

2012 European Championship: Italy

April 5th 2012

On this week's main listening report we look ahead to this summer's European Championships in Poland and Ukraine and preview the chances of Italy.

A. Main Idea – note taking

Listen to the report and take notes under the following headings.

Qualifying	
Key Players	
Manager	
Their Chances	

B. Main Ideas – True or False

Listen to the report and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason for your choice.

1. T / F Italy have a very good defence
2. T / F Serbia beat Italy 3-0 in Genoa
3. T / F Antonio Cassano failed to score in the qualifying rounds
4. T / F Antonio Cassano is expected to start for Italy in the finals
5. T / F The Italian manager Prandelli was a successful club manager
6. T / F Italy have won the European Championship title twice

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the final section of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word or phrase.

The Manager

Cesare Prandelli has been in _____ of the *azzurri* since 2010 and though he did not win too much as a club manager he has been _____ with helping to improve the confidence and spirit in the side - the media has nicknamed the team L'Italia del Sorriso - Italy of smiles. He has also brought in some _____ / _____ into the team, for instance, Riccardo Montolivo and Leonardo Bonucci, while keeping faith in stalwarts such as Pirlo and Buffon.

Their Chances

This is very much a team _____ / _____ with few tipping them to add to their _____ Euro title win on home soil in 1968 but the side is playing with much more confidence and style since the South African World Cup _____ when they failed to win a game. The first game against Spain is a _____ one and if they can avoid defeat then they have every chance of making it to the knock-out stages. They will _____ / _____ / _____ against Ireland and Croatia though with Italian sides at European Championships we often simply do not know what to expect. Languagecaster is tipping them to come second in the group though they will not go _____ the last eight.

ANSWERS - Title

B. Main Ideas – True or False

Listen to the report and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason for your choice.

1. T / F Italy have a very good defence
They had the best defensive record in qualifying
2. T / F Serbia beat Italy 3-0 in Genoa
The Italians were awarded the game 3-0 after crowd trouble
3. T / F Antonio Cassano failed to score in the qualifying rounds
He scored six times
4. T / F Antonio Cassano is expected to start for Italy in the finals
May not feature in the finals
5. T / F The Italian manager Prandelli was a successful club manager
He did not win much
6. T / F Italy have won the European Championship title twice
Solitary victory

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the final section of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word or phrase.

The Manager

Cesare Prandelli has been in **charge** of the *azzurri* since 2010 and though he did not win too much as a club manager he has been **credited** with helping to improve the confidence and spirit in the side - the media has nicknamed the team L'Italia del Sorriso - Italy of smiles. He has also brought in some **new blood** into the team, for instance, Riccardo Montolivo and Leonardo Bonucci, while keeping faith in stalwarts such as Pirlo and Buffon.

Their Chances

This is very much a team **in transition** with few tipping them to add to their **solitary** Euro title win on home soil in 1968 but the side is playing with much more confidence and style since the South African World Cup **debacle** when they failed to win a game. The first game against Spain is a **crucial** one and if they can avoid defeat then they have every chance of making it to the knock-out stages. They will **fancy their chances** against Ireland and Croatia though with Italian sides at European Championships we often simply do not know what to expect. Languagecaster is tipping them to come second in the group though they will not go **beyond** the last eight.

Transcript

Qualifying

With the best defensive record in qualifying – they only **conceded** twice - the Italians made it through to the finals fairly comfortably in a group that included Serbia, Slovenia and Northern Ireland. They were helped **somewhat** by the poor behaviour of Serbian fans in the qualifying match in Genoa which caused **the game to be abandoned** and **awarded to** Italy 3-0 but their qualification was never in doubt.

Key Players

When manager Prandelli took over he stated that he would build his team around Antonio Cassano who **responded** with six goals in the qualifying campaign. Cassano however **suffered a stroke** back in October and despite being **given the green light** to play football again, he may not feature this summer. With his strike partner Guiseppe Rossi also recovering from a long-term injury the **azzurri** may turn to Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli as an alternative though which Balotelli **turns up is anyone's guess**. Though Prandelli has brought in younger players he still has an experienced **spine** running through the side: Buffon, Pirlo and Chiellini and will be relying on them to guide the team through to the quarter-finals.

The Manager

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Their Chances

This is very much a team **in transition** with few tipping them to add to their **solitary** Euro title win on home soil in 1968 but the side is playing with much more confidence and style since the South African World Cup **debacle** when they failed to win a game. The first game against Spain is a crucial one and if they can avoid defeat then they have every chance of making it to the knock-out stages. They will **fancy their chances** against Ireland and Croatia though with Italian sides at European Championships we often simply do not know what to expect. Languagecaster is tipping them to come second in the group though they will not go beyond the last eight.

Vocabulary

Conceded: Allowed goals in, to let goals in

Somewhat: Rather, quite

the game to be abandoned: The game was stopped and called off

awarded to: Given to

responded: Answered

suffered a stroke: He had a serious illness (caused by trouble in the brain which affects movement and speech)

given the green light: Allowed to, given permission

azzurri: *The nickname for the Italian side*

turns up is anyone's guess: We just do not know whether Balotelli will play well or cause trouble

spine: The main part of the team – usually down the middle

new blood: New players

stalwarts: Experienced players, veterans

in transition: A team not quite ready, progressing

solitary: Only one

debacle: Disaster

fancy their chances: They think they will do well