

Podcast 13 Worksheet

Managerial Merry-go-round

By Damian Fitzpatrick (November 1st 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Teams that are mentioned in the report

England: Tottenham, Bolton, Chelsea, Birmingham Holland: Ajax, PSV

Spain: Valencia France: Marseilles Portugal: Benfica

Italy: AC Milan, Livorno Germany: Energie Cottbus

A. Main idea – Reasons for leaving the job

Listen to the whole report and fill in the chart with appropriate information.

Team	Manager’s name	Reason for leaving
Benfica	Santos	Not mentioned
	Orsi	Team was under performing
Marseilles	Emon	
Bolton	Sammy Lee	
Chelsea	Jose Mourinho	
	Quiuque Sanchez Flores	Lost support of supporters
Sevilla	Juande Ramos	

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first part of the report and fill in the gaps with a missing word.

They have all (1) _____ with their manager within the first two months of this season. In addition, the international manager Steve Staunton (2) _____ / _____ by Ireland last week and you have got something approaching an epidemic! Languagecaster decided to have a look at some of the reasons why the job of being a football manager is a (3) _____ one indeed.

This time of year is when club presidents and fans become (4) _____ as they realise that their best-laid plans and optimism at the beginning of the season are starting to fall (5) _____. It may still be early enough to turn the team around while it is not too early to be described as callous. Though Benfica’s (6) _____ of their coach, Santos, in the first week of the season borders on the ridiculous.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the next part of the report and answer the following questions

1. What was the difference between Sammy Lee and Martin Jol's dismissals?
2. How many trophies had Mourinho won at Chelsea in three years?
3. What do Ten Cate, Juande Ramos and Ronald Koeman have in common?
4. How about Mourinho, Lippi, Capello and Klinsmann?
5. Who does Damian think will be net for the chop?

ANSWERS

A. Main idea – Reasons for leaving the job

Listen to the whole report and fill in the chart with appropriate information.

Team	Manager’s name	Reason for leaving
Benfica	Santos	Not mentioned
Livorno	Orsi	Team was under performing
Marseilles	Emon	Team was under performing
Bolton	Sammy Lee	Lost support of dressing room
Chelsea	Jose Mourinho	Disagreed with owner
	Quique Sanchez Flores	Lost support of supporters
Sevilla	Juande Ramos	More money

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first part of the report and fill in the gaps with a missing word.

They have all (1) **departed** with their manager within the first two months of this season. In addition, the international manager Steve Staunton (2) **was fired** by Ireland last week and you have got something approaching an epidemic! Languagecaster decided to have a look at some of the reasons why the job of being a football manager is a (3) **precarious** one indeed.

This time of year is when club presidents and fans become (4) **nervous** as they realise that their best-laid plans and optimism at the beginning of the season are starting to fall (5) **apart**. It may still be early enough to turn the team around while it is not too early to be described as callous. Though Benfica’s (6) **dismissal** of their coach, Santos, in the first week of the season borders on the ridiculous.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the next part of the report and answer the following questions

1. What was the difference between Sammy Lee and Martin Jol's dismissals?

Lee lost support of players and Jol the board

2. How many trophies had Mourinho won at Chelsea in three years?

five

3. What do Ten Cate, Juande Ramos and Ronald Koeman have in common?

They left for more money

4. How about Mourinho, Lippi, Capello and Klinsmann?

They are out of work and looking for a job

5. Who does Damian think will be net for the chop?

Steve MacClaren

Transcript

Here is a question for you. What do the following clubs have in common? Chelsea, Bolton and Tottenham from The Premier League in England, Valencia from La Liga in Spain, Ajax and PSV from the Dutch league, Marseilles from France, Livorno from Italy's Serie A, Energie Cottbus from The Bundesliga in Germany and Benfica in Portugal? The answer? They have all parted with their manager within the first two months of this season. In addition, the international manager Steve Staunton was fired by Ireland last week and you have got something approaching an epidemic! Languagecaster decided to have a look at some of the reasons why the job of being a football manager is a precarious one indeed.

This time of year is when club presidents and fans become nervous as they realise that their best-laid plans and optimism at the beginning of the season are starting to fall apart. It may still be early enough to turn the team around while it is not too early to be described as callous. Though Benfica's dismissal of their coach, Santos, in the first week of the season borders on the ridiculous.

Now, perhaps the most obvious reason for a manager to be let go is that the team is under-performing and may even be in danger of losing their status in the division. This was the reason for the sackings of Orsi from Livorno and Sanders from Energie Cottbus and Emon from Marseilles. This pressure to succeed has always made the football manager's job a stressful one, though with football now a huge business there is more pressure than ever on clubs to do well.

Though being at the foot of the table was a major reason for the firing of Sammy Lee from Bolton it was not the only factor. Lee had incurred the wrath of the senior players in the squad, which undermined his leadership as they lost all respect for him. This is called 'losing the dressing room' and is becoming an increasingly common reason for removing a manager, though this was not the reason for former Tottenham manager Martin Jol's dismissal. Rather than losing the dressing room he lost the support of his chairman and board as they felt that he had taken them as far as he could and they wanted someone to push them on to better things.

This support of the board is crucial for the security of the manager's position as they hold the power at the club and nowhere is this better demonstrated than at Chelsea under the all-powerful Russian owner Roman Abramovic. Despite winning five trophies in three years, Jose Mourinho was fired by the club as he did not see eye-to-eye with the chairman over tactics and style, though the question of whose ego was bigger probably had something to do with the decision.

Valencia's Quique Sanchez Flores has been another recent managerial casualty even though his team was in fourth place in La Liga. The home supporters lost faith with him and their constant criticism meant that he too was removed from his post.

However, managers also move clubs of their own accord as they see the chance of working at a bigger team with better chances of success. And of course a higher salary. Juande Ramos has just tripled his salary by moving to Tottenham from Sevilla, while Ten Cate quit Ajax and Koeman resigned from PSV to coach at Chelsea and Valencia respectively where their salaries are much higher.

So, who is next for the chop? With a host of top managers waiting in the wings, such as Mourinho, Lippi, Capello and Klinsmann, as well as constant pressure to succeed now being part of the game it will surely not be too long before we are reading about another managerial dismissal. At the moment, there is huge speculation that Steve Bruce may leave Birmingham, Carlo Ancelotti will be sacked at Milan, that Steve McClaren will be forced out as England manager and that even Rafa Benitez may be fired at Liverpool. My money is on McClaren.