

## **EZ – אקטואליה**

### **The Last Word / Team shows its true grit - now comes the hard part** by Aviv Lavie

In the end, at the crucial moment and after a lot of character and a lot of heart, came a display of basketball. True, we only beat Hungary, but it was one of Israel's best games in recent years in all areas of the game: defense, offense and even rebounding.

In its current lineup Israel won't be the best team in Europe, but last night it came close to being the best that it can, and we can ask no more from Zvi Sherf.

The turning point in the game came when the tooth and nail gang, led by Dror Hajaj, came off the bench, although unlike previous games they did not have to overcome a deficit. Tal Burstein once again took the game into his hands when required, and together with Meir Tapiro and Hajaj Israel, has a real back court.

The European Championship's prestige may be in decline, but Israel and Hungary obviously haven't heard about it - it's been a long time since we've seen two teams fight so hard for a ticket to the tournament.

As well as being motivated, Israel played a smart ball game, reading the mismatch, executing the pick and roll between the guards and big men, and playing well from outlet passes for the forwards led by Yaniv Green.

It's hard to believe that all that only brings the national team to starting block among the Top 16 in Europe - a position that it is used to after seven straight appearances in the finals - but this time it comes into the competition with its head held high, its roster more united than ever, and with the hope that the momentum will last beyond the tip off in Friday's opening game against Latvia

## VOCABULARY

defense - הגנה

offense - התקפה

current - נוכחי (בהקשר אחר גם : זרם)

lineup - הערכות

ask - לבקש (משמעות נפוצה יותר : לשאול)

The turning point - נקודת המפנה

tooth and nail - בכל האמצעים (מרמז על מצב נואש לרוב)

Bench – ספסל

Previous - קודמים

overcome - להתגבר, להכריע

deficit - חוסר, גרעון, דפיציט

required - נדרש

Championship - אליפות

prestige - יוקרה

decline - ירידה, הדרדרות

obviously - באופן ברור

ticket – כרטיס

tournament - טורניר

motivated - בעל מוטיבציה, מונע

executing – לבצע, להוציא לפועל

Outlet – מוצא, יציאה, פורקן, שקע חשמל

straight - ישר, במקרה הזה הכוונה היא לרצף

appearances - הופעות

competition - תחרות

roster - רשימת השחקנים, העובדים, החיילים (בדומה למצבת לוחמים בצבא)

united - מאוחד

momentum – תנופה

beyond - מעבר ל