

World Cup Qualification: Europe

(October 16th 2008)

Pre-Listening / Background information

This week's show focuses on the World Cup qualifying matches in Europe that took place this week. First of all we round up the groups and then we interview three Irish supporters after their victory over Cyprus in group 8.

A. Main Idea – note taking

Listen to the report as far as '...all battling for that second spot.' Fill in the table below with the names of the countries mentioned in the report. (Group 8 is dealt with later on.)

Group 1	(a) Denmark (b) _____ (c) Sweden (d) _____ (e) _____
Group 2	(a) Greece (b) _____ (c) _____
Group 3	(a) Slovakia (b) _____ (c) Czech Republic
Group 4	(a) _____ (b) Russia (c) Wales
Group 5	(a) Spain (b) _____ (c) Turkey
Group 6	(a) England (b) _____ (c) Ukraine
Group 7	(a) Serbia (b) _____ (c) _____
Group 9	(a) Holland (b) Scotland (c) _____ (d) _____

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report as far as '...thought of the Irish performance.' and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. 'The nine European World Cup qualifying groups have started to _____ / _____ with most teams now
2. 'Group two is widely _____ as the weakest of the European section ...'
3. '... Czech Republic _____ in fifth place four points behind their neighbours.
4. '... Russians are four points behind but should _____ the inexperienced Welsh side to ...'
5. '... to do well with an impressive away win at _____ Belgium – this time ...'
6. '...they are surprisingly five points clear of _____ Romania and France.'
7. '... eight, which is _____ the toughest in the European section, world champions ...'
8. '...matches, there is a sense of _____ around the country ...'
9. '...1-0 defeat of Cyprus - a _____ side for the Irish in recent times...'

C. Listening - shadowing

Listen to the end of the report (interview with the Irish fans) and complete the sentences. Use the hints to help.

1. / think / case / end / justify / mean / because / cautious / bit / nervous
2. We / do / better / Bulgaria / moment
3. / think / Kevin Doyle have / great / game / Damian Duff / play / really / well.
4. Most people / think / is / fight / second place / probably / fair / Italy win / again tonight.

D. Paraphrasing

The sentences below all come from the final part of the report - the interview with the Irish fans. Rewrite the sentences in your own words but be sure to retain the same meaning.

1. So... so, very pleased, er, we are still a bit shaky in parts but good performances by Doyle up front, Duff, of course, on the wing and Richard Dunne at the back, they were our best performers.
2. It was very nervy in the second half, I didn't think it had to be.
3. I mean Bulgaria only drew today away to Georgia and we've already beaten Georgia away so that's advantage us

ANSWERS

World Cup Qualification: Europe

(October 16th 2008)

A. Main Idea – note taking

Listen to the report as far as ‘...all battling for that second spot.’ Fill in the table below with the names of the countries mentioned in the report.

Group 1	(a) Denmark (b) Hungary (c) Sweden (d) Portugal (e) Albania
Group 2	(a) Greece (b) Israel (c) Luxembourg
Group 3	(a) Slovakia (b) Poland (c) Czech Republic
Group 4	(a) Germany (b) Russia (c) Wales
Group 5	(a) Spain (b) Belgium (c) Turkey
Group 6	(a) England (b) Croatia (c) Ukraine
Group 7	(a) Serbia (b) Romania (c) France
Group 9	(a) Holland (b) Scotland (c) Norway (d) Iceland

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report as far as ‘...thought of the Irish performance.’ and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. ‘The nine European World Cup qualifying groups have started to **take shape** with most teams now ...’

To form, to look like something recognizable

2. ‘Group two is widely **regarded** as the weakest of the European section ...’
seen

3. '... Czech Republic **languish** in fifth place four points behind their neighbours.'
Lie in a bad position (sense of unwell, not right)
4. '... Russians are four points behind but should **pip** the inexperienced Welsh side ...'
To beat by a small margin
5. '... to do well with an impressive away win at **resurgent** Belgium – this time ...'
becoming stronger again
6. '...they are surprisingly five points clear of **fancied** Romania and France.'
Expected to do well, favourites
7. '... eight, which is **arguably** the toughest in the European section, world...'
debatable
8. '...matches, there is a sense of **optimism** around the country ...'
hopefulness
9. '...1-0 defeat of Cyprus - a **bogey** side for the Irish in recent times...'
something that troubles you on a regular basis

C. Listening – Shadowing

Listen to the end of the report (interview with the Irish fans) and complete the sentences using the cues below.

1. / think / case / end / justify / mean / because / cautious / bit / nervous
I think it was a case of the ends justifies the means because we were cautious and a bit nervous
2. We / do / better / Bulgaria / moment
We're doing better than Bulgaria are at the moment
3. / think / Kevin Doyle have / great / game / Damian Duff / play / really / well.
I think Kevin Doyle had a great game and Damian Duff played really well.
4. Most people / think / is / fight / second place / probably / fair / Italy win / again tonight.
Most people are thinking it's a fight for the second place that's probably fair with Italy winning again tonight.

D. Paraphrasing

The sentences below all come from the final part of the report -the interview with the Irish fans. Rewrite the sentences in your own words but be sure to retain the same meaning.

1. So... so, very pleased, er, we are still a bit shaky in parts but good performances by Doyle up front, Duff, of course, on the wing and Richard Dunne at the back, they were our best performers.

Despite the fact that we were not always in control, I am very happy with the team's performances, particularly with Duff, Dunne and Doyle.

2. It was very nervy in the second half, I didn't think it had to be.

The team became more nervous after half time which I thought was unnecessary.

3. I mean Bulgaria only drew today away to Georgia and we've already beaten Georgia away so that's advantage us

Ireland has an advantage over Bulgaria after their draw in Georgia today.

Transcript

The nine European World Cup qualifying groups have started to take shape with most teams now having played four rounds of matches. Europe will have 13 representatives in South Africa made up from the nine group winners and four play-off winners from the best eight second-placed teams, which means that this qualifying section is more competitive than ever.

Group 1 sees Denmark and Hungary topping the table on seven points two ahead of Sweden and a rather surprisingly poor Portugal side that only drew 0-0 at home to 10-man Albania on Wednesday. Group two is widely regarded as the weakest of the European section with Greece leading on nine points one ahead of unbeaten Israel. Now, how weak is this group? Well, Luxembourg already have four points. In group three Slovakia have nine points after their win over second place Poland on Wednesday. The surprise here is that the Czech Republic languish in fifth place four points behind their neighbours. Germany are riding high in group 4 after beating Russia and Wales this week. The Russians are four points behind but should pip the inexperienced Welsh side to that second spot. Group five has the current European champions in it and the Spanish continue to do well with an impressive away win at resurgent Belgium - this time thanks to a late David Villa winner -

now they have maximum points from three games while Turkey are second one point behind. In group six England already look assured of qualification after their fourth win in a row - and three of those games were away - to lead Croatia and Ukraine by five points. Group seven is lead by Serbia and they are surprisingly five points clear of fancied Romania and France. The Dutch are leading group nine after their third win in three games with Scotland, Norway and Iceland all battling for that second spot.

In group eight, which is arguably the toughest in the European section, world champions Italy lead with ten points from 4 matches with the Republic of Ireland in second on seven points from three games. This is a much-improved Ireland side and with Bulgaria only drawing their last two matches, there is a sense of optimism around the country that the team can make it to South Africa. Last night 55.000 fans turned out to witness the 1-0 defeat of Cyprus - a bogey side for the Irish in recent times - and after the game I asked three of the supporters what they thought of the Irish performance.

Brendan: Yes, I think it was a case of the ends justifies the means because we were cautious and a bit nervous in the second half but three points is absolutely terrific at this stage of the tournament. It gives us seven after three games and if you compare that with how we did in the European Championship qualifiers we only had one point at the same stage. So... so, very pleased, er, we are still a bit shaky in parts but good performances by Doyle up front, Duff, of course, on the wing and Richard Dunne at the back, they were our best performers.

DF: Shane, Trapattoni got it right, yes?

Shane: Yes, he did. As Brendan was saying the end justifies the means but it's only sinking in now that I'm becoming more happy with the result. It was very nervy in the second half, I didn't think it had to be, I thought he could have made a few subs but as we ... as Brendan was saying beforehand the three points is all that counts and we got the three points and we're ... after three games seven points we gotta' be happy with that. We're doing better than Bulgaria are at the moment and if we keep that up we can at least finish second, you never know.

DF: Patrick, er, who played well for Ireland?

Patrick: I think ... I think Kevin Doyle had a great game and Damian Duff played really well, I

was a bit worried about McShane all through the game but I think he just about hung in there so...

DF: Still in with a chance ... to qualify for South Africa?

Brendan: Absolutely, I mean Bulgaria only drew today away to Georgia and we've already beaten Georgia away so that's advantage us. Most people are thinking it's a fight for second place that's probably fair with Italy winning again tonight. But... you know, Cyprus, Georgia, Bulgaria and ourselves I think why not? Why not Republic of Ireland in second?