

EURO 2004 Kicks Off With Great Success

By David Caetano – [Caetano Pro Soccer School](#)

June 21, 2004 - The euro2004 in Portugal is an event to Europeans equal to what the world cup tournament is to the rest of the world.

The 16 European countries play in a month long tournament in 10 new stadiums located through out the country of Portugal. It is a festive national event for the fans before, during and after each contest.

The 30 national team games played in the week span with over 500,000 thousand spectators, and sold out stadiums, has created at each contest nothing less then a festive and fun atmosphere with an energy that will make any spectator appreciate and become addicted to the show.

While attending the Portugal vs Russia game the colorful dress, face paintings, and cooperation between the fans of both teams was a great attribute in enhancing the show.

It is unfortunate though, that the North America media gets an interpretation of this event from two occurrences of rowdy visitor fans that created some disturbances in bars no where near any of the stadiums.

Sunday June 20th Portugal went up against rivals Spain, with Portugal needing a win and Spain a tie to advance to quarter finals while the other team eliminated from play. Most of Portugal and Spain (over 50 million), watching the game on TV. Portugal won while the viewers were glued to the TVs in a nail biting game. At the conclusion whistle there was such a festive feeling that it surpasses the new years yearly celebration. There were no incidents reported on TV, on the contrary their were words of congratulations from both sides. A tribute to the sportsmanship like manner that both Portugal and Spain spectators faced this game.

It is a credit to the Portuguese TV spectators, UEFA and Portugal's organizers, as well as the fans who attend the games that has made this event an outstanding positive and festive party.

About the Author: David Caetano is a former pro and current owner of soccer schools since 1981