



GB Volleyball Coach leads World All Star team in Greek Challenge

All-Star Game

GB Men's Volleyball Coach Harry Brokking, who is the Coach to Greek A league team Iraklis was chosen to lead a World All-Stars team against a Greek All-Stars team on Monday 28th September as a curtain raiser to the 2009-10 Greek Pro league. The All-Star Game was played at Melissia, Northern Athens at 7.00 p.m.

The Greek All-Stars faced the World All-Stars, featuring players who will take part in the coming league. This is the first time the All-Star Game has taken place before the start of the league.

Iraklis, who were heavily fined by the CEV after their fan's rioted during a fiery clash with Italian club Trentino during last seasons European Champions League final match in Prague, replaced the departed Flavio Gulinelli, with the experienced Dutch coach of Great Britain, Harry Brokking, who has coached at international level and pro club level. The 53 year old coach who has been chosen to lead Team GB to the 2012 London Olympics, formerly of the national team of the Netherlands as well as several European clubs, has signed a two-year contract with Iraklis understood to be worth over €150000.

Gulinelli left Iraklis a few weeks ago, having led the Thessaloniki club to the final of the Champions League but also missed out on the championship finals, finishing fourth in the league.

Thirteen Big Steps for GB Men's Volleyball Players in Professional Clubs

Brokking has worked closely with British Officials maintaining close contact to ensure that the GB programme continues the progress made to date, he says-

"Given the Funding cuts suffered by our sport, and now having 13 British male players earning their living in professional Club Volleyball all over Europe, signing a contract in Greece was one way to save money to assure the continuous progress of both the young players and it is also an ideal opportunity for our British Assistant Coach, Joel Banks, to develop his qualities in leading a full time programme by ensuring real progress with the important Development group players back in Sheffield For myself it is a good to work on the highest level, with top players in a strong League."

Six Top GB players sign up in the Sun

Brokking referred to the fact that six of his players had been snapped up in a deal with Tenerife Sur, a top Spanish club

"This is a great opportunity to have six of our guys training and playing together in Spain in a very professional environment and under a very good coach!! All of our players need good competition, to become stronger and better players, and that is exactly what they will get in a strong Spanish League. Scot Andrew Benson will have to play against other/better setters, so his blocking will improve a lot. The same goes for Northern Irishman David Hamilton, and Englishmen Joel Miller and Nathan French will be confronted with very strong servers and a good organized block, so their serve reception will get much better and their spiking also. For our second Scot Paul Glissov, it will be an enormous eye opener. He will have to learn to 'stand on his own legs'. He will become mentally much stronger and could play/ and train himself to challenge strongly for a place in the top team!!

Ben Pipes our captain, has come out of a very difficult summer as a different person. After what he has been through, nothing can scare him anymore. This means that we will have now a mentally very, very strong setter and captain. Now he can put all his energy in developing his setting qualities and use his experience of last summer to become the real leader of the team!!

BRITISH VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

Formed in 1955 as the Amateur Volleyball Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The BVF is working to ensure Team GB representation in Volleyball, Beach Volleyball and Sitting Volleyball at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Registered Office

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With Andrew Pink and Jason Haldane (Italy), Mark Plotyczer (Greece), Chris Lamont and Mark McGivern (Belgium), Slawek Master (Poland) and those 6 guys signing in Tenerife, all playing in very strong European Leagues, the volleyball world in Europe is giving us the positive proof of the good work delivered through our programme!! And by playing for these clubs, in these Leagues our players will get both mentally and physically better players, which will benefit the GB team

The 13th player, Sam Bragg, who did not feature for GB during this last international season, is developing his skills in Bulgaria.

But it is not the ideal situation. It is a situation forced by the cutting of the funding!! To assure a continuous progress of our players and team, we need to get the whole team and staff together at the latest in the summer of 2011. And then keep them together, train with them and play as much as possible top matches with them till the 2012 Olympics to prepare for the games."

British Volleyball Programme Manager Kenny Barton said

"We are making terrific progress but are still far behind the top nations in volleyball. So to catch up with the rest of the world we have to train harder and find innovative ways to play more matches. It is important that our funders understand the nature of developing a team in a top team sport, hopefully the Team 2012 announcement in partnership with Visa announced on the 29th September will be the catalyst for more support for sports like Volleyball, we are particularly keen to work with regions who would be willing to support us in staging European Competition Events in their area, during next summer and leading up to the Olympic games in 2012."

For further information please contact:

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