

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 22

The FA Cup – Giant-killers

By Damon Brewster (6<sup>th</sup> January, 2008)

Pre-Listening

A. Background information

- The FA Cup is the world’s oldest football competition dating back to 1871/72.
- The third round of the FA Cup is when the bigger teams from The Premier League and The Championship join the competition.

B. Vocabulary

Check the meaning of these words before you start listening – can you write a word or phrase with a similar meaning?

Word	Meaning
icon	symbol
trivia	
reap	
an upset	
expect	
progress (noun)	

Listening

A. Detail

Listen and fill in the blank spaces below.

The FA Cup. As English as \_\_\_\_\_, Stonehenge and \_\_\_\_\_ double-decker \_\_\_\_\_. At least that’s according to a survey in England to try to find English icons. Certainly most men in their \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ will remember as boys following the FA Cup final build up from the early morning on TV until the game kicked off - player \_\_\_\_\_, trivia, what the teams were eating for breakfast, the \_\_\_\_\_ on the coaches, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the football season in England.

The third round is where the \_\_\_\_\_ fry get their chance against the \_\_\_\_\_ from the top leagues. If the smaller team is lucky they’ll get drawn away to one of the Premier League sides and reap the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ticket sales. It can mean a new stand, a quality player, clearing debt for the minnows, and huge embarrassment if they lose for the \_\_\_\_\_ from the top league.

So will there be any \_\_\_\_\_ in this years Cup? Well, here are four games that I think could \_\_\_\_\_ a surprise result. Remember even a draw for a smaller club feels like a victory.

## B. General Understanding

Look at the sentences below. Put them in the correct order. Listen to check your answers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Now, Fulham have a new manager but their recent form is terrible, and they are really on the ropes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rovers will believe this is their chance, and if they won it would be a huge shock.

\_\_\_\_\_ The pressure just might get to Cardiff.

**1** \_\_\_\_\_ First up is Bristol Rovers from the First Division at Fulham.

\_\_\_\_\_ Second, Champions league side Stoke against Premier League side Newcastle United.

\_\_\_\_\_ Thirdly, a David and Goliath match up sees Swansea from Division One host Havant & Waterlooville from the non-league Conference South division.

\_\_\_\_\_ But finally, Chasetown, who are the lowest ranked team to reach the third round of the FA Cup take on Cardiff from the Championship.

\_\_\_\_\_ Of course, you would expect the greater experience and strength in depth to show, but Stoke are in the race for promotion and haven't lost for 10 games. Sam Allardyce will not be looking forward to this tie.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Welsh side should win comfortably, but they are playing away at Chasetown and it will be a poor playing surface, cold showers, cramped changing rooms and a hostile crowd.

\_\_\_\_\_ With a striker called Rocky Baptiste playing for the semi-pro Hawks anything could happen.

**11** \_\_\_\_\_ And who knows, we could see Chasetown progress to meet one of today's giants in the fourth round.

## C. Vocabulary Building

Look back at your answers in Listening A.

1. What word or phrase means the same as 'giants'? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What two words or phrases mean the opposite of 'giants' \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 22 - Answers

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#### Pre-Listening

#### B. Vocabulary

Check the meaning of these words before you start listening – can you write a word or phrase with a similar meaning?

Word	Meaning
icon	symbol, representation
trivia	facts, unimportant detail
reap	gather, get
an upset	a surprise, a shock
expect	wait for, think will happen
progress (noun)	continue, go on, go forward

#### Listening

#### A. Detail

Listen and fill in the blank spaces below.

The FA Cup. As English **as a cup of tea**, Stonehenge and **red** double-decker **buses**. At least that's according to a survey in England to try to find English icons. Certainly most men in their **thirties** or **forties** will remember as boys following the FA Cup final build up from the early morning on TV until the game kicked off - player **profiles**, trivia, what the teams were eating for breakfast, the **fans** on the coaches, the **end** of the football season in England.

The third round is where the **small** fry get their chance against the **big fish** from the top leagues. If the smaller team is lucky they'll get drawn away to one of the Premier League sides and reap the **rewards** of the ticket sales. It can mean a new stand, a quality player, clearing debt for the minnows, and huge embarrassment if they lose for the **giants** from the top league.

So will there be any \_\_\_\_\_ in this year's Cup? Well, here are four games that I think could \_\_\_\_\_ a surprise result. Remember even a draw for a smaller club feels like a victory.

## B. General Understanding

Look at the sentences below. Put them in the correct order. Listen to check your answers.

- 2   Now, Fulham have a new manager but their recent form is terrible, and they are really on the ropes.
- 3   Rovers will believe this is their chance, and if they won it would be a huge shock.
- 10   The pressure just might get to Cardiff.
- 1   First up is Bristol Rovers from the First Division at Fulham.
- 4   Second, Champions league side Stoke against Premier League side Newcastle United.
- 6   Thirdly, a David and Goliath match up sees Swansea from Division One host Havant & Waterlooville from the non-league Conference South division.
- 8   But finally, Chasetown, who are the lowest ranked team to reach the third round of the FA Cup take on Cardiff from the Championship.
- 5   Of course, you would expect the greater experience and strength in depth to show, but Stoke are in the race for promotion and haven't lost for 10 games. Sam Allardyce will not be looking forward to this tie.
- 9   The Welsh side should win comfortably, but they are playing away at Chasetown and it will be a poor playing surface, cold showers, cramped changing rooms and a hostile crowd.
- 7   With a striker called Rocky Baptiste playing for the semi-pro Hawks anything could happen.
- 11   And who knows, we could see Chasetown progress to meet one of today's giants in the fourth round.

## C. Vocabulary Building

Look back at your answers in Listening A.

1. What word or phrase means the same as 'giants'? **Big fish**
2. What two words or phrases mean the opposite of 'giants' **minnows** and **small fry**.

## Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 22 - Transcript

### The FA Cup - Giant-killers

*By Damon Brewster (6th January, 2008)*

The FA Cup. As English as a cup of tea, Stonehenge and red double-decker buses. At least that's according to a survey in England to try to find English icons. Certainly most men in their thirties or forties will remember as boys following the FA Cup final build up from the early morning on TV until the game kicked off - player profiles, trivia, what the teams were eating for breakfast, the fans on the coaches, the end of the football season in England.

The third round is where the small fry get their chance against the big fish from the top leagues. If the smaller team is lucky they'll get drawn away to one of the Premier League sides and reap the rewards of the ticket sales. It can mean a new stand, a quality player, clearing debt for the minnows, and huge embarrassment if they lose for the giants from the top league.

So will there be any upsets in this year's Cup? Well, here are four games that I think could produce a surprise result. Remember even a draw for a smaller club feels like a victory.

First up is Bristol Rovers from the First Division at Fulham. Now, Fulham have a new manager but their recent form is terrible, and they are really on the ropes. Rovers will believe this is their chance, and if they won it would be a huge shock.

Second, Championship side Stoke against Premier League side Newcastle United. Of course, you would expect the greater experience and strength in depth to show, but Stoke are in the race for promotion and haven't lost for 10 games. Sam Allardyce will not be looking forward to this tie.

Thirdly, a David and Goliath match up sees Swansea from Division One host Havant & Waterlooville from the non-league Conference South division. With a striker called Rocky Baptiste playing for the semi-pro Hawks anything could happen.

But finally, Chasetown, who are the lowest ranked team to reach the third round of the FA Cup take on Cardiff from the Championship. The Welsh side should win comfortably, but they are playing away at Chasetown and it will be a poor playing surface, cold showers, cramped changing rooms and a hostile crowd. The pressure just might get to Cardiff. And who knows, we could see Chasetown progress to meet one of today's giants in the fourth round.