

## The Copa Libertadores

(May 15th 2009)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

- On languagecaster's main report this week, we look at the Copa Libertadores – the biggest club competition in South America.
- CONMEBOL is the South American football association

### A. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. ... and this year is a particularly important one as it is the 50th \_\_\_\_\_ of this prestigious tournament....
2. ... Mexico making a total of 38 teams at the start of the competition \_\_\_\_\_ in January. Since then, the tournament has lost...
3. Two other teams to \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ were Guadalajara and San Luis, both from Mexico...
4. ... This caused quite a lot of uncertainty and a huge \_\_\_\_\_ pile-up ensued..
5. ... Guadalajara's \_\_\_\_\_ allowed São Paulo to get through and Palmeiras made it in dramatic style...
6. ... 3-0 up from the first leg away from home against \_\_\_\_\_ from Paraguay Libertad
7. ... The Brazilian \_\_\_\_\_ looks strong, but while Boca are still there the Argentinians always have a chance ...

## **B. Comprehension**

*Listen to the report again and answer the questions below.*

1. Which team does the speaker think will win the Copa Libertadores this year?
2. How about the losing finalists?
3. The speaker gives three examples of big teams that have been already knocked-out of the competition. River Plate and Lanús are two, what was the other team?
4. How were Guadalajara and San Luis knocked out?
5. Which country has the most representatives still in the competition?

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### ANSWERS

#### A. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. and this year is a particularly important one as it is the 50th **edition** of this prestigious tournament....

**version, time it has taken place**

2. ... Mexico making a total of 38 teams at the start of the competition **way back** in January. Since then, the tournament has lost...

**A long time ago**

3. Two other teams to **fall** by the **wayside** were Guadalajara and San Luis, both from Mexico...

**to be beaten, to lose, to be knocked out**

4. ... This caused quite a lot of uncertainty and a huge **fixture** pile-up ensued..

**game schedule**

5. ... Guadalajara's **withdrawal** allowed São Paulo to get through and Palmeiras made it in dramatic style...

**pulled out, not able to play the game**

6. ... 3-0 up from the first leg away from home against **minnows** from Paraguay Libertad

**small team, low-level team**

7. ... The Brazilian **contingent** looks strong, but while Boca are still there the Argentinians always have a chance ...

**group, collection**

#### B. Comprehension

Listen to the report again and answer the questions below.

1. Which team does the speaker think will win the Copa Libertadores this year?

**São Paulo**

2. How about the losing finalists?

### **Boca Juniors**

3. The speaker gives three examples of big teams that have been already knocked-out of the competition. River Plate and Lanús are two, what was the other team?

### **LDU Quito**

4. How were Guadalajara and San Luis knocked out?

### **The H1N1 flu virus**

5. Which country has the most representatives still in the competition?

### **Brazil**

## **Transcript**

The most important club competition in South America is of course the Copa Libertadores and this year is a particularly important one as it is the 50th edition of this prestigious tournament.

Teams from the 10 South American countries that make up CONMEBOL were joined this year by sides from Mexico making a total of 38 teams at the start of the competition way back in January. Since then, the tournament has lost some big names including Argentina's River Plate and Lanús, as well as last season's winners, LDU Quito from Ecuador. Two other teams to fall by the wayside were Guadalajara and San Luis, both from Mexico, but neither of which were beaten on the pitch. Instead, due to the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus in that country, both teams withdrew at the start of the knockout stage. This caused quite a lot of uncertainty and a huge fixture-pile up ensued. This meant that some clubs are already through to the last 8, and others have played one leg of the first knockout stage. Two teams, Boca Jrs and Uruguay's Defensor, have yet to play their last 16 match.

So far, we do know that Brazil already has 3 teams in the quarter-finals with Cruzeiro hoping to make it four if they beat Universidad de Chile this week. Guadalajara's withdrawal allowed São Paulo to get through and Palmeiras made it in dramatic style after beating compatriots, Sport Recife, on penalties. Argentina should have two teams in the last 8 with Boca Jrs favourites to beat Uruguay's Defensor and Estudiantes already 3-0 up from the first leg away from home against minnows from Paraguay Libertad. That leaves Nacional from Uruguay, who benefited from the flu outbreak, to make it and surprise package Caracas from Venezuela: though neither side is expected to make it through to the semis. Nacional play Palmeiras, while fellow Brazilians Grêmio play the Venezuelan side.

So who is going win it this year? The Brazilian contingent looks strong, but while Boca are still there the Argentinians always have a chance such is their experience and tradition in the Copa Libertadores. Boca to beat Estudiantes in the semi-final but then to lose out to São Paulo in the final. There, you heard it first on languagecaster.com.