

WatchLive!. Ukraine vs Belgium LIVE Broadcast FREe ON TV Channel 26 June 2024

Follow live coverage with Ukraine in action against Belgium as the Euro 2024 group stages draw to a close



26 June 2024, The one change for Belgium is Trossard for Lukebakio.

It means Jeremy Doku will play off the right (where he looks quite good as a byline winger). They keep the 4-2-3-1 and are up against a 5-4-1. Ukraine played that against Germany in a pre-tournament friendly, and had very little of the ball but defended very well to draw 0-0.

I'm not a fan of writing teams off early generally, but they look like they're playing for a point (which is fair enough).

Lots of Belgians already packed into the stand to my left.

Big cheers just now for the goalkeeper Koen Casteels when he came out for the warm-up. Kevin de Bruyne has already been out for a mooch around.

Everything building nicely.

A little while ago, the Ukraine players were looking very relaxed as they went for their pre-match stroll out on the turf while braving the elements. Head coach Serhiy Rebrov even mustered a smile as he strode through the tunnel.

Although, Zinchenko did look quite glum during that walkabout. He motioned to some of the Ukrainian

supporters at one point, shrugging and shaking his head.

Based on those three big changes, it looks like Ukraine will set up completely differently today than in their other previous two Group E matches.

The introduction of another centre-back, Svatok, and a more conservative left-back, Mykolenko, suggest that they will be moving from a back four to a back five.

They also don't have any wingers in their line-up as Mudryk has been dropped for Yaremchuk who will partner Dovbyk in an old-fashioned, two-man strikeforce.

Starting XI: Casteels; Faes, Vertonghen, Theate; Castagne, Tielemans, Onana, Doku; De Bruyne, Trossard; Lukaku.

Just the one change from the Belgium side that beat Romania 2-0 as Arsenal winger Leandro Trossard has come into the starting XI for Dodi Lukebakio.

Starting XI: Trubin; Tymchyk, Zabarnyi, Svatok, Matviyenko, Mykolenko; Shaparenko, Brazhko, Sudakov; Dovbyk, Yaremchuk.

A few big changes to the Ukraine starting XI, and statement ones too.

Arsenal's Oleksandr Zinchenko and Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk have both dropped out of the team, as has Andriy Yarmolenko.

Everton's Vitalii Mykolenko is in for his first appearance at the tournament, as is Oleksandr Svatok. Roman Yaremchuk has also come into the side.

It is unbelievably muggy in Stuttgart, with flashes of lightning ahead and the skies threatening to pour forth a deluge.

Fans are shuffling their way towards the arena from a heaving metro station. They were mixing brilliantly on the trains to the stadium, exchanging chants in the crammed carriages.

There was one particularly lengthy Ukrainian song which went on for around five minutes, bellowed by a giant of a man clad in yellow, with the Belgians retorting with a slightly simpler: "Come on Belgium, come on Belgium." Rather disappointingly in my opinion.

Supporters of Premier League clubs will see the very familiar face of Anthony Taylor in this game as he is the match referee.

He took charge of the goalless draw between France and the Netherlands on Friday evening and, unsurprisingly, it was not without controversy.

The Netherlands saw a potentially winning goal (correctly) ruled out for offside after a lengthy VAR check, a check that took far longer than most of the others at this tournament.