

Podcast 20 Worksheet

The J-League (The Japanese Football League)

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 15th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Teams and players mentioned in the report

Urawa Reds; Shimizu S-Pulse; FC Yokohama; Yokohama F Marinos; Yokohama Flugels; Gamba Osaka; FC Tokyo; Nagoya Grampus; Ventforet Kofu; Kawasaki Frontale are all teams that have played in the J-League while Genoa play in Italy.

Tulio plays for Urawa Reds, Kazu and Yokoyama play for FC Yokohama and Honda plays for Nagoya Grampus. Wanchope is from Costa Rica and now plays at FC Tokyo with Hirayama.

Zico (Brazil), Schilaci (Italy); Gary Lineker (England); Zinho; César Sampaio (both Brazil); Maezono (Japan); Dunga; Leonardo (both Brazil); Michael Laudrup (Denmark); 'Pixie' Stojkavic (former Yugoslavia); and Txiki Beguiristain (Spain) all previously played in the J-League. Nakata played in Italy and England while Nakamura plays for Scottish team Celtic.

A. Main idea – matching information

Listen to the whole report and match the dates on the left with the events on the right.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1. 1993 | a. Urawa Reds won the double |
| 2. 2006 | b. Yokohama Flugels went out of business |
| 3. 1998 | c. FC Yokohama were promoted to J2 |
| 4. 1995 | d. Yokohama Flugels won The Emperor's Cup |
| 5. 1999 | e. Damian came to Tokyo |
| 6. 1999 | f. The J-League was started |
| 7. 2001 | g. The last time a Yokohama derby was played. |

B. Main idea - correct the false statements

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

1. Many football stars arrived at the start of the J-League despite not receiving large salaries.

2. Many people knew that the J-League would be a success.

3. There are 18 teams in both J1 and J2.

4. Urawa Reds have not played well so far this season.

5. More than 80.000 supporters watch Reds play every week.

6. The J-League player of the year, Tulio, plays for Gamba Osaka.

C. Main idea - choose the correct option

*Listen to the Japanese fans predicting the champion and dark horse (surprise team) for this year’s J-League. Choose the answer they give in the table below.
Number 1 has been done as an example.*

Speaker	Champion	Dark Horse
Speaker 1 - Jaga	FC Tokyo / Gamba Osaka	Ventforet Kofu / Yokohama FC
Speaker 2 - Beto	Urawa Reds / S-Pulse	Urawa Reds / S-Pulse
Speaker 3 - Mako	Reysol / Urawa Reds	Urawa Reds / Grampus 8
Speaker 4 - Kamiji	Cerezo Osaka / Gamba Osaka	FC Tokyo / Kawasaki Frontale
Speaker 5 - Emi	Gamba Osaka / Urawa Reds	FC Tokyo / Gamba Osaka
Speaker 6 - Mac	FC Tokyo / Yokohama Marinos	FC Yokohama / S- Pulse
Speaker 7 - Damian	Gamba Osaka / Urawa Reds	S-Pulse / FC Yokohama

D. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the second half of the report (about FC Yokohama) and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

Officially this was only Yokohama FC's second game in the top (1) _____ of Japanese football, as they were promoted to the J1 last season, but as everyone knows, this team was formed out of the (2) _____ of the former team, Yokohama Flugels. Now, when I first came to Japan I used to go and see the Flugels in action where I saw World Cup winners, Zinho and César Sampaio as well as (3) _____ Japanese star, Maezono playing for the home team and players such as, Dunga, Leonardo, Michael Laudrup, 'Pixie' Stojkavic, and Txiki Beguiristain for the away teams.

But despite winning the Emperor's Cup in 1999, Flugels went (4) _____ in the same year and were taken over by their cross-town enemy, Marinos. Flugels supporters were (5) _____ when asked to support their former rivals and (6) _____ decided to set up a new team that would be run by the fans. Playing in the semi-professional Japan League for two years under former World Cup winner, Pierre Littbarski, they won promotion to J-2, where they spent 6 years before finally winning (7) _____ to the top league last year.

Though many fans feel they will struggle to survive they have managed to make some important signings and of course they also have the most famous of all Japanese players in their team, 39-year old Kazuyoshi Miura, or 'King Kazu'. (8) _____ the first superstar of Japanese football, he played in Italy for Genoa paving the way for players such as, Nakata and Nakamura to (9) _____ in Europe later. Can they stay up this season? Yes, I think they can but I do not think they will be a dark horse as Mac predicted earlier in the report for I think the dark horses will be Shimizu S-Pulse and that Gamba Osaka will overcome their (10) _____ team, Reds and become champions at the end of the year.

E. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why was the NASL mentioned in the report ?
2. Why does Damian call Urawa Reds 'the jewel in the J-League crown'?
3. Why will Mac be happy with the Yokohama derby result?

Podcast 20 Worksheet - **ANSWERS**

The ASEAN Cup – football in Thailand

A. Main idea – matching information

Listen to the whole report and match the dates on the left with the events on the right.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1. 1993 | f. The J-League was started |
| 2. 2006 | a. Urawa Reds won the double |
| 3. 1998 | g. The last time a Yokohama derby was played |
| 4. 1995 | e. Damian came to Tokyo |
| 5. 1999 | b. Yokohama Flugels went out of business |
| 6. 1999 | d. Yokohama Flugels won The Emperor's Cup |
| 7. 2001 | c. FC Yokohama were promoted to J2 |

B. Main idea - correct the false statements

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

1. Many football stars arrived at the start of the J-League despite not receiving large salaries.
such as Zico, Schilaci and Gary Lineker were lured by huge cash offers to play in the new Japanese Football League
2. Many people knew that the J-League would be a success.
many observers felt it would suffer the same fate as its North American counterpart, the NASL, which went out of business soon after starting
3. There are 18 teams in both J1 and J2.
18 teams in J1 and 13 in J2.
4. Urawa Reds have not played well so far this season.
and last year's double winners, Urawa Reds have started strongly again
5. More than 80.000 supporters watch Reds play every week.
with nearly 60.000 fans going to watch them at home in the Saitama Stadium
6. The J-League player of the year, Tulio, plays for Gamba Osaka.
are also playing for them (Reds), including last season's player of the year, Tulio.

C. Main idea – choose the correct option

Listen to the Japanese fans predicting the champion and dark horse (surprise team) for this year’s J-League. Choose the answer they give in the table below.

Number 1 has been done as an example.

Speaker	Champion	Dark Horse
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Speaker 4 - Kamiji	Cerezo Osaka / Gamba Osaka	FC Tokyo / Kawasaki Frontale
Speaker 5 - Emi	Gamba Osaka / Urawa Reds	FC Tokyo / Gamba Osaka
Speaker 6 - Mac	FC Tokyo / Yokohama Marinos	FC Yokohama / S- Pulse
Speaker 7 - Damian	Gamba Osaka / Urawa Reds	S-Pulse / FC Yokohama

D. Listening - vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. division | 6. instead |
| 2. ashes | 7. promotion |
| 3. rising | 8. arguably |
| 4. bankrupt | 9. shine |
| 5. horrified | 10. bogey |

E. Comprehension

1. Why was the NASL mentioned in the report?

Many people thought the J-league would fail like the NASL in the USA

2. Why does Damian call Urawa Reds ‘the jewel in the J-League crown’?

They are the best-supported club in Japan with many national team players in the side, playing in a fantastic stadium – a big club.

3. Why will Mac be happy with the Yokohama derby result?

Because FC Yokohama defeated their ‘bigger’ city rivals Yokohama F Marinos 1-0

Transcript

The J-League

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 15th 2007)

When former European and South American stars, such as Zico, Schilaci and Gary Lineker were lured by huge cash offers to play in the new Japanese Football League set up in 1993, many observers felt it would suffer the same fate as its North American counterpart, the NASL, which went out of business soon after starting. However, though not as popular as the boom time of the early years, the J-League has become more stable and is regarded as the strongest in the region with two divisions now: 18 teams in J1 and 13 in J2.

The season has just begun and last year's double winners, Urawa Reds have started strongly again, though they are behind Gamba Osaka who were their main challengers last year and are looking for revenge. Reds are the jewel in the J-League crown with nearly 60.000 fans going to watch them at home in the Saitama Stadium and many of the current national team are also playing for them, including last season's player of the year, Tulio.

We asked some Japanese football fans what teams they thought would challenge for this year's title and which team may be the dark horses.

Speaker 1 (Jaga): Gamba Osaka

Damian: Are you from Osaka?

Speaker 1: Yes

Damian: And a surprise team?

Speaker 1: Ventforet Kofu.

Damian: Champion?

Speaker 2 (Beto): Reds

Damian: Surprise team?

Speaker 2: S-Pulse

Damian: Oh, S-Pulse. Champion?

Speaker 3 (Mako): Reds.

Damian: Surprise team?

Speaker 3: Surprise team? Grampus.

Damian: Which team do you think will be champions in J-League?

Speaker 4 (Kamiji): Gamba Osaka

Damian: OK, Which team do you think will be the surprise team, the dark horse?

Speaker 4: Dark horse? Kawasaki Frontale.

Damian: Thank you very much. Emi, which team do you think is going to win this year's J-League?

Speaker 5 (Emi): Urawa Reds

Damian: Which team do you think will be the surprise team?

Speaker 5: Gamba Osaka

Damian: Thank you very much Emi.

Speaker 5: Thank you.

Speaker 6 (Mac): Yes, I think ... FC Tokyo.

Damian: FC Tokyo...why do you think FC Tokyo will be champions?

Speaker 6: Yes, it...Wanchope joined FC Tokyo and Hirayama, they have good attackers, that's why I think so.

Damian: What do you think will be the surprise team this year in J-League?

Speaker 6: FC Yokohama, Yokohama FC.

Damian: That would be a big surprise. Which player do you think will be a big player for the J-League this year?

Speaker 6: Honda ...Nagoya.

Damian: Honda from Nagoya? OK, let's look out for him. Tell me this, FC Yokohama play Yokohama F Marinos this weekend, which team do you think will win?

Speaker 6: I hope Yokohama FC win.

Well, Mac should be happy indeed because that was the goal by Yokohama FC player, Yokoyama, which won the first Yokohama derby in nine years. Officially this was only Yokohama FC's second game in the top division of Japanese football, as they were promoted to the J1 last year, but as everyone knows, this team was formed out of the ashes of the former team, Yokohama Flugels. Now, when I first came to Japan in 1995, I used to go and see the Flugels in action where I saw World Cup winners, Zinho and César Sampaio, as well as rising Japanese star, Maezono, playing for the home team and players such as, Dunga, Leonardo, Michael Laudrup, 'Pixie' Stojkavic, and Txiki Beguiristain for the away teams.

But despite winning the Emperor's Cup in 1999, Flugels went bankrupt in the same year and were taken over by their cross-town enemy, Marinos. Flugels supporters were horrified when asked to support their former rivals and instead decided to set up a new team that would be run by the fans. Playing in the semi-professional Japan League for two years under former World Cup winner, Pierre Littbarski, they won promotion to J-2, where they spent 6 years before finally winning promotion to the top league last year.

Though many fans feel they will struggle to survive they have managed to make some important signings and of course they also have the most famous of all Japanese players in their team, 39-year old Kazuyoshi Miura, or King Kazu. Arguably the first superstar of Japanese football, he played in Italy with Genoa paving the way for players such as, Nakata and Nakamura to shine in Europe later. Can they stay up this season? Yes, I think they can but I do not think they will be a dark horse as Mac predicted earlier in the report for I think the dark horses will be Shimizu S-Pulse and that Gamba Osaka will overcome their bogey team, Reds and become champions at the end of the year.