

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 36

Relegation Battles: Part I

By Damon Brewster (13th April 2008)

Pre-Listening

Background Information

When this report was written La Liga had seven more games until the end of the season and Serie A had six remaining. In both leagues, the bottom three go down to the second division.

- La Segunda = the second division in Spain
- Serie B = the second division in Italy

Vocabulary

Check the meaning of these words before you start listening. Match them with the meaning on the right.

Word	Meaning
_____ battle (verb)	a. divide, split
_____ expert	b. fight, try hard
_____ board room	c. choose (predict)
_____ separate (verb)	d. specialist, someone with a lot of knowledge in a subject
_____ avoid	e. famous (for something bad)
_____ notorious	f. escape, move out of the way of something
_____ tip (verb)	g. directors of a company
_____ rooted to	h. stuck, unable to move from

Listening

A. Detail

Listen and fill in the blank spaces.

When we talk about La Liga here on languagecaster we usually \_\_\_\_\_ on the battle for the title, but on this week’s report we \_\_\_\_\_ at the bottom of the table to \_\_\_\_\_ out which teams are desperately \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid the drop. Now, way back in September I asked three Spanish football experts to \_\_\_\_\_ which teams would struggle this year in La Liga and here is what they said.

DF: My final question, which team do you think will not do very well in La Liga this year? Which team maybe will \_\_\_\_\_ down?

Pim: I think Mallorca is going to go down this year because they have a weak team

Pablo: Murcia ... it's the first time in La Liga.

Jon: I think that Valladolid and maybe Murcia.

So Murcia, Valladolid and Mallorca were all \_\_\_\_\_ to go down but let's have a look at the current standings to see if our experts really know what they are \_\_\_\_\_ about.

Levante are \_\_\_\_\_ to the bottom with only 19 points but the club has been plagued by financial and board room difficulties all season so no real surprise there. Ten points ahead of them are Murcia who \_\_\_\_\_ as if they will join Levante in the second division next season. But who will go down with them? Well, as we have heard at the start of the show the biggest surprise is Real Zaragoza who, despite finishing 6th last year, find themselves three points adrift in the relegation zone. They have only 7 games to save their season but with only 7 points separating the next seven clubs, including Deportivo, Getafe and Valencia, it is all to \_\_\_\_\_ for. So, My tip to join Murcia and Levante? I am going for Zaragoza to \_\_\_\_\_ the drop with Recreativo de Huelva slipping into La Segunda for next year.

## B. Meaning

Look at the sentences. Can you put them in the correct order from 1 to 12?

\_\_\_\_\_ but no fewer than six teams within five points. But we've got three teams on 29, just two above the Calabrain team, Reggina.

\_\_\_\_\_ In Serie B next season - Reggina, Livorno and Empoli.

\_\_\_\_\_ came up last year - Juventus and Napoli, and they were joined by Genoa. This is what an Italian fan had to say at the start of the season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Cagliari meet Livorno in a crucial encounter, and I expect Livorno to continue their dismal form and lose to their relegation rivals. And what about

\_\_\_\_\_ Fan: This year it could be something like Genoa and possibly Napoli - I hope Napoli is going to go down.

1 Thanks Damian, And what about Serie A, who is going to slip into Serie B this season? Well first of all we have to remember that some big teams

\_\_\_\_\_ Well, it looks as though he got that wrong with both Genoa and Napoli sitting comfortable in the top half of Seria A. He also tipped AC Milan for the title. Well, we all make mistakes.

\_\_\_\_\_ So what is the situation at the moment. Well, it's quite an 'exciting' relegation battle. We've got Reggina bottom on 27 points,

\_\_\_\_\_ Considering they have also drawn with big teams Roma and Sampdoria, I'm tipping them to escape the drop.

\_\_\_\_\_ They are Cagliari, Empoli and Livorno. The Sardinian team, Cagliari are showing some fight, losing just one of the last five to AC Milan.

\_\_\_\_\_ Empoli? They could be in trouble as in the last six games they meet three teams from the drop zone. It will be difficult to get points.

\_\_\_\_\_ On the other hand, Parma have a tough run in on paper - Juve, Fiorentina, Inter - but the Italian league is notorious for strange results at the end of the season.

## Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 36 - Answers

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#### Listening

##### A. Detail

Listen and fill in the blank spaces.

When we talk about La Liga here on languagecaster we usually **focus** on the battle for the title, but on this week's report we **look** at the bottom of the table to **find** out which teams are desperately **battling** to avoid the drop. Now, way back in September I asked three Spanish football experts to **predict** which teams would struggle this year in La Liga and here is what they said.

DF: My final question, which team do you think will not do very well in La Liga this year? Which team maybe will **go** down?

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- 6 but no fewer than six teams within five points. But we've got three teams on 29, just two above the Calabrain team, Reggina.
- 12 In Seria B next season - Reggina, Livorno and Empoli.
- 2 came up last year - Juventus and Napoli, and they were joined by Genoa. This is what an Italian fan had to say at the start of the season.
- 9 Cagliari meet Livorno in a crucial encounter, and I expect Livorno to continue their dismal form and lose to their relegation rivals. And what about
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- 10 Empoli? They could be in trouble as in the last six games they meet three teams from the drop zone. It will be difficult to get points.
- 11 On the other hand, Parma have a tough run in on paper - Juve, Fiorentina, Inter - but the Italian league is notorious for strange results at the end of the season.

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Thanks Damian, And what about Seria A, who is going to slip into Seria B this season? Well first of all we have to remember that some big teams came up last year - Juventus and Napoli, and they were joined by Genoa. This is what an Italian fan had to say at the start of the season.

Fan: This year it could be something like Genoa and possibly Napoli - I hope napoli is going to go down.

Well, it looks as though he got that wrong with both genoa and Napoli sitting comfortable in the top half of Seria A. He also tipped AC Milan for the title. Well, we all make mistakes.

So what is the situation at the moment. Well, it's quite an 'exciting' relegation battle. We've got Reggina bottom on 27 points, but no fewer than six teams within five points. But we've got three teams on 29, just two above the Calabrain team, Reggina. They are Cagliari, Empoli and Livorno. The Sardinian team, Cagliari are showing some fight, losing just one of the last five to AC Milan. Considering they have also drawn with big teams Roma and Sampdoria, I'm tipping them to escape the drop.

Cagliari meet Livorno in a crucial encounter, and I expect Livorno to continue their dismal form and lose to their relegation rivals. And what about Empoli? They could be in trouble as in the last six games they meet three teams from the drop zone. It will be difficult to get points. On the other hand, Parma have a tough run in on paper - Juve, Fiorentina, Inter - but the Italian league is notorious for strange results at the end of the season.

In Seria B next season - Reggina, Livorno and Empoli.

Next week languagecaster takes a look at relegation battles in the Bundesliga and the Premier League in England.