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League Soccer Tribute To ‘Crash’

The managers and players in League Soccer this month paid their tributes to former game 64 Real Madrid manager Arthur ‘Crash’ Ticehurst who has sadly passed away. Arthur managed Real up until February of this year, leaving the team in a healthy third place in the table, but it was on the necom noticeboards on the web that his presence was most seen. His views were always outspoken and entertaining, and he was a great friend to many managers in the game. The game 64 Champions League trophy has been renamed ‘The Crash Memorial Trophy’ in Arthurs honour.

Game 64 – Season End April 2006:

City First Winners Of ‘Crash Cup’

Craig Rathey’s Manchester City became the inaugural winners of the ‘Crash Memorial Trophy’, as game 64’s Champions League has been renamed – Emile Heskey bagging a brace in the 2-0 victory over Leeds United. It was double final defeat in the final week of the season for David Knowles’ Leeds, as they also lost in the FA Cup final where Jamie Maycroft’s Wolves won 2-0, Samuel Eto’o scoring both. Still, they had the Premiership title in their trophy cabinet, a fine season for the Elland Road side saw them finish on 58 points, six clear of second place Marc Lewry managed Manchester United. Craig Rathey led Manchester City to third place, 50 pts with David Knowles again in there taking fourth place with Everton. Ross Sharp’s Juventus lifted the Serie A title – ‘cokebaby’s team finishing just a point clear of Martin Barber’s Valencia. It was very close between those two for most of the season, Valencia always two points clear of their rivals until week 20. That week, the top two played, Valencia with home advantage and looking for the win that would wrap up the title. Martin Barber’s plans turned sour though, with Juve taking the three points with a 1-0 victory. That left Juve a point clear – and they kept this margin over the final two matches. Juventus finished on 58 points and Valencia on 57. Third placed Inter Milan, Craig Rathey’s side, were way back on 41 points with Arthur’s old team Real coming in fourth. Two last gasp goals from Jermaine Defoe saw AC Milan come from behind to lift the FA Cup against Valencia who finished with nothing to show for their seasons work. The league cups were won by Everton, beating Leeds 1-0, and Juve who beat Parma 2-0. England battered Brazil 4-1 in the final to win the World Cup.

Game 3, Season End March 2006:

Cov Conquer Premiership

Paul Davies’s newly promoted Coventry are the champions of the British league, after an all conquering season. Paul won everything going with his last team, before moving to Coventry in division 2 and completely rebuilding. Since then, he’s won the 2nd, 1st and now the Premiership. Coventry finished the season with 59 points, twelve points ahead of three clubs all on 47 points – Justin Purdy’s Newcastle,

Ryan Smethurst’s Liverpool and Luke Doyle’s Chelsea. Coventry also beat Liverpool to win the FA Cup. Serie A went right down to the wire, with three clubs all in the running going into the final week. Ryan Doyle’s Inter were top, and so had the advantage, but were playing away to Gerard Kelly’s Barcelona who went into the final matches two points behind them. Scott Close’s Roma were three points adrift. With a superior goal difference, a point would have probably been enough for Inter. Roma did their best to close that gap – battering PSV 4-1 but that margin just wasn’t enough. Inter then managed to scrape a point at Barga with a 1-1 draw, so they took the title. Inter finished on 58pts, as did Roma, with Barcelona on 56pts and way back in fourth were Mark Cunningham’s Real Madrid with 34pts. Juventus beat Bayern 3-1 in the FA Cup final. Gerard Kelly’s Barga won the Champions League, beating Liverpool 2-1 in the final, and England won the World Cup, beating Italy 3-2.

Game 8, Season End January 2006:

Dominant Real Buy Preston!

In the European league, John Wilson’s Real Madrid ran riot for the complete season, winning 21 out of their 22 games and finishing on 63 points. Indeed, things went so well, that John decided to splash out his clubs cash, buying Lancashire side Preston North End in order to give some of his stars first team experience. Gary Lee’s AC Milan trailed in 2nd on 52 points, with a tie for third place between Neil Moore’s Valencia and Barcelona – both way back on 32 pts. Rory McDowell’s Serie B champions Roma won the FA Cup, beating Sparta Prague 1-0 in the final. The Premiership went to unmanaged Liverpool, tied on 46 points with Jamie Pryce’s Man United, those two both two points clear of Everton and James Haste’s Arsenal. Man United beat West Brom 1-0 to take the FA Cup. The Champions League went to Arsenal, they beat Real Madrid 2-0 in the final. Holland won the World Cup, beating Austria 1-0.

Game 15, Season End January 2006:

Newcastle Lift Champions League

Trevor English’ Magpies secured a thrilling Champions League title victory this month, beating Barcelona 4-2 in the final. The St.James’ Park side were also Premiership champions, finishing on 62 points, well clear of Gareth Evans’ Arsenal (46pts) and Peter Dobson’s Man U (32 pts). Arsenal won the FA Cup, beating Tranmere 1-0 in the final. Serie A once again went to Gareth Evans’ Sampdoria with 56 points, seven clear of Barcelona. Aaron Jones’ Juventus were third on 31pts and Connor Parr’s Inter fourth on 30. Steaua Bucharest picked up the FA Cup with a shock 1-0 final victory over Sampdoria. Brazil won the World Cup, beating England 1-0 in the final.

Game 41, Season End February 2006:

Incredible Season For Sketch!

He’s the longest serving manager ever in League Soccer – and he’s just had an incredible season. Paul Sketcher’s Piacenza won 22 out of 22 in Serie A, obviously taking the title – AC Milan were 2nd, Juve 3rd and Inter 4th, but all well out of the running. Piacenza also won the FA Cup, a 2-1 win over Anderlecht in the final, but they missed out on the Champions League – losing 3-2 to Lyn Harris’ Man United in the semi final. United went on to win that, beating Rangers 2-0 in the final, but they finished second to unmanaged Leicester City in the Prem – Leicester amassing 58 points, United only getting 50. Neil Overton’s Arsenal ran in third back on 43 points with David Redfern’s Tottenham fourth with 36 pts. Chelsea won the British FA Cup, stopping Leicester’s bid for the double by beating the Foxes 1-0. Italy won the World Cup, beating Portugal 3-1 in the final.

Game 34, Season End February 2006:

Second Title For Mighty Millwall!

Nick Davenport took the Premiership title back to the New Den for the second consecutive season, and added to it the Super Cup and Champions League trophies. The Champions League final saw Millwall up against Markie Wheat's Man United – and they scraped through with a 1-0 victory, Wayne Rooney scoring the winner 10 minutes from time. Back to the Prem, Millwall were in control all season, eventually finishing 5 points ahead of Jason Sewell's once mighty Arsenal. Phillip Dean's newly promoted Hull City finished a superb third with 47 points, whilst Michael G's Ipswich were fourth on 42. Stuart Flight's QPR side won the FA Cup, beating Hull City 1-0 in the final. Mark Wheat's Barcelona held their nerve to lift the Serie A trophy. They went into the final game needing three points from the home clash with Spartak Moscow to be certain – and Markie's players didn't let him down. Barsa won 3-1 to finish two points ahead of Michael G's Borussia Dortmund, Barsa on 54 points. Third place went to Robert Valenti's Juventus, with 46 points and fourth was Martin Hoyles' AC Milan with 40 points. Creditable mention to Martin Barber's Djurgardens who won Serie B. Real Madrid won the European FA Cup, beating AC Milan 2-0 in the final.

Game 62, Season End February 2006:

Walsall Win The FA Cup!

With apologies to the managers in game 62, star turn this season undoubtedly was an unmanaged team – a team that doesn't even feature in any of the leagues, which has never happened before in League Soccer history! Walsall went all the way to the FA Cup final, and beat Tottenham 1-0 in that final. An unmanaged team from the bottom division made it to the Euro final too, Martimo getting there but losing 2-1 to unmanaged AC Milan. At least the Premiership and Champions League went to a manager – Scott Thulborn winning both with his Rangers. John Ferrier was second in the Prem with Chelsea, Sunderland were third and Newcastle fourth. Serie A was won by Roma, with Inter second, AC Milan third and Matthew Robinson's Borussia Dortmund fourth. Rangers beat Celtic 2-1 in a cracking Champions League final, whilst Norway beat Yugoslavia 1-0 in the World Cup final.

Game 82, Season End February 2006:

Treble For United

Andrew Williams' Man United side won the Champions League, Premiership and FA Cup treble, the final one of those a spectacular 3-0 Champions League final victory over Rangers. The FA Cup was won with a 3-1 drubbing of Spurs in the final, but the Premiership proved a much closer affair altogether. United finished the season on 58pts, one clear of Joe Atkinson's Arsenal and two clear of Matthew Jones' Rangers. All three were in the running going into the final game, and all won – so United took the trophy home. Kieran Wood's Barcelona won Serie A with 51 points, miles clear of Danny Spruce's Milan who only got 36. Nantes were 3rd and Galatasaray finished 4th. Bayern Munich lifted the FA Cup, beating Corinthians 1-0 in the final. Scotland won the World Cup, beating Bulgaria 2-0 in the final.

Game 207, Season End March 2006:

QPR Take The Cup

It was good to see the honours shared around the teams and leagues this season, Ricky Garrard's QPR winning the 1st division and following it up with the FA Cup – a narrow 1-0 final win over Anthony Brockway's Man United. Michael Paoloni's Liverpool took the Premiership, with a pretty low points total – only 43. Alan Watson's Arsenal tied second with Robert Melvin's Chelsea and Rangers, all on 38 points. Clayton Courtney's Inter Milan won the Champions League, two goals from Adriano in the final seeing off Celtic. Gerard O'Brien's Barcelona won Serie A, Inter second, Ajax third and Gerry Hurley's Real Madrid came fourth. The World Cup went to Sweden, beating Italy 2-1 in the final.

Game 211, Season End March 2006:

Champions At Last

That's what Milan boss Miles Caulfield said as soon as the final whistle blew in the week 21 game against Real Madrid. Milan won that game 3-1, a result which secured the Serie A title with a week to go. 'We deserve it,' said Caulfield, 'we were 2nd last year, now first this year. Believe me when I say it will happen again next year!' Juventus were second, Peter Connelly's Real Madrid dropped to third and Carl Williams' Barcelona finished fourth. River Plate won that leagues FA Cup, beating Chievo 2-1 in the final. Newcastle won the Premiership and FA Cup double, delighting boss Tim Fairhurst. Ben Fairhurst's Liverpool finished second in the table, lost the FA Cup final 3-0, but beat the Magpies in the Champions League final so the Anfield side did finish with the most important piece of silverware of the lot. Italy beat Scotland 1-0 in the World Cup final.

Game 213, Season End March 2006:

Hammers Almighty

West Ham United, under the management of David Smith, won everything there was to win, dominating the British league and also picking up the Champions League in a superb season. Single goals from Jermaine Defoe were enough for 1-0 victories in both finals – the FA Cup saw them beat Carl Ward's Liverpool, whilst in the Champions League they beat David's other side, Real Madrid. The Hammers went through the season unbeaten – and pretty much unbeatable. – with 21 wins and 1 draw. T.Morgan's Man United finished second in the Premiership, Leeds were third and another T.Morgan side, Arsenal, were fourth. Serie A was won by Real Madrid, 10 points clear of Carl Ward's Monaco who were second. Milan finished third and Inter fourth. Real Madrid beat Dortmund 2-0 in the FA Cup final. T.Morgan's France won the World Cup, a thriller in the final, they beat Holland 4-3.