

Podcast Worksheet 5

## Interview with Paul Joyce on the title race in England

*Damian Fitzpatrick interviews Paul Joyce (November 16th 2006)*

### Pre-Listening (Background information)

#### Players/ Managers

Paul Scoles, Ryan Giggs, Wayne Rooney and Lois Saha all play for Manchester United

Martin O'Neill is the manager of Aston Villa

#### Competitions

**Premier League** – England's top league **The FA Cup** – England's knock-out competition

**The League Cup** – England's second cup competition

**The Champions League** – the top competition for Europe's best teams

#### Teams

Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal, Spurs, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Portsmouth, Bolton all play in the Premier League

### A. Main Point – True or False

*Listen to the interview and choose true or false, give a reason for your choice.*

1. T / F Paul hopes Chelsea will focus more on the Champions League this season.
2. T / F Arsenal have a good chance to win the league this year.
3. T / F Paul thinks only two or three teams can win the title.
4. T / F Paul thinks that the Spanish League is the most exciting league to watch.
5. T / F His top four will be 1. Manchester United 2. Chelsea 3. Arsenal 4. (Aston) Villa
6. T / F Damon and Damian will not be happy with this prediction.

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. '...pretty close but I think a lot of it depends on Chelsea's \_\_\_\_\_. They've won ...'
2. '...which other teams do you think (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a big (b) \_\_\_\_\_ for Manchester United ...'
3. do you think there's an outside team, a \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ that might surprise you this year
4. '... Villa under O'Neill are doing \_\_\_\_\_ things this year.
5. '...recently people have been \_\_\_\_\_ that the English Premier League is boring'
6. '...as champions go, I think \_\_\_\_\_ to say it, but I think it might well be ...'

## Answers

### A. Main Point – True or False

*Listen to the interview and choose true or false, give a reason for your choice.*

1. **T / F** Paul hopes Chelsea will focus more on the Champions League this season.  
**perhaps they don't care so much about the league this year, I'm hoping ...that's what I'm hoping.**
2. **T / F** Arsenal have a good chance to win the league this year.  
**maybe this is a year too early for them perhaps next year they'll be even stronger and have a better chance**
3. **T / F** Paul thinks only two or three teams can win the title.  
**I mean there's only I think 4 or 5 teams that really could win it these days**
4. **T / F** Paul thinks that the Spanish League is the most exciting league to watch.  
**I mean it's much more exciting to me than the Spanish League**
5. **T / F** His top four will be 1. Manchester United 2. Chelsea 3. Arsenal 4. (Aston) Villa  
**Chelsea, closely followed by Man United**
6. **T / F** Damon and Damian will not be happy with this prediction.  
**Because neither Tottenham nor Liverpool were mentioned in the top 4 (inferred)**

## B. Listening – vocabulary (answers)

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

1. '...pretty close but I think a lot of it depends on Chelsea's appetite. They've won ...'

**whether Chelsea have enough desire to win it**

2. '...which other teams do you think (a) pose a big (b) threat for Manchester United ...'

**threaten / challenge**

3. do you think there's an outside team, a dark horse that might surprise you this year

**surprise candidate or choice**

4. '... Villa under O'Neill are doing amazing things this year.

**wonderful / great**

5. '...recently people have been suggesting that the English Premier League is boring'

**proposing / recommending / putting forward the idea**

6. '...as champions go, I think sad to say it, but I think it might well be ...'

**I hate to admit it**

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## Interview with Paul Joyce on the title race in England

### (transcript)

*Damian Fitzpatrick interviews Paul Joyce (November 16th 2006)*

**DF: Thank you, and today's interview is with Paul, Paul Joyce, how are you doing?**

Paul: Good, good thank you.

**DF: Thanks for coming in. Today's topic, we are going to talk about the Premier League title race. Now your team, Manchester United, they're doing very well this season. How do you feel?**

Paul: Well, they've had the best start since I think, 94 or 95 so it's very exciting as a Manchester United fan at the moment to watch the team. But about the title I think it's going to be pretty close but I think a lot of it depends on Chelsea's appetite. They've won the league for the last two years. Of course they really, really want to win the Champions League but perhaps, perhaps they don't care so much about the league this year, I'm hoping ...that's what I'm hoping. The problem is they've got a very strong squad, much stronger than United's and if United get injuries to Scholes, Giggs or Rooney or ... God forbid, Saha then there could be big problems.

**DF: Ok, so generally do you think that Manchester United can maintain their title form?**

Paul: For a while I expect so, but I think a lot of it depends on how much Chelsea really want to win.

**DF: Now, we've touched on Chelsea and you obviously mentioned their strength in depth, which other teams do you think pose a big threat for Manchester United's title chances?**

Paul: Well, I think obviously Arsenal are looking very strong. They've got a good young team, they've got a great manager but they haven't spent much money in recent years and the new ground, of course, it takes a while to get used to a new ground and maybe this is a year too early for them perhaps next year they'll be even stronger and have a better chance.

**DF: Right, so Chelsea and Arsenal and do you think there's an outside team, a dark horse that might surprise you this year?**

Paul: Dark horses, I think about the league it's probably going to be down to United or Chelsea. But I think there are some strong teams out there. I think Pompey, Portsmouth, are a good side. Villa under O'Neill are doing amazing things this year. Of course Bolton have looked good and maybe even Liverpool or Spurs might do something.

***DF: Now recently people have been suggesting that the English Premier League is boring and it's too predictable. What would you say to that?***

Paul: I think about the title it has become predictable I mean there's only I think 4 or 5 teams that really could win it these days. But I think in a lot of other ways it's very, very exciting in the style of play, I mean it's much more exciting to me than the Spanish League or the Italian League. The other battles for the fourth Champions League spot is always very exciting. The League Cup is usually very good. The FA Cup of course, last year was very good, so, I think in a lot of ways still ... and of course relegation, so I think of course it's still very exciting. But especially just the way they play I think.

***DF: Okay so playing style for you still makes it the most exciting. Now, final question give us your top 4 at the end of the season. Who do you think will be champions? Runners-up? Third and fourth place?***

Paul: Well, as far as champions go, I think sad to say it, but I think it might well be Chelsea, closely followed by Man United, who really, really want to do it this year. Then I think third will be Arsenal and fourth place is always very exciting, the last few years it's always been something interesting gone on and okay, let me take a guess, I'll go for Villa and say Villa will finish fourth, amazing first season for Mr. O'Neill.

***DF: I'm not sure that will be a popular choice here on the podcast but thanks very much for your comments Paul, I hope to speak to you soon.***