

Podcast 8: 2008-9 Worksheet

Paul Gascoigne

(October 4th 2008)

Background

Paul Gascoigne is a former England midfield star that came to prominence in the Italia 90 World Cup. Since his retirement a couple of years ago Gascoigne has suffered many tough times.

A. Main Idea – true or false

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false.

1. T / F According to the report, David Beckham is one of the best ever England players.
2. T / F Paul Gascoigne recently died.
3. T / F Gascoigne played for Newcastle, Manchester United, Tottenham, Lazio, Rangers, Everton and Middlesbrough.
4. T / F Paul Gascoigne played less than 60 times for England.
5. T / F Paul Gascoigne twice lost to Germany in international tournament semi-finals.
6. T / F Gascoigne played in China towards the end of his career.

B. Listening

Listen to the report as far as '... Everton in the Premier League.' and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. '... they will probably argue over the _____ of stars such as, Stanley Matthews, Bobby Moore or...'
2. '...which England player was the most exciting or entertaining, _____ and possessed the most skill then the majority of those supporters ...'
3. 'Born in the north of England he went on to play for his _____ local club Newcastle in 107 games ...'
4. '... took them to 6th and 3rd places in the league in his first two seasons there _____ he also helped the team to an FA Cup final ...'
5. 'If that was _____ then the ridiculous emerged in the final itself when after only 15 minutes ...'
6. 'Such was his _____ however he was signed by high-flying Italian club Lazio and though he was ...'

C. Comprehension

Listen to the final part of the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Gazza not play more for England according to the report?
2. Which five countries did Gazza play against in the 1990 World Cup?
3. Gazza crying in the 1990 semi-final was an iconic image, why?
4. What were some of the problems that Gazza had after retiring from football that were mentioned in the report.

ANSWERS

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A. Main Idea – true or false

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false.

1. T / F According to the report, David Beckham is one of the best ever England players.
It was a joke (just kidding)
2. T / F Paul Gascoigne recently died.
It was a rumour
3. T / F Gascoigne played for Newcastle, Manchester United, Tottenham, Lazio, Rangers, Everton and Middlesbrough.
Not Manchester United
4. T / F Paul Gascoigne played less than 60 times for England.
57 times
5. T / F Paul Gascoigne twice lost to Germany in international tournament semi-finals.
In 1990 World Cup and 1996 European Championship
6. T / F Gascoigne played in China towards the end of his career.
He had a stint in China

B. Listening

Listen to the report as far as '... Everton in the Premier League.' and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. '... they will probably argue over the merits of stars such as, Stanley Matthews, Bobby Moore or...'
Positive attributes
2. '...which England player was the most exciting or entertaining, unpredictable and possessed the most skill then the majority of those supporters ...'
never know what will happen
3. 'Born in the north of England he went on to play for his beloved local club Newcastle in 107 games ...'
well loved, favourite
4. '... took them to 6th and 3rd places in the league in his first two seasons there while he also helped the team to an FA Cup final ...'
as well as
5. 'If that was sublime then the ridiculous emerged in the final itself when after only 15 minutes ...'
supreme, extremely high quality
6. 'Such was his status however he was signed by high-flying Italian club Lazio and though he was ...'
position

C. Comprehension

Listen to the final part of the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Gazza not play more for England according to the report?
Managers felt he was too unpredictable
2. Which four countries did Gazza play against in the 1990 World Cup?
Germany, Cameroon, Belgium, Holland
3. Gazza crying in the 1990 semi-final was an iconic image, why?
Entered the hearts of England fans – patriotic, proud and vulnerable
4. What were some of the problems that Gazza had after retiring from football that were mentioned in the report.
Alcoholism, binge eating, domestic violence, fired as manager, depression

Transcript

Ask any England football fan to name the best ever player to have represented the national team and they will probably argue over the merits of stars such as, Stanley Matthews, Bobby Moore or Booby Charlton, Kevin Keegan, Gary Lineker or even David Beckham (just kidding about that, David!). But if you were to ask them which England player was the most exciting or entertaining, unpredictable and possessed the most skill then the majority of those supporters would probably nominate Paul Gascoigne.

Gazza, as he came to be known, has gone through some tough times since he retired from the game and was even rumoured to have died last week - a claim that forced the British police to issue a statement denying the fact. One thing that cannot be denied however is the player's supreme footballing ability.

Born in the north of England he went on to play for his beloved local club Newcastle in 107 games, and scoring 25 times. The Geordie fans loved him but realised he would move onto a bigger club so there was some surprise when he joined Tottenham in 1988. The Spurs fans also loved him and he took them to 6th and 3rd places in the league in his first two seasons there while he also helped the team to an FA Cup final in 1991 with a free kick to remember against north London rivals Arsenal in the semi final.

If that was sublime then the ridiculous emerged in the final itself when after only 15 minutes he was carried off after a dreadful tackle on a Nottingham Forest defender that left him with a knee injury that ruled him out of football for more than a year.

Such was his reputation however he was signed by high-flying Italian club Lazio and though he was never the same player after the Cup final injury he was loved by the local fans especially when scoring the winner against crosstown rivals Roma. But inconsistent performances - blamed on his injuries and his fondness for the nightlife - meant he was sold to Scottish club Rangers in 1995 where he had a successful three years before moving onto Middlesbrough and then Everton in the Premier League.

Now Gazza played 57 times for his country but we all know that it should have been more. Managers were afraid to play him as he was deemed unpredictable but when he finally got his chance in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy he took it with both hands with outstanding displays against Holland, Belgium, Cameroon and Germany in the semi final. And it was in

this game that Gazza really entered the hearts of the English public as his tears on receiving a yellow card meant he would not be able to play in the final if England had made it. This iconic image summed up the player - proud, patriotic yet extremely vulnerable.

Despite the injuries that blighted his career he once more featured for England in an international tournament - the 1996 European Championships scoring yet another memorable goal - this time against Scotland.

England lost yet again to Germany in the semi final of that competition and Gascoigne never repeated his earlier achievements. Left out of the England squad for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, Gazza began a downward spiral of destruction with reports of binge eating, alcoholism and even domestic violence dominating the newspapers.

He then had an unsuccessful stint in China, changed his name to G8, managed a non-league team for a month before being fired and generally suffered humiliation after humiliation. In recent times he has been arrested for violent behaviour, drunkenness and has even been sectioned under the mental health act of the UK. With this in mind and the fact that Gazza never won the Premier League or even appeared in an international final he will always be near the top when it comes to those lists of all time England greats.