

Podcast Worksheet 6

Fans' Forum – Tottenham

Damian Fitzpatrick talks about Spurs' manager, Martin Jol (November 23rd 2006)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Players/ Managers

Martin Jol is the manager of Spurs and Paul Robinson is the Tottenham and England goalkeeper

Competitions

Premier League – England's top league

UEFA Cup – European competition for club teams

Teams

Tottenham, Wigan, Reading and Blackburn all play in the Premier League

Arsenal play at The Emirates stadium

Other

Tony Soprano is a character from the popular TV series 'The Sopranos' about a New Jersey mafia family.

A. Main Point – True or False

Listen to the report and choose true or false, give a reason for your choice.

1. T / F Martin Jol is a fan of the TV series 'The Sopranos'.
2. T / F Martin Jol likes the brown-coloured kit that Tottenham wear away from home.
3. T / F Spurs have got four points from their last 3 away games.
4. T / F The team played better last season than this season.
5. T / F The Spurs fans are very confident in their boss.
6. T / F Spurs' next away game is against another team from London.

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. '... Tony Soprano, sharing the same (a) _____ appearance, the well-fed stomach, the (b) _____ face...'
2. '... would - and could - dispose of their _____ problems in any way possible ...'
3. '... than Spurs. But _____ / _____ / _____, it is the realisation that the team...'
4. '...as well as the new signings finding their feet have been _____ as reasons for the decline.'
5. 'The next couple of weeks are _____ for Spurs' season, a point away in Germany against Leverkusen ...'
6. 'Disposing of an _____ problem, such as their local rivals on their own turf ...'

Answers

A. Main Point – True or False

Listen to the report and choose true or false, give a reason for your choice.

1. T / **F** Martin Jol is a fan of the TV series 'The Sopranos'.
Tottenham manager Martin Jol has often been likened to the TV mob leader, Tony Soprano
2. T / **F** Damian likes the brown-coloured kit that Tottenham wear away from home.
chocolate-coloured kit the team have been wearing recently – surely no good can come from that
3. T / **F** Spurs have got four points from their last 3 away games.
Spurs have picked up only one point from 2 away games against teams that had lost their previous 4 matches,
4. **T** / F The team played better last season than this season.
team have not performed anywhere near the levels of consistency of last season
5. **T** / F The Spurs fans are very confident in their boss.
the Spurs fans' have complete faith in their boss
6. **T** / F Spurs' next away game is against another team from London.
their next chance to finally win away from home this season on December 2 in the first North London Derby

B. Listening – vocabulary (answers)

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. '... Tony Soprano, sharing the same (a) **stocky** appearance, the well-fed stomach, the (b) **hardened** face...'

a) sturdy, thickset, stout, chunky, a broad physique

b) tough

2. '... would - and could - dispose of their **garbage** problems in any way possible ...'
trash, rubbish (here it may mean something a little darker)

3. '... than Spurs. But **more than likely**, it is the realisation that the team...'
there is a good chance that...

probably

4. '...as well as the new signings finding their feet have been **cited** as reasons for the decline.'

Claimed, suggested, offered as an example, given

5. 'The next couple of weeks are **vital** for Spurs' season, a point away in Germany against Leverkusen ...'

extremely important

6. 'Disposing of an **annoying** problem, such as their local rivals on their own turf ...'

irritating, maddening, bothersome, aggravating, frustrating

Fans Forum – Tottenham (transcript)

By Damian Fitzpatrick (November 23rd 2006)

Tottenham manager Martin Jol has often been likened to the TV mob leader, Tony Soprano, sharing the same stocky appearance, the well-fed stomach, the hardened face, the thinning hair and an air of menace that suggests that they both would - and could - dispose of their garbage problems in any way possible.

At the moment, Martin Jol has a problem on his hands and after the fracas against Blackburn last Sunday is clearly not a happy man. It might be the chocolate-coloured kit the team have been wearing recently – surely no good can come from that – or the fact that Spurs have picked up only one point from 2 away games against teams that had lost their previous 4 matches, Reading and Blackburn. Perhaps it is the fact that the England goalkeeper, Paul Robinson, has been beaten 5 times this season from outside the box - including 3 shots from aging holding midfield players. It might even be that only Liverpool and Sheffield United have worse away records than Spurs. But more than likely, it is the realisation that the team have not performed anywhere near the levels of consistency of last season and unless they start winning games their season may be over before Christmas.

Now, injuries to key players, the sale of the team's 'playmaker', Michael Carrick, as well as the new signings finding their feet have been cited as reasons for the decline but Jol may have to take some of the blame, particularly over his recent team selections. Just as in 'The Sopranos', the Spurs fans' have complete faith in their boss but they wonder just what is his best forward pairing and how will he get them to start scoring goals.

The next couple of weeks are vital for Spurs' season, a point away in Germany against Leverkusen will see the team qualify for the last 32 of the UEFA Cup while they need to get back to winning ways in the League against a resurgent Wigan on Sunday before their next chance to finally win away from home this season on December 2 in the first North London Derby at The Emirates Stadium. Disposing of an annoying problem, such as their local rivals on their own turf, would I am sure satisfy both Tony Soprano and Martin Jol indeed.