

Podcast 9 Worksheet

Champions League – Italian Teams

By Damian Fitzpatrick (October 5th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

The Champions League group stage is currently taking place and after looking at English and Spanish teams' chances in previous weeks we focus on Italian teams' this time.

A. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first part of the report about **AC Milan** and fill in the missing words below with an appropriate word.

DB: So of course the (1) _____ Champions league champions are an Italian side, AC Milan, and they're joined this year by Inter, their cross-town (2) _____, Roma and Lazio. What do you think about these teams? Let's start with AC Milan, the current champions.

DF: Yeah, much like last season they have not (3) _____ well in their own domestic league but you can never rule them out although I think possibly this year their team is probably a little bit (4) _____ / _____ to win the Champions League. However, in their (5) _____, even though they lost away to Celtic, I still think that they should qualify although we've had a couple of people (5) _____ Shakhtar Donetsk to actually get through as well but I think Milan will actually make it. What do you think?

DB: Well yes, on paper they've got such a strong line up however they've already lost to Celtic, they've got a (6) _____ league performance, they're in 11th position with only 7 points in the league. But I agree with you I think they'll get out of their group, they may only qualify second, as second winners there and I don't think they're gonna' get further than the quarter finals.

B. True or false

Listen to the section about **Inter Milan** and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason to support your answer.

1. T / F Damon feels that Inter Milan have good mental strength.
2. T / F Damon thinks the most important player is their goalkeeper.
3. T / F Damon does not think that Inter will make the last four in the competition.
4. T / F Damian agrees that Inter have always had a strong mentality in Italian football.
5. T / F Damian is a big fan of Ibrahimovic.

C. Correct the errors

Listen to the section about **Roma** and correct the six errors below

DF: Everybody loves Roma, they play great attacking football. But they've had a bit of a torrid time in the last twelve days. They've drawn matches in Serie A, they've beaten Inter at home and they've just lost away to Manchester United in the Champions League. Totti is key, Totti is key. If he gets injured or if he dips in form then they're not going to do anything and they won't get through from the group with Manchester United. What do you think?

DB: Yes, I agree I think they'll get through with Manchester United, even though they lost against Manchester United. And talking about Totti it was a nice idea sending a personal apology to the Manchester United fan who was injured in the stadium when Manchester United played Roma. But they have had a bad time recently, they've failed to draw in the last four matches and they've lost the last three. They've got some injuries so troubled times ahead. They'll get through the group but I'm not sure they'll get further than the quarters, if that.

D. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Which team does Damon think will go furthest in the competition?
2. How about Damian?
3. What does Damon think of Lazio's chances?
4. What about Damian?
5. 'Ibrahimovic has really stepped up ...' What does the expression 'stepped up' mean?
6. Which of the four teams has drawn the most matches recently?

ANSWERS

A. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first part of the report about AC Milan and fill in the missing words below with an appropriate word.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. current | 2. Rivals |
| 3. done | 4. Too old |
| 5. group | 6. dreadful |

B. True or false

Listen to the section about Inter Milan and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason to support your answer.

1. T / F Damon feels that Inter Milan have good mental strength.

They have a winning mentality

2. T / F Damon thinks the most important player is their goalkeeper.

The striker Ibrahimovic

3. T / F Damon does not think that Inter will make the last four in the competition.

Feels they might make semi finals

4. T / F Damian agrees that Inter have always had a strong mentality in Italian football.

one team that does not have the winning mentality

5. T / F Damian is a big fan of Ibrahimovic.

key players, Ibrahimovic, he really has stepped up and he's scoring

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the section about Roma and correct the six errors below

DF: Everybody loves Roma, they play great attacking football. But they've had a bit of a torrid time in the last **twelve days (ten days)**. They've drawn matches in Serie A, **they've been beaten (they've beaten Inter)** at home by Inter and they've just lost away to Manchester United in the Champions League. Totti is key, Totti is key. If he gets injured or if he dips in form then they're not going to do anything but they **should (won't)** get through from the group with Manchester United. What do you think?

DB: Yes, I agree I think they'll get through with Manchester United, even though they lost against Manchester United. And talking about Totti it was a nice **gesture (idea)** sending a personal apology to the Manchester United fan who was injured in the stadium when Manchester United visited Roma. But they have had a bad time recently, they've failed to **win (draw)** in the last four matches and they've lost the last **two (three)**. They've got some injuries so troubled times ahead. They'll get through the group but I'm not sure they'll get further than the quarters, if that.

D. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Which team does Damon think will go furthest in the competition?

Inter

2. How about Damian?

Inter

3. What does Damon think of Lazio's chances?

Not a strong chance at all, will not get out of the group

4. What about Damian?

Thinks they might squeeze through (qualify)

5. 'Ibrahimovic has really stepped up ...' What does the expression 'stepped up' mean?

Has taken responsibility, has improved his play

6. Which of the four teams has drawn the most matches recently?

Lazio

Transcript

DB: So of course the current Champions league champions are an Italian side, AC Milan, and they're joined this year by Inter, their cross-town rivals, Roma and Lazio. What do you think about these teams? Let's start with AC Milan, the current champions.

DF: Yeah, much like last season they have not done well in their own domestic league but you can never rule them out although I think possibly this year their team is probably a little bit too old to win the Champions League. However, in their group, even though they lost away to Celtic, I still think that they should qualify although we've had a couple of people tipping Shakhtar Donetsk to actually get through as well but I think Milan will actually make it. What do you think?

DB: Well yes, on paper they've got such a strong line up however they've already lost to Celtic, they've got a dreadful league performance, they're in 11th position with only 7 points in the league. But I agree with you I think they'll get out of their group, they may only qualify second, as second winners there and I don't think they're gonna' get further than the quarter finals.

DF: Now how about Inter Milan?

DB: Well, for me Inter Milan are a team that has a winning habit. I think they've got a winning mentality people say they are not playing so well but they are topping Serie A. They've got a goal scorer in Ibrahimovic playing very well recently, of course, Crespo. Although in their game against PSV they got two red cards that may have an impact on their performance in the group but I can see them winning this group and going through comfortably and perhaps getting as far as the semi finals and then, who knows?

DF: Yes, it's interesting you mentioned winning mentality with reference to Inter Milan because within Italy I think they've been the one team that does not have the winning mentality like say, Juventus or AC Milan. But as you say this season they've really, really improved and one of the key players, Ibrahimovic, he really has stepped up and he's scoring goals for fun at the moment. They'll definitely qualify from their group but I still think that mental fragility will kick in later on. Possibly quarter-final, semi-final.

DB: How about Roma? What do you think?

DF: Everybody loves Roma, they play great attacking football. But they've had a bit of a torrid time in the last ten days. They've drawn matches in Serie A, they've been beaten at home by Inter and they've just lost away to Manchester United in the Champions League. Totti is key, Totti is key. If he gets injured or if he dips in form then they're not going to do anything but they should get through from the group with Manchester United. What do you think?

DB: Yes, I agree I think they'll get through with Manchester United, even though they lost against Manchester United. And talking about Totti, it was a nice gesture sending a personal apology to the Manchester United fan who was injured in the stadium when Manchester United visited Roma. But they have had a bad time recently, they've failed to win in the last four matches and they've lost the last two. They've got some injuries so troubled times ahead. They'll get through the group but I'm not sure they'll get further than the quarters, if that.

DF: Right, now how about their city rivals, Lazio? They actually had to play a qualifying round to get into the Champions League. They drew 2-2 with Real Madrid the other night at home. What do you think of their chances?

DB: I don't think they have a strong chance at all. I don't think they'll get out of their group with Olympiakos and Real Madrid. They're good at getting draws recently – six out of eight, in the last eight games, sorry six draws. I don't think they're going to get out of their group.

DF: Yes, it's a tricky one. Obviously Real Madrid are favourites to get through there, yes it's between them and Werder Bremen to get through I think and I think their home form might just see them through. Yes, Lazio to qualify but that's it, they'll go no further at all.

DB: OK so my order, running order for the Italian teams is Inter perhaps semi-finalist, AC Milan perhaps quarter-finalists, Roma no further than the quarters and Lazio not to get out of their group.

DF: Well, more or less I agree with you although I think Lazio may just get out of the group. Yes, Inter definitely have the best chance of the four.