



ENGLAND

v San Marino

EUROPEAN QUALIFIER GROUP E
7.45PM, THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2014
WEMBLEY STADIUM CONNECTED BY EE
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £6

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN

"Hopefully we can look forward to another successful qualification campaign"

ON THE GOAL TRAIL

ENGLAND ARE LOOKING TO BUILD ON THE WIN IN SWITZERLAND



FRASER FORSTER
ROY HODGSON
DAVID BECKHAM



VAUXHALL



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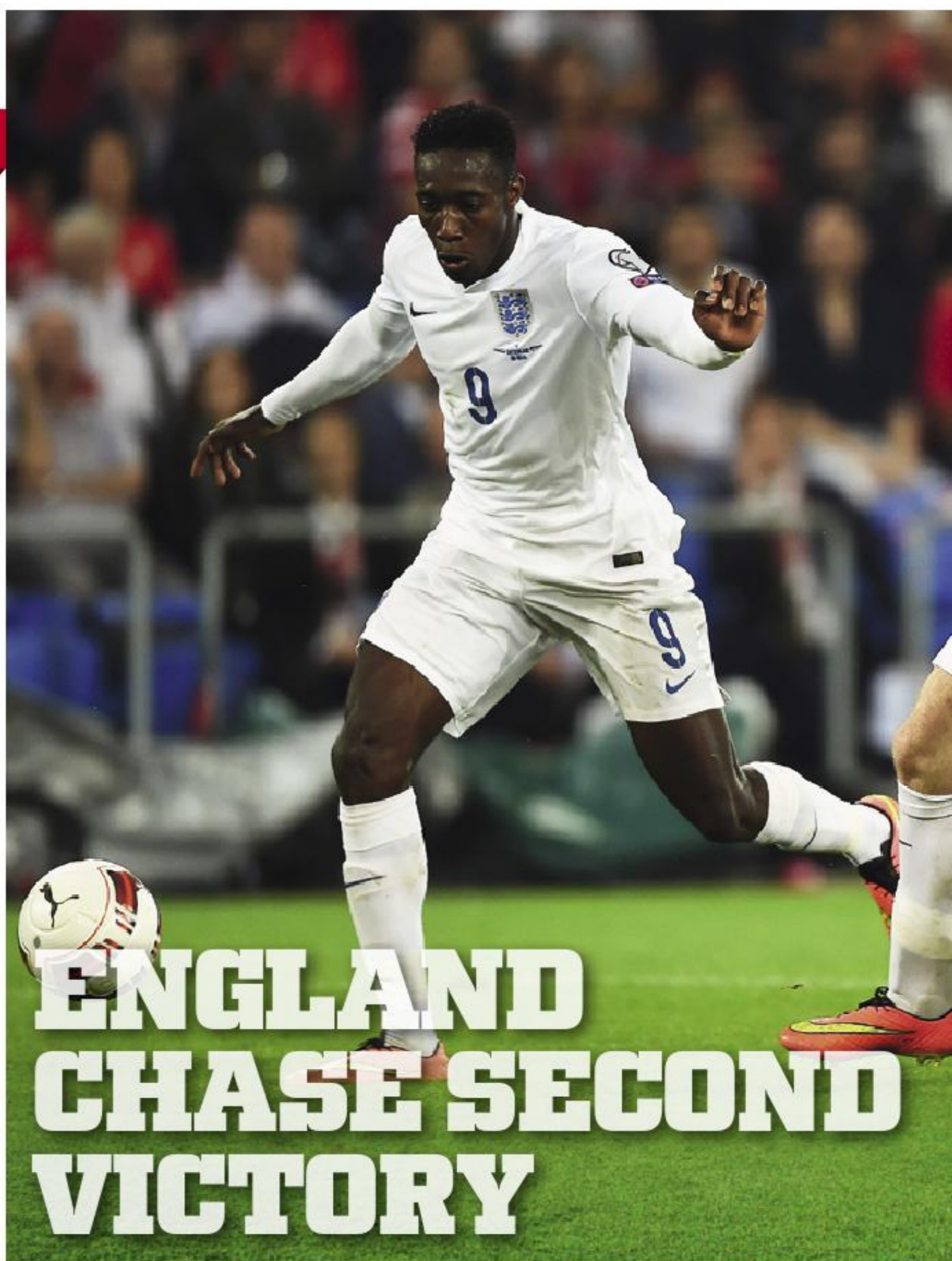
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After a superb start to the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign in Basel last month, England will be looking to continue their post-World Cup progress against San Marino.

That 2-0 win against Switzerland – courtesy of a brace by Danny Welbeck – has set a perfect base for England to launch an assault on qualification and has put Roy Hodgson's side firmly on the front foot as they prepare for their second Qualifier at Wembley tonight.

Pierangelo Manzaroli's men began their Group E campaign with a 2-0

home defeat to Lithuania, but there were positives to come out of the country's Serravalle opener, with the loss representing their best result in a Qualifier since October 2012.

England and San Marino first met back in February 1993, when a Three Lions side managed by Graham Taylor won 6-0 at Wembley, thanks to four goals from David Platt and one apiece for Carlton Palmer and Les Ferdinand.

The return fixture, which was played in the Italian city of Bologna, has, of course, entered football folklore, with Davide Gualtieri's goal after 8.3



The Three Lions are keen to continue their winning start to Group E

GROUP WATCH

Keep an eye on England's Group E opponents

There were victories for three nations in Group E of UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying on the opening day of fixtures back on 8 September.

In addition to England's victory, there was also a 2-0 win for Lithuania against this evening's opponents. Deivydas Matulevicius, who plays his club football in Romania, opened the scoring on five minutes, with former Hearts man Arvydas Novikovas making it 2-0 on 36 minutes. Just 986 people watched the game in Serravalle, San Marino.

With England and Lithuania joint-top of the group, Estonia sit in third place currently by virtue of their 1-0 home win over Slovenia. They left it late to claim the victory, with Ats Purje scoring in the 86th minute to secure all three points.

Other group matches this evening see Lithuania host Estonia at the LFF Stadium, Vilnius and Switzerland travel to the Ljudski vrt Stadium in Maribor to take on Slovenia. Fixtures on 12 October include England's trip to Estonia, Lithuania against Slovenia in Vilnius and San Marino hosting Switzerland.

Come the end of this month, we'll have a better idea of how Group E of UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying is shaping up ahead of England's next home Qualifier against Slovenia on 15 November.

seconds remaining the fastest goal in World Cup qualifying history.

That remains the only goal San Marino have managed against England in four attempts, although they presented a stubborn obstacle when the two sides last met at Wembley in October 2012.

A double from Wayne Rooney and a brace by Welbeck, as well as a strike from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain sealed a 5-0 win in front of a magnificent Wembley crowd of 85,000.

An 8-0 win in the return fixture in March 2013 also provided three more

vital points in England's quest to reach the World Cup.

England are now very much looking to the future, with the performances of the country's young stars providing plenty of reason for optimism in Switzerland in September.

That result will count for little if the Three Lions take their eyes off the prize at Wembley this evening. But another three points would leave England in the best spirits possible before they head off to take on Estonia in Tallinn for another crucial Qualifier in three days' time.

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

18.15 General Admission turnstiles open
Selection of music, general announcements

18.15-18.30
Teams arrive at the stadium

18.30-18.50
Marching display on pitch by The Band of the Irish Guards

19.00-19.30 Players warm-up

19.30 England and San Marino crests paraded round the pitch

19.35 Teams enter the arena, accompanied by player escorts

19.40 National anthems performed by The Band of the Irish Guards

Fair Play Handshake

Team photos

Exchange of captains' pennants

Coin toss

19.45 Kick-off

20.30 Half-time

Presentation to the England Powerchair team

Vauxhall Youth Kit Presentation

Vauxhall social media Q&A

First-half highlights

20.45 Second half

21.30 Full-time

Match highlights

DID YOU KNOW?

Three England players have made their full international debuts against San Marino. On 17 February, 1993, Les Ferdinand won the first of his 17 caps in a 6-0 win for the Three Lions at Wembley. Later in the qualification campaign for the 1994 FIFA World Cup, Stuart Ripley made his England debut in the 7-1 victory in San Marino on 17 November, 1993. More recently, Jonjo Shelvey appeared as a 66th-minute substitute for Michael Carrick in the 5-0 win at Wembley Stadium in 2012.



FATV MEETS...

FRASER FORSTER

On his move down south, getting that Three Lions call-up and the camaraderie with his fellow England goalkeepers...

It means so much to me to play for my country.

I made my debut against Chile last year and it was probably the best day of my life. It's what you dream of as a kid. Once you get a taste of one cap, you want to go and get a second, third, fourth, and keep progressing.

When that first call comes in from your country, you're speechless.

I remember finding out the day before the squad was

couldn't have gone much better, everyone genuinely gave 100

per cent and we came out of the games having played well. But for whatever reason we didn't come out with the results we needed.

It's not enough to just play well, you need results. Some of the players will be around for another two or three World Cups, so we can benefit from that as a squad. Now it's the start of the European Qualifiers and it's time to look forward at what we want to achieve.



announced and I rang my mum and dad straight away. They've done so much for me over the years, driving me to Sunday League, standing on the sideline when it's chucking it down and washing all my muddy kit. It was brilliant to be able to share that moment with them.

That first meet-up was a bit scary. Being up in Scotland I wasn't playing against the lads each week. But as soon as you step in the door everyone is brilliant, they can't do enough for you and make you feel so welcome.

It was a great experience to be part of the World Cup squad.

We were together as a group for such a long time; preparation-wise it



Since returning from Brazil I've not really had a break and time for reflection. I only had six days off before starting pre-season with Celtic – we had those big Champions League qualifiers. In a way it felt like I didn't need a proper pre-season because I was still fit from the season before – I got back from the World Cup fitter than ever. But this will be a long, hard season, so I'll have to look after myself.

Since moving to Southampton this summer it's been brilliant. I've loved every minute of it. I had a fantastic time at Celtic and there is no getting away from that, but it was time for me to move on and I was ready for something new.

I get to work with England goalkeeper coach Dave Watson every day at Southampton. He's been brilliant for me ever since I first got in the England squad, so to be at Southampton with him will obviously help. I think you'll do well to find three keepers who get on as well as Joe [Hart], Ben [Foster] and me. We have fun together and really push each other to work hard. We know when to have a laugh and when to focus on training. When you train with England it really makes you want to get better. You are forever learning with England.

Tweet [@FRASERFORSTER](https://twitter.com/FRASERFORSTER)

Scan this QR code to watch our FATV meets Fraser Forster video



"INCREDIBLE" ST. GEORGE'S PARK IMPRESSES BECKS

David Beckham was "amazed" by the facilities at St. George's Park during his first visit to the national football centre in Staffordshire last month.

The former Three Lions captain was impressed with the 12 external pitches and the full-size indoor 3G pitch and says the peaceful setting of St. George's Park makes it a "dream" place for international players to train and prepare for games.

"As an ex-England player and captain it is always a dream to come and spend time somewhere like this," he told TheFA.com.

"When you come away with the team to somewhere like this it is special and to work here is really incredible.

"It's peaceful, but you can feel there's a certain amount of history even though it has only been open for two years. The way certain things are incorporated into the facilities really is incredible.

"It's nice to hear rooms are named after certain players the fans have voted for, such as the 'Paul Gascoigne Room' or the 'Bobby Moore Room'. It's special. Really amazing, so impressed."

As he surveyed St. George's Park's immaculate elite pitch, the surface that Roy Hodgson's England team have been training on this week ahead of tonight's game, Beckham purred: "It doesn't get any better.

"Obviously we always played on nice pitches, but to have a pitch like that to train on day-in, day-out when you come away with the international team is pretty incredible."

While Beckham's visit to Burton came in another busy week for the national football centre – England's Seniors, Under-21s, U20s and U17s were all spending time in residence in preparation for their important respective international fixtures – this summer has also seen the facility play host to European giants Barcelona, Porto and Steaua Bucharest.

And this is a fact that hasn't gone unnoticed by the 39-year-old former Manchester United, Real Madrid and AC Milan star.

"It's not just the [England] Senior team it's helping, but all the way through from the young kids to the women's teams," he said.



"Teams are coming here and I'm sure they look at the facilities and know there's not many better around the world. I've not been to many facilities around the world as good as St. George's Park.

"Obviously, as an international player, when you come to a place like this it's peaceful, you can rest, you can prepare. It's great for young players to come here and aspire to be great England players in the future.

"That's the great thing about having a facility like this one. It's like Wembley Stadium, everyone dreams of playing at Wembley, as a kid I grew up as a Manchester United fan and always wanted to play for my country.

"And I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to play at Wembley. It's moments and places like that



Beckham thinks SGP can only help England and aspiring coaches

"I'VE NOT BEEN TO MANY FACILITIES AROUND THE WORLD AS GOOD AS ST. GEORGE'S PARK"

which kids can really aspire to."

Beckham's last game for England was five years ago, and he retired from playing altogether in 2013 after a short spell at Paris St-Germain.

The former LA Galaxy midfielder recently announced his intention to launch a new MLS club in Miami.

After coming to The FA's home of football development where old Manchester United teammates Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs and Paul Ince have all studied coaching qualifications, he is not sure yet if he'll follow that path in the future.

"You never know, in a few years I might change my mind, but at the moment I'm happy doing what I'm doing," he admitted. "I've got a few things going on

with Miami and the MLS team.

"But [St. George's Park] is great for coaches to get the chance to come here and do their qualifications, and for young coaches to become future Premier League and England managers.

"In the future I might change my mind, but at the moment I enjoy coaching my own kids and other kids, but we'll see what happens."

► Watch the full Beckham interview by scanning this QR code. Find out more about St. George's Park on the website www.TheFA.com/SGP or via Twitter @StGeorgesPark



SAN MARINO



Who are they? Not only is the Most Serene Republic of San Marino a country, it claims to be the oldest surviving sovereign state and constitutional republic in the world.

How old? Well, the actual constitution was only drawn up in the 16th century, but the Sammarinese see their country as a continuation of the monastic community founded on 3 September 301 by the stonecutter Marinus of Arbe.

So the country's named after him? Yes. He founded a chapel and monastery on Mount Titano, which is the basis of the modern state. He died in 366, his final words being, "I leave you free from both men" – an ambiguous phrase presumably



referring to both the Pope and the emperor. It stood as the basis for their independence ever since.

How big is it? A total of 24 square miles entirely surrounded by Italy. And with a population of only 30,000, it is the second-smallest UEFA member after Gibraltar.

When did the football start? They

founded a football federation as early as 1931, but the national team wasn't set up until 1986. By 1988, they'd been admitted to both FIFA and UEFA.

So their first competitive match... was a Euro '92 Qualifier against Switzerland. They lost 4-0.

High points? Davide Gualtieri's goal after 8.3 seconds against England in 1993, which is still the fastest goal in World Cup history, will never be forgotten.

Greatest player? One stands out: the midfielder Massimo Bonini won three Serie A titles with Juventus and the 1985 European Cup.

VITAL STATISTICS

LAST FIVE RESULTS:

08.09.14	ECQ	0-2	Lithuania	Serravalle
08.06.14	Friendly	0-3	Albania	Serravalle
15.10.13	WCQ	0-8	Ukraine	Serravalle
11.10.13	WCQ	0-3	Moldova	Chisinau
10.09.13	WCQ	1-5	Poland	Serravalle

BEST MOMENTS

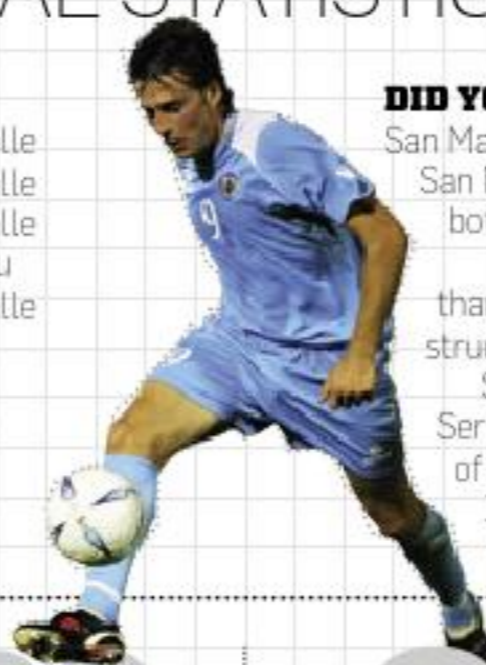
On 28 April 2004, Andy Selva struck a fifth-minute goal to beat Liechtenstein, San Marino's only victory in an official international. San Marino have twice managed draws: 0-0 at home to Turkey 1993 and 1-1 in Latvia in 2001.

DID YOU KNOW?

San Marino have only twice played 'home' games outside San Marino. In qualifying for World Cup 1994, they played both England and the Netherlands in Bologna.

Apart from Selva, the only player to score more than one goal for San Marino is Manuel Marani, who struck against Ireland in 2007 and Malta in 2012.

San Marino Calcio, based in Serravalle, play in the third division of the Italian pyramid. They drew 1-1 with the national team in an unofficial game in August.



2004

Biggest win: 1-0 v Liechtenstein, 2004

68

Record appearances:
Damiano Vannucci

0-13

Biggest defeat: 0-13 v Germany, 2006

8

Record goals:
Andy Selva