

The Transfer Window

(February 4th 2009)

Pre-Listening / Background information

On this week's main report we take a look at this winter's transfer window, the one-month period when teams can buy and sell players.

A. Main Idea

Listen to the first part of the report and take notes under the headings with appropriate information.

Advantages of the transfer window	Disadvantages of transfer window
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • Media fuel the expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial • • Unsettles players •

B. Main Idea

Listen to the second part of the report and complete the table below. Match the players on the left with the appropriate information.

Players	Transfer
A. Tosic B. Emile Heskey C. Klaus Huntelaar D. Lassana Diarra E. David Beckham F. Kaka	1. Ajax to Real Madrid 2. Portsmouth to Real Madrid 3. Wigan to Aston Villa 4. AC Milan to Man City 5. Belgrade to Man Utd 6. LA Galaxy to AC Milan

C. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. Explain what the transfer window is.

2. How long does it last?

3. According to the report how many transfers had been completed among the top 4 clubs in England?
4. What does the figure £40 million refer to?
5. What do Tottenham, Hull, Bolton, West Brom and Newcastle have in common according to the report?
6. Why is there a possibility of there being more transfers in the upcoming few days?

D. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase. Then write the meaning of the word.

1. '...clubs will not be _____ to buy new players or bring in someone on loan until July 1st ...'
2. '...generally being unfair. _____, football agents love this time of year as they know that ...'
3. '... the media fuel the whole _____ with rumours appearing every day.'
4. '...takes place among teams that are _____ to survive - panic buying ...'
5. '... is currently playing for AC Milan but is _____ from LA Galaxy. ...'
6. '...For a week, this _____ transfer story dominated the UK press until the player turned down ...'

Podcast 25: 2008-9 Worksheet

ANSWERS

The Transfer Window

(February 4th 2009)

A. Main Idea

Listen to the first part of the report and take notes under the headings with appropriate information.

Advantages of the transfer window	Disadvantages of transfer window
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agents can make cash • Gives fans hope • Media fuel the expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial • Managers see it disrupting plans • Unsettles players • Unfair

B. Main Idea

Listen to the second part of the report and complete the table below. Match the players on the left with the appropriate information.

Players	Transfer
A. Tasic B. Emile Heskey C. Klaus Huntelaar D. Lassana Diarra E. David Beckham F. Kaka	1. Belgrade to Man Utd 2. Wigan to Aston Villa 3. Ajax to Real Madrid 4. Portsmouth to Real Madrid 5. LA Galaxy to AC Milan 6. AC Milan to Man City

C. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. Explain what the transfer window is.
It's the only time that clubs can buy and sell players
2. How long does it last?
One month

3. According to the report how many transfers had been completed among the top 4 clubs in England?

Two

4. What does the figure £40 million refer to?

The amount of money that Real Madrid spent on two players

5. What do Tottenham, Hull, Bolton, West Brom and Newcastle have in common according to the report?

Examples of struggling sides that bought many players in the window

6. Why is there a possibility of there being more transfers in the upcoming few days?

Worried chairmen

D. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase. Then write the meaning of the word.

1. '...clubs will not be **allowed** to buy new players or bring in someone on loan until July 1st

...'

permitted

2. '...generally being unfair. **On the other hand**, football agents love this time of year as they know that ...'

However, nevertheless

3. '... the media fuel the whole **process** with rumours appearing every day.'

Procedure, course

4. '...takes place among teams that are **struggling** to survive - panic buying ...'

teams that do not do well

5. '... is currently playing for AC Milan but is **on loan** from LA Galaxy. ...'

not a permanent player, playing only for a short time

6. '...For a week, this **incredible** transfer story dominated the UK press until the player turned down ...'

unbelievable

Transcript

With only a couple of days to go before the end of this winter's transfer window, the one-month period when teams can buy and sell players, we thought we'd review some of the main stories that have made the headlines over the past three weeks.

After next Tuesday, clubs will not be allowed to buy new players or bring in someone on loan until July 1st which many claim is an artificial way of controlling market forces. Other groups who disagree with the transfer system include many Premiership managers who see it as something that unsettles players, disrupts their plans and as generally being unfair. On the other hand, football agents love this time of year as they know that they can earn large amounts of cash through the wheeling and dealing that goes on, while the fans also love the transfer window as it is a time of hope - your club may buy that striker you are looking for or sell the dodgy keeper you have had for too long. In addition, the media fuel the whole process with rumours appearing every day as to which players are moving to which clubs.

So, who has gone where?

Well, there has not been much activity actually. The top teams in England have bought 2 players between them: young Serbian winger Tosic has gone to Manchester United while Emile Heskey has moved to Aston Villa. This is similar with the big clubs in other European countries with only Real Madrid bringing in new players: Huntelaar from Ajax and Lassana Diarra from Portsmouth for a combined total of £40 million. Most of the movement of players takes place among teams that are struggling to survive - panic buying if you will - as they gamble on staying in the lucrative top division. So, Tottenham have signed three players, as have Portsmouth and Hull City while West Brom, Newcastle and Bolton have also been busy in the transfer market.

But perhaps the two biggest stories so far have involved players not moving from their clubs. David Beckham is currently playing for AC Milan but is on loan from LA Galaxy. Rumours are rife that he may make a permanent move to the Italian giants though the MLS club are flatly denying the possibility. But even Becks has been overshadowed by the proposed move of Brazilian star Kaka from AC Milan to the wealthiest club in the world Manchester City. For a week, this incredible transfer story dominated the UK press until the player turned down the chance of earning a world record salary and the possibility of playing in a relegation battle with City.

Kaka is not moving anywhere this time but no doubt frightened club chairmen and managers will ensure that many others will do over the next couple of days.