

Season 2008 / 9 - Podcast 11

National Teams - Stereotypes

By Damon Brewster (23rd October, 2008)

Pre-Listening

A. Background information

- Most football fans have an image of how different countries play. They have an image of their style. Their image of the team is usually based on history: World Cup qualifiers, games with their country, or famous players they know.

B. Prepare

Think of adjectives and phrases that can describe a football team. Make a list.

What adjectives describe your country’s style?

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A. Listening for details

Listen to the five football fans talking about their image of six nations’ football teams. Fill in the spaces with their descriptions (adjectives and phrases).

	Tim	Ed	Hans	John
Germany				
Italy				
Argentina				
England				
Brazil				
Holland				

B. Listening and Inferring

Now listen to the last fan. Can you guess which teams he is talking about. Match his descriptions with the countries.

1st description	
2nd description	
3rd description	
4th description	
5th description	
6th description	

Season 2008 / 9 - Podcast 11 - Answers

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B. Prepare

Suggestions

• speedy	• lots of flair
• compact	• skillful
• well-organised	• boring
• aggressive	• lucky
• hard-tackling	• cunning
• imaginative	• quick
• measured	• cheating
• exciting	• losers

Answers will vary

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A. Listening for details

Listen to the five football fans talking about their image of six nations’ football teams. Fill in the spaces with their descriptions (adjectives and phrases).

	Tim	Ed	Hans	John
Germany	efficient	(unfortunately) successful	excellent team, always in finals work hard. team mentality	complex
Italy	tactical conniving lucky	primadonnas	hot and cold winners and losers sometimes cheats like to dive technically strong	conniving cunning capable of exhilarating and boring moments
Argentina	creole football dribbling playing the ref	hard workers	very strong, tough mentally and physically all round solid soccer team	entertaining
England	bottlers bad penalty takers WAGs	victory	promise more than they deliver great players lack the mentality to go all the way	perennial underperformers amazing individual talent not capable of good team performances
Brazil	flair style overweight strikers	style	samba stylish dance, play, dribble mentally hot and cold,	nothing
Holland	good tradition bad present	underperformers	beautiful to watch, collapse at the quarter final stage mentally not strong	well-organised on field in fighting generally good on the field

B. Listening and Inferring

Now listen to the last fan. Can you guess which teams he is talking about. Match his descriptions with the countries.

1st description	Italy
2nd description	Germany
3rd description	Brazil
4th description	England
5th description	Holland
6th description	Argentina

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Damon: OK. Germany

Tim: Germany... efficient.

Damon: Italy.

Tim: Italy... tactical, a little bit conniving and lucky.

Damon: Argentina:

Tim: Creole football, dribbling, and playing the ref.

Damon: England

Tim: Bottlers, bad penalty takers, WAGs.

Damon: Brazil.

Tim: Flair, style, overweight strikers.

Damon: Holland.

Tim: Good tradition, bad present.

Damon: Germany

Ed: Unfortunately successful.

Damon: Italy.

Ed: Primadonnas

Damon: Argentina:

Ed: Hard workers.

Damon: England

Ed: Victory!

Damon: Brazil.

Ed: Style

Damon: Holland.

Ed: Underperformers.

Damon: Germany

Hans: Excellent team, always in finals, work hard. team mentality

Damon: Italy.

Hans: Hot and cold. They're winners and losers and sometimes cheats - like to dive, but technically very strong.

Damon: Argentina:

Hans: Very strong, very tough mentally and physically - all round solid soccer team.

Damon: Brazil.

Hans: Often referred to as a sort of a samba, stylish, like to dance, play, dribble, but mentally again hot and cold, sometimes very weak.

Damon: England

Hans: England always promise more than they deliver. Great players, but as a team seem to lack the mentality to go all the way.

Damon: Holland.

Hans: Traditionally, beautiful to watch, but seem to collapse at the quarter final stage, so mentally not as strong.

Damon: OK, Germany

John: Complex.

Damon: Italy.

John: Conniving, cunning, always looking for the opportunity. Capable of the most exhilarating moments and some of the most stupefyingly boring moments all in the one game.

Damon: Argentina:

John: Almost always entertaining.

Damon: Brazil

John: I've got nothing for you.

Damon: England.

John: Perennial under-performers. Disappointingly under-performing. Amazing individual talent that they never seem to be able to put together into a team performance.

Damon: Holland.

Ed: Holland always seems very organised on the field, but accompanied by all the stories of in-fighting and who's not getting on with whom, but it generally looks good on the field.

Simon: Tendency to be cynical... efficient and robotic... the beautiful game... under-achievement and disappointment ... total football historically... beautiful on their day but can be dirty.