Road to Cologne: Kielce’s journey through the group phase was absolutely flawless. Opening with four clear victories, the first real challenge for the Polish champions came in the back to back matches against HC Metalurg, but two low scoring victories meant that first place in the group was all but certain. Having lost some key players during the winter break, Kielce ended the group phase without playing their best handball, but coach Wenta could not complain with 10 wins from 10. Although they suffered their first defeat of the season in Szeged, they safely reached the quarter-finals for the first time in the club’s history. They traveled to Skopje for the second time in this season only to repeat a tight victory. On the home court they just underlined their ambitions and clinched the first ever ticket to the VELUX EHF FINAL4.

Top scorers: Michał Jurecki 72, Ivan Čupič 55, Rastko Stojković and Krzysztof Lijewski 41

Current situation in the domestic league (as of 1 June 2013): They won the regular season of the Polish league winning 21 out of 22 matches. On the way to the final they eliminated Piotrów in the quarter-finals (2:0 in the best-of-three series) and Azoty-Pulawy in the semi-final (3:0). In the final race for the only Polish berth of the next CL season Kielce defeated Plock 3:0 avenging for the only setback of the domestic campaign, which was also crowned with a triumph in the Polish Cup

Notes: ... only the first team with a perfect record (10 out of 10) in the group phase since Ciudad Real did it in 2009 ... only the third non-German and non-Spanish participant in the VELUX EHF FINAL4 after Chekovskie Medvedi (RUS) and AG København (DEN) ... Not all Kielce players are newcomers to this tournament, as Szmal, Čupič, Karol Bielecki and Grzegorz Tkaczyk played for Rheinhesskar Löwen and Krzysztof Lijewski for HSV Hamburg in the 2011 edition ... Bogdan Wenta and six players of the current Kielce squad (Bielecki, M. Jurecki, K. Lijewski, Szmal, Tkaczyk, Mateusz Jachlewski) return to the LANXESS arena where he led the Polish national team to the silver medal at the 2007 World Championship in Germany

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Twitter: @vivetargikielce
Facebook: kielce
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Club achievements

EHF Champions League records:
Participations (including 2012/13 season): 10


Polish Cup winners: 10 titles
Player list

VIVE TARGI KIELCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Family Name</th>
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<th>Weight</th>
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Coach profile

Bogdan Wenta:
The 51-year-old Wenta was a player in Spain, Germany and even played for the German national team after changing his citizenship. Directly after finishing his active career he became assistant coach in Flensburg, and become Polish national team coach in 2004 then acted as head coach at Magdeburg from 2006 onwards. Since 2008 he is coach in Kielce and constantly has led his team to the CL.
**Player profiles**

**Goalkeepers**

**Sławomir Szmal:**
The former World Handball Player of the Year is one of the key players in the Polish national champions’ defence. The goalkeeper played several years for Rhein Neckar Löwen. His biggest success so far was a silver medal at the 2007 World Championship and a bronze at the 2009 WCh.

**Venio Losert:**
There are not many players with medals from all of the major international events. The Croatian goalie from Zavidovići has two Olympic golds ('96, '04), two World Championship silvers ('05, '09) and an EHF EURO bronze ('12) but he’s still yet to conquer this tournament. He was closest to this feat with Barça in the 2008 semi-finals.

**Kamil Buchcic:**
This season is like a dream for the young player. Kielce’s goalkeeper received a chance to play among Europe’s elite, due to Marcus Cleverly’s injury. Despite his young age, he showed class beyond his years on his debut against St. Petersburg in Russia. Buchcic is certain to be a useful player in Bogdan Wenta’s team in the future.

**Left wings**

**Manuel Štrlek:**
This is the first season abroad for the 24-year-old left winger, who started gathering CL experience with his boyhood club Zagreb in 2006, a team he left only last year for Kielce. His excellent performance on the left wing at the EHF EURO 2010 earned him a place on the All-star team. The last major tournament in Spain left him with a hand injury, causing him to miss 2 months of action.

**Bartłomiej Tomczak:**
He joined Vive Targi Kielce as the top scorer of the Polish league. Tomczak is not the first choice left wing, but can be relied on whenever called upon. Tomczak has had his chance to impress in the competition this season and did exactly that, with good showings against Gorenje Velenje and Pick Szeged.
**Mateusz Jachlewski:**
It is the best season for Vive Targi Kielce’s left wing in his European Cup career, scoring 32 goals this season. He was part of the Polish team that won silver at the 2007 World Championship in Germany and the youngest Polish handball player to take part in the Olympic Games.

**Left backs**

**Grzegorz Tkaczyk:**
Tkaczyk won EHF Cup in 2007 with SC Magdeburg with Bogdan Wenta as coach. He has scored over 1000 goals in the German Bundesliga and the Polish left back also played in the 2011 VELUX EHF FINAL4 with Rhein Neckar Lowen. He is a Polish international and was part of the silver medal winning team in the LANXESS arena at the 2007 World Championship.

**Michał Jurecki:**
Kielce’s powerful left back Michał Jurecki returned to Poland after a three season stint in Germany, which included spells as HSV Hamburg and TuS N-Lübbecke, and has been one of the club’s most consistent scorers since. 28-year-old Jurecki reached the 2007 World Championship final with Poland and has made over 100 appearances for his country.

**Karol Bielecki:**
Despite having lost sight on his left eye following an accident during an international in June 2010, Bielecki returned to the court as good as ever before. The left back started his career with a great performance at the 2004 EHF EURO. He then played for German clubs and returned to his home country before the current season. Bielecki is known for his “hammer shots” and has the same medal tally as his teammate Szmal.
Centre backs

**Uroš Zorman:**
One of the best playmakers in the game is on the hunt for his fourth EHF Champions League success. He has already won the trophy with Celje Pivovarna Laško from his native Slovenia in 2004 and Spain’s Ciudad Real (2008, 2009). He is not known for scoring lots of goals but his movement and passes provide ample space for his teammates in attack.

**Tomasz Rosiński:**
He debuted in the European Cup with WKS Śląsk Wrocław in 2003, but made his first EHF Champions League appearance with Vive Targi Kielce six years later. He is a very useful player for Bogdan Wenta’s team with his ability to play all over the back court.

Line players

**Rastko Stojković:**
In his maiden season for Kielce in 2009/10 the Serbian line player averaged almost six goals per game in the VELUX EHF Champions League, where his club’s run ended in the Last 16. Four years on his average goal haul per game has dropped by half, but he has reached Cologne for the first time and is hoping to add some European silverware to his career.

**Željko Musa:**
The 27-year-old Croatian national team line player has yet to win a major trophy for club or country and this season is only his fourth in Europe’s flagship competition. Nevertheless, at two metres tall, Musa is a towering presence in defence and determined to get a share of the European spoils.

**Piotr Grabarczyk:**
Playing with the club since 2002, Grabarczyk is the longest serving player currently playing for Kielce. Although he is not a regular on the scoresheet, Bogd Wenta uses the line player in the heart of Kielce’s defence.
**Right backs**

**Krzysztof Lijewski:**
If it was not for the influence of his father and oldest brother, he would be probably a basketball player. Lijewski lifted Cup Winner’s Cup in 2007 with HSV Hamburg. After winning the Bundesliga in 2011, his next club was Rhein-Neckar Lowen, where he remained for just one season before moving to Kielce, where Lijewski is a mastermind on the court.

**Denis Buntić:**
This is the first VELUX EHF FINAL4 appearance for the 30-year-old Croatian right-back. His first major honour was the silver medal at the 2005 WCh in Tunisia. In his second season with Kielce his goal tally in Europe has been cut in half, due to a broken metacarpal bone in January, but he is now fit again and ready for Cologne.

**Right wings**

**Ivan Čupić:**
Croatian right wing was the second best goal scorer at the London 2012 Olympics. His star has been rising since he became an all-star team member and silver medallist at the 2009 WCh on home soil. Despite losing one finger in a tragic accident in 2008 he continued his excellent game and won silver at the EHF EURO 2010 and bronze at London and WCh 2013.

**Þórir Ólafsson:**
The experienced Icelandic international with a past career in the Bundeliga, where he represented Tus N-Lübbecke for six years, has been with Kielce since 2011, and recently extended his contract with the Polish team for another year, until the summer of 2014. So far, the 189 cm tall Olafsson has scored 221 goals in 91 internationals for Iceland, while he has put 28 balls into the net for Kielce in the VELUX EHF Champions League this season. In the established attacking play as well as in the fast breaks, he is an important weapon for the Poles as well as for his country.