

Podcast 23 Worksheet

## Relegation

By Damian Fitzpatrick (April 5th 2007)

### Pre-Listening (Background information)

#### Teams and players mentioned in the report

Barcelona, Porto, Liverpool, Tottenham, Moscow, Valencia, Celtic, Bremen, Leverkusen, Benfica, Sevilla, AZ Alkmaar, Osasuna, Espanyol Chelsea, Middlesbrough are all football teams.

Jose Mourinho is Chelsea manager and Martin Jol is Spurs' manager.

### A. Main idea - true or false

Listen to the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F The Champions League started in 2000.
2. T / F Osasuna and Espanyol both play in the Spanish league.
3. T / F Damian thinks the competition goes on too long.
4. T / F Damian reckons that the UEFA Cup acts as a practice for the Champions League.
5. T / F Sevilla are not a well-supported club.
6. T / F Tottenham have already beaten Sevilla this season.

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

1. 'Here's a question for you, what \_\_\_\_\_ Barcelona, Liverpool and Porto?'
2. '... has meant that Europe's second competition, the UEFA Cup, has \_\_\_\_\_ and one reason why fans may not ...'
3. 'Of course, I am \_\_\_\_\_ as my team, Tottenham Hotspur, have also ...'
4. 'That kind of European \_\_\_\_\_ is very important, just ask Sevilla.'
5. '... that win \_\_\_\_\_ has given the club enough confidence in their own belief to see them mount...'
6. 'Who knows it may be the \_\_\_\_\_ for Tottenham and their young side...'

## C. Comprehension

*Listen to the report and answer the following questions.*

1. Name three ways why the UEFA Cup suffers at the hands of the Champions league.
2. Why does Damian suggest that the UEFA Cup is an important competition?
3. Why do you think Jose Mourinho was mentioned in this report?
4. If Tottenham beat Sevilla what will / might happen according to the report?

## ANSWERS

### A. Main idea - true or false

Listen to the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F The Champions League started in 2000.  
**Since the European Cup became the Champions League in 1992 it ...**
2. T / F Osasuna and Espanyol both play in the Spanish league.  
**tough sides from Spain, Osasuna and Espanyol**
3. T / F Damian thinks the competition goes on too long.  
**Yes, the competition is too long - if Tottenham were to win the cup, it would be their 13th match.**
4. T / F Damian reckons that the UEFA Cup acts as a practice for the Champions League.  
**It could also be argued the UEFA Cup has acted as a type of rehearsal for bigger European nights.**
5. T / F Sevilla are not a well-supported club.  
**Sevilla. A club with a massive fan base,**
6. T / F Tottenham have already beaten Sevilla this season.  
**against Leverkusen (who Tottenham comfortably beat away in the group**

## B. Listening - vocabulary

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

- Here's a question for you, what links Barcelona, Liverpool and Porto?  
**connects**
- '... has meant that Europe's second competition, the UEFA Cup, has suffered and one reason why fans may not  
**declined / decreased in importance**
- Of course, I am biased as my team, Tottenham Hotspur, have also made  
**influenced / partial / unbiased / subjective**
- That kind of European experience is very important, just ask Sevilla.  
**knowledge / practice**
- '... that win undoubtedly has given the club enough confidence in their own belief to see them...'  
**unquestionably / without a doubt / undeniably**
- 'Who knows it may be the impetus for Tottenham and their young side  
**motivation / momentum / drive**

## C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

- Name three ways why the UEFA Cup suffers at the hands of the Champions league.  
**1. less money      2. less TV coverage      3. Lesser teams / players**
- Why does Damian suggest that the UEFA Cup is an important competition?  
**experience for the Champions League**
- Why do you think Jose Mourinho was mentioned in this report?  
**Making the point that the UEFA Cup helped him to become a top manager**
- If Tottenham beat Sevilla what will / might happen according to the report?  
**1. qualify for the semi-final 2. mentality will improve 3. future could be bright**

## Transcript

Here's a question for you, what links Barcelona, Liverpool and Porto? Yes, of course they have won the Champions League in the past three years but how many football fans would be able to name the previous three winners of the UEFA Cup?

Since the European Cup became the Champions League in 1992 it has attracted most of the public's attention, lots of money, and plenty of TV coverage and, since 2000, the best teams and players too as the top 3 or 4 teams from the big European leagues qualify now for this competition. This has meant that Europe's second competition, the UEFA Cup, has suffered and one reason why fans may not be able to name the previous winners.

However this year may be different as Bremen, Leverkusen and Benfica have all played in recent Champions League competitions, Sevilla and AZ Alkmaar are both challenging at the top of the Spanish and Dutch leagues and tough sides from Spain, Osasuna and Espanyol are also still left in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals making this year's competition a tough one indeed.

Of course, I am biased as my team, Tottenham Hotspur, have also made it to this stage having won all 8 of their matches this season. Yes, the competition is too long - if Tottenham were to win the cup, it would be their 13th match. No, it does not possess the glamour or the riches of the Champions League, and as far as I am aware it does not even have a fancy theme tune but the UEFA Cup matters.

It could also be argued the UEFA Cup has acted as a type of rehearsal for bigger European nights. Valencia, Porto and Liverpool have all recently won the competition and then gone on to perform well in later Champions Leagues and would Jose Mourinho the Chelsea manager, have been offered his job if his Porto team had not experienced a winning European final against Celtic in 2003 before going on to win the Champions League in 2004?

That kind of European experience is very important, just ask Sevilla. A club with a massive fan base, great stadium, and you know, the odd superstar player in its history, Sevilla have never really been taken that seriously by the big teams in Spain. Now this year that has changed as they lie in second place in La Liga and are in with a real chance of winning only

their second league title, 61 years after the last one. The fact that they won the UEFA Cup last year in thrilling fashion - beating Middlesbrough 4-0 in the final - is not the only reason for their domestic success this year but that win undoubtedly has given the club enough confidence in their own belief to see them mount a strong challenge this season.

If Tottenham were to beat Sevilla it would not simply mean a semi-final match against Leverkusen (who Tottenham comfortably beat away in the group matches) or Spanish side Osasuna but the fact that Martin Jol's team had the ability and mental strength to beat a 'big' side. Who knows it may be the impetus for Tottenham and their young side to go on and challenge for greater things next year?

Oh, by the way, the answer to the question at the start of the report is: Sevilla, Moscow and Valencia!