

Learning English Through Football

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2013-14 Eusébio

January 10th 2014

This week's listening report looks back at the career of one of the all-time greats of world football, Eusébio, after the great Portuguese striker passed away recently. Listen to the report by [clicking here](#) and answer the worksheet's questions below. There are also answers and a transcript, as well as vocabulary support at the end of this worksheet.

A. Main Idea – Note taking

Listen to the report and take notes under the sub-headings below

Eusébio	
Benfica	
Portugal	

B. Main Idea – True / False

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false

1. T | F The speaker feels that Leo Messi is a better player than Ronaldo
2. T | F The speaker argues that Eusébio would not make the top 10 players of all time.

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3. T | F Eusebio was born in the early 1940s.
4. T | F According to the report Eusebio refused to play for Sporting Lisbon.
5. T | F Eusebio played in four consecutive European Cup finals.
6. T | F Eusebio scored 64 times for Portugal.

C. Listening - vocabulary

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

Eusébio

Football fans love to (a) _____ about who is the best player in the world. Currently the globe is divided into those that favour the Argentinian star Leo Messi and those who prefer Portugal's Ronaldo but how do these players (b) _____ when compared to former greats of the game? Would they make the top 10 of all time? One thing that football fans would (c) _____ / _____ is that there are a select few who would be guaranteed a place in the pantheon of footballing greats: Holland's Johan Cruyff; Germany's Beckenbauer, Brazilian superstar Pele, Russia's (d) _____ Lev Yashin, the Argentinian maestro Di Stefano and Portugal's goal machine Eusébio.

Background

Eusébio da Silva Ferreira was born in Mozambique in 1942 back when this African country was a Portuguese (e) _____. So good was he as a young player that the two big Portuguese clubs, Sporting Lisbon and Benfica, fought (f) _____ his signature with the 19 year old Eusébio eventually signing for Benfica.

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For the next 15 years he went on to play over 300 times in the league for 'the Eagles', averaging more than a goal a game (317 to be exact) while [he has been credited with scoring over 700 goals](#) in his career total - a real goal machine.

Benfica

With Benfica, Eusébio won the Portuguese title a (g) _____ ten times and the domestic cup on five occasions. He also helped the Lisbon club to a European Cup triumph in 1962 when they defeated Real Madrid 5-3 with Eusébio scoring twice. He helped his team reach three more finals only to (h) _____ / _____ / _____ the losing side on all three occasions: AC Milan in 1963, Inter Milan in 1965 and Manchester United in 1967. He was, however, named as European Footballer of the Year in 1965.

Portugal

Eusébio, like many other African-born players at the time, (i) _____ Portugal and he went on to play 64 times for them; scoring 41 times including nine in the 1966 World Cup. These included four in the quarter-final game against North Korea to help the Portuguese team come back from 3-0 (j) _____ to win 5-3, as well as one in the semi-final defeat to England.

In the tributes that have appeared since his death it is clear that not only was Eusébio one of the greats during the time of Charlton, Pele and Di Stefano but can be viewed as one of the greatest ever players.

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ANSWERS

Eusébio: January 10th 2014

B. Main Idea – True / False

Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false

1. T | E The speaker feels that Leo Messi is a better player than Ronaldo
False. The speaker does not mention this
2. T | E The speaker argues that Eusébio would not make the top 10 players of all time.
It is inferred from the list that Eusébio would be in the top 10.
3. I | F Eusébio was born in the early 1940s.
True. He was born in 1942.
4. T | E According to the report Eusébio refused to play for Sporting Lisbon.
False. This is not mentioned.
5. T | E Eusébio played in four consecutive European Cup finals.
False. He played in 1962, 63, 65 and 67.
6. T | E Eusébio scored 64 times for Portugal.
False. He played 64 times for Portugal.

C Listening - vocabulary

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

a. argue

b. fare

c. agree on

d. keeper

e. colony

f. for

g. remarkable

h. end up on

i. represented

j. down

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TRANSCRIPT

Eusébio

Football fans love to argue about who is the best player in the world. Currently the globe is divided into those that favour the Argentinian star Leo Messi and those who prefer Portugal's Ronaldo but **how do these players fare** when compared to former greats of the game? Would they make the top 10 of all time? One thing that football fans would agree on is that there are **a select few** who would be guaranteed a place in **the pantheon of footballing greats**: Holland's Johan Cruyff; Germany's Beckenbauer, Brazilian superstar Pele, Russia's keeper Lev Yashin, the Argentinian maestro Di Stefano and Portugal's goal machine Eusébio.

Background

Eusébio da Silva Ferreira was born in Mozambique in 1942 back when this African country was a Portuguese colony. So good was he as a young player that the two big Portuguese clubs, Sporting Lisbon and Benfica, **fought over his signature** with the 19 year old Eusébio eventually signing for Benfica. For the next 15 years he went on to play over 300 times in the league for 'the Eagles', averaging more than a goal a game (317 to be exact) while [he has been credited with scoring over 700 goals](#) in his career total - a real goal machine.

Benfica

With Benfica, Eusébio won the Portuguese title a remarkable ten times and the domestic cup on five occasions. He also helped the Lisbon club to a European Cup triumph in 1962 when they defeated Real Madrid 5-3 with Eusébio scoring twice. He helped his team reach three more finals only to end up on the losing side on all three occasions: AC Milan in 1963, Inter Milan in 1965 and Manchester United in 1967. He was, however, named as European Footballer of the Year in 1965.

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Portugal

Eusébio, like many other African-born players at the time, represented Portugal and he went on to play 64 times for them scoring 41 times including nine in the 1966 World Cup. These included four in the quarter-final game against North Korea to help the Portuguese team come back from 3-0 down to win 5-3, as well as one in the semi-final defeat to England.

In the tributes that have appeared since his death it is clear that not only was Eusébio one of the greats during the time of Charlton, Pele and Di Stefano but can be viewed as one of the greatest ever players.

Related Links

- FIFA's [page on Eusebio](#)
- The [Guardian newspaper's](#) obituary for Eusébio
- [BBC reports on](#) Eusébio 's death

Football vocabulary and phrases used in this week's listening report

how do these players fare: How do these players measure up; compare

a select few: Only a few; chosen ones

the pantheon of footballing greats: The top ranking of players; the canon, the best ever

fought over his signature: Wanted to sign him for their clubs