

Season 2007/8

Podcast 21 Worksheet

## Review of 2007

By Damian Fitzpatrick and Damon Brewster (December 29th 2007)

### Background information

Damian looks back at some of the highs and lows of the footballing world from 2007.

### Pre-Listening Exercise (Winners)

Here are some of the winners from 2007 mentioned in this week’s report. Choose the correct winners of the competitions on the left from the right hand column.

World Player of the Year	Ronaldo / Messi / <b>Kaka</b>
English Premier League Player of the Year	Ronaldo / Rooney / Drogba
Carling Cup Winners	Chelsea / Arsenal / Manchester United
Premier League Winners	Chelsea / Arsenal / Manchester United
La Liga Winners	Sevilla / Barcelona / Real Madrid
Serie A	Inter / AC Milan / Roma
Bundesliga	Bayern Munich / Stuttgart / Schalke / Bremen
French Champions	Lyon / Paris / Lille / Nancy
Champions League	Liverpool / Chelsea / AC Milan / Barcelona
UEFA Cup	Espanyol / Sevilla / Real Madrid
J- League	Urawa Reds / Antlers / Kawasaki
Argentina	Boca / River / Lanus
Brazil	Corinthians / Santos / Sao Paolo
Women’s World Cup	England / Brazil / Germany / Iraq
Copa America	Venezuela / Argentina / Brazil / Chile
Asian Cup	Japan / Korea / Australia / Saudi Arabia / Iraq
Asian Club Champions	Sepahan / Urawa Reds / Sydney FC

### A. Vocabulary

Listen to the first part of the report (until ‘...all the way.’) and complete the gap with an appropriate word.

Kaka has just been named the best player of 2007 for his (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for AC Milan during the past year but in this languagecaster review of 2007 we hope to remind you of some of the other teams, moments and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the past 12 months.

In England, the Big Four (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to dominate with Chelsea winning the Carling Cup in March in a tumultuous game against their London rivals, Arsenal. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at one stage the Blues looked as if they might win an unprecedented (5) \_\_\_\_\_ but after losing to Liverpool in the Champions League semi-final they ‘only’ ended up with a Cup double after winning the first FA Cup final at the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Wembley Stadium against Manchester United in May. Sir Alex Ferguson’s Reds had been thwarted from winning the double in that final having already won the Premier League for the first time in four years with Cristiano Ronaldo (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the league and winning the English Player of the Year award. This season has seen little change at the top as the big four dominate again though Arsenal look as if they will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ United all the way.

### B. Vocabulary

Listen to the rest of the report and choose whether the following sentences are true or false.

1. T / F The Spanish Championship was not very exciting last season.
2. T / F Inter won the Italian League easily.
3. T / F Schalke lost out on the Bundesliga title yet again.
4. T / F Sevilla won their first UEFA Cup in 2006.
5. T / F Urawa Reds won their second J-League in a row in 2007.
6. T / F This time last year no one thought Mourinho would be sacked.
7. T / F Damian feels that the best performance of the year was the German women’s team.

**ANSWERS**

**Pre-Listening Exercise (Winners)**

Here are some of the winners from 2007 mentioned in this week’s report. Choose the correct winners of the competitions on the left from the right hand column.

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English Premier League Player of the Year	<b>Ronaldo</b> / Rooney / Drogba
Carling Cup Winners	<b>Chelsea</b> / Arsenal / Manchester United
Premier League Winners	Chelsea / Arsenal / <b>Manchester United</b>
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Copa America	Venezuela / Argentina / <b>Brazil</b> / Chile
Asian Cup	Japan / Korea / Australia / Saudi Arabia / <b>Iraq</b>
Asian Club Champions	Sepahan / <b>Urawa Reds</b> / Sydney FC

**A. Vocabulary**

Listen to the first part of the report (until ‘...all the way.’) and complete the gap with an appropriate word.

1. performances

2. Personalities

3. Continued

4. Indeed

5. Indeed

6. Quadruple

7. dominated

8. push

## B. True or False

Listen to the rest of the report and choose whether the following sentences are true or false.

1. T / F The Spanish Championship was not very exciting last season.  
**one the most exciting title races in recent times**
2. T / F Inter won the Italian League easily.  
**. Inter ran away with the Serie A title in Italy**
3. T / F Schalke lost out on the Bundesliga title yet again.  
**Germany's 'nearly men'**
4. T / F Sevilla won their first UEFA Cup in 2006.  
**Repeated the win in 2007**
5. T / F Urawa Reds won their second J-League in a row in 2007.  
**Urawa Reds were unable to win their second**
6. T / F This time last year no one thought Mourinho would be sacked.  
**unthinkable**
7. T / F Damian feels that the best performance of the year was the German women's team.  
**Iraq**

## Transcript

Kaka has just been named the best player of 2007 for his performances for AC Milan during the past year but in this languagecaster review of 2007 we hope to remind you of some of the other teams, moments and personalities of the past 12 months.

In England, the Big Four continued to dominate with Chelsea winning the Carling Cup in March in a tumultuous game against their London rivals, Arsenal. Indeed at one stage the Blues looked as if they might win an unprecedented quadruple but after losing to Liverpool in the Champions League semi-final they 'only' ended up with a Cup double after winning the first FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium against Manchester United in May. Sir Alex Ferguson's Reds had been thwarted from winning the double in that final having already won the Premier League for the first time in four years with Cristiano Ronaldo dominating the league and winning the English Player of the Year award. This season has seen little change at the top as the big four dominate again though Arsenal look as if they will push United all the way.

Spain's La Liga saw one of the most exciting title races in recent times as Real Madrid, Barcelona and Sevilla were all battling to win the league. It went down to the wire on the last day of the season with Fabio Capello's Madrid eventually winning the three-horse-race. Inter ran away with the Serie A title in Italy as their rivals were unable to recover from the *calciopoli* scandal and though this year's title race in Italy is a much tighter affair, Roberto Mancini's team yet again lead the *scudetto* at Christmas.

With Bayern Munich struggling last season the Bundesliga also proved to be an exciting affair with Stuttgart winning the championship on the final day of the season to deny Schalke the chance of their first German title, remaining the nearly men of German football. This season has seen another exciting race this time with a resurgent Bayern battling with Bremen and Hamburg for the title. In other European leagues there was more of the same as Celtic won their second title in a row in Scotland, Porto their third in Portugal and amazingly Lyon won their sixth French title in a row. Unsurprisingly, all three of these teams are top of their countries' table at the half way mark this season again.

In European competitions, Sevilla repeated their UEFA Cup triumph in beating fellow Spanish team Espanyol in the final while in the Champions League we saw a repeat of the 2005 final between AC Milan and Liverpool.

In Japan Urawa Reds were unable to win their second J-League crown in a row as Antlers came with a 9 match winning streak to pip them at the post, though the Reds did manage to become Asian Club champions for the first time in their history. Congratulations too to Etoile Soleil from Tunisia, Pachuca from Mexico and Argentina's Boca Juniors for winning their respective continental championships though Boca were unable to win their own domestic league as this honour went to little Lanus for the first time. Sao Paulo were Brazilian champions but perhaps the biggest story in that country was the fact that former winners, Corinthians, were relegated for the first time in the club's history. In the MLS New York lost their third final in a row – this time to Dallas but the biggest story there was all about this man.

The jury is still out on whether Beckham's impact was a positive one but it cannot be denied that he still is a huge draw wherever he goes. Other personalities to make the news this year included Jose Mourinho being sacked from Chelsea - an unthinkable prospect this time last year, Steve McClaren was also fired for his lamentable performances as the England

manager while his predecessor, Sven Goran Eriksson, has reinvented himself as a very successful Manchester City manager. The Argentinian striker, Carlos Tevez was at the centre of a storm at the end of last season as he helped West ham to survive in the Premier League. Other clubs, most notably Sheffield United, were not convinced that he was legally entitled to play for the club however.

The Euro 2008 qualifying section was completed with few surprises as all the big teams made it to Austria-Switzerland for next summer's finals. Actually, there was one surprise as England failed to reach the major final for the first time since 1994. Outplayed, out thought, out classed and out of the competition was how one critic described them. There were no surprises in the Women's World Cup in September as the dominant Germans won their second trophy in a row as they stormed to victory without conceding a goal. No surprises either in the Copa America in August as Argentina and Brazil met in the final. Few would have predicted such a comfortable 3-0 victory for the Brazilians. One result which almost nobody would have predicted at the start of 2007 and one that I feel makes it as the moment of the footballing year was the 1-0 victory for Iraq over Saudi Arabia in the Asian Cup Final in August. With the country torn apart by Civil War and the football infrastructure in tatters, the team won the competition for the first time in its history. Kaka may have been the best player of the year but undoubtedly the best team performance and surprise package of 2007 was the Iraqi football team.