overview: After being eliminated in the group stage of the 2006 FIBA World Championship and being able to qualify for the 2008 Olympics, Puerto Rico make its return to the international stage and will look to reclaim the past successes it experienced at the 2002 World Championship and the 2004 Olympics.

PUERTO RICO

Player	Age	Height	Position
Santiago, D.	34	2.16	Center
Diaz G.	25	1.88	Guard
Arroyo, C.	31	1.88	Guard
Huertas D.	23	1.95	Forward
Ramos, P.	25	2.20	Center
Barea, J.	26	1.83	Guard
Vassallo, A.	24	1.98	Forward
Sanchez, R.	23	2.12	Forward
Rivera, F.	28	1.87	Guard
Lee, C..	33	2.00	Forward
Peavy, N.	25	2.03	Forward
Balkman, R.	26	2.03	Forward

Coach: Manuel Cintron (Puerto Rico)



Jose Juan Barea

RUSSIA

One of the most important successors of Soviet basketball, Russia began to take part in international events starting in the 1993 European Basketball Championship. The country has regularly participated in major continental and global competitions -- two summer Olympics, three Worlds and eight European basketball championships -- making it to the podium five times so far.

On a fast track to success, Russia became a silver medalist in Germany in the 1993 EuroBasket and in the following year's World Basketball Championship. Following a seventh place in the 1995 EuroBasket, the country won another medal, this time bronze, in the 1997 EuroBasket. The country repeated its 1994 success in the 1998 Worlds, becoming the silver medalist.

After successive medals over five years, Russia went through a dry spell until the 2007 European championship. The Russians won their first-ever gold medal in Spain in 2007, outscoring the host in the final. Russia participated in the 2008 Olympic Games, coming in ninth. In last year's EuroBasket it advanced to the quarterfinals and finished the tournament in seventh place. Russia did not compete in the 2006 World Basketball Championship in Japan.

In 2002, the last Worlds they attended, the Russians took 10th place. They earned a berth in Turkey 2010 as one of four wildcard winners. Russia was drawn in Group C with China, Greece, Cote d'Ivoire, Puerto Rico and host nation Turkey. The team has to finish the group among the top four to qualify for the knockout stage in Istanbul. Russia will play its group matches in Ankara.

FIBA ranking: 17

Key players: J.R. Holden, Viktor Khryapa

Overview: Traditional powerhouse Russia has seen a turn for the worse lately, as evidenced by its seventh-place finish in EuroBasket 2009. The program is going through a state of transition with a lot of the previous staple players getting up in their years and with no younger players emerging to take the mantle. This tournament looks like it will be a place for Russia to find a player to carry on the Russian basketball tradition moving forward.

RUSSIA				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Holden, J.	34	1.85	Guard	
Zozulin, A.	27	2.01	Guard	
Khryapa, V.	28	2.06	Forward	
Bykov, S.	27	1.90	Guard	
Monya, S.	27	2.05	Forward	
Vyaltsev, E.	25	1.90	Guard	
Ponkrashov, A.	24	2.00	Guard	
Kurbanov, N.	24	2.03	Forward	
Zhukanenko, A.	24	2.10	Center	
Shved, A.	22	1.98	Guard	
Fridzon, V.	25	1.95	Guard	
Mozgov, T.	24	2.15	Center	
Vorontsevich, A.	23	2.07	Forward	
Kaun, S.	25	2.11	Center	

Coach: David Blatt (Israel)



Jon Robert Holden

CHINA

China is the biggest basketball power in Asia. The country is a regular participant in major international events, including the FIBA Asian Championships, the Olympic Games and the World Basketball Championships.

Having taken part in every Asian championship held since 1975, China won 14 gold, one silver and two bronze medals. The country missed a medal only once in 2007, when the second-tier team struggled as its top-notch players played in the Stankovic Cup, a FIBA event to commemorate FIBA Secretary-General Emeritus Borislav Stankovic. The team earned an automatic berth in the 2008 Olympics as the host nation.

In last year's championship, China earned a silver medal. The Chinese team was not defeated once until the final. Iran, the emerging basketball power of Asia, beat China in the final and slowed down the Chinese dominance.

China took part in seven summer Olympics. The highest they achieved was eighth place, in 1996, 2004 and 2008. Appearing seven times in the FIBA World Basketball Championship, China advanced to eighth place in Canada in 1994. In the last Worlds, which took place in Japan, China advanced to the knock-out stage, taking fourth place in Group D, which also featured the US, Italy, Slovenia, Puerto Rico and Senegal. The country took 15th place among 24 teams after missing the chance to advance to the quarterfinals after being defeated by Greece in the Round of 16.

In Turkey, China, which currently holds ninth place in the FIBA men's ranking, was drawn in Group C with Cote d'Ivoire, Greece, Russia, Puerto Rico and host nation Turkey. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knockout stage in Istanbul. China will play the group matches in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

FIBA ranking: 9

Key players: Yi Jianlian, Wang Zhizhi, Sun Yue

Overview: China will be without the services of superstar Yao Ming as he continues to battle injuries, however, they still have talented players in Yi and Sun. Expect a strong showing as the sport of basketball continues to grow in popularity in the most populous country in the world.

CHINA				
Player	Age	Height	Position	
Wang, L.	31	2.03	Center	
Liu, W.	30	1.90	Guard	
Zhu, F.	27	2.01	Forward	
Du, F.	29	2.02	Forward	
Yi, J.	23	2.13	Center	
Wang, L.	24	2.00	Forward	
Zhang, Q.	25	1.90	Guard	
Sun, Y.	25	2.06	Forward	
Wang, S.	27	1.98	Guard	
Su, W.	21	2.11	Center	
Li, X.	20	2.06	Center	
Hu, X.	30	1.85	Guard	

Coach: Bob Donewald (USA)



Yi Jianlian

LITHUANIA

The Lithuanian national basketball team is one of the most prestigious squads in the world. Despite their only very recent introduction to major international basketball tournaments -- they have participated since the 1990s when the country gained its independence from the Soviet Union -- Lithuania has won several medals in European championships, the Olympic Games and world championships. In the first two EuroBaskets in 1937 and 1939, the Lithuanian national squad won the title. Later between 1946 and 1991, Lithuanian basketball players played on Soviet teams. After independence, Lithuania appeared in the 1995 EuroBasket and won a silver medal. In 2003, the Lithuanians won their third gold in the FIBA European Championship. Two years later, Lithuania won another medal, a bronze medal. In last year's EuroBasket, they took 11th place, the worst in Lithuanian history. Lithuania first participated in the Olympics in 1992 and has participated in every Olympiad since then. The team won three bronze medals in three Olympics three years in a row, starting from 1992. In the last two Olympics, they ranked fourth. Appearing in two Worlds, Lithuania could not make it to the podium in either of them. The team failed to make it to the podium again in the 1998 and 2006 Worlds, and placed seventh both years with five victories and four defeats. Lithuania is in Group D along with France, Canada, Lebanon, New Zealand and Spain. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Lithuania will play the group matches in Izmir.

FIBA ranking: 6

Key players: Linas Kleiza

Overview: After a disappointing showing at EuroBasket 2009, the Lithuanian contingent remains a work in progress as the new head coach has basically stuck with the squad sent to Poland last year. There also remains some unrest in the organization of Lithuanian basketball as the directing staff has all but one member.

LITHUANIA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Lavrinovic, D.	31	2.12	Center
Javtokas, R.	30	2.11	Center
Jasaitis, S.	28	2.01	Forward
Lukauskis, M.	31	1.98	Guard
Jomantas, A.	25	2.00	Forward
Kleiza, L.	25	2.03	Forward
Maciulis, J.	25	1.98	Forward
Jankunas, P.	26	2.06	Forward
Delininkaitis, T.	28	1.90	Guard
Gecevicius, M.	22	1.93	Guard
Seibutis, R.	25	1.98	Guard
Kalnietis, M.	24	1.95	Guard
Motiejunas, D.	20	2.13	Center
Eitutavicius, A.	28	1.88	Guard

Coach: Kestutis Kemzura (Lithuania)

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETR DAVID JOSEK



Linas Kleiza

SPAIN

The Spanish national basketball team, currently third place in FIBA men's rankings, is the reigning champion of three major international tournaments: the European Championship, the FIBA World Championship and the Olympic Games. The country, which joined FIBA in 1934, is one of the pioneers of the basketball world. A regular in major tournaments, Spain has appeared in 26 European championships, 10 Olympic Games and nine Worlds. The Spaniards won one gold medal in 2009, six silver medals in 1935, 1973, 1983, 1999, 2003 and 2007 and two bronze medals in 1991 and 2001 in EuroBasket. They became silver medalists twice in the Olympics of 1984 and 2008 while winning the title in the 2006 Worlds. Spain won most of their major competitions this decade. In another tournament hosted by Turkey, Spain became a bronze medalist. In the following year, the Spanish team managed to take fifth place while winning a silver medal at the EuroBasket in 2003. In the 2004 Olympics, the Spaniards lost to the US in the quarter finals and took seventh place in the end. The 2005 EuroBasket was another dry spell for Spain, while they won the title in the following year's World Championship. In EuroBasket 2007, which Spain hosted, they made it to the podium as silver medalists. In the 2008 Summer Olympics they were defeated by the US twice, in the preliminary round and in the final, and won a silver medal. Outclassing Serbia in the final of the 2009 EuroBasket, Spain won their first-ever European title. The defending champion in Group D with Canada, France, Lebanon, Lithuania and New Zealand. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Spain will play the group matches in Izmir.

FIBA ranking: 3

Key players: Marc Gasol, Rudy Fernandez, Juan-Carlos Navarro

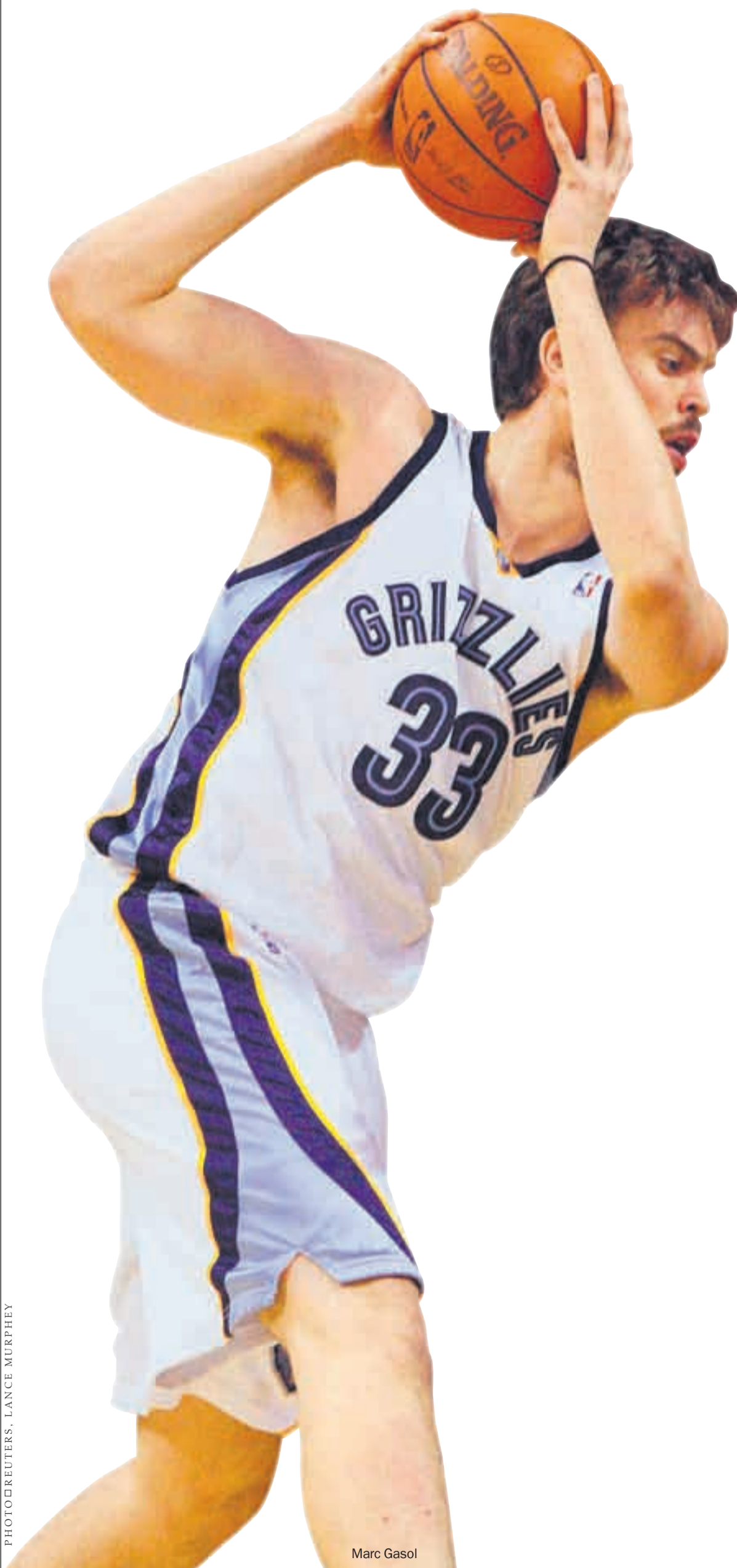
Overview: The defending champs return to the World Championship much like they left the last edition, without its star big man, Pau Gasol, and hungry for gold. Its silver medal performance at the 2008 Olympics only feeds the hunger more as the fastest growing basketball power house hopes to add to its list of accomplishments.

SPAIN

Player	Age	Height	Position
Garbajosa, J.	33	2.07	Forward
Navarro, J.	30	1.92	Guard
Reyes, F.	30	2.06	Forward
Mumbru, A.	31	2.02	Forward
Fernandez, R.	25	1.98	Fuard
Gasol, M.	25	2.16	Center
San Emeterio F.	26	1.97	Forward
Vazquez, F.	29	2.11	Center
Llull, S.	23	1.92	Guard
Claver, V.	22	2.07	Forward
Rubio, R.	20	1.92	Guard

Coach: Sergio Scariolo (Italy)

PHOTO: REUTERS, LANCE MURPHEY



Marc Gasol

CANADA



Joel Anthony

FIBA ranking: 19

Head coach: Leo Rautins
Key players: Joel Anthony, Andy Rautins

Overview: It's been some time since Canada has made an impact on the world stage and since the departure of Steve Nash from the national program, it's been a team in transition.

CANADA

Player	Age	Height	Position
Magloire, J.	32	2.11	Center
English, C.	29	1.96	Guard
Young, J.	30	2.08	Center
Bonner, M.	30	2.08	Forward
Kendall, L.	26	2.09	Forward
Rautins, A.	24	1.98	Guard
Dalembert, S.	30	2.11	Center
Anderson, J.	27	1.88	Guard
Bucknor, J.	27	2.01	Forward
Anthony, J.	28	2.06	Forward
Sacre, R.	21	2.12	Center
Bell, R.	26	1.95	Guard
Famutimi, O.	26	1.96	Guard
Kepkey, T.	23	1.83	Guard
Olynyk, K.	19	2.11	Guard

Coach: Leo Rautins (Canada)

Since they joined FIBA in 1936, Canada has been participating in major international tournaments regularly. The Canadian national team has participated in all FIBA American Championships, which also work as a qualifying tournament for the Worlds and the Olympics, since 1980. With a jump start in the tournament, the Canadians became silver medalists in the 1980 Americas Championship and bronze medalists in the following two tournaments in 1984 and 1988. They did not make it to the podium again until 1999, when the team won another silver medal. The silver in 1999 was followed by a bronze in 2001. The team has been unable to win any medals since then, despite advancing to the semis in 2003 and 2009. The North Americans made their international debut in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Upon their first international appearance, they won a silver medal, but it has been the only medal that they have won in Olympic basketball. Other than second place, Canada, which made it to the Olympics nine times, took second place twice in 1976 and 1984. The Canadian national team participated in most of the FIBA World Championships, appearing 12 times. The highest position they achieved was sixth place both in 1978 and 1982. The country hosted the Worlds once in 1994, and placed seventh. Canada was not qualified for the last Worlds, but winning fourth place gave Canada an automatic qualification for Turkey 2010. Canada -- ranked 19th among FIBA men's teams -- is in Group D along with France, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand and Spain. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Canada will play the group matches in Izmir.

FRANCE

France, one of the most important representatives of European basketball, is a regular in major international basketball events, including the Olympics and the Worlds. The French team has not yet won a gold medal in any of the tournaments so far. France has won most of its medals in European championships. The French national basketball team was present at 33 European sporting events and its best result was winning a silver medal in 1949. Not qualifying in only two EuroBaskets, France has won five bronze medals in 1937, 1951, 1953, 1959 and 2005. Making it to the Olympic Games seven times, France won their first-ever Olympic medal, silver, in the 1948 Summer Olympics. France won another silver medal in the 2000 Summer Olympics. In addition to the medals, the French national squad advanced to the semis of the Olympics, ranking fourth in 1956. France has not made it to the podium in any of the five FIBA World Championships they have participated in. The best result achieved by the French team was winning fourth place in 1954. The country has been unable to reach the top four since then. In the last Worlds, hosted by Japan, France took second place in Group A -- which also featured Argentina, Nigeria, Serbia and Montenegro, Lebanon and Venezuela -- in the preliminary round. France outclassed Angola in Round of 16 of the knock-out stage. Losing to Greece in the quarter final, France struggled to take fifth place in the tournament, defeating Germany and Turkey. France, holding 15th place in FIBA men's ranking, is in Group D along with Canada, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand and Spain. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. France will play the group matches in Izmir.

FIBA ranking: 15

Key players: Nicolas Batum, Boris Diaw

Overview: For the past decade, the basketball world has awaited the arrival of the French on the world stage as their potential seemed to be second to none. If one were to collect all the NBA players who hail from France and put them on a team, les "Bleus" would have one of the best squads on the planet. But with the likes of Tony Parker, Joakim Noah, Mikael Pietrus, Ronny Turiaf and Rodrigue Beaubois all out for this summer's tournament, the fortunes of France hangs in the balance.

FRANCE

Player	Age	Height	Position
Jeanneau, A.	32	1.85	Guard
Pietrus, F.	29	2.02	Forward
Diaw, B.	28	2.03	Forward
Bokolo, Y.	25	1.91	Guard
Traore, A.	25	2.08	Forward
Gelabale, M.	27	2.01	Forward
Mahinmi, I.	24	2.11	Forward
Ajinca, A.	22	2.13	Center
Batum, N.	22	2.03	Forward
Jackson, E.	21	1.90	Guard
Vaty, L.	22	2.06	Forward
Koffi, A.	27	2.07	Forward
Causeur, F.	23	1.93	Guard
De Colo, N.	23	1.96	Guard

Coach: Vincent Collet (France)



Nicolas Batum

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is the second-best basketball team in Oceania, following Australia, and comes in 13th. The team has been dubbed the Tall Blacks, a name which is derived from the country's rugby union team, All Blacks. While always in the top two with practically their only opponent, Australia, New Zealand has not won any medals in any major global championship. The country has participated in all FIBA Oceania Championships since they began in 1971. In 19 Oceania tournaments, they won three golden -- in 1999, 2001 and 2009 -- and 16 silver medals. The New Zealand's Tall Blacks qualified for two Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004. They took lower degrees in both events, 11th and 10th places respectively. New Zealand has made it to three FIBA World Championships so far. While taking 21st place in their first Worlds experience, the Tall Blacks were at their most successful in the Worlds 2002, when they placed fourth. Passing both groups in the preliminary rounds and advancing to the knock-out stage, New Zealand defeated Puerto Rico to reach the semis. Successive defeats at the hands of Yugoslavia and Germany prevented the Tall Blacks from making it to the podium. In the last Worlds, they placed 16th. In Turkey, New Zealand will be in Group D with Canada, France, Lebanon, Lithuania and Spain. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. New Zealand will play the group matches in Izmir.

FIBA ranking: 13

Key players: Kirk Penney

Overview: For the better part of the decade, the Kiwis were led by former coach Tab Baldwin to impressive victories, even claiming fourth place at the 2002 World Championship. Under Baldwin's long time assistant Nenad Vucinic, the Tall Blacks have finished with three successive top-10 finishes at world events and hope this collection of wily veterans can help school the new era of New Zealand basketball.

NEW ZEALAND			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Jones, P.	36	1.97	Guard
Cameron, P.	36	1.98	Forward
Marks, S.	35	2.08	Center
Penney, K.	30	1.95	Guard
Tait, L.	28	1.90	Guard
Rickert, R.	27	2.11	Forward
Bradshaw, C.	27	2.05	Forward
Abercrombie, T.	23	1.98	Guard
Vukona, M.	28	1.93	Forward
Hofeni N.	25	2.00	Forward
Loe, R.	19	2.13	Center
Webster, C.	22	1.89	Guard
Pledger, A.	23	2.13	Center
Anthony, B.	22	1.98	Forward
Citchett, M.	28	1.83	Guard

Coach: Nenad Vucinic (Serbia)



Kirk Penney (L)

PHOTO P. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

LEBANON



PHOTO REUTERS, MOHAMAD DABBOUSS

Fadi El Khatib

FIBA ranking: 24

Key players: Fadi El Khatib

Overview: Having shocked the world at the 2006 World Championship in Japan by beating Venezuela and France, the Cedar Trees will be no surprise to any team now that their name is known. And with the help of head coach Tab Baldwin, this is one of the most underrated lower seeds in the tournament.

LEBANON			
Player	Age	Height	Position
Fahed R.	29	1.85	Guard
Samaha R.	26	2.05	Center
El Khatib F.	31	1.98	Forward
Abdel-Nour J.	27	1.98	Forward
Bawji B.	21	2.03	Forward
Beshara B.	33	2.03	Forward
El Turk O.	29	1.86	Guard
Estephane E.	24	1.95	Guard
Faris D.	23	2.05	Forward
Freije M.	29	2.08	Forward
Ibrahim A.	18	2.01	Forward
Kanaan A.	25	2.06	Center
Mahmoud A.	27	1.83	Guard
Vroman J.	29	2.08	Center

Coach: Tab Baldwin (New Zealand)


Holding 24th place in FIBA men's ranking, Lebanon has been regularly taking part in FIBA events in recent years. The team made its international debut in the 1949 European Basketball Championship hosted by Cairo, Egypt. In that particular tournament, only seven teams were present because of a disagreement over the host place. When the Soviet Union refused to host the competition and FIBA did not ask Czechoslovakia -- the previous host of the championship -- to host the event, 1947 bronze medalist Egypt remained the only option. Refusing to travel to the country, most of the European teams did not take part in that year's tournament. In spite of being an Asian country, Lebanon was among the teams invited. The country showed up once again in a European event in 1953, when they won their first EuroBasket victory against Sweden in the first classification round. Lebanon took 15th place among 17 teams that year. The Lebanese national team has also participated in the FIBA Asia Championships since 1999. In the six tournaments they appeared in, Lebanon won three silver medals in 2001, 2005 and 2007. While not making it to the Summer Olympics so far, Lebanon played in the Worlds twice, in 2002 and 2006. The national squad took 16th place in 2002 and 18th place in 2006. Lebanon earned its place in Turkey 2010 through a wild card after Jordan defeated Lebanon in the 2009 FIBA Asia Championship, earning them a bronze medal and an automatic qualification for Turkey 2010. Lebanon is in Group D along with France, Canada, Lithuania, New Zealand and Spain. The team has to finish the group in the top four to qualify for the knock-out stage in Istanbul. Lebanon will play the group matches in Izmir.



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