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English for Football - week 24

To play out of (your) skin

This week's English for Football expression is the phrase to play out of your skin, which means to do something extremely well, to be outstanding. In football it usually means that a team or a player is playing far better than they usually perform. We sometimes use this expression when lower league teams or players raise their game against higher-ranked teams, they unexpectedly play extremely well. So, in this week's Carling Cup semi final second leg, Burnley from the Championship played out of their skins against Premier League side Tottenham while in this weekend's FA Cup 4th Round matches non-league Kettering will have to play out of their skins to defeat Premier League side Fulham. To play out of your skin.