

Podcast 31 Worksheet

The UEFA Cup

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 7th 2008)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

This report focuses on the knock-out stage of the UEFA Cup.

Pre-listening task 1

How much do you know about the UEFA Cup?

1. Which team are the holders of the cup?
2. How many teams are left in the competition?
3. Can you name four teams that are still in the competition?
4. Where will the UEFA Cup final take place this year?
5. What month?

A. Listening – Main point

Listen to the first part of the report and write down appropriate information on the right about why the UEFA Cup is not so successful any more.

The Champions League	
The Format	
Quality of teams	

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. '... the UEFA Cup is upon us but many football fans seem _____ or simply do not care about the second European ...'
2. '... the Champions League have all played their part in the _____ of the UEFA Cup'
3. 'By playing in the Champions League teams are guaranteed _____ sums of money...'
4. '... to this, is the drop in _____ of the participating teams.'
5. '... these teams now go to the main competition leaving teams that finish their _____ season in fifth, sixth...'
6. 'This year, however, the competition _____ four former European Cup winners...'

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the questions below.

1. What do Benfica, PSV, Bayern Munich and Hamburg have in common?
2. How about Tottenham, Anderlecht, Rangers and Everton?
3. Which two teams does Damian think will reach the final?
4. Which team does he think will win?

ANSWERS

Pre-listening task 1

How much do you know about the UEFA Cup?

1. Which team are the holders of the cup?

Sevilla (not mentioned)

2. How many teams are left in the competition?

16

3. Can you name four teams that are still in the competition?

Benfica, Sporting, Tottenham, Everton, Bolton, Rangers, Bayern Munich, Bremen, Hamburg, Leverkusen, St. Petersburg, Fiorentina, Getafe, PSV, Anderlecht

4. Where will the UEFA Cup final take place this year?

Manchester

5. What month?

May

A. Listening – Main point

Listen to the first part of the report and write down appropriate information on the right about why the UEFA Cup is not so successful any more.

<p>The Champions League</p>	<p>By playing in the Champions League teams are guaranteed huge sums of money, wide TV exposure and the ability to attract the best players from all over the world. But another reason for the lack of interest is the constant change in the competition’s format.</p>
<p>The Format</p>	<p>Previously it was a simple knock-out tournament but it now has a third round league system that no one really understands but from which 24 teams emerge. These are then joined by 8 teams knocked out from the Champions League to give 32 teams who play home and away in a knock-out tournament</p>
<p>Quality of teams</p>	<p>the drop in quality of the participating teams. Before the Champions League, teams that finished second, third or fourth participated in the UEFA Cup but these teams now go to the main competition leaving teams that finish their domestic season in fifth, sixth or seventh now taking part in the UEFA Cup. On top of this, the domestic cup winners, the Intertoto winners and the teams with the best fair play record also play in the competition diluting the quality even further</p>

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. '... the UEFA Cup is upon us but many football fans seem **unaware** or simply do not care about the second European ...
2. '... the Champions League have all played their part in the **decline** of the UEFA Cup
3. 'By playing in the Champions League teams are guaranteed **huge** sums of money...'
4. '... to this, is the drop in **quality** of the participating teams.
5. '... these teams now go to the main competition leaving teams that finish their **domestic** season in fifth, sixth...'
6. 'This year, however, the competition **boasts** four former European Cup winners...'

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the questions below.

1. What do Benfica, PSV, Bayern Munich and Hamburg have in common?
Former European Cup winners
2. How about Tottenham, Anderlecht, Rangers and Everton?
Have all won a European Trophy
3. Which two teams does Damian think will reach the final?
Fiorentina – Bayern Munich
4. Which team does he think will win?
Fiorentina

Transcript

The last 16 of the UEFA Cup is upon us but many football fans seem unaware or simply do not care about the second European competition despite the fact that this year's competition could be its strongest yet. Why is this trophy so poorly received among fans, players and the media? Format, a drop in the quality of teams taking part and of course the Champions League have all played their part in the decline of the UEFA Cup.

The Champions League with its financial and sporting power dominates European football and overshadowing its sister tournament. By playing in the Champions League teams are guaranteed huge sums of money, wide TV exposure and the ability to attract the best players from all over the world. But another reason for the lack of interest is the constant change in the competition's format. Previously it was a simple knock-out tournament but it now has a third round league system that no one really understands but from which 24 teams emerge. These are then joined by 8 teams knocked out from the Champions League to give 32 teams who play home and away in a knock-out tournament. Confused? Don't worry, everyone is.

Added to this, is the drop in quality of the participating teams. Before the Champions League, teams that finished second, third or fourth participated in the UEFA Cup but these teams now go to the main competition leaving teams that finish their domestic season in fifth, sixth or seventh now taking part in the UEFA Cup. On top of this, the domestic cup winners, the Intertoto winners and the teams with the best fair play record also play in the competition diluting the quality even further. It is no wonder that fans or media simply do not care any more about the UEFA Cup.

This year, however, the competition boasts four former European Cup winners in Benfica, PSV, Bayern Munich and Hamburg as well as Tottenham, Rangers, Fiorentina, Everton, Sporting and Anderlecht who have all previously won a European trophy. Many of the teams participating are also challenging at the top of their respective leagues, which makes this year's tournament a strong one indeed. Which of these teams will make the final at the City of Manchester Stadium in May? I am going for a Bayern Munich - Fiorentina final with the Italians to win.