

Podcast Worksheet 5

Fan's view – Liverpool

By Damon Brewster – Arsenal 3 Liverpool 0 (November 12th, 2006)

Pre-Listening

Background information

Liverpool's stadium is called Anfield, and Arsenal's stadium is called the Emirates Stadium.

Liverpool won the Champions League in 2005, but finished 5th in that season, and 3rd last season.

Liverpool's home form has been good, but their away form has been terrible.

1. Match each word with its meaning

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. get airborne (v) | a. ___ delicate, easily broken |
| 2. expose (v) | b. ___ take off (a plane flying up from the ground) |
| 3. fragile (adj) | c. ___ poor, bad, depressing |
| 4. dismal (adj) | d. ___ show clearly |
| 5. rotate (v) | e. ___ turn, change (especially in football, change players) |

Listening

1. What was Liverpool's winning streak before they played Arsenal?
2. What was the score when Liverpool played Tottenham at Anfield?
3. Damon thinks this season, Liverpool's rivals will be Bolton, Aston Villa, Tottenham and which other team?
4. Last season, how many points behind Chelsea did Liverpool finish?
5. Who does Damon think has been a good new player (a new signing)?
6. Which two players haven't played so well?
7. Why should Benitez think about dropping (not choosing for the team) Hyypia?
8. What is the biggest question for Benitez?

Key Phrase

"To swallow humble pie" – To admit a mistake

Answers

Pre-Listening 2

- 1 – b
- 2 – d
- 3 – a
- 4 – c
- 5 – e

Listening

1. 5
2. 3-0
3. Everton
4. 9
5. Kuyt
6. Bellamy and Pennant
7. He's too slow / lacks speed
8. Can Benitez keep Gerrard wide when he wants to play in the middle?

Fan's view – Manchester City (Transcript)

By Dave Barnard

Liverpool's season came crashing down to earth after barely getting airborne at Arsenal's Emirates stadium last weekend. Their home form had seen put them on a five game winning streak, but playing away again exposed Liverpool's fragile defence and impotent attack. That's one goal on the road this season. Dismal Tottenham only have two. Has it come to being compared with the toothless team from Tottenham that Liverpool trounced 3-0 at Anfield? I'm afraid it has. Liverpool surely now are in a fight to finish in the top six and must count Bolton, Aston Villa, Everton and Tottenham as their rivals and watch as Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United soar into the top spots.

The praise that was rightly lavished on Liverpool and their manager after their tremendous 2005 Champions league victory cannot see them through this season. Last year they finished a flattering nine points behind Chelsea and had us hoping that this was the season where the league title was a possibility. Oh how wrong we were. Apart from Kuyt none of the summer signings seem to be making any impact. Particularly the two 'wide' men, Bellamy and Pennant, haven't delivered the promised width, and, perhaps more seriously, Benitez seems unable to swallow humble pie and make some straightforward changes that would surely benefit the team. Here are some questions he needs to deal with: how long will he have faith in Reina in goal; is it time to drop Hyypia whose lack of pace is a real weakness; will he start fielding a settled side instead of rotating his players seemingly every game; and the biggest question of all, can he keep Gerrard on the wide, when his captain wants to influence the game from the middle?

Unless these problems are addressed Liverpool's season might just turn into a plane crash.