

The 1998 UEFA Intertoto Cup: bigger and better

Football associations welcomed the new UEFA Intertoto Cup format, with knock-out rounds and seeded and top-seeded teams, with open arms. The result is a more complete, higher quality line-up of teams. The Italian and Spanish associations are taking part for the first time, and the associations from England and Portugal have returned to the competition for the first time since their initial participation in '95.

28 UEFA member associations have participated in all four UEFA Intertoto Cups held so far, with the French association having entered thirteen teams, that of Germany eleven, followed by Belgium with ten and Turkey with nine.

Altogether 60 teams from 44 countries are competing in the '98 UEFA Intertoto Cup. The kick-off took place on June 20, and the finals are scheduled for August 11 and 25.

Although there are some drawbacks for toto companies, among them shorter lead times

for preparing betting programs, there is general agreement that the UEFA Intertoto Cup is more attractive than it ever was and that much of the credit for this upswing goes to UEFA.

New faces at the EFP

At last November's and April's delegates' assemblies, the members of the European Football Pool, the organization that represents participating Intertoto members in the UEFA Intertoto Cup, have voted in favor of these mutations within its executive committee:

Per Kotschack of Sweden's Svenska Spel to replace Richard Frigren after the latter's move into the supplier industry; Ronnie Bar-On, new chairman of the Israel Sports Betting Board, to replace Arie Zief who

retired last January; Dr. Dieter Leinmüller of Staatliche Toto-Lotto GmbH, Stuttgart, to take over the EFP committee seat vacated by Erich Holzmeier, who retired last year from his job at Rhineland-Palatinate's Sport-Toto GmbH.

Also at the delegates' assembly, Friedrich Stickler and Yvonne Schnyder were confirmed as EFP's representatives in the UEFA Intertoto Cup Commission. □



Intertoto General Secretary Yvonne Schnyder and Thomas Büchler-De la Cruz, her assistant at the Intertoto Business Office, and UEFA Intertoto Cup manager, make sure participating toto companies have all the scores and other game information right after the Saturday and Sunday games.

Friedrich Stickler and Yvonne Schnyder signing the new '98 and '99 UEFA Intertoto Cup agreement at Dublin's UEFA Congress on behalf of the EFP, and Lennart Johansson and Gerhard Aigner on behalf of UEFA.

