

Podcast 37 Worksheet

Relegation Battles II Premier League and Bundesliga

By Damian Fitzpatrick (April 20th 2008)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

This report focuses on the battles to survive in the Premier League and the Bundesliga. There are two short reports – first Damian talks about the Bundesliga and then Damon focuses on the Premier League.

Bundesliga teams mentioned: Cottbus; Bielefeld; Leverkusen; Schalke; Duisburg, Hansa Rostock

Premier League teams mentioned: Bolton, Derby; Fulham; Reading; Aston Villa; Birmingham; Tottenham; Portsmouth; Sunderland; Chelsea; Liverpool; Manchester City; Middlesbrough.

Championship Teams mentioned: Watford and Sheffield United

A. Listening – Main point

Listen to the first section (Bundesliga) and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason to support your answer.

1. T / F There are less than six games to go in the Bundesliga.
2. T / F Three teams will be relegated at the end of the season and five are currently in trouble.
3. T / F FC Nurnberg won the German Cup in 2008.
4. T / F FC Nurnberg have played the same amount of games as the rest of the teams around them according to the report.
5. T / F Cottbus were heavily defeated by Schalke during the week.
6. T / F Duisburg, Cottbus and Nurnberg are tipped to be relegated.

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to the second section (Premier League) and explain why the following statements are false.

1. Fulham's next four opponents all have something to play for.
2. Fulham is a team from the north of England.
3. Manchester City are playing in the FA Cup Final in May.
4. Bolton have to play Arsenal and Chelsea.
5. Damon thinks that Reading has the hardest run-in.
6. Derby, Reading and Birmingham are tipped to be relegated.

C. Vocabulary

Listen to the second section of the report (Premier League) and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

On (1) _____, Fulham, 27 points, could pick up some points if the sides they play in the last four games (2) _____ their priorities lie elsewhere. The London side play Liverpool this weekend, (3) _____ will be thinking about the Champions League (4) _____ with Chelsea They also play Man City and Portsmouth away with the Manchester side with nothing to play for, and a Portsmouth side looking (5) _____ the FA Cup final. Their other game however is against Birmingham. That will be a (6) _____ game for both clubs. There are a lot of ifs if they are to survive.

ANSWERS

A. Listening – Main point

Listen to the first section (Bundesliga) and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason to support your answer.

1. T / F There are less than six games to go in the Bundesliga.
Only five games remain in the Bundesliga
2. T / F Three teams will be relegated at the end of the season and five are currently in trouble.
Five teams are currently locked in this battle hoping to avoid ending the season in one of the bottom three places.
3. T / F FC Nurnberg won the German Cup in 2008.
They won in 2007
4. T / F FC Nurnberg have played the same amount of games as the rest of the teams around them according to the report.
They have a game in hand which means they play one extra match.
5. T / F Cottbus were heavily defeated by Schalke during the week.
They were hammered 5-0
6. T / F Duisburg, Cottbus and Nurnberg are tipped to be relegated.
My picks for relegation are: Nuernburg, Duisburg and Cottbus

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to the second section (Premier League) and explain why the following statements are false.

1. Fulham's next four opponents all have something to play for.
if the sides they play in the last four games decide their priorities lie elsewhere
2. Fulham is a team from the north of England.
From London
3. Manchester City are playing in the FA Cup Final in May.
Portsmouth are playing in the final.
4. Bolton have to play Arsenal and Chelsea.
Tottenham and Chelsea
5. Damon thinks that Reading has the hardest run-in.
Birmingham
6. Derby, Reading and Birmingham are tipped to be relegated.
Derby, Fulham and Bolton

C. Vocabulary

Listen to the second section of the report (Premier League) and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

On (1) paper, Fulham, 27 points, could pick up some points if the sides they play in the last four games (2) decide their priorities lie elsewhere. The London side play Liverpool this weekend, (3) who will be thinking about the Champions League (4) tie with Chelsea They also play Man City and Portsmouth away with the Manchester side with nothing to play for, and a Portsmouth side looking (5) towards the FA Cup final. Their other game however is against Birmingham. That will be a (6) massive game for both clubs. There are a lot of ifs if they are to survive.

Transcript

Only five games remain in the Bundesliga and a real battle is developing in the basement to see who will be relegated this year. Five teams are currently locked in this battle hoping to avoid ending the season in one of the bottom three places.

By far the worst position, and everyone's pick for relegation is FC Nurnberg. They had a strong season last year and actually won the German Cup. But now they are last, five points from safety, although they do have a game in hand.

Sitting above them, but also in the relegation places are two teams that were promoted last year. As in many leagues, newly promoted teams have a difficult time adjusting to the higher league. Duisburg, on 25 points, and Hansa Rostock on 27 points still have a chance, but Duisburg in particular will be disappointed with another home defeat this week.

Just outside the relegation places are Bielefeld and Cottbus. Bielefeld gained a valuable victory against Leverkusen midweek whilst Cottbus were hammered 5-0 by Schalke.

Safety is there for the team that takes its chances. My picks for relegation are: Nuernburg, Duisburg and Cottbus

Premier League

Damon: In the Premier League this season, Derby are the Championship team that came up and went straight back down again. In 2007 two second tier teams were promoted only to go straight back down again, Sheffield United and Watford. Will, Derby be joined by another recently promoted side? Sunderland, the Black cats, are looking safe in 14th place on 36 points, but Birmingham are just above the drop zone on 31 and are in real danger of being a Championship club again next year They have to hope that they stay above Fulham and Bolton, who both had good wins last week, and that Reading lose points, too.

On paper, Fulham, 27 points, could pick up some points if the sides they play in the last four games decide their priorities lie elsewhere. The London side play Liverpool this weekend, who will be thinking about the Champions League tie with Chelsea They also play Man City and Portsmouth away with the Manchester side with nothing to play for, and a Portsmouth side looking towards the FA Cup final. Their other game however is against Birmingham. That will be a massive game for both clubs. There are a lot of ifs if they are to survive.

Bolton, on 29 points are in free fall. No Nicolas Anelka and Megson has not been able to recreate Allardyce's rugged, resilient side of last year. They also have some tough games against Tottenham and on the final day, Chelsea, to look forward to. Could their ex-striker, Anelka score and put them down? They need a win this weekend against Middlesbrough.

Above Fulham and Bolton are Birmingham and Reading. And I think it is the Midlands side, Birmingham, on 31 points, that have the toughest task in the run in. They have a huge derby game against Aston Villa this weekend, away - expect to see fireworks. They then host Liverpool before the crunch game against fellow-strugglers Fulham. Their last game against Blackburn at home could be a desperate affair.

My call? Derby, Fulham, and Bolton to go down on goal difference.