
American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 08-05-2008 16:36

There will hopefully be a manageable schedule of the matches to look at soon (most games will be on ESPN2, plus some on ESPN, Classic, and the final on ABC).

Just a heads up that starting on May 26, ESPN Classic is going to be showing (unfortunately) edited finals, starting with 1972.

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Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Coffy - 09-05-2008 16:45

It's nice not to have to rely on pay-fer-view, as my dad calls it, this time around, although the Netherlands-Czech Republic match was worth every penny.

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Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 09-05-2008 17:17

It's amazing how much has changed in just a few years. In 2004, I bought the whole Setanta package for \$150. Their coverage was really spotty--most of the first half of France-England had a compressed picture, so it was narrower than the usual 1.33:1 SD ratio. I called their headquarters, and no one picked up the phone. I taped some games for some fellow American OTFers that wouldn't have gotten to see them. I think FSC (or Fox Sports World, as it was back then) showed some games after a two or three day delay.

4 years later, and ESPN is showing the whole thing, there's all of the streaming programs to watch online, and the highlights will be up on Youtube in a matter of hours, no doubt.

I know they have the Setanta Sports channel now, but Setanta must be facing a loss in revenue, because they used to be the only game in town when it came to stuff like that, and they could treat their customers like shit back then and get away with it--sending out spies to bars to make sure they charged every single person the entrance fee or otherwise cut off their service. Bastards.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 09-05-2008 17:26

Yeah that was me Inca. I still have those somewhere. Not sure what to do with them frankly.

I love, love, love, the fact that ESPN 360 should have most of these on internet feed. ESPN 360 rocks my world at work.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 09-05-2008 17:44

It's not like I forgot. I just didn't want it to seem like I was calling people out. Though my wife will be happy that I won't have games sitting on the Tivo waiting for me to put them on VHS.

I've got tons of VHS tapes that I have sitting in a box, and I no longer have my VCR hooked up to either TV. I've got a big long highlights tape from Euro 2004, some WC 2006 stuff, and some full games--Arsenal 2-4 Manchester United from a few years back, all of the Czech Rep-Netherlands game from 2004, etc.

I didn't know if ESPN360 would be carrying them, because they didn't mention that in the press release. But that is very cool.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 09-05-2008 18:21

On the ESPN360 page they list all the games on 'upcoming events'. I was much pleased by that.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 10-05-2008 03:51

One of the June 21st quarterfinals and the final are on ABC.

For Euro2004, the general manager of the ESPNZone in Baltimore asked Setanta what the price would be. \$10,000 was the answer. He said, wait, I'm only going to show it in one small room, not the mammoth TV bar and throughout the building. \$10,000 was still the answer. Thank God they get to piss up a rope this time.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 10-05-2008 12:45

The best channel on sopcast, cctv of China, is advertising it.

It is pretty ironic how with HD, the television image and sound is better than ever, and here everyone (myself included) is psyched about a rinky-dink choppy feed on a computer screen.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Auntie Beryl - 10-05-2008 17:20

Andy Gray's going to be joining the ESPN team for the tournament coverage, apparently.

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Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 10-05-2008 21:09

They tried like hell to get Martin Tyler, but got outbid for him by SBS in Australia.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 11-05-2008 18:43

The rule for American perception of TV coverage is "British accent=more knowledgeable than any American could be."

The Setanta coverage of Euro 2004 had the direct BBC or ITV audio, and I've tried I don't know how many times to tell people on BS that the British coverage was not any better than most of the ESPN people, but there was no getting through.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 13-05-2008 23:45

Getting through to people on Big Soccer - you a big fan of Sisyphus, inca?

I remember buying Euro 2000 here for \$150, I think, and it was direct from ITV and the BBC. Didn't bother in 2004 because I was in the UK for ten days (I've a feeling it had gone up to something like \$250 by then, though), just watched it round at other peoples' houses rather than pay for anything. Just as well, with Greece winning 1-0 the whole time.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 14-05-2008 01:50

Yes, the 2000 final was the first time I'd been to your house and the first time I'd met your family. Wow, that was 8 years ago. That also means I've been on OTF for about nine years.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by linus - 14-05-2008 02:37

A silver lining to the whole PPV monopoly on the Euro in the States was that people got together in houses and bars to watch the games, it was a pretty neat social side effect.

With the games now available online (albeit with poorer quality), subscription costs are bound to take a serious hit.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 14-05-2008 14:52

Can someone confirm that the games on ESPN2 will be in HD? Assuming so, but my cable didn't carry ESPN2 in HD back in 2006, though they do now. If these games are in HD, I may have to go on short-term disability for the month of June. :-)

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 14-05-2008 14:55

It's true:

ESPN2, ESPN, ESPN Classic and ABC will combine to present all 31 matches live – five on ESPN Classic, 17 on ESPN2 and seven on ESPN. ABC will broadcast two matches – a quarterfinal contest on June 21 and the Euro 2008 title match Sunday, June 29 at 2:30 p.m. ET from the Ernst-Happel-Stadion in Vienna Austria.

(The title match, part of an ABC soccer doubleheader, will be preceded by a Major League Soccer contest featuring the David Beckham-led LA Galaxy at DC United, beginning at 12 p.m.).

All Matches in HD

Euro 2008 matches will be available in high definition on ESPN HD, ABC HD and ESPN2 HD. The high definition telecasts will be offered as a simulcast of ESPN, ABC, and ESPN2's European Football Championship coverage.

In addition, ESPN's high definition services will feature Euro 2008 studio programming including the pre-match, halftime and post-match segments.

ESPN360.com

ESPN's signature broadband network will provide live online simulcasts of the 29 ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN Classic matches of the UEFA Euro 2008 from June 7- 29.

ESPN360.com, which has become one of the premier broadband destinations for live soccer events with the additional acquisitions of Italian soccer (Serie A, Coppa Italia), UEFA Cup, Russian Premier League, Chinese Premiere League, et al., will also feature Euro 2008 Studio Updates, the live pre-, halftime and post-game segments.

So the only matches not in HD will be the five on ESPN Classic:

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|------------|
| Sa 6/07 | 11:50 a.m. | EC/ED/360 | Switzerland vs. Czech Republic | A | Basel |
| | 2:30 p.m. | EC/ED/360 | Portugal vs. Turkey | A | Geneva |
| Su 6/15 | | | | | |
| | 2:30 p.m. | EC/360 | Turkey vs. Czech Republic | | |
| Mo 6/16 | 2:30 p.m. | EC/360 | Poland vs. Croatia | B | Klagenfurt |
| Tu 6/17 | 2:30 p.m. | EC/360 | Netherlands vs. Romania | C | Berne |

A bit miffed that I'm missing one Oranje game in HD, but the other group game on at the same time is France v. Italy, so I understand why they want that in HD, and really, I'm not complaining (really Bristol, I'm not).

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 16-05-2008 00:47

ESPN promos can be found here

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by godot - 02-06-2008 13:41

Aye, the ESPN promos have been decent. Still, I won't be able to stand the commentary. Then again, I can't the English commentary/punditry either. Damn shame RTE's webcasts are for Ireland only.

And the opening two matches are on ESPN Classic? Why? I'm not forking out an extra 40 dollars to get the channel for the month. Damn shame.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 02-06-2008 13:57

ESPN2 is going to be replaying those first two at night, godot, but when it comes to the final group games, one game from each group is going to be on Classic (see post above). I'm not sure if Dos is going to be replaying those or not.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by iluvbest - 03-06-2008 06:43

Will the portugal and turkey game thats being shown on espn classic be aired on espn 2 HD at midnight?????????i know its gonna reair on espn 2 but will it be hd????cos then ill wait till night to watch it?????

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 03-06-2008 17:45

It should be, okay???

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Cal - 04-06-2008 00:53

I haven't really checked, but I am counting on the Spanish language channels of Telefutera, Univision, Galavision, and Telemundo to have some matches shown. At least Spain and Portugal eh?

You folks on the coast should be picking these channels up even on the rabbit ears.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 04-06-2008 14:12

Not so fast, Cal...

Highlights of the Euro 2008-ESPN deal

Highlights of the agreement:

TELEVISION AND RADIO RIGHTS

- United States: ABC, ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN Classic will combine to present exclusive live coverage of all matches, including the title match on ABC, June 29. Additional coverage will include highlights show on match days, unlimited re-air rights across all networks and media platforms, magazine programs, and UEFA EURO 2008™ Final Draw. ESPN Deportes will be the exclusive Spanish-language network for EURO 2008 in the United States. The network will feature separate Spanish-language studio highlights show on match days, and Spanish-language editions of the EURO 2008 Final Draw, magazine programs and match re-airs.

- Exclusive radio rights in U.S. (ESPN Radio, ESPN Deportes Radio or via a sub-license in the region)
- Canada: Exclusive coverage of all matches in English (TSN) and French (RDS); 30-minute pre-game and 15-minute post-game shows on English-language telecasts; and other ancillary programming listed above.

1 Latin America Territory: Coverage of all matches and other ancillary programming listed above across ESPN, and regional networks ESPN Dos and ESPN+.

This blog lists Mexico's TV coverage coming from Televisa, TV Azteca, and ESPN, but I don't think people in the US can pick up the non-ESPN channels.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Cal - 04-06-2008 16:30

Damn

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by goldstone97 - 04-06-2008 16:39

The best part about the PPV in 2004 was the broadcast I had on Comcast cutting out before the sixth penalties in England's game against Portugal, as it had overrun the allotted time period.

Though once I went online and found out what happened, I wasn't too pissed off that I missed seeing it.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 04-06-2008 18:22

I had all of that game on DirecTV, though they did tend to shut off the feed right after the game was over. Rarely did I get to see the post-game in-studio chat (not a huge loss, really).

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Coffy - 10-06-2008 16:09

Does anyone else think they are pushing the basketball way too much?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 10-06-2008 16:12

Yeah, but that's ESPN for you.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by S. aureus - 10-06-2008 17:38

I've been avoiding the half time bits up to now, not wanting to increase my exposure to effing Tommy Smyth, however I was watching the Italy-Netherlands game this morning (the magic of tivo) and the wife wanted to see what Julie Foudy had to say.

And how glad I am that she did!

Firstly I was treated to Smyth trying to blame the Italian defenders for not covering Van Nistlerooy when he was about 5 yards offside for the first goal ('I don't care if he is offside, you still have to cover him'), while Foudy looked at him as if he's a total idiot (which, of course, he is).

Then Smyth interrupted Foudy right as she started out on her next half dozen (or more) sentences, at which point she looked like she was about to jump up and strangle him.

Have they all been as great as this? And is there an over/under on how many games before Julie punches him out?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 10-06-2008 17:43

If I was the producer I'd say, "until you win a World Cup, shut the fuck up when Julie's talking."

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 10-06-2008 17:50

Is she a decent commentator,

I am not looking forward to my trip to the US at the end of next week although i will probably be watching games in a sports bar.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 10-06-2008 17:55

Tactical Genius wrote:

Is she a decent commentator,

I am not looking forward to my trip to the US at the end of next week although i will probably be watching games in a sports bar.

I thought you were coming to God's country?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Squid Ink - 10-06-2008 18:07

Andy Gray clearly thinks Smyth is an idiot. Although that is a bit of a pot-kettle situation. I wonder how much ESPN are paying Gray?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 10-06-2008 18:07

She is good, not great. But she's someone who is pretty beloved in this country, and she's a prototypical soccer girl and the type anyone went to high school with. I'd love for her to get teamed with an announcer who'd let her speak. Smyth cuts her off after 3-4 words, so she's a bit gun shy. I think she has a lot of potential, but they need a new producer.

The problem is the shit-for-brains bubble-brain who's hosting the show is an imbecile, and Tommy Smyth is a genius who's 100% correct (on Bizzaroworld,) so she's tainted by them. Andy Gray is really good, however - but you knew that.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 10-06-2008 18:08

You should have heard Smyth and Eric Wynalda crammed into a three-man commentary booth during the 2007 MLS season. You could almost see the contempt dripping through the screen every time Wynalda contradicted the wittering gobshite. Both are gone from that gig now, thankfully in Smyth's case, though I liked Wynalda because he was mainly interesting and knew what he was talking about. He was belatedly pushed out for drunkenly telling a webzine that soccer-hating colleague (and ESPN bigshot) Jim Rome can "suck my dick."

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 10-06-2008 18:11

Jim Rome is a cocknogle.

That is all.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 10-06-2008 18:12

I like Julie Foudy a lot (and I remarked on her wanting to punch Tommy yesterday), but I've had a crush on her since college, so I don't think that counts.

She's miles better than the people she's with. The ESPN host guy is wretched.

I don't like Wynalda, but he made a good team with Foudy at the World Cup. I'd like to see them as ESPNs duo.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 10-06-2008 18:15

The teeth, Matej. Aren't you scared of them? They terrify me.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by godot - 10-06-2008 18:15

Andy Gray certainly doesn't seem to have a lot of time for Tommy Smyth either.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 10-06-2008 18:15

Jorge, i have been in Gods Own Country for the last two months.
My company are working me hard sending me all over the place.
Luckily i have an expense account so i could probably stand a couple of rounds.

So far i have seen.

Newport.

Cardiff.

Swansea

Bridgend

Pencoed

Pontypool

Brecon (or a strange looking hospital near it)

I have probably seen more of Wales than the average Welshman

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 10-06-2008 18:19

JV, most of what i know about tactics is learnt from Andy Gray (is he the balding scottish bloke?)
That man knows his football, however most on OTF don't rate him and instead that Steve Claridge and Alan Hansen are the true analysts.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 10-06-2008 18:19

He was belatedly pushed out for drunkenly telling a webzine that soccer-hating colleague (and ESPN bigshot) Jim Rome can "suck my dick."

Ah, that's how Tommy keeps his job!

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 18:24

Well, Smyth and Gray had a nice little altercation about the V. Nist. goal. Smyth is an unbelievable prick.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 10-06-2008 18:34

For sheer wretched incompetence at his job he's peerless, without a doubt. Add the "Ol' Onion Bag" irritation factor and his dislikability quotient is off the chart. I'm so glad we're not getting the ESPN feed in Canada.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 18:37

I'm considering switching to ESPN Deportes.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Squid Ink - 10-06-2008 18:46

Andy Gray in "getting props on OTF" shock. I think it's the Tommy Smyth Effect. Anyone would look like a fountain of knowledge in comparison. Yes, even Andy Gray.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Heliotrope - 10-06-2008 18:47

Why, why, why couldn't we have gotten Martin Tyler? Did Australian TV offer more money?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 10-06-2008 18:58

Andy Gray did the color with John Motson on the FIFA games back when I still played computer games. Just for nostalgia, I'd like to hear him say "OOOh, you'd expect more at this level."

Who is doing the ESPN MLS broadcasts these days? I can't remember.

I don't mind Smyth doing the actual games as much as I do in the studio. It's only when he gets on a roll that he descends into complete idiocy. In short bursts, he's not too bad.

Why does ESPN keep bringing him back? Where is the constituency that wants to hear him.

Right now, the first generation of US players to have played in a World Cup is now retiring. Surely they can find some more of them to do color commentary. Wynalda does well and I think Harkes is pretty good. What about Cobi Jones or maybe Agoos? He always spoke well when he did local radio around here. Brandi Chastain sometimes does sideline reporting. That assignment pretty much means ESPN thinks she's just eye candy or an idiot, or both. Totally unfair to her, I think.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 10-06-2008 19:11

Squid Ink, could you educate me as to the name of a pundit on British TV that is more insightful than Gray?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 10-06-2008 20:27

Malc, when you coming to the *real* Wales?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 10-06-2008 20:40

Cobi did some World Cup previews for Fox Soccer in 2006, but he's busy being an assistant for Ruud Gullit now.

But careful with thinking that former players are good commentators, Reed:

http://soccernet-assets.espn.go.com/design05/mediaUS/20060526/balboa_marcelo_205.gif

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 10-06-2008 20:44

Well, there are a lot of them, they can all try out. What's Thomas Dooley up to these days?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 10-06-2008 20:56

Yes Malc, the man you've been raving about for years is on ESPN for the tournament.

I like him as well.

I wouldn't mind Wynalda and Foudy as studio hosts, but do keep Gray or someone good (as in British) as play-by-play.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 10-06-2008 22:43

Why, why, why couldn't we have gotten Martin Tyler? Did Australian TV offer more money?

Precisely. They tried, but SBS got him.

Dooley's running some sort of youth soccer setup somewhere, the current MLS team is JP and Harkes. There's a few good pairings on the MLS club broadcasts, but no one really outstanding imho.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 11-06-2008 01:01

This has been raised before but does anyone know why ESPN keep on with Smythe?

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by tactioe - 11-06-2008 01:33

Ive always put it down to the guys running the soccer department at ESPN having a conversation along the lines of; 'well he's british, they love their soccer, he seems keen, he'll do!'

I can remember him being the main commentator for ESPN for a good few years now, how long has it been exactly? He should thank his cliché-riddled arse he's had the gig for so long, surely the bell tolleth for him soon...

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 11-06-2008 02:44

I was talking the other day about the first live broadcast of a Euro Cup Final in the USA, 1995's Ajax 1:0 AssCrack Milan.

There was a commentator, who upon seeing young Patrick Kluivert's nifty move and toe-poke past Rossi exclaimed "what a great meeeeuuvveee and he slides it into the EEEUUULLLDDD OONNNNION BAGGGG !!!"

As I've also said in the past, I was at an Irish bar in NYC for the Juve demolition of Ajax in 97. The bartender, an Irish gentleman, proudly exclaimed with a twinkle in his eye and speaking in a hollowed tone..."That's Tommy Smyth. He's From Ireland." Maybe the Southies and Hell's Kitchen crew just have his back. Hell, for all we know Briston, CT is Southie Territory.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by godot - 12-06-2008 17:56

Who's this new anchor git? I prefer the old guy, at least he was smooth. Other guy seems highly strung.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 12-06-2008 18:19

godot wrote:
anchor gitA phrase that should quickly pass into regular use...

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 12-06-2008 18:19

I wish Julie Foudy would pick me up from scrimmage and take me out for a Happy Meal.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by goldstone97 - 12-06-2008 20:35

I just wish they would stop pimping the NBA Finals during Euro games on ESPN. I don't have much interest in what

Tommy Smyth has to say about football, let alone his views on basketball, and that's not to mention all the terrible Celtic/Celtics cracks.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 12-06-2008 20:55

Has Andy Gray been dumped from in-game duties? I haven't heard him as a color man since the Netherlands-Italy game. I find it highly doubtful that ESPN would remove him because of his calling Van Nistelrooy's goal as offside, but is there any other explanation?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 13-06-2008 16:51

Inca wrote:

Has Andy Gray been dumped from in-game duties? I haven't heard him as a color man since the Netherlands-Italy game. I find it highly doubtful that ESPN would remove him because of his calling Van Nistelrooy's goal as offside, but is there any other explanation?

Inca, I now think this theory is exactly right. At the end of the 1st half of Italy-Romania, when Toni's goal was called offside, Tommy Smyth immediately shouted "He's not offside!" And that was the very last thing he said for the rest of the half--about another minute until the whistle.

I bet someone has told them no questioning the calls--something Smyth in particular is notorious for.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 13-06-2008 16:53

That just seems like an odd level of interest that ESPN is taking. On the one hand, that's good, I suppose. On the other, ESPN bringing their Big Brother act like they do with other sports to soccer is bad.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 13-06-2008 16:54

Although now at the half Andy Grey is on about how hard the job of the linesman is, and it's Julie Foudy getting on them about disallowing goals.

Julie Foudy getting on them...

Mmmm.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by godot - 13-06-2008 16:56

FCLymond wrote:

Although now at the half Andy Grey is on about how hard the job of the linesman is, and it's Julie Foudy getting on them about disallowing goals.

Julie Foudy getting on them...

Mmmm.

She can nibble my ear with her little hamster teeth anytime. Eh? Eh? Know what I mean? Say no more, sir, say no more!

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 13-06-2008 17:07

Craig Forrest (TSN/Sportsnet analyst) has just claimed Canadian PM Stephen Harper wouldn't know a soccer ball if it hit him on the head.

Savvy stuff Craig.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-06-2008 17:22

Did Julie Foudy have some sort of head-clash accident? It looked last night like she had a scar above her right eye that I'd never noticed before. Or maybe the ESPN make-up people just did a terrible job.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 13-06-2008 18:19

She might have head-butted Tommy Smythe after the other day.

Please, let her have done that!

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 13-06-2008 19:38

Adrian Healey confesses that he's no idea what "total football" was. I'll tell you what, fuckwit, let me have your job and I'll tell you for free. I've even got the requisite accent.

Andy Gray, meanwhile, informs us that there's "more than one way to skin a cat". Really? What's the betting he doesn't know even one method of skinning a cat, let alone several.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-06-2008 20:03

I have to say I don't really understand what "Total Football" is supposed to mean. I've heard it means that all 11 men are integrated into the offense and all 11 men are integrated into the defense, but how is that a distinct strategy from "playing the game properly?"

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by gerontofiel van Basten - 13-06-2008 20:09

Players used to stick rigidly to their role, until the Dutch came along and interchanged positions to a degree that the rigidity of the defence couldnt cope. Nowadays a lot of teams try the same sort of thing, but not really to the degree of

beauty that the Dutch mastered it.

There is also a complicated thing to do with space that would take me years to try and explain. Others can do it quicker and better.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 14-06-2008 21:11

Tommy Smyth today was going on and on about the "soft centre" of the Spanish central defense, just like he went on and on about it the other day. Then he twice called Puyol "a rock." So what is he, Tommy, a soft rock? Is that what your fucking brain's made out of, you jibbering mooncalf?

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 14-06-2008 21:33

imp wrote:
jibbering mooncalf

Excellent.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Pan Tau - 14-06-2008 21:35

There is something strangely comforting, even appealing, about being subjected to Tommy Smythe's random ramblings (which I am happily spared during Euro 2008). I think it has a lot to do with his inanity allowing our superiority complexes being allowed to surface without our actually having to feel guilty about it.

Of course, given the low standards the onion-breathed windbag is setting, we cannot take much pride from that sense of superiority. That would be like taking pride in our ethical standards vis-a-vis Dick Cheney.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 14-06-2008 22:21

imp wrote:
jibbering mooncalf?

LOL

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Squid Ink - 15-06-2008 15:52

I was in an Irish bar in Queens for the Spain vs. Sweden game yesterday. Even his own people don't care for Smyth. Hoots of derision could be heard almost every time he opened his mouth. And an "onion bag" comment was met with a huge "oh fuck off Tommy you cunt!" by one particularly intimidating fella.

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 15-06-2008 15:55

His main constituency has always been leprechauns. A rock star, neath the toadstools.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Pan Tau - 15-06-2008 16:27

And an "onion bag" comment was met with a huge "oh fuck off Tommy you cunt!"

Evolution in action. Every human being who hears Tommy Smyth says (or at least thinks) that as a reflex. And thereby Tommy Smyth kicks the teeth of the creationists into the auld onion bag.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Heliotrope - 16-06-2008 15:05

It's not just what he calls Puyol, it's also the way he pronounces it: Pyooyol.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 17-06-2008 18:35

Foudy finally does something that annoys me: says that "no one suspected" that Romania could get past Group C.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 17-06-2008 22:06

It's been a great week - every game I've watched in the third round of group games had Andy Gray as co-commentator, with Tommy relegated to the secondary or meaningless matches I dutifully taped, but haven't bothered to watch. It also meant he wasn't in the studio post-game. If I sit back and use my imagination, Andy Gray and Julie Foudy fall in love and he stays in the US for good, while Tommy gets relegated to web-only amateur hurling broadcasts from Port Henry.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by infinite probability - 18-06-2008 11:11

Doesn't Andy Gray sound a bit like Fritz from Cracker?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 18-06-2008 12:31

Jeez... I was afraid of mentioning that I haven't had to listen to Tommy all week in fear of jinxing it.

Hopefully he's doing the Spain game today and not the important one.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 18-06-2008 13:20

Surely Ritz.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 18-06-2008 14:27

Andy Gray seems to be getting a little too excited sometimes. I'm afraid he's going to have a heart attack.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 20-06-2008 22:35

Today, Derek Rae asks Tommy Smyth what he thinks is the thinking behind the first Turkish substitution. Tommy hesitates, then says that the Turks obviously "want to freshen things up a bit." And? Oh, that's it. So Tommy, sort of like Fatih Terim spraying his team with Old Spice at half time.

Second sub, Rae helps him out, declaring it a "brave substitution" for bringing on a relatively inexperienced forward. What's Tommy's view? "This is a very, very courageous move from Turkey." No more needs to be said. I love the added 'very' to enhance the attempted conviction that cannot hide the fact Tommy hasn't a fucking clue what's going on.

He did say something accurate for once, in the course of a jokey conversation about the commentators encouraging US workers to goof off and watch football in the afternoon. Rae declared they'd put all the blame on Tommy, to which Tommy replied, "Why not? I'm an easy target." Right enough.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 21-06-2008 01:57

Was it just me, or did Tommy totally fuck off for the penalties? I didn't even miss his obvious comments until Derek thanked him... and he didn't reply.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 21-06-2008 16:29

Yeah, he was gone. Racing across studios to get interviewed about the game on ESPNNews and the Sportcenterish thingie going on ESPN(2) then right as the game ended. I saw him on it about 2 minutes after the penalties ended.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Squid Ink - 21-06-2008 17:48

http://i.a.cnn.net/si/2007/writers/richard_deitsch/04/24/smyth.qa/p1_smyth_0424.jpg

His head is a really weird shape.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Gyuri - 21-06-2008 18:47

The ABC non-HD feed for the Holland/Russia match is terrible, completely washed out and grainy. On the upside, it looks like the footage from matches from the '80s, which may give the match a classic-like luster.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 24-06-2008 13:50

Kids, don't miss your chance to talk to Tommy.

My question: Tommy, your inane waffle clearly betrays the fact that you've never played the game at a high level, and that most of the time you have no clue what you're talking about. You do, however, have a special talent for stating the staggeringly obvious, at great length, and for calling decisions wrong. My question is, why on earth does ESPN insist on renewing your contract?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-06-2008 14:16

I was at my parents house the last five days. They have an HD tv, so I was really pissed to discover that the Holland-Russia game was on non-HD ABC. ABC has the capability to do it in HD, why didn't they? I was so annoyed that I went with my dad and the dog for a walk and missed most of the game. I saw overtime, however.

I also fell asleep during Italy-Spain and for much of Turkey-Croatia.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 24-06-2008 14:52

I fast-forwarded for the goals, but I think Holland-Russia was in HD for me.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-06-2008 14:59

Interesting.

Did anyone else catch that awkward exchange where Tommy and Rae were joking-but-not-really about how hard it is for them to put up with each other for three weeks? I think it was during Spain-Italy.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Matej - 24-06-2008 15:30

I think Rae must hate Tommy with a passion. He barely contains his rage when Tommy says something particularly vapid.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 24-06-2008 16:38

Listen you US posters.

I was in America for the last 5 days and watched all the Quarter Finals there and believe me, you are getting a better deal than us in the UK.

Smythe is nowhere near as bad as the US posters make on although Andy Gray did commentate for 2 of the 4 matches i think.

Reed, Gray seemed subdued compared to his Style on Sky and i was dissappointed that there were no, "tic a boo son" or his usual top drawer comments.

P.s now you all know why i like Sky as Gray is the daddy of commmentators and it is a shame that he does not have the sky technology or even his tactics table.

For me, it is back to Andy Townsend and Alan Shearer, Smythe is far more entertaining than those two.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 24-06-2008 16:52

If you like someone who tells you two or three times what you've just seen, and that even a ten-year-old football novice could regurgitate, then Tommy's your man (there is no 'e' on the end of Smyth, by the way). If you like somebody who excitedly calls a reasonably good save or goal "unbelievable", every single time, then Tommy's your man, though personally, if I've just seen something with my own eyes, I tend to beleive it. If you want to be sure that a foul was a foul, then Tommy's guidance that "there was nothing there" on the slow motion replay, as one man clearly takes out another, is always reassuring. And if you like to feel superior to a highly paid pundit in your knowledge of every aspect of the game then Tommy is, once again, just the ticket.

Mr. Genius, I'm astonished that a man of your tactical depth could pay a second's heed to this blethering walnut. Or have you just wound me up for your own tawdry delight in revenge for me suggesting that you've got a secret thing for Barry Glendenning and all that is good and Guardianesque?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-06-2008 17:13

I was a bit surprised to hear Rae lay into the referee for the Italy-Spain game the way he did. Not that he was wrong, but I'd imagine UEFA telling ESPN "make him shut-up or we won't give you the broadcast rights to the Champions League" or something like that.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 24-06-2008 17:52

Sell, not give. And as long as ESPN's making the highest offer for CL rights, I doubt Uefa will give one sperm of an elephant's toss what Derek Rae says about the referees.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by goldstone97 - 24-06-2008 18:03

The Russia-Holland game was in HD for me on ABC. Perhaps the local affiliate fucked it up wherever you were.

IMP is right about Tommy Smyth, though I've been listening to him for so long now, I can easily tune his blathering out. This is basically a survival instinct.

Andy Gray and Derek Rae work quite well together, I think, and in general, the coverage has been better than the last

World Cup.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-06-2008 19:03

I meant "give in exchange for cash," i.e. sell.

That makes sense but in the US, the announcers for the various pro and college leagues usually censor themselves a bit for fear of "damaging the relationship with their corporate partner."

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by scotian42 - 24-06-2008 21:10

I think that in the US, ESPN/Disney is in a position to not have to bow to FIFA/UEFA etc., as there aren't enough other broadcast companies that will bid the same serious money on the rights. FSC, Setanta, and GoITV obviously aren't in the same league, and certainly don't have the same potential reach.

Though this brings up a subject that has continued to amaze me - why no one, other than Fox's regional-based effort in the late 90s, has tried to come up with a national sports network to really compete with ESPN...

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-06-2008 21:15

Fox has to a certain extent tried, with its agglomeration of regional networks, but the real problem is access to cable systems (especially as part of the basic package), and the juice that Disney/ABC bring to the table on ESPN's behalf in that regard is enough to make any rational person think more than twice.

From over here, it looks like Rupert is losing his bet on FoxBusiness, which will only convince others that such a gamble isn't worth it.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 24-06-2008 22:52

There are vaguely persistent rumors that ESPN would love to buy Setanta and turn ESPN Classic into essentially ESPN3-soccer, rugby, cricket, F1, etc.-but I'll believe it when/if it actually happens. Also that they're going to take another run at EPL rights.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Tactical Genius - 24-06-2008 23:49

"Mr. Genius, I'm astonished that a man of your tactical depth could pay a second's heed to this blethering walnut. Or have you just wound me up for your own tawdry delight in revenge for me suggesting that you've got a secret thing for Barry Glendenning and all that is good and Guardianesque?"

Granted IMP that i only had four days exposure for which alot of the time Smyth was in the studio making "Rat up a drainpipe" comments and when he did commentate (the ABC matches) he seemed subdued and said relatively little.

I can assure you that you have been away from England long enough to remember how bad it is here.
If truth be told, i may have been spared his blatherings as most of the games went to extra-time and since the show had

overrun, he was only given a couple of minutes to sum up in the Sportscentre studio before they went on to discuss more important things like that baseball coach that got fired at 3AM or the 40 year old pitcher with the best post season record ever who's shoulder is fucked....

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 25-06-2008 00:47

Turner took a stab at it a few years ago. He had the CNNSI network which was more or less exactly like what ESPNNEWS is like now, but toward the end CNNSI tried to show some actual sports - NASCAR qualifying, early Wimbledon, WUSA and NLL (indoor lacrosse). I recall the lacrosse. I looked up the rest on wiki.

There's room for more channels with sports. That's what Vs. is. But all other attempts to do a national sports news show just came off as a poor imitation of SportsCenter. For a while Fox tried to do that. Not only was it less entertaining than SportsCenter but it replaced all the regional/local sports wrap-up shows, which fans actually liked. Fox eventually realized how stupid that was they got rid of that and now all the Fox regional stations have their own shows. We don't have a Fox regional station, but we have Comcast Sports which does the same thing, plus MASN. In Boston they have Comcast Sports and NESN.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 25-06-2008 00:56

Hello, my name is Dynamo Kev and I don't mind Tommy Smyth one bit..

there I've said it.. I mean I prefer a few others- but he's fine.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 25-06-2008 03:23

Like I said, if stating the absolutely fucking glaringly obvious in a moronically inane fashion is your thing, then obviously Tommy's yer man.

Did I mention that I'm not a fan?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 25-06-2008 03:32

IMP hasn't taken on a cause with such passion since that neighbor dog started shitting on his lawn.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 25-06-2008 10:36

It's not so much that Tommy Smyth is a bad & boring commentator of football. It's that he's clearly an unrepentant unyielding jerk. And he uses that cheery cartoon accent to gloss over the fact.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 25-06-2008 13:07

From today's LAT:

The Euro 2008 quarterfinal match between Germany and Portugal, ESPN said, drew a 0.9 rating, meaning it was on TV in an average of 880,500 homes and was watched by 1.11 million viewers, a fraction of the audience that watched the NBA Finals.

But ESPN spokesman Mac Nwulu said comparing audiences for soccer to U.S. favorites such as the NBA or NFL "is akin to comparing apples to oranges."

Instead, he argued, "Euro 2008 is exceeding expectations." The European games, on average, have hauled in a 0.5 rating (about 655,000 viewers) on ESPN2 -- a 67% increase above the average rating for the time period for that network. He said broadcasters have taken note of a significant ratings surge for ESPN Deportes, the all-sports Spanish-language TV network, which has been feasting off Euro 2008 audiences. Soccer, he said, also has been a boon for ESPN360.com, with its live, online simulcasts of Euro 2008 games.

That rating for the Germany-Portugal QF in the middle of the day on a Thursday is huge.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by imp - 25-06-2008 14:07

If I could only get my neighbour's dog to shit on Tommy Smyth instead of on my lawn, my world would be perfect.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 25-06-2008 14:44

I thought you were going to say that "Tommy Smyth is like the dog shit on the verdant front lawn of this tournament."

The comparison to the NBA Finals is ridiculous. I suspect the LAT just wanted to bash soccer there. The NBA games were on in prime time. The Euros are on in the afternoon, with most games during the week when people are at work. Boston and LA are in the United States so they have lots of fans here in the United States. No team from the Western Hemisphere is competing in this tournament.

How does one get ESPN Deportes? Do you have to order a special Paquete de Canales Superiores to get that?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 25-06-2008 14:59

It's on the "Spanish tier" on my cable, along with Spanish-language versions of a bunch of other channels.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 25-06-2008 15:13

How much did you have to pay extra to get that?

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by FCLymond - 25-06-2008 15:21

Don't recall, but I think it was just a couple of bucks extra/month. Not a ton.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 25-06-2008 15:31

I know about the Finals comparison, Reed. The article was actually in the entertainment section and not the sports section, so I'm guessing they reached for another sporting event that was going on around the same time.

I'd be more interested to know about comparisons with ratings for the World Cup in 2006, since the games were both on around the same time of the day, and both were on ESPN.

I know some soccer heads that have DirecTV opt for a Spanish-language base programming package rather than the usual ones so they can get ESPN Deportes as well, plus some South American sports channels (TyC, some others), Fox Sports en Espanol, and a few of the big English-language cable networks, then buy the regular sports pack.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Gyuri - 25-06-2008 20:04

ESPN feed goes out during the semi. Announcers are clearly not there, as they can't tell us what's going on in the match without the video. @\$#@#!

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 25-06-2008 20:46

Clearly not everything can be done from Bristol. Wonder if ESPN will send announcers to events like this in the future, or if they don't want to spend that kind of money and assume they can do a fine job from half a world away.

Derek Rae and Tommy Smyth have been live at one or two CL finals. I can't recall if ESPN sent anyone to Germany in 2006. I doubt they'll send anyone to South Africa in 2010.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Heliotrope - 25-06-2008 20:53

Yeah, Tommy recently mentioned interviewing someone in Moscow when he was there for the CL final, which surprised me because I automatically assumed they were here.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 25-06-2008 21:06

I didn't watch the pregame stuff. I remember seeing them in Paris in 2006 (I think I remember that, at least) and in Athens in 2007.

I can't remember if Musburger was at the WC Final in 2006. I'm still not sure why he appeared out of nowhere to handle calling the game. Wonder if something similar will happen on Sunday.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jefe - 26-06-2008 01:16

The past couple seasons the CL final has been announced on site. For the past 3 World Cups, there's been about 5 or 6 announcing teams, 3 or 4 of which are on site, with a couple calling the match from Bristol.

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by jason voorhees - 26-06-2008 02:25

I was at a bar watching the College World Series final (I got confused when the red and black team wearing "Bulldogs" jerseys was not Georgia,) and at the bottom they constantly advertised "Germany-Turkey Replay on ESPN Classic - WITHOUT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES"

=====

Re:American television coverage of Euro 2008

Posted by Inca - 26-06-2008 03:12

That's cool. It's fun to bash the WWL, but it's good when they do something right, and Smyth aside, most of the coverage has been really good. Beats having to pay Setanta.

=====