

English for football – week 26

Last gasp goal

Today's English for football phrase is **'go down to the wire'**.

Most European leagues are coming to the end of their season. In the English league, Manchester United only lead Chelsea by three points. In the Dutch league, there are three teams on equal points at the top: AZ Alkmaar, Ajax and PSV. It is going to be an exciting finish in both these leagues and other leagues too. When we have this situation, we say **'the season's going to go down to the wire'**. We mean that we don't know who will win, and we will not know until maybe the last game. Originally, this phrase was used in horse racing, when two horses were racing to the line **'neck and neck'** – close together. The line was a thin tape, or wire.

Who is going to win in the Dutch league? It's too difficult to say. **It's going to go down to the wire.**

Example:

AMSTERDAM, April 22 (Reuters) - The destiny of the Dutch title will go down to the wire after PSV Eindhoven were deposed at the top by AZ Alkmaar on Sunday.
<http://soccernet.espn.go.com/news/story?id=424174&cc=4716>