

Ballon D'Or

(December 25th 2008)

Pre-Listening / Background information

On this week's main report we take a look at the exciting climax of the Argentinian Apertura Championship.

A. 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. Boca Juniors are the new Argentinian champions after an extremely _____
finale to the Apertura season
2. ... not count, there would be a three way _____ for the title, something that
has not happened...
3. when the Tigers scored in the second half it looked as if a major shock was on the
_____ ...
4. ... Lanus who had also been in the title _____ right up until the final round
of matches
5. ... Boca's great rival, River Plate _____ finishing bottom of the table ...
6. ...all season, which their captain Galmarini called _____, which was ...
7. Boca will be favourites to _____ their title when the Clausura kicks off ...

B. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. With three sides finishing on the same number of points, how was the title decided?
2. When was the last time something like this occurred?
3. How many national titles have Boca won? How about Tigre?
4. Why were the club side Lanus mentioned in the report?
5. Which teams will represent Argentina in the Copa Libertadores next year?
6. Why is this so surprising?

Podcast 20: 2008-9 Worksheet

ANSWERS- Ballon D'Or

(December 25th 2008)

A. 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. Boca Juniors are the new Argentinian champions after an extremely tense finale to the Apertura season

exciting, nail-biting

2. ... not count, there would be a three way play-off for the title, something that has not happened...

mini league to decide the winner

3. when the Tigers scored in the second half it looked as if a major shock was on the cards

could occur, may happen

4. ... Lanus who had also been in the title race right up until the final round of matches

battle, chasing the championship

5. ... Boca's great rival, River Plate despite finishing bottom of the table ...

even though

6. ...all season, which their captain Galmarini called shameful, which was ...

extremely embarrassing

7. Boca will be favourites to retain their title when the Clausura kicks off ...

win again

B. Comprehension

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. With three sides finishing on the same number of points, how was the title decided?

A three-way play off

2. When was the last time something like this occurred?

40 years earlier

3. How many national titles have Boca won? How about Tigre?

Boca – this was their 23rd title

Tigre - never

4. Why were the club side Lanus mentioned in the report?

They finished 4th and qualified for next season's Copa Libertadores / Also had top scorer

5. Which teams will represent Argentina in the Copa Libertadores next year?

Boca Jrs / River Plate and Lanus

6. Why is this so surprising?

Because River Plate finished bottom

Transcript

Boca Juniors are the new Argentinian champions after an extremely tense finale to the Apertura season. San Lorenzo, Tigre and Boca all finished on 39 points at the end of the regular nineteen game tournament, meaning that, as goal difference does not count, there would be a three way play-off for the title, something that has not happened for 40 years. Remarkably, Boca, Tigre and San Lorenzo each won and lost a game against each other in the mini league decider but Boca's goal difference of +1 was just better than Tigre's zero and San Lorenzo's -1. The final game saw Boca play Tigre and when the Tigers scored in the second half it looked as if a major shock was on the cards - Tigre have never won a national title - but Boca held on to win their 23rd national championship and their first since the Clausura of 2006.

This season's top scorer was 15-goal Jose Sand from fourth place Lanus who had also been in the title race right up until the final round of matches and thanks to their Clausura performances have qualified for the 2009 Copa Libertadores. Another team that will play in that tournament is Boca's great rival, River Plate despite finishing bottom of the table. They sacked their coach Diego Simeone, lost their troubled star Ariel Ortega and only won two matches all season, which their captain Galmarini called shameful, which was hard to disagree with.

Boca will be favourites to retain their title when the clausura kicks off in early 2009 and if they can prevent their top players from moving to Europe and keep midfield maestro Juan Riquelme fit, they will have a strong chance of winning the continental crown as well next year.