

The base for the future Coach Dragan Adzic about Montenegro's secret of success

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It's only their second participation at a Women's Junior World Championship after the eighth rank in Macedonia 2008 – but Montenegro is the big surprise in Korea. Four victories in four matches – including those against Russia and Sweden – make the team from Ex-Yugoslavia to one of the favourites for the semi finals. Before the last match in the Preliminary Round Montenegrin coach Dragan Adzic, who works with this team since five years, talks about the secret of success of his team.

Did you expect to have eight points on your account after four matches in Korea?

Adzic: We worked hard in the preparation for Korea and we were full of self assurance when we arrived here. And we hoped to manage it to the Main Round.

But before the opener against Russia your team hasn't been the favourite...

Adzic: No, but we had the hope that we could win against the record World Champion. Russia is a very strong team, but our girls also have experience from Champions League matches. And there was a good omen, as some of my players were part of our women's team that had beaten the Russian women in the qualification for the EURO twice. And in the end we took this highly important victory.

Most of your players come from the Montenegrinian top club Buducnost Podgorica. Is this an advantage for your team?

Adzic: Yes of course, they know each other very well, as they have training sessions every day. This is highly important for our match play.

Your team is qualified for the Main Round with the optimum of 4:0 points. Are you going for a medal?

Adzic: No, this is not our major objective. We're here to learn and improve, as every match against a top nation is giving more experience to our team. We know that we're establishing the base for our women's team - and my players need this experience. So we're not talking or thinking about a medal, not even about the semi finals.

But Montenegro only needs three more points from three matches to reach the semis.

Adzic: Yes, we know, but: Hungary, Spain and Brazil have very strong teams. Our problem is that we don't have this wide range of players on one top level like other teams have. Our squad is small, so the key players have to work nearly for 60 minutes in every match. But we're trying to do our best.

The club team of Podgorica and the women's national teams in all categories are highly successful. What's the importance of women's handball in your country?

Adzic: We're women's sports number one in Montenegro, Buducnost is a club on top level in Europe, and nearly all of our players come from this club. So our success should promote handball, too. We hope for more children playing handball. In our age category we only have 30 girls playing handball on higher level in our whole country.

How many of your players will be in the women's team for the EURO 2010?

Adzic: At least four, maybe five or six. But I believe that this generation is the base for upcoming success. Now Montenegro's best player Bojana Popovic returned to Buducnost. Her performance will improve the club completely, and all players aside will improve, too. So we have high hopes for the future like winning the Champions League on club level and to succeed with the women's national team.