

Podcast 7 Worksheet

The Champions League

By Damian Fitzpatrick (September 21st 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

The Champions League group stages begin this week. On this week's show Damian looks at some of the problems connected with the competition and Fran talks about the Spanish teams' chances.

A. Main idea - true or false

Listen to the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F The Champions League was won last year by AC Milan.
2. T / F Sir Alex Ferguson reckons the Champions League is more important than the World Cup.
3. T / F Not everyone agrees that the Champions League is so good.
4. T / F Some people feel that the Champions League involves too many games.
5. T / F Niall gives five reasons why he is not excited about the Champions League.

B. Listening - vocabulary

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

This predictability has (1) _____ attendances, with English club Chelsea having their lowest crowd for five years to watch them (2) _____ their Champions League campaign against (3) _____ minnows Rosenburg of Norway this week. And the fact that there were empty seats in the games at Marseilles in France and even the (4) _____ champions Milan. Another reason for this is the

dominance of television with every match being shown live across the continent. But maybe there is a danger of the competition losing its (5) _____ as there are far too many teams that simply are not good enough for taking part.

Niall: How can a team that comes fourth win the Champions League? You're not even champions of your home country, it's (6) _____. Only the champions of each team (country) should be able to enter and that's it.

Damian: There are other murmurs of (7) _____ as the dominance of the major clubs remains unchallenged. Clubs from England, Spain, Italy and, to a lesser extent, Germany have dominated this competition since the (8) _____ changed from a straight knock-out to a league system and there is little to suggest that this year's tournament will be any different.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the final part of the report about the Spanish clubs' chances and answer the following questions.

1. Fran thinks that Valencia and Chelsea will qualify for the next stage from group B.
2. Fran thinks that Real Madrid will win group C.
3. Does Fran think Barcelona will qualify from group E?
4. Why does Fran like Scottish teams playing in the Champions League?
5. Fran hates Sevilla. Why?
6. How does he feel Sevilla will do in this group?

ANSWERS

A. Main idea - true or false

Listen to the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F The Champions League was won last year by AC Milan.
That was Pipo Inzaghi winning last year's Champions League title for his club AC Milan
2. T / F Sir Alex Ferguson reckons the Champions League is more important than the World Cup.
that Sir Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, suggested is bigger and better than the World Cup
3. T / F Not everyone agrees that the Champions League is so good.
There are many critics of the competition
4. T / F Some people feel that the Champions League involves too many games.
the Champions League is too long, has too much money
5. T / F Niall gives five reasons why he is not excited about the Champions League.
**(only two)
quite dull
just an opportunity for them to make loads of money at the expense**

B. Listening - vocabulary

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

This predictability has (1) **affected** attendances, with English club Chelsea having their lowest crowd for five years to watch them (2) **open** their Champions League campaign against (3) **minnows** Rosenburg of Norway this week. And the fact that there were empty seats in the games at Marseilles in France and even the (4) **defending** champions Milan.

Another reason for this is the dominance of television with every match being shown live across the continent. But maybe there is a danger of the competition losing its (5) **glamour** as there are far too many teams that simply are not good enough for taking part.

Niall: How can a team that comes fourth win the Champions League? You're not even champions of your home country, it's (6) **ridiculous**. Only the champions of each team (country) should be able to enter and that's it.

Damian: There are other murmurs of (7) **discontent** as the dominance of the major clubs remains unchallenged. Clubs from England, Spain, Italy and, to a lesser extent, Germany have dominated this competition since the (8) **format** changed from a straight knock-out to a league system and there is little to suggest that this year's tournament will be any different.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the final part of the report about the Spanish clubs' chances and answer the following questions.

1. Fran thinks that Valencia and which other team will qualify for the next stage from group B?

Chelsea

2. Fran thinks that which team will win group C?

Real Madrid

3. Does Fran think Barcelona will qualify from group E?

Yes, easily

4. Why does Fran like Scottish teams playing in the Champions League?

atmosphere

5. Fran hates Sevilla. Why?

He's from Malaga – their local rivals.

6. How does he feel Sevilla will do in this group?

Easily qualify

Transcript

That was Pipo Inzaghi winning last year's Champions League title for his club AC Milan and with this season's competition about to get underway, the languagecaster team will be spending the next couple of weeks focusing on the competition that Sir Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, suggested is bigger and better than the World Cup.

Or is it? There are many critics of the competition who feel that the Champions League is too long, has too much money and that the opening stages are boringly predictable.

Damian: Are you excited by the whole competition?

Niall: No, it's quite dull actually in the opening rounds. I don't see the point of it at all. It's just boring, cannon fodder for the big teams. It's dull, the same old faces every single year - just an opportunity for them to make loads of money at the expense of the home leagues.

This predictability has affected attendances, with English club Chelsea having their lowest crowd for five years to watch them open their Champions League campaign against minnows Rosenburg of Norway this week. And the fact that there were empty seats in the games at Marseilles in France and even the defending champions Milan. Another reason for this is the dominance of television with every match being shown live across the continent. But maybe there is a danger of the competition losing its glamour as there are far too many teams that simply are not good enough for taking part.

Niall: How can a team that comes fourth win the Champions League? You're not even champions of your home country, it's ridiculous. Only the champions of each team (country) should be able to enter and that's it.

Damian: There are other murmurs of discontent as the dominance of the major clubs remains unchallenged. Clubs from England, Spain, Italy and, to a lesser extent, Germany have dominated this competition since the format changed from a straight knock-out to a league system and there is little to suggest that this year's tournament will be any different.