

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 40

Copa Libertadores & the Premier League

By Damon Brewster (12th May, 2008)

Pre-Listening

A. Background information

- The Copa Libertadores is the South American equivalent of the Champions League in Europe. This competition has been dominated by sides from Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.
- When this podcast was recorded, there was one game to go in the Premier League. Manchester United and Chelsea were on the same number of points, and the battle to avoid relegation was hotting up.

B. Vocabulary

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

Word	Meaning
_____ plenty	a. important, famous, well known
_____ be written off	b. to finish
_____ illustrious	c. lots, a large amount
_____ to pull off	d. most important, uppermost
_____ to put to bed (idiom)	e. be thought not important, a failure
_____ prior to	f. an easy game
_____ a gimmee	g. to succeed despite difficulties
_____ overriding	h. before
_____ anxious	i. to give up, surrender weakly
_____ to roll over (idiom)	j. nervous
_____ in freefall	k. experiencing a very bad run of form

Listening

A. Detail I

Listen and find the **ten** mistakes - One has been done for you.

Copa Libertadores

The Copa Libertadores is down to the quarter-finals after last week's eight games that saw few of goals, lots of controversy, many red cards and some improbable comebacks.

Holders Boca Juniors, despite being written off by many - including myself, are through after beating Brazilian side Cruzeiro ~~3-1~~²⁻¹ in Belo Horizonte and once again the Riquelme-inspired side will be challenging for the title. With Lanus going up to Mexican side Atlas and Estudiantes falling to Ecuador's Quito there will only be one other Argentinian side in the last eight and that is San Lorenzo who made it after a remarkable 2-2 draw to River Plate. Holding a 2-1 lead from the first leg, San Lorenzo found themselves 2-0 down and two men down with an hour gone yet fought over to draw 2-2 and knock off their more illustrious rivals who were jeered from the pitch by their furious supporters after the match.

But that comeback was nothing compared at the one that Mexican side America pulled out against Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo. Having won 4-2 away from home, the Brazilian side was odds-on favourite to qualify yet they ended with being thrashed 3-0 and crashing out of the competition. In the quarter finals America will play Santos, while Brazil are guaranteed at least one semi-finalist with the Sao Paulo - Fluminense match up. Boca will play Atlas while underdogs Quito face San Lorenzo. Though Mexican and Ecuadorian fans may beg to differ, I am going from two Argentinian and two Brazilian teams in the semi finals.

B. Detail II

Listen and fill in the blank spaces.

Premier League title race

Yeah, it's quite a nervy time for Manchester United fans at the moment because this league really should have been _____ before now. Man United had three away games: Chelsea; Blackburn and Middlesbrough to secure a win, which I think would have guaranteed them the title. They _____ to do it, two points from nine, and now it's all or nothing on the final game against Wigan, who themselves are in good _____. Prior to Steve Bruce' arrival, they hadn't taken a point off any of the top four since their return to the Premiership

but they've now _____ with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, with Liverpool at Anfield and at home to Arsenal earlier in the year. So this isn't a _____ for Man United and of course a draw for Man United mightn't be enough because I think Chelsea will definitely take _____ of Bolton at home ... at Stamford Bridge. So, nervy time. I think obviously the _____ goal is important and if Man United can get that perhaps Alex Ferguson will be celebrating his tenth title. But my _____ emotion would be one of nervousness.

C. Comprehension

Relegation

1. Who will be nervously cheering on their teams?
2. What will Reading and Fulham be fighting for?
3. Why are goals important to Reading?
4. Why should Reading expect to beat Derby?
5. Are Fulham playing at home or away?
6. Why might Portsmouth's players not give 100% commitment?
7. What **doesn't** the speaker expect to happen?

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 40 - Answers

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renzo who made it after a remarkable 2-2 draw **to** River Plate. Holding a 2-1 lead from the first leg, San Lorenzo found themselves 2-0 down and two men down with an hour gone yet fought **over** to draw 2-2 and knock **off** their more illustrious rivals who were jeered from the pitch by their furious supporters after the match.

But that comeback was nothing compared **at** the one that Mexican side America pulled **out** against Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo. Having won 4-2 away from home, the Brazilian side was odds-on favourite to qualify yet they ended **with** being thrashed 3-0 and crashing out of the competition. In the quarter finals America will play Santos, while Brazil are guaranteed at least one semi-finalist with the Sao Paulo - Fluminense match up. Boca will play Atlas while underdogs Quito face San Lorenzo. Though Mexican and Ecuadorian fans may beg to differ, I am going **from** two Argentinian and two Brazilian teams in the semi finals.

B. Detail II

Listen and fill in the blank spaces.

Premier League title race

Yeah, it's quite a nervy time for Manchester United fans at the moment because this league really should have been **put to bed** before now. Man United had three away games: Chelsea; Blackburn and Middlesbrough to secure a win, which I think would have guaranteed them the title. They **failed** to do it, two points from nine, and now it's all or nothing on the final game against Wigan, who themselves are in good **form**. Prior to Steve Bruce' arrival, they hadn't taken a point off any of the top four since their return to the Premiership but they've now **drawn** with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, with Liverpool at Anfield and at home to Arsenal earlier in the year. So this isn't a **gimmee** for Man united and of course a draw for Man United mightn't be enough because I think Chelsea will definitely take **care** of Bolton at home ... at Stamford Bridge. So, nervy time. I think obviously the **early** goal is important and if Man United can get that perhaps Alex Ferguson will be celebrating his tenth title. But my **overriding** emotion would be one of nervousness.

C. Comprehension

Relegation

1. Who will be nervously cheering on their teams?

Chelsea and Manchester United fans.

While the fans of Premier League giants Chelse and Manchester United will be nervously cheering their teams on as they battle it out for the title...

2. What will Reading and Fulham be fighting for?

Survival

...as their teams fight for survival at the foot of the table.

3. Why are goals important to Reading?

They have a poor goal difference / They are behind Fulham on goal difference only.

Goals are important as Reading are 6 goals behind Fulham on goal difference with the same points.

4. Why should Reading expect to beat Derby?

Derby are a very weak side.

...now officially the worst Premier League team ever

5. Are Fulham playing at home or away?

Away

Fulham are also on the road, all the way to the south coast where they face FA Cup finalists, Portsmouth.

6. Why might Portsmouth's players not give 100% commitment?

They are playing in the FA Cup Final the next week.

...they will be praying that Portsmouth have their eyes on the FA Cup final...

7. What **doesn't** the speaker expect to happen?

That Birmingham will survive.

Mathematically they can still do it if both Reading and Fulham lose. Sorry, I can't see it.

Season 2007 / 8 - Podcast 40 - Transcripts

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Relegation

While the fans of Premier League giants Chelsea and Manchester United will be nervously cheering their teams on as they battle it out for the title at the top of the league, supporters of Reading and Fulham will be equally anxious as their teams fight for survival at the foot of the table.

Reading travel to Pride Park to face Derby, now officially the worst Premier League team ever with only 11 points, hoping that the pride has been knocked out of the Rams and they roll over, preferably allowing the Royals an 8-0 victory. Goals are important as Reading are 6 goals behind Fulham on goal difference with the same points.

Fulham are also on the road, all the way to the south coast where they face FA Cup finalists, Portsmouth. They will also be travelling with hope: they will be praying that Portsmouth have their eyes on the FA Cup final and that their players will not be willing to charge into tackles and run all day. Portsmouth don't have anything else to play for, as their chance of a place in the UEFA Cup via the league went with a 2-0 loss to Middlesbrough.

It really is squeaky bum time for Fulham fans, but I think they must be safe. They've had a great run recently with 3 victories out of five. On the other hand, Reading are in freefall without a win in six. But wait a minute what about Birmingham? Mathematically they can still do it if both Reading and Fulham lose. Sorry, I can't see it. Reading, Birmingham and dreadful Derby to go down.