Podcast 25 Worksheet

The PFA Best Player Award

By Damon Brewster (April 19th, 2007)

Background

The Professional Football Association votes every year for the best player and best young player in the league. Only professional footballers vote.

Pre-Listening

A. Vocabulary

Before listening match the words with their meanings.

1. … to nominate	*a. to throw away. discard*
2. … protégée	*b. to suggest, to choose*
3. … to dump	*c. polite way to say cheating*
4. … to loathe	*d. to hate*
5. … eventful	*e. full of interesting experiences*
6. … gamesmanship	*f. youngster looked after by an influential person*

Listening

A. Main ideas

1. T / F A lot of famous players have been nominated for the PFA award.

2. T / F The writer thinks that not many English players were nominated.

3. T / F The favourite to win this year is Ronaldo.

4. T / F The Manchester United manager, Ferguson, didn't like Ronaldo at first.

B. Listening - detail

Listen again and answer the questions.

1. When will the PFA decide the 2007 Player of the Year Award?

2. How many Manchester United players have been nominated?

3. How many non-English players were nominated?

4. Who went to Real Madrid when Ronaldo came to Manchester United?

5. Did Ronaldo and Ruud van Nistlerooy get on?

6. What kind of year has Ronaldo had?

7. How many goals has Ronaldo scored so far this season?

8. Has he signed a new contract?

Podcast 25 Worksheet - ANSWERS

The PFA Best Player Award

Pre-Listening

A. Vocabulary

Before listening match the words with their meanings.

1. b *to nominate*	*a. to throw away. discard*
2. f *protégée*	*b. to suggest, to choose*
3. a *to dump*	*c. polite way to say cheating*
4. d *to loathe*	*d. to hate*
5. e *eventful*	*e. full of interesting experiences*
6. c *gamesmanship*	*f. youngster looked after by an influential person*

Listening

A. Main ideas

1. **T** / F A lot of famous players have been nominated for the PFA award.

Steven Gerrard, Didier Drogba, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Cesc Fabregas, and Cristiano Ronaldo have all been nominated.

2. **T** / F The writer thinks that not many English players were nominated.

only two English players nominated

3. **T** / F The favourite to win this year is Ronaldo.

Steven Gerrard, looks as though he'll have to pass on the honour to the rising star from Portugal, Ronaldo

4. T / **F** The Manchester United manager, Ferguson, didn't like Ronaldo at first.

soon, he became a firm favourite of Ferguson's

B. Listening - detail

Listen again and answer the questions.

9. When will the PFA decide the 2007 Player of the Year Award? – **the 22nd of April**

10. How many Manchester United players have been nominated? - **three**

11. How many non-English players were nominated? - **four**

12. Who went to Real Madrid when Ronaldo came to Manchester United? – **David Beckham**

13. Did Ronaldo and Ruud van Nistlerooy get on? - **no**

14. What kind of year has Ronaldo had? – **an eventful one**

15. How many goals has Ronaldo scored so far this season? – **21 (16 in the league)**

16. Has he signed a new contract? - **yes**

Transcript

The PFA Best Player Award

By Damon Brewster (April 19th, 2007)

The Professional Footballers' Association will decide on the 22nd the Players' Player Award for 2007. Steven Gerrard, Didier Drogba, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Cesc Fabregas, and Cristiano Ronaldo have all been nominated. All of these players come from the top four clubs, and three are from Manchester United. Further proof some might say that Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal have too much influence on the English game. Others might also say that with only two English players nominated, it isn't an English game anymore.

Anyway, last year's winner, Steven Gerrard, looks as though he'll have to pass on the honour to the rising star from Portugal, Ronaldo, who is most pundits' favourite to win. The Portuguese protégée, who picked up a ball aged three, arrived at Manchester United from Sporting Clube de Portugal as David Beckham moved on to Real Madrid. And soon, he became a firm favourite of Ferguson's. It has been reported that Ronaldo and Ruud van Nistlerooy had a training ground argument and didn't get on – where is Ruud now? Real Madrid, the dumping ground for Ferguson's cast-offs.

Love his ball skills, stepovers and shooting, or loathe him and his theatrical diving, Christiano Ronaldo has certainly had a successful, if eventful year.

It started with this at the World Cup in Germany – Ronaldo's part in influencing the referee, and winking to the dugout after Wayne Rooney had been sent off made it seem as though he could never return to England. But he did. And so far this year the step-over king is the Red Devil's top scorer with 21 goals, 16 in the league, and has become the spark, the genius, the playmaker that has driven Manchester United's title run, while ironically Rooney's star has waned this year. Despite recently signing a new contract, doubts remain over how long he will commit to Manchester United and playing in England. Surely it won't be long before he makes a move to Spain or Italy.

What is certain is that no matter how much some people dislike his gamesmanship, it his peers will vote him the best player in the premier League this Sunday.