

Full Podcast 16 / Learners' Podcast 12

The Mexican League

By Damon Brewster (February 14th, 2007)

Listening for detail

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word.

Well anyway, a couple of weeks ago we looked at the MLS, Major League Soccer, in the United States after it was that David Beckham would be playing for LA Galaxy. And last week these two countries, America and Mexico, big football also played a friendly, which the USA won So we thought it was time to have a look at the Mexican league and to find out a little more about the teams and the in this football mad nation.

So, Mexican football: what do you think of? The World Cup finals in 1970 or 1986? The goalkeeper Campos Or tortilla and Tabasco sauce? Well, one thing is for sure and that is football is big in Mexico.

The modern league started in with 10 teams from the regional amateur leagues, most of them from Mexico City, forming Liga Mayor later to become today's Primera División. There are now teams taking part. These 18 teams are divided into three groups, or mini-leagues, and they play in the two championships, called the apertura and clausura each year. The teams from each group go into playoffs to decide who will be crowned champions. One team is and one each year.

Listening for understanding

1. What is an interesting feature of the Mexican league? – One company can own more than one team
2. Which two teams are involved in the biggest rivalry? (America and Deportiva Guadalajara (Chivas)
3. How many Championships has America won? (10, one less than Deportiva Guadalajara)
4. Where do Pachuca play? (in central Mexico in the city of Pachuca)
5. Who founded the team, Pachuca?
6. Who won last year's Championship? (Deportiva Guadalajara – Chivas)

Answers

Listening for detail

Well anyway, a couple of weeks ago we looked at the MLS, Major League Soccer, in the United States after it was **announced** that David Beckham would be playing for LA Galaxy. And last week these two countries, America and Mexico, big football **rivals** also played a friendly, which the USA won **2-0**. So we thought it was time to have a look at the Mexican league and to find out a little more about the teams and the **history** in this football mad nation.

So, Mexican football: what do you think of? The World Cup finals in 1970 or 1986? The **colourful** goalkeeper Campos Or tortilla and Tabasco sauce? Well, one thing is for sure and that is football is big in Mexico.

The modern league started in **1943** with 10 teams from the regional amateur leagues, most of them from Mexico City, forming Liga Mayor later to become today's Primera División. There are now **eighteen** teams taking part. These 18 teams are divided into three groups, or mini-leagues, and they play in the two championships, called the apertura and clausura each year. The **top** teams from each group go into playoffs to decide who will be crowned champions. One team is **relegated** and one **promoted** each year.

Listening for understanding

1. What is an interesting feature of the Mexican league? – **One company can own more than one team**
2. Which two teams are involved in the biggest rivalry? - **America and Deportiva Guadalajara (Chivas)**
3. How many Championships has America won? - **10, one less than Deportiva Guadalajara**
4. Where do Pachuca play? - **In central Mexico in the city of Pachuca**
5. Who founded the team, Pachuca? – **English miners in 1901**
6. Who won last year's Championship? - **Deportiva Guadalajara – Chivas**

Transcript

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Well anyway, a couple of weeks ago we looked at the MLS, Major League Soccer, in the United States after it was announced that David Beckham would be playing for LA Galaxy. And last week these two countries, America and Mexico, big football rivals also played a friendly, which the USA won 2-0. So we thought it was time to have a look at the Mexican league and to find out a little more about the teams and the history in this football mad nation.

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One interesting feature of the Mexican league is that one company can own more than one club, so for example the owners of Televisa, a huge international broadcaster, own three of them: America, Necaxa, and San Luis.

One of the big rivalries in the league is between the two most successful teams Deportiva Guadalajara and America. The former, also known as Chivas, or the 'goats', follows a policy of fielding only Mexican born players and is the most successful club in Mexico, having won 11 championships, one more than its bitter rivals America. They are know as Mexico's team. In contrast, America are often seen as the bad guys of Mexican football. Televisa's founder, Emilio Milmo, played a huge role in making America everything that Chivas was not. He spent huge amounts of money on foreign players and ran the club as a business rather than a football team. When these two teams meet in the el Superclásico, the biggest derby, everyone tunes in to watch.

Other teams include Atlas, who play in the second city, Guadalajara, Pachuca, the oldest team in the league and recently very successful. Pachuca are from central Mexico from the city of the same name and the team was started by English miners in 1901. Their rivals include UANL Tigres - Tigres de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León – excuse my poor Spanish. They are the youngest team in the league.

Who are the form teams at the moment? Well, the clausura season has just started with four games played so it is still too early to tell but Atlas, Pachuca and Morella are doing well and top the three mini-leagues, with last year's champions Chivas in 3rd place in group one. Atlas are looking good with no defeats

We have only scratched he surface of Mexican football today, but we will be sure to talk more about this passionate and exciting league in future episodes.