

## Champions League: the last 16

(February 18th 2009)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

The Champions League is the biggest club competition in Europe and perhaps the world. Last year it was dominated and won by English clubs. Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool featured in the semi-final stage. This week the last 16 clubs play the first legs with the returns being played on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

### A. Main Idea

Listen to all of the report. Are the statements below true (T) or false (F). If they are false, correct them.

1. \_\_\_\_ In the Champions League, there are more teams from Italy than Spain.
2. \_\_\_\_ The last team to win the cup twice in a row was AC Milan in 1990.
3. \_\_\_\_ Inter usually do well in the knock out stages of the competition.
4. \_\_\_\_ Roma will be motivated to do well, as the final will be held in Rome.
5. \_\_\_\_ Lyon have said they intend to defend hard when they play Barcelona.
6. \_\_\_\_ Real Madrid and Liverpool have won the cup 13 times between them.
7. \_\_\_\_ Most people think that FC Porto are the dark horses (may cause a surprise).
8. \_\_\_\_ The speaker believes that Barcelona will win the competition.

### B. Detail

Listen to the first part of the report again and fill in the blank spaces. (one line = one word)

After the rather dreary and predictable \_\_\_\_\_ first round group matches the Champions League begins \_\_\_\_\_ earnest with next week's knockout stage. 16 teams will play two \_\_\_\_\_ to determine the quarter-finalists. Last year's finalists Manchester United and Chelsea are joined \_\_\_\_\_ two more clubs from England, \_\_\_\_\_ well \_\_\_\_\_ four from Spain, three from Italy, two from Portugal and one each from Germany, France and Greece. So, \_\_\_\_\_ are the favourites, the dark \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ in this year's competition?

The holders Manchester United are \_\_\_\_\_ fine form and few would bet \_\_\_\_\_ them winning the trophy for a second year running - something that has not happened since AC Milan did so in 1990. They will play Inter Milan who will be determined to \_\_\_\_\_ the final for the first time in almost forty years - quite remarkable for a team that looks \_\_\_\_\_ win its fourth straight *Scudetto*. Inter tend \_\_\_\_\_ fall at the knock-out stages but they do have Jose Mourinho as their coach and he has had some \_\_\_\_\_

success over the Red Devils. Jose's former club, Chelsea, are going \_\_\_\_\_ a bad patch but with Dutch coach Guus Hiddink recently installed their chances have improved. To \_\_\_\_\_ the next round they will have to beat Italian side Juventus who are also managed by a former Chelsea coach, Claudio Ranieri. There is a third Serie A - Premier League \_\_\_\_\_ when Arsenal take on Roma and though both teams are not challenging for their respective domestic titles, \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ they can play some great football. Roma, especially, will need no further motivation to win, as the final will be held in their own Stadio Olimpico on the 27th May.

### C. Vocabulary

Listen to the second half of the report. Match the **meanings** in the box below with a word or phrase in the report.

	In the report	Meaning
1		as of now
2		fantastic
3		local, not international
4		recent bad performances
5		history

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### A. Main Idea

Listen to all of the report. Are the statements below true (T) or false (F). If they are false, correct them.

1. F In the Champions League, there are more teams from Italy than Spain.

**There are four from Spain and three from Italy**

2. T The last team to win the cup twice in a row was AC Milan in 1990.

3. F Inter usually do well in the knock out stages of the competition.

**They tend to fall at the knock out stage**

4. T Roma will be motivated to do well, as the final will be held in Rome.

5. F Lyon have said they intend to defend hard when they play Barcelona.

**They declared they will attack the Catalan side (Barcelona)**

6. F Real Madrid and Liverpool have won the cup 13 times between them.

**14 times - R. Madrid 6 + Liverpool 8**

7. F Most people think that FC Porto are the dark horses (may cause a surprise).

**Most people think B. Munich are the dark Horses**

8. T The speaker believes that Barcelona will win the competition.

### B. Detail

Listen to the first part of the report again and fill in the blank spaces. (one line = one word)

After the rather dreary and predictable set of first round group matches the Champions League begins in earnest with next week's knockout stage. 16 teams will play two legs to determine the quarter-finalists. Last year's finalists Manchester United and Chelsea are joined by two more clubs from England, As well as four from Spain, three from Italy, two from Portugal and one each from Germany, France and Greece. So, who are the favourites, the dark horses and the outsiders in this year's competition?

The holders Manchester United are in fine form and few would bet against them winning the trophy for a second year running - something that has not happened since AC Milan did so in 1990. They will play Inter Milan who will be determined to reach the final for the first time in almost forty years - quite remarkable for a team that looks set to win its fourth straight *Scudetto*. Inter tend to fall at the knock-out stages but they do have Jose Mourinho as their coach and he has had some recent success over the Red Devils. Jose's former club, Chelsea, are going through a bad patch but with Dutch coach Guus Hiddink recently installed their chances have improved. To reach the next round they will have to beat Italian side Juventus who are also managed by a former Chelsea coach, Claudio Ranieri. There is a third Serie A - Premier League match up when Arsenal take on Roma and though both teams are not challenging for their respective domestic titles, on their day they can play some great football. Roma, especially, will need no further motivation to win, as the final will be held in their own Stadio Olimpico on the 27th May.

**C. Vocabulary**

Listen to the second half of the report. Match the **meanings** in the box below with a word or phrase in the report.

	<b>In the report</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1	<b>currently</b>	as of now
2	<b>glorious</b>	fantastic
3	<b>domestic</b>	local, not international
4	<b>a dip in form</b>	a recent bad performances
5	<b>track record</b>	history

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### Transcript

After the rather dreary and predictable set of first round group matches the Champions League begins in earnest with next week's knockout stage. 16 teams will play two legs to determine the quarter-finalists. Last year's finalists Manchester United and Chelsea are joined by two more clubs from England, as well as four from Spain, three from Italy, two from Portugal and one each from Germany, France and Greece. So, who are the favourites, the dark horses and the outsiders in this year's competition?

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Many people's favourites to win the trophy are Barcelona who are currently running away with La Liga and playing a glorious brand of attacking football. They play French side Lyon who have declared that they will attack the Catalans in an attempt to get to the next round, which should make for an interesting affair. Nine-time winners Real Madrid play five-time winners Liverpool in a clash of European heavyweights. Both lie in second place in their domestic leagues some way off the leaders so they will be all out to do well in this competition. The other Spanish sides, Villarreal and Atletico Madrid are both suffering from a dip in form but should fancy their chances against Greek side Panathinaikos and FC Porto respectively. Those two teams are ranked amongst the outsiders, along with Sporting Lisbon who face German team Bayern Munich with Jurgen Klinsmann's team viewed as a dark horse by many.

So, who is going to win? Well, I am going for a Barcelona - Bayern Munich final with Lionel Messi leading the Catalans to their third major European title. But with my track record in predictions, I wouldn't bet on it.