

## Spain reign at Euro 2012 西班牙 2012 欧洲杯夺冠

*Vocabulary: football success and excellence 足球胜利与优秀*

The pundits are running out of **superlatives** to describe the Spanish football team after they lifted the Euro 2012 trophy on Sunday. They are the first football team in history to **retain their crown** in the European Championships having also won the competition in 2008. With their World Cup victory in South Africa in 2010 this makes Spain the only international team ever to win three major tournaments **back-to-back**.



**The margin of victory** was also **record-breaking**. The Spaniards **routed** their opponents Italy four-nil, which was the most **one-sided** result in the tournament's history. It was **a masterclass** in the passing style of football for which they have become known. Some experts are describing their **scintillating** performance as one of the greatest in history, comparing the team to such **legendary** sides of the past as Brazil in 1970 and France from 1998-2002.

So what makes this Spanish team so special? There is the individual **brilliance** of players such as **man-of-the-match** Andres Iniesta. But it's their **artistry** as a unit which has been most impressive. One statistic alone indicates why Spain have such a **stranglehold** on the world game: this team has not conceded a single goal in a **knock-out game** since 2006. That's over 17 hours of football. The fact of the matter is that their opponents simply can't get the ball long enough to play.

They also have **the courage to follow their convictions**. It might seem ridiculous now but the team were getting criticised for being 'boring' earlier in the competition. But the coach, Vicente del Bosque, **stuck to his guns** and continued to play in an unorthodox formation which contained no **striker**. The coach was **vindicated** by a display of such **magnificence** that one BBC expert claimed the match will still be talked about in 40 years' time.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Who won Euro 2008?
2. Has any country won three major international football competitions in a row before?
3. What word is used to describe a demonstration given by an expert?
4. Do Spain use a normal formation?
5. According to a BBC expert, will the game be memorable?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Before 2008, Spain had never \_\_\_\_\_ a major football tournament

winner	one	winned	won
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2. Spain have \_\_\_\_\_ a number of records

broke	breaked	broken	break
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3. England were knocked \_\_\_\_\_ at the quarter-final stage.

out	off	under	over
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4. The Spanish team stuck to \_\_\_\_\_ guns.

his	their	her	they're
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5. Spain's performance was widely considered to be \_\_\_\_\_.

magnificance	magnificence	magnificent	magnify
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## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. Who won Euro 2008? (Spain) are the first football team in history to retain their crown in the European Championships...
2. Has any country won three major international football competitions in a row before? No... this makes Spain the only international team to win three major tournaments back-to-back.
3. What word is used to describe a demonstration given by an expert? Masterclass. It was a masterclass in the passing style of football.
4. Do Spain use a normal formation? No... an unorthodox formation which contained no striker.
5. According to a BBC expert, will the game be memorable? Yes... the match will be talked about in 40 years' time.

### **Exercise** 练习

1. Before 2008, Spain had never won a major football tournament.
2. Spain have broken a number of records.
3. England were knocked out at the quarter final stage.
4. The Spanish team stuck to their guns.
5. Spain's performance was widely considered to be magnificent.

### **Glossary** 词汇表

<b>superlatives</b>	最高级的
<b>to retain their crown</b>	保住了皇冠
<b>back-to-back</b>	连续, 紧接
<b>the margin of victory</b>	胜利的系数
<b>record-breaking</b>	创纪录的
<b>routed</b>	彻底击败
<b>one-sided</b>	一边倒的
<b>a masterclass</b>	大师级的表现
<b>scintillating</b>	才气横溢的
<b>legendary</b>	传奇的
<b>brilliance</b>	才华, 光辉
<b>man-of-the-match</b>	场上最佳球员
<b>artistry</b>	艺术技巧
<b>stranglehold</b>	束缚

<b>knock-out game</b>	淘汰赛
<b>the courage to follow their convictions</b>	有追求他们信念的勇气
<b>stuck to his guns</b>	坚持己见
<b>striker</b>	前锋
<b>vindicated</b>	证明正确的
<b>magnificence</b>	宏伟, 精彩