

Football Language Podcast: 2022 World Cup Predictions - Wales and Ecuador Fans

October 31 2022

On this football language podcast for learners of English, we hear from two football fans about their predictions for the 2022 World Cup. Who will be the winners, the flops, the dark horses and the Golden Boot winner. This worksheet focuses on the two interviews with football fans: one from Wales and the other from Ecuador on the upcoming 2022 World Cup. If you have any suggestions or questions then you can contact us at admin@languagecaster.com.

Listen from 1:10 until 8:10

<https://languagecaster.com/football-language-podcast-2022-world-cup-predictions-winners-flops-dark-horses-and-golden-boot/>

Task 1: Vocabulary preview

Look at the words below and try and explain their meanings to your colleagues. Check the dictionary to confirm your answers.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Runners-up | 6. To be dominated |
| 2. Flops | 7. Fingers crossed |
| 3. Dark horses | 8. Winnable |
| 4. Golden Boot | 9. Line-up |
| 5. To appear in (a tournament) | 10. Bench |

Task 2: Listening: Main Idea

Listen to the two speakers and fill in the table with as much information as you can.

	Wales: Gavin	Ecuador: Martin
Winners		
Runners-up		
Flops		
Dark Horses		
Golden Boot Winner		

Task 3: Listening for detail

Listen to the first part of Gavin's talk about Wales and complete the gaps with an appropriate word. Then do the same with Martin's.

1. Gavin: Well, well, there's always _____ every World Cup I think, fingers crossed, it's going to be Wales because I think we got _____ opening games which I think are winnable. And we could get onto the _____ stage and probably well, hopefully, do a repeat of 2016... I doubt it. But I don't know hope but again, it'd be nice to see a dark horse from... from somewhere else, somewhere _____.

2. Number two: runners-up. I think France, a lot of _____ are doubting France right now. I think when it comes down to the World Cup, the tournament, the big stage over _____ in Qatar, I think they'll ... they get...their get their attitudes up. You know what I mean? And push _____ like they did in 2018. I think Brazil will win but I think France does _____ it to the final.

Task 4: Discussion

1. What do you think of Gavin and Martin's predictions?
2. Which team do you think will win the tournament?
3. How about the dark horses? Or flops?
4. Who will win the Golden Boot award?

You can post your answers onto our football language forums here:

<https://languagecaster.com/community/world-cup-language/>

ANSWERS

Task 1: Vocabulary preview

Look at the words below and try and explain their meanings to your colleagues. Check the dictionary to confirm your answers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>11. Runners-up (The team that loses the final/the team finishing in second place)</p> <p>12. Flops (The most disappointing team in the competition; the team that under-performs the most)</p> <p>13. Dark horses (The team that might do well although may not be the favourites)</p> <p>14. Golden Boot (The player who scores the most goals in the tournament)</p> | <p>15. To appear in (a tournament) (To play or participate in the tournament)</p> <p>16. To be dominated by (To completely better than others)</p> <p>17. Fingers crossed (A sign made to wish or hope for good luck)</p> <p>18. Winnable (The team has a chance to win a game)</p> <p>19. Line-up (The starting xi; the team members)</p> <p>20. Bench (Substitutes; where the subs or the manager sit)</p> |
|---|--|

Task 2: Listening: Main Idea

Listen to the two speakers and fill in the table with as much information as you can.

	Wales: Gavin	Ecuador: Martin
Winners	Maybe someone from South America this year, hopefully	I think Brazil has got this.
Runners-up	usual suspects are going to be there, aren't they? You know, again, Germany and France	I think Brazil will win but I think France does make it to the final.
Flops	maybe France	I'm gonna' say Argentina
Dark Horses	fingers crossed, it's going to be Wales	[Does not mention a dark horse]
Golden Boot Winner	Mbappé they might get the most goals but hopefully someone like de Bruyne	I'm gonna' go with Neymar... And second place, I would go with Karim Benzema

Task 3: Listening for detail

Listen to the first part of Gavin's talk about Wales and complete the gaps with an appropriate word. Then do the same with Martin's.

3. Gavin: Well, where there's always **one** every World Cup I think, fingers crossed, it's going to be Wales because I think we got **two** opening games which I think are winnable. And we could get onto the **next** stage and probably well, hopefully, do a repeat of 2016... I doubt it. But I don't know hope but again, it'd be nice to see a dark horse from... from somewhere else, somewhere **new**

4. Number two: runners-up. I think France, a lot of **people** are doubting France right now. I think when it comes down to the World Cup, the tournament, the big stage over **there** in Qatar, I think they'll ... they get...their get their attitudes up. You know what I mean? And push **through** like they did in 2018. I think Brazil will win but I think France **does** make it to the final.

Task 4: Discussion

5. What do you think of Gavin and Martin's predictions?
6. Which team do you think will win the tournament?
7. How about the dark horses? Or flops?
8. Who will win the Golden Boot award?

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TRANSCRIPT

Introduction

Football Language Podcast: 2022 World Cup Predictions - Wales and Ecuador Fans

Stinger: You are listening to languagecaster.com (in Portuguese from Brazil)

OK, on this week's podcast, we are going to look ahead to the 2022 World Cup that is due to start in three weeks time and we'll hear from two football fans from around the world on what they think might happen. We have a fan from Wales, who are playing in only their second ever World Cup and their first since 1958 and a fan from Ecuador who are appearing in their fourth World Cup. And both of these football supporters will be telling us what they think might happen in the Qatar World Cup. They will tell us who they think might be the winners, the runners-up, the flops - that's the team that performs really badly, the leading goal scorer (the [Golden Boot](#) winner) and possible [dark horses](#).

Stinger: You are listening to languagecaster.com (in Polish)

Wales fan Gavin

DF: I started by asking Gavin which team he thought would win the tournament and which ones might be [runners-up](#).

Gavin: Well, I hope for someone different this time, maybe someone not from Europe, because the thing... it's been dominated by Germany, France or... Maybe someone from South America this year, hopefully. I think maybe the usual suspects are going to be there, aren't they? You know, again, Germany and France, those sort of teams.

DF: Here's what Gavin said when asked about a dark horse - remember that a dark horse is a team that is not a big or hot favourite before a tournament starts but one that many people feel might do well.

Gavin: Well, where there's always one every World Cup I think, fingers crossed, it's going to be Wales because I think we got two opening games which I think are winnable. And we could get onto the next stage and probably well, hopefully, do a repeat of 2016... I doubt it. But I don't know hope but again, it'd be nice to see a dark horse from... from somewhere else, somewhere new.

DF: Gavin is hoping his team Wales will be the dark horse or the [surprise package](#) as they were in the [2016 European Championships in France](#) when they reached the semi-final. He also uses a couple of interesting phrases here: 'fingers crossed' which means that he is hoping for something to happen and 'winnable' which means he thinks that Wales have a good chance of winning two of the group games to give them a chance of qualifying for the knockout stages. I then asked him about which team will be the flop of the tournament.

Gavin: Well, I mean, I would normally say England but I don't care... no one cares anymore now about England so you know, maybe one of the... maybe France.

[DF: How about the leading goal scorer - the Golden Boot winner?]

Gavin: Wow! I mean there's so many great players around. I mean, probably someone like Mbappé they might get the most goals but hopefully someone like de Bruyne I know he's not goal scorer, but I mean he's such a treat to watch it'd be...be nice to see him grab something because I don't think Belgium will win it.

DF: Thanks a lot for that Gavin, interesting that he doesn't think Belgium will win it - I think many feel that the Belgian 'Golden Generation' may have missed their chance of winning a major tournament. Well, let's see.

Stinger: You are listening to languagecaster.com (In Twi from Ghana)

Ecuador fan Martin

Next up we asked the same questions to Ecuador fan Martin from the [Ecuador Heroes online account](#) and here's what he had to say.

Martin: Hey guys from languagecaster, Learning English through football, my name is Martin. I run the Ecuador Heroes account on [Instagram](#), Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok, all that stuff. You can find me at Ecuador Heroes. Well, winners of the World Cup. I think Brazil has got this. Brazil is looking to be the favourite. And I totally agree. I think they are just... their [lineup](#) is crazy. They have subs for days. So, yeah, I really like Brazil coming into this tournament.

Number two: runners-up. I think France, a lot of people are doubting France right now. I think when it comes down to the World Cup, the tournament, the big stage over there in Qatar, I think they'll ... they get...their get their attitudes up. You know what I mean? And push through like they did in 2018. I think Brazil will win but I think France does make it to the final.

Okay, number three. Flops, disappointment of the tournament. Many are gonna' roast me about this one. I'm gonna' say Argentina. Argentina. The... A lot of people are saying they can win the World Cup. It's Messi's 'last dance', etc... but they just won the Copa America. So Argentina is definitely, definitely a favourite. I'm gonna' say, I don't know, this is a wild pick. I'm gonna' say they get out in the top eight. But we'll see.

Number four, top goal scorer. If I got Brazil winning, I'm gonna' go with Neymar, yeah. Neymar... he's been playing incredible the past year the past two, three years, to be honest with you. I think, he's gone 30... he's 30 years old going into this World cup. And if I got Brazil winning, he's definitely the captain, the [playmaker](#). He's also the penalty shooter, [set piece](#) taker on free kicks. So, yeah, I think Neymar can... can be the top goal scorer of this World Cup. And second place, I would go with Karim Benzema, for sure.

Stinger: You are listening to languagecaster.com (In Spanish)

DF: Thanks for that Martin - some really interesting predictions there - I wonder what our Argentinian fans think about you calling them 'flops'! Martin used some really interesting language there too including the phrase, 'Brazil have subs for days' which suggests that the *Seleção* (that's the Brazilian team's nickname) has a deep or strong [squad](#) - their [substitute](#) bench is full of great players.

So, what do you think of Martin and Gavin's predictions? We'll be sharing some more predictions from football fans from around the world over the next couple of weeks and of course if you'd like to add your predictions; we'd love to hear from you - just drop us a line at admin@languagecaster.com.

Stinger: You are listening to languagecaster.com (In Danish)

Check out our glossary of footballing phrases here If you have any suggestions, contact us at admin@languagecaster.com
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