2012 European Championship: Ireland

March 17th 2012

On this week's main listening report we look ahead to this summer's European Championships in Poland and Ukraine. Since it is St Patrick's Weekend we thought we would focus on the Republic of Ireland's chances.

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 Ireland won their qualifying group

2. T / F The Irish team lost away in Russia during the qualifying campaign

3. T / F Goalkeeper Shay Given has played more times for Ireland than Robbie Keane

4. T / F Giovanni Trapattoni has been successful in previous European Championships

5. T / F Ireland are favourites to progress to the knock-out stages

C. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. They duly did so in spectacular style _____ a hapless Estonia side 5-1 on …

2. Though now _____ his trade in the MLS he can still make an impact at the highest level as he...

3. … although manager Trapattoni may spring a surprise and use some of his younger players currently _____…

4. Trap is nothing if not _____: he will play a 4-4-2 system and if everyone is fit he…

5. So in a group where teams _____ to take points off each other and few expect many goals then the…

Euro 2012 Ireland

ANSWERS - Title

(Date)

On this week's main listening report we look ahead to this summer's European Championships in Poland and Ukraine. Since it is St Patrick's Weekend we thought we would focus on the Republic of Ireland's 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** Ireland won their qualifying group

   2nd

2. T **/ F** The Irish team lost away in Russia during the qualifying campaign

   lost at home

3. **T** / F Goalkeeper Shay Given has played more times for Ireland than Robbie Keane

   Yes, 121 vs 115

4. T / **F** Giovanni Trapattoni has been successful in previous European Championships

   No, Italy failed to make knock-out stage

5. T / **F** Ireland are favourites to progress to the knock-out stages

   Many feel could be whitewashed

C. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. They duly did so in spectacular style **dispatching** a hapless Estonia side 5-1 on …
2. Though now **plying** his trade in the MLS he can still make an impact at the highest level as he...
3. although manager Trapattoni may spring a surprise and use some of his younger players currently **waiting in the wings**…
4. Trap is nothing if not **predictable**: he will play a 4-4-2 system and if everyone is fit he…
5. So in a group where teams **are expected** to take points off each other and few expect many goals then the

Transcript

Qualifying

Ireland came second in Group B two points behind Russia and so had to qualify via the play-offs. They duly did so in spectacular style **dispatching** a **hapless** Estonia side 5-1 on aggregate. It was not always so. At times it was painful, the 0-0 draw at home to Slovakia was a particularly bad night, while Irish fans still wonder how the team managed to escape with a point in Russia after being completely outplayed in the match. They did lose to the Russians in Dublin but that proved to be their only defeat in the campaign, one that saw them win away in Macedonia, Andorra and Armenia, as well as that play-off win in Estonia.

Key Players

Captain and record goalscorer Robbie Keane is the Republic's **talisman** with an amazing 53 goals in 115 matches. Though now**plying his trade** in the MLS he can still make an impact at the highest level as he proved on his recent loan move to Aston Villa. Experience is the key for the Republic side with five of the probable starting XI having more than 70 caps with Shay Given having 121, Damien Duff 95 and John O'Shea has 75, although manager Trapattoni may spring a surprise and use some of his younger players currently **waiting in the wings**: McCarthy, McClean and Coleman, though he will more than likely stick with those who helped the Republic qualify.

The Manager

Italian manager Giovanni Trapattoni may be sometimes seen as **a figure of fun** but the 72 year old has a footballing CV that **ranks among the best** in world football: AC Milan, Juventus, Inter Milan, Bayern Munich and Benfica, as well as the Italian national team. He will be hoping that this tournament can be a little more successful than the last time he lead a side into the European Championships: his Italian side were knocked out in the group stage in 2004. Trap is nothing if not predictable: he will play a 4-4-2 system and if everyone is fit he, in fact everyone, knows what **his starting XI** will be. His experience will be invaluable, while his reputation as a lucky manager will be welcome by all the Irish fans.

Their Chances

In a group that includes Croatia, Italy and World Cup and European Championship holders Spain few would give '**The Boys in Green**' a chance but Trapattoni's side tends to raise their game against the better teams. So in a group where teams are expected to take points off each other and few expect many goals then the Irish have a chance, albeit a slim one indeed. There is a fear that the team will be **whitewashed** and gain no points at all though we at languagecaster are going for **two hard-earned points** total and a glorious exit for Ireland.

Vocabulary

dispatching: defeating, beating

hapless: Very weak, easily beaten

talisman : Lucky charm, main man

plying his trade: To work, to play for a team

two hard-earned points: Two tough draws

whitewashed: Lose all three games, receive no points

The Boys in Green: Nickname of the Irish team

waiting in the wings: On the edge of the squad

a figure of fun: People joke about him

ranks among the best: Is one of the best

his starting XI: The starting Eleven, the starting team

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