

## Real Madrid - Barcelona

(May 1st 2009)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

On languagecaster's main report this week we take a look at the biggest rivalry in Spain: Real Madrid and Barcelona

- *Blaugrana* is the nickname of Barcelona (it refers to the colours of their shirts).
- *Mes que un club* is a Catalan expression

### A. Main Idea – True or False

Listen to the whole report and decide whether the following questions are true or false.

1. T / F Barcelona play Real Madrid at home in this week's game.
2. T / F Barcelona are currently four points clear of their rivals in La Liga.
3. T / F The game has not always been called El Clásico
4. T / F For the fans, this game means more than just football.
5. T / F Few players have moved between the two clubs.
6. T / F Damian mentions five players that have moved between the two clubs.
7. T / F Luis Figo is fondly remembered by Catalan fans.

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. ... separating the two sides adds (a) \_\_\_\_\_ to the game as the title is very much up for (b) \_\_\_\_\_ but with such a huge amount of history ...
2. Madrid and Barcelona simply don't do \_\_\_\_\_ games...
3. ... instead this has national pride \_\_\_\_\_ and not just because these two sides are the ...
4. ... while Madrid fans on the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ their side as Spain's team.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ the animosity that exists between the two clubs look no further...
6. ... he received a \_\_\_\_\_ reception including famously a pig's head thrown at him in the ...
7. Barcelona still have some way to go in being \_\_\_\_\_ in Spain.

## C. Listening

Listen to the report again and complete the table below with appropriate information.

Date	Event
	The first meeting between the two sides
	The last draw between the two sides
	Luis Enrique moved to Barcelona
1994	
2000	
	Real Madrid won their 9 <sup>th</sup> European Cup
2006	

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### ANSWERS

#### A. Main Idea – True or False

Listen to the whole report and decide whether the following questions are true or false.

1. T / F Barcelona play Real Madrid at home in this week's game.  
**Real Madrid and FC Barcelona play at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium**
2. T / F Barcelona are currently four points clear of their rivals in La Liga.  
**fact that there are only four points separating the two sides**
3. T / F The game has not always been called El Clásico  
**Since the early 2000s, the game has become known as *El Clásico***
4. T / F For the fans, this game means more than just football.  
**Barcelona's supporters see their team as representatives of the Catalan region**
5. T / F Few players have moved between the two clubs.  
very few have directly made the crossover.
6. T / F Damian mentions five players that have moved between the two clubs.  
**Only three**
7. T / F Luis Figo is fondly remembered by Catalan fans.  
**The fans felt betrayed**

#### B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. ... separating the two sides adds **spice** to the game as the title is very much up for **grabs** but with such a huge amount of history ...  
**a) adds interest                      b) anyone can win it**
2. Madrid and Barcelona simply don't do **meaningless** games...  
**lacking in interest**
3. ... instead this has national pride **at stake** and not just because these two sides are the ...  
**something important**
4. ... while Madrid fans on the other hand, **view** their side as Spain's team.?  
**see**

5. To **emphasise** the animosity that exists between the two clubs look no further

**To stress**

6. ... he received a **hostile** reception including famously a pig's head thrown at him in the

**volatile, aggressive, nasty**

7. Barcelona still have some way to go in being **top dogs** in Spain

**the best, number 1**

### C. Listening

Listen to the report again and complete the table below with appropriate information.

Date	Event
1929	The first meeting between the two sides
2007	The last draw between the two sides
1996	Luis Enrique moved to Barcelona
1994	<b>Michael Laudrup moved to Real Madrid</b>
2000	<b>Luis Figo moved to Real Madrid</b>
2001	Real Madrid won their 9 <sup>th</sup> European Cup
2006	<b>Barca won the Champions League title</b>

### Transcript

This weekend sees one of the biggest matches in world football when Real Madrid and FC Barcelona play at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. The fact that there are only four points separating the two sides adds spice to the game as the title is very much up for grabs but with such a huge amount of history, tradition, passion and rivalry between the two sides it would not really matter if they were playing a pre-season friendly. Madrid and Barcelona simply don't do meaningless games.

Since the early 2000s, the game has become known as *El Clásico* - but before that it was simply called '*El derbi*', the derby of Spain. However, the game is unlike any other derby when local fans hope for bragging rights when their team wins, instead this has national pride at stake and not just because these two sides are the most popular around the country. It's much deeper than that. Barcelona's supporters see their team as

representatives of the Catalan region - the club motto is '*mes que un club*' - more than a club, while Madrid fans on the other hand, view their side as Spain's team.

The first league match was in 1929 with Real Madrid winning away in Barcelona 2-1 though a few months later Barcelona did the same and the rivalry was up and running. Since then, the two sides have met 157 times with Real having won 68 and Barca 59. There have been 30 draws, the last of which was a wonderful 3-3 occasion in Barcelona in 2007.

To emphasise the animosity that exists between the two clubs look no further than their transfer policies. Though some players have played for both clubs (normally from overseas) very few have directly made the crossover. Luis Enrique became a cult figure in Barcelona after his defection from Madrid in 1996. Going the other way in 1994 was Michael Laudrup who won titles in Madrid after being discarded by Barcelona - a huge mistake by the *Blaugrana*. But perhaps the biggest transfer story was the one involving Luis Figo in 2000. His move from Barcelona to Real Madrid left the Catalan fans feeling betrayed and every time Figo returned to play at the Camp Nou he received a hostile reception including famously a pig's head thrown at him in the Champions League semi-final of 2001. Figo of course had the last laugh as his side went on to win that season's Champions League title - the club's ninth.

Barcelona have also won Europe's major tournament but only on two occasions - the last being in 2006. They have 18 domestic titles which would be an excellent record in any other country but when your major rival has won La Liga 31 times it means that Barcelona still have some way to go in being top dogs in Spain. Beating Madrid this week would be a good start.