

The Premier League Title Race

(April 25th 2009)

Pre-Listening / Background information

On languagecaster's main report this week we take a look at the final matches in the Premier League Title Race

- Manchester United; Liverpool and Chelsea all still had a chance of winning the title when this report was done.
- Guus Hiddink is manager of Chelsea while Alex Ferguson is manager of Manchester United
- Man United / Manchester United / Man U are all different ways of talking about the same club.

A. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. How many games are left in the Premier League according to the report?
2. How many teams does Damian think still have a chance of winning the title?
3. Why was it an important week in the Premier League?
4. What were the results of the following matches?
Chelsea-Everton / Man Utd-Portsmouth / Liverpool-Arsenal
5. Guus Hiddink manages Chelsea and which other team?
6. What does 'a game in hand' mean?
7. Which team does Brendan think will be champions at the end of May?

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. ... Premier League, tension is high as three clubs are still in _____ of winning the title ...
2. Portsmouth but I suppose the _____ game was the game between Liverpool and Arsenal, which...

3. ... you've mentioned some of the _____ that these results will have on the final destination of the title, for example...

4. ... for example, do you think Chelsea are _____?

5. ... he says they will _____ on the Champions League and the FA Cup.

6. ... Man United and a victory for Liverpool and the title race will be _____ yet again.

7. It's all about _____ at this stage of the season and trying to eke out results

C. Listening - references

*Listen to the report again and explain what the words in **bold** refer to.*

1. Liverpool really needed to win that game because going in to the series of matches (a) **they** were one point behind Man United and played a game more so (b) **it** effectively means, with the United result, that (c) **they** now lead by three points over their nearest rivals...

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____

2. He thinks now that (a) **they** trail Manchester United by six points and have played a game more ... that (b) **that** is too much of a mountain to climb. So, he says (c) **they** will focus on the Champions League...

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____

3. I am hoping that (a) **we** can win the title at the end of May. It's all about consistency at (b) **this stage** of the season and trying to eke out results and because...

a) _____ b) _____

Podcast 37: 2008-9 Worksheet

The Premier League Title Race

(April 25th 2009)

ANSWERS

A. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. How many games are left in the Premier League according to the report?
Five
2. How many teams does Damian think still have a chance of winning the title?
Three.
3. Why was it an important week in the Premier League?
All the top teams – the 'big four' were in action
4. What were the results of the following matches?
Chelsea-Everton / Man Utd-Portsmouth / Liverpool-Arsenal
(draw) / (Man Utd won) / (draw)
5. Guus Hiddink manages Chelsea and which other team?
The Russian national side
6. What does 'a game in hand' mean?
To have played a game fewer than your rivals – to have an extra game to play
7. Which team does Brendan think will be champions at the end of May?
Manchester United

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the whole report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. ... Premier League, tension is high as three clubs are still in **with a shout** of winning the title ...
to still have a chance
2. Portsmouth but I suppose the **standout** game was the game between Liverpool and Arsenal, which...
most important, most significant

3. ... you've mentioned some of the **impact** that these results will have on the final destination of the title, for example...

effects, influence

4. ... for example, do you think Chelsea are **out of the running**?

To have little or no chance, not going to win

5. ... he says they will **focus** on the Champions League and the FA Cup.

To concentrate on

6. ... Man United and a victory for Liverpool and the title race will be **blown wide open** yet again

it will become unpredictable again, difficult to decide

7. It's all about **consistency** at this stage of the season and trying to eke out results

being steady, regular

C. Listening - references

*Listen to the report again and explain what the words in **bold** refer to.*

1. Liverpool really needed to win that game because going in to the series of matches (a) **they** were one point behind Man United and played a game more so (b) **it** effectively means, with the United result, that (c) **they** now lead by three points over their nearest rivals...

a) Liverpool b) the 4-4 draw with Arsenal c) Man Utd

2. He thinks now that (a) **they** trail Manchester United by six points and have played a game more ... that (b) **that** is too much of a mountain to climb. So, he says (c) **they** will focus on the Champions League...

a) Chelsea b) they are 6 points behind and have played an extra game c) Chelsea

3. I am hoping that (a) **we** can win the title at the end of May. It's all about consistency at (b) **this stage** of the season and trying to eke out results and because...

a) Man Utd b) the run in, the final part of the season

Transcript

With only five games remaining in the English Premier League, tension is high as three clubs are still in with a shout of winning the title. On this week's main report we hear the opinions of a Manchester United fan on the final run in that will decide which team will become the 2009 English Premier League champions.

Damian: So Brendan, it's been an important week in the Premier League for the clubs at the top of the top of the table, hasn't it?

Brendan: That's right Damian all of the 'big four' in the Premier League were in action. Chelsea drew with Everton, Manchester United beat Portsmouth but I suppose the standout game was the game between Liverpool and Arsenal, which ended 4-4. Liverpool really needed to win that game because going in to the series of matches they were one point behind Man United and played a game more so it effectively means, with the United result, that they now lead by three points over their nearest rivals and have a game in hand.

Damian: Yes, you've mentioned some of the impact that these results will have on the final destination of the title, for example do you think Chelsea are out of the running?

Brendan: Well, Guus Hiddink the manager of Chelsea, the newly appointed manager who also, of course, manages the Russian national team, he has conceded the title. He thinks now that they trail Manchester United by six points and have played a game more ... that that is too much of a mountain to climb. So, he says they will focus on the Champions League and the FA Cup.

Damian: OK, how about Liverpool, what do you think about their chances?

Brendan: Liverpool are still in the title race. Alex Ferguson himself said that although Manchester United are now in a better position than they were on Monday he has been in the game for too long to, at this stage, say that the title has definitely going to Old Trafford. They are ... there are gonna' be lots of games to come, there are still five games to go and anything can happen, one defeat for Man United and a victory for Liverpool and the title race will be blown wide open yet again.

Damian: So Brendan, who will be holding the Premier League trophy at the end of May?

Brendan: Well, as a Man United, obviously, fan I am hoping that we can win the title at the end of May. It's all about consistency at this stage of the season and trying to eke out results and because we have the experience of players like Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes, who've won the title many times, and also a manager who's won the title many times I'm hopeful that that experience will get us over the finishing line, although it will be close.