

Podcast 26 Worksheet

Diego Maradona

By Damian Fitzpatrick (April 28th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Teams and players mentioned in the report

Boca Juniors (Argentina), Barcelona (Spain), Napoli (Italy)

Pele, George Best, Di Stefano, Puskas were all famous footballers

A. Main idea

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why these statements are false.

1. Diego Maradona scored the greatest ever World Cup against England in 1996.
2. Diego Maradona scored the winning goal against Germany in the World Cup Final.
3. Argentina lost to Italy in the World Cup Final of 1990.
4. 1994 was a good year for Maaradona.
5. He was banned three times for taking drugs.
6. Maradona was always respected by English fans.

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. '...is in tears with joy and gratitude and is simply in _____ at the beauty ...'
2. '... went on to score two more _____ goals in the semi-final ...'
3. '...team to the final before losing to a _____ penalty against ...'
4. '...these World Cups were the _____ of his career, then the ...'
5. '... happened, and he returned home in _____ never playing for the ...'
6. '... over drugs, weapon use, paternity suits and _____ of taxes...'

C. Matching exercise

Listen to the report and match the dates on the left with the information on the right.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1. 1986 | a. Napoli won their first Italian title |
| 2. 1979 | b. Napoli won their second Italian title |
| 3. 1981 | c. He won the Spanish Cup with Barcelona |
| 4. 1987 | d. He won the UEFA Cup with Napoli |
| 5. 1990 | e. He won the World Youth Championship |
| 6. 1983 | f. He won the World Cup with Argentina |
| 7. 1989 | g. He won the Argentinian league with Boca Juniors |

D. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why did the languagecaster team decide to profile Maradona this week?
2. Why would Damian always vote for Maradona as the World's best ever player?

ANSWERS

A. Main idea

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why these statements are false.

1. Diego Maradona scored the greatest ever World Cup against England in 1996.
1986
2. Diego Maradona scored the winning goal against Germany in the World Cup Final.
Match-winning pass
3. Argentina lost to Italy in the World Cup Final of 1990.
Germany not Italy
4. 1994 was a good year for Maradona.
1994 was probably the low point in his football life
5. He was banned three times for taking drugs.
Banned twice
6. Maradona was always respected by English fans.
Became a hate figure

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. '...is in tears with joy and gratitude and is simply in awe at the beauty ...'
extremely surprised, wonder
2. '... went on to score two more superb goals in the semi-final ...'
amazing, fantastic, wonderful
3. '...team to the final before losing to a controversial penalty against ...'
contentious
4. '...these World Cups were the peak of his career, then the ...'
summit, the top, the best
5. '... happened, and he returned home in disgrace never playing for the ...'
shame
6. '... over drugs, weapon use, paternity suits and non-payment of taxes...'
did not pay

D. Comprehension

Why did the languagecaster team decide to profile Maradona this week?

Currently Diego Maradona is in a Buenos Aires hospital

2. Why would Damian always vote for Maradona as the World's best ever player?

His football technique was never in doubt from the moment he made his debut as a 16 year old for Argentinos Juniors but it was also his quality as a leader, his pride at representing his country, his intense passion for the game, the style with which he played it and the fact that he made people fall in love with the game

Transcript

Currently Diego Maradona is in a Buenos Aires hospital recovering from alcohol-related problems so on this week's profile section, the team at languagecaster thought we would take a look at the great Argentinian player.

That was Diego Maradona scoring the greatest ever World Cup goal in a quarter-final match against England in 1986. The Argentinian commentator, Victor Hugo Morales, is in tears with joy and gratitude and is simply in awe at the beauty, the power and the skill of the goal. What planet has brought you here? Thank you Diego, thank you football.

Maradona went on to score two more superb goals in the semi-final against Belgium and then played the match-winning pass in the World Cup final against Germany to help his team, Argentina, lift the trophy. Though this team had great players it was clear that they were carried to the title by the skill, the courage, the pride, the technique and the determination of their leader Maradona. He almost did it again in 1990 with a weaker team and, hampered himself by injuries, Maradona took his team to the final before losing to a controversial penalty against Germany. He was quite simply the best player in the world.

However, if these World Cups were the peak of his career, then the World Cup of 1994 was probably the low point in his football life. He was banned from the tournament for taking illegal drugs, the second time in his career that this had happened, and he returned home in disgrace never playing for the national team again. Throughout his career, Diego has been no stranger to controversy facing problems with the law over drugs, weapon use, paternity suits and non-payment of taxes. And then there was this.

The so-called 'Hand of God' goal, which came in the same quarter-final match against England making him a hated figure in the country for a long, long time.

So how good was Maradona? He played 91 times for his country scoring 34 goals and played in 21 consecutive matches in 4 World Cups. Apart from the World Cup win of 1986, he also captained the youth team to the World title in 1979. He won league titles in Argentina with his beloved Boca Juniors in 1981 and with Italian side Napoli in 1987 and 1990 where he was, still is, adored by the local fans. He also won the Spanish Cup with Barcelona in 1983, the UEFA Cup with Napoli in 1989 and so many player-of-the-year awards that I do not have time to list them all!

But there is much more to it than these statistics. His football technique was never in doubt from the moment he made his debut as a 16 year old for Argentinos Juniors but it was also his quality as a

leader, his pride at representing his country, his intense passion for the game, the style with which he played it and the fact that he made people fall in love with the game has meant that I would always vote for him ahead of players such as Pele, Best, Puskas and Di Stefano. The best player of all time? Without a doubt, Diego Armando Maradona.