

## Barcelona's Dream Team

(November 7th 2008)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

This week's show focuses on the great Barcelona team of the 1990s. Guided by the great Johan Cruyff they won four Spanish titles as well as a European Cup in thrilling style.

### A. Main Idea – dates

Listen to the whole report and fill in the table below with the appropriate information.

YEAR	EVENT
	Cruyff helped Barcelona win La Liga (as a player)
1988	
	Real Madrid won the first of five titles in a row
1990	
	Barcelona won the first of their four titles in a row (implied)
	Barcelona won their first European Cup
1994	
2008	

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. '... after yet another fantastic performance - this time away at Malaga - to record their 8th win \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.'
2. '... compared to the great Barcelona Dream Team of the early nineties which is \_\_\_\_\_ as current coach Pep Guardiola was a key member of that side'
3. '... Johan Cruyff, the Dutch superstar and the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Catalan's side's title win of 1974 was \_\_\_\_\_ manager in 1988.'
4. '... choose carefully. And Cruyff \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_. First with Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman and then Danish superstar Michael Laudrup ...'
5. ' Later Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian forward Romario also had very successful \_\_\_\_\_ at the club ...'
6. '... and won the hearts of neutral fans everywhere with their \_\_\_\_\_ passing game and attacking mentality.'
7. ' ... Sampdoria at Wembley while the only \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ was that they did not win another. Indeed, they were thrashed ...'
8. '... 4-0 by AC Milan in the 1994 final which \_\_\_\_\_ the end of Cruyff's reign.'

## ANSWERS

### Barcelona's Dream Team

(November 7th 2008)

#### A. Main Idea – dates

Listen to the whole report and fill in the table below with the appropriate information.

YEAR	EVENT
1974	Cruyff helped Barcelona win La Liga (as a player)
1988	<b>Cruyff took over Barcelona as manager</b>
1986	Real Madrid won the first of five titles in a row
1990	<b>Real Madrid won the last of their five titles</b>
1991	Barcelona won the first of their four titles in a row (implied)
1992	Barcelona won their first European Cup
1994	<b>Barcelona were thrashed 4-0 in the European Cup final by AC Milan</b>
2008	<b>Currently top of the table again and being compared to Dream Team</b>

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. '... after yet another fantastic performance - this time away at Malaga - to record their 8th win in a row'  
**consecutively**
2. '... compared to the great Barcelona Dream Team of the early nineties which is apt as current coach Pep Guardiola was a key member of that side'  
**appropriate**
3. '... Johan Cruyff, the Dutch superstar and the inspiration for the Catalan's side's title win of 1974 was appointed manager in 1988.  
**a) catalyst, the main reason**  
**b) named, became**
4. '... choose carefully. And Cruyff struck gold First with Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman and then Danish superstar Michael Laudrup ...'  
**hit the jackpot, was very lucky**
5. ' Later Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian forward Romario also had very successful spells at the club ...'  
**times, eras, periods**
6. '... and won the hearts of neutral fans everywhere with their slick passing game and attacking mentality.'  
**Quick, well put together**
7. ' ... Sampdoria at Wembley while the only down side was that they did not win another. Indeed, they were thrashed ...'  
**negative**
8. '... 4-0 by AC Milan in the 1994 final which signalled the end of Cruyff's reign.'  
**Showed, predicted**

## Transcript

Barcelona currently sit on top of the Spanish league after yet another fantastic performance - this time away at Malaga - to record their 8th win in a row. The style of football being played is superb with players such as Messi, Iniesta, Xavi and Bojan all starring week in week out. They are being compared to the great Barcelona Dream Team of the early nineties, which is apt as current coach Pep Guardiola was a key member of that side.

Johan Cruyff, the Dutch superstar and the inspiration for the Catalan's side's title win of 1974 was appointed manager in 1988 in an attempt to turn the club's fortunes around. At that time there was only one side in Spain and that was Real Madrid who thanks to Butragueno, Michel, Martin Vasquez and Hugo Sanchez dominated La Liga with five titles in a row from 1986 - 1990.

But Cruyff did not just want to regain the title from Madrid he wanted to do it in style and so he decided to build his team around a young local playmaker Pep Guardiola. He became the heart of the Catalan side and alongside other wonderfully gifted passers of the ball, Amor, Bakero, Beguiristain, and Eusebio, they started to threaten Madrid's dominance. There was still some work to do however to finalise the team and at a time when European clubs were only allowed two, and then three, overseas players, each team had to choose carefully. And Cruyff struck gold. First with Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman and then Danish superstar Michael Laudrup. Later Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian forward Romario also had very successful spells at the club.

They won four titles in a row, scored loads of goals in doing so and won the hearts of neutral fans everywhere with their slick passing game and attacking mentality. They also won the club's first ever European Cup in 1992 thanks to Ronald Koeman's free kick against Sampdoria at Wembley while the only down side was that they did not win another. Indeed, they were thrashed 4-0 by AC Milan in the 1994 final which signalled the end of Cruyff's reign.

Is this side the new Dream Team? Guardiola says no but if they keep playing the way they are then who knows, maybe Dream Team 2 will dominate Spanish and European football for the next few years. Let's hope so.