

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 12 Worksheet

Football - The World's Game

By Damon Brewster (October 26th, 2007)

Pre-Listening

A. In this report we talk about these famous people:

Bill Shankley, George Orwell, Denis Bergkamp, Dmitri Shostakovich, Albert Camus, Jock Stein, Maradona, Anthony Burgess

B. match the occupation (job) with the definition.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| a. _____ journalist | 1. someone who writes for a newspaper or magazine |
| b. _____ striker | 2. someone who trains people, especially sportsmen and women |
| c. _____ writer | 3. someone who writes music |
| d. _____ critic | 4. an attacking footballer |
| e. _____ coach | 5. someone who writes for a living |
| f. _____ composer | 6. someone who expresses opinions and judgments on the value of something |

Listening

A. Listening for Detail

Look at the chart below and fill in the missing spaces.

Name	Occupation (job)	Born	Nationality	Famous Football Quote
Bill Shankley		Not said	Not said	_____ the right way. _____ each other. It's a form of socialism without the Politics
George Orwell			British (born in India)	Football is war without the shooting
Denis Bergkamp		Not said		Behind every kick of the ball lies a thought
Dmitri Shostakovich			Russian	Football is the _____ of the masses
Albert Camus			French (Algerian)	He learnt about _____ and the morality of man through football
Jock Stein		1922		Football is nothing without the _____
Maradonna	football player, football 'magician'			God makes me play well. That is why I always make the sign of the cross when I walk out onto the field. I feel I would be betraying Him if I didn't
Anthony Burgess				Five days are for work as the bible says, the seventh day is a _____ day to remember God, and the sixth day is for _____

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 12 Answers

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B. match the occupation (job) with the definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| a. <u>1</u> journalist | 1. someone who writes for a newspaper or magazine |
| b. <u>4</u> striker | 4. an attacking footballer |
| c. <u>5</u> writer | 5. someone who writes for a living |
| d. <u>6</u> critic | 6. someone who expresses opinions and judg- |
| e. <u>2</u> coach | 2. someone who trains people, especially sports- |
| f. <u>3</u> composer | 3. someone who writes music |

Listening

A. Listening for Detail

Name	Occupation (job)	Born	Nationality	Famous Football Quote
Bill Shankley	(football) manager	Not said	Not said	Train the right way. Help each other. It's a form of socialism without the Politics
George Orwell	journalist, writer, political thinker	1903	British (born in India)	Football is war without the shooting
Denis Bergkamp	striker (football player)	Not said	Dutch	Behind every kick of the ball lies a thought
Dmitri Shostakovic	composer	1906	Russian	Football is the ballet of the masses
Albert Camus	writer, philosopher, goalkeeper	1913	French (Algerian)	He learnt about duty and the morality of man through football
Jock Stein	football coach (manager)	1922	Scottish	Football is nothing without the fans
Maradonna	football player, football 'magician'	1960	Argentina	God makes me play well. That is why I always make the sign of the cross when I walk out onto the field. I feel I would be betraying Him if I didn't
Anthony Burgess	writer, critic	1917	British	Five days are for work as the bible says, the seventh day is a holy day to remember God, and the sixth day is for football

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Football - The World's Game

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Why is football the world's game? Why is it followed with so much passion?

With football all too often being in the headlines for the wrong reasons in the past twenty or thirty years, it is easy to forget that this sport is followed by more people than any other on the planet. Forget hooliganism, pampered players, diving - or simulation if you like, money destroying the soul of the game. Football was, is and will be 'the beautiful game'.

Perhaps it's the unique combination of team spirit and free expression. For team spirit here is one of the greatest managers in the English game, Bill Shankley - "Train the right way. Help each other. It's a form of socialism without the Politics." The sport has always been linked to the 'people' or perhaps more accurately, the working people. After all, what do you need to play? Some jumpers for goal posts, a ball, some space or a wall, and a mate. Think about cricket, rugby, American football, baseball and you need equipment, a team, a special place to play.

Football has it all. Politics, philosophy, religion ...

Politics. Football is war without the shooting. So said George Orwell, the British journalist, writer and political thinker, who was born in India in 1903. Well, yes and no. In 1969 war did break out over football between Honduras and El Salvador. Two world cup qualifiers, a suicide by an El Salvadorian at her team's loss, nationalism, and politics mixed to result in a shooting war that left more than 4,000 dead in the two countries. While passions can be raised, resulting in conflict, football also has the power to reach out across politics and differences of the day and even across the battlefield. 1914, Christmas saw a truce between some German and English soldiers and a game of football in no-man's land. Every man knew the rules, every man knew the spirit behind the game, every man was united by the game. More recently in the Ivory Coast the controversial president Laurent Gbagbo has promised to work for peace in the country after the national football team told him they wanted their success on the pitch to help unite the country and bring peace. No one can ignore the power of a successful national team.

Philosophy. Football isn't a sport it's a philosophical act. Behind every kick of the ball lies a thought argues the scorer of perhaps the greatest goal in a world cup, the Dutch striker - Denis Bergkamp -

what a fantastic goal it was, too: three sublime touches: first the control plucking the ball out of the air, then beating the man with a sharp change of direction, and a stinging outside-of-the-foot volley into the net. A moment of beauty. Football is the ballet of the masses just as Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich, born in 1906 said. But more philosophical weight is added in support of the importance of football by Camus, born in Algeria in 1913, and a skilled goalkeeper. The writer and philosopher argued that he learnt about duty and the morality of man through football. And how can we argue? Football is a team game that relies on the responsibility and choices the individual in that team makes.

Religion. Sometimes religion spills over over into football, think about the Glasgow derby between Rangers and Celtic and the hundreds of years of religious hatred as a backdrop. But more often than not it is football that is the religion. It is the opium of the masses. Jock Stein, the coach of Celtic and of his country, born in 1922 in Scotland, reminds us that football is nothing without the fans. And these fans turn up week in week out to watch their team, know ecstasy and agony through victory and defeat, and gain a sense of solidarity as a member of the 'tribe' boasting about their heroes. The game connects people across the generations, it gives them a focus, something to look forward to, it teaches humility after a stinging defeat, and there is the opportunity for the collective joyous singing or chanting from the terraces. Everyone believes in their gods on the pitch. Players such as Maradona, the Argentinian magician born in Buenos Aires in 1960 know that football is more than a game. "God makes me play well. That is why I always make the sign of the cross when I walk out onto the field. I feel I would be betraying Him if I didn't." He was of course rewarded for his devotion to God when the divinity inspired him as he destroyed England while also simultaneously restoring some pride for an Argentinean nation defeated in war by the British.

Football is the world's game. As Anthony Burgess, the British writer and critic, born in 1917 said:

Five days are for work as the bible says, the seventh day is a holy day to remember God, and the sixth day is for football.