

Necom News



Happy Birthday To Me !

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Chelsea Win Game 75 Prem !

Another season ended this week in game 75, with George Coombes' Chelsea lifting the Premiership crown and Gareth Edwards' Valencia top of the European league. The battle for the Premiership was between Chelsea and Arsenal all season – George Coombes' side invariably a point or two clear of Karl Russell's Gunners. Andrew Kitching's Sunderland and Jamie Maycroft's Wolves looked to be putting up a bit of a fight early on – but soon slipped away – and it became a straight fight between the two London clubs. Arsenal moved ahead in week 11 when Chelsea were held 2-2 by Southampton, and stayed there until week 18 when they lost 1-0 at Gareth Aaron's Newcastle. Chelsea beat Villa 1-0 that week to move two points ahead, and continued that form winning their remaining fixtures to lift the title. Arsenal were two points back, with Jamie Maycroft's Wolves stumbling over the line into third place, some 15 points behind the champions. Thomas Fletcher's Everton were fourth. Towards the end of the season, the relegation battle really caught the imagination, with Rangers and Southampton comfortably relegated, and Manchester United looking set to join them before the return of last seasons manager Simon Benn. One or two changes from him and the team was playing again – wins away to Villa and Rangers, and a draw at Wolves saw them close to within two points of Ethan Bailey's Aston Villa. In the final week, Andrii Shevchenko's goal was enough to earn United three points at Southampton, whilst Villa were hammered 4-1 by Everton. United then stayed up, and unfortunately for Aston Villa, they were relegated instead.

The first division title was won comfortably by Mark Pinder's Grimsby Town who went through the season unbeaten and thus were six points clear of Craig Rathey's second place side Manchester City. Early on, the battle for the promotion spots looked to be a two way shootout between Grimsby and Hearts, but a change of management saw the Edinburgh club fall away disasterously and only just make the playoffs. Celtic were the form team at the end of the season. After flirting with the to save them thanks to a great final quarter of the season. relegation places for the first half of the campaign, a shake up in personnel saw Garysean Wilson's side storm up the table and take third place – five points behind City. The other playoff hopefuls were Middlesboro, Hearts and Birmingham who sneaked in at the expense of Ipswich on the final day. Down at the bottom, Sheffield United, Bolton and Derby were relegated, with Hamilton boss Alan Frame performing miracles with his club to keep them in the division.

Division two saw Charlton comfortable champions – they won their first 15 games in a row. However, a first defeat against Alan Frame's West Ham was soon followed by the loss of

manager Byron Wing and Charlton suddenly were not the force they had been. Craig Rathey's St. Mirren took second place, with West Ham comfortably third and playoff favourites. However, the other playoff spots were incredibly close – Portsmouth getting one with 31 points then Hull on 28 whilst Nottingham Forest, Bradford and Coventry all had 27 points – Tank's Forest getting the final spot in the playoffs with a great 1-0 win over St. Mirren.

Mark Pinder's Grimsby Town won the FA Cup, beating Arsenal 3-0 in the final. Mark also picked up the European league FA cup final when his Monaco team beat his own feeder team Bari 2-0 in the final.

Valencia won the Serie A title – though it could well be remembered as the one Ryan Doyle's Bayern Munich threw away. Bayern were 5 points clear with nine games left following a tremendous run of 12 wins and one defeat. However, a spectacular loss of form from the German side – coupled with some consistantly good results from the Spanish outfit - saw Valencia in front by week 16, and they held this lead until week 21. The two sides met in the final week of the season, Valencia 3 points clear with a better goal difference; Bayern needing to beat their rivals 4-0 to take the title. The game though finished 1-1 and Gareth's side were champions.

Serie B saw Paul Matthew's Roma side in magnificent form, running up 20 victories and just 1 defeat all season, though even that fantastic form only saw them finish three points ahead of Mark Pinder's Monaco. Those two will be looking to finish in the top half of Serie A next season. Sam Smyth's Dortmund, Carl Birch's Deportivo Stuart McDonald's Atletico and Tank's River Plate all had to settle for the playoffs.

After missing out in the Premiership and the FA Cup final, Arsenal had one last trophy to go for – facing Wolves in the Champions League final. They finally won one – Fabregas' goal early in the second half the decider.

No More Cards

I am disappointed to report that from the end of May, we will no longer be able to accept credit or debit card payments over the telephone. You will however still be able to make credit card and debit card payments using 'Paypal' on our website – and you no longer even need a paypal account to do this, so at least that's easier (just go to www.necomgames.com and at the bottom of the options in blue on the left hand side you'll see "Pay Money In" – just click here to make a payment. Hopefully this change won't affect more than a handful of you – but apologies to those that it does. Sadly, the banks no longer value our business...

Other ways to pay – cash, cheque and postal order all remain unaffected too.

How To Do Staff Actions

A quick reminder for you – as many people are filling in their staff orders section wrongly on the return sheet.

In the first box, write the action – either COACH, PHYSIO, SCOUT or TRAIN

In the second box, put the number of the member of staff.

If it's a TRAIN action, leave the third box empty, otherwise it will contain either a player name or player number.

Please please take notice and fill these out correctly and in the correct order – especially if emailing your turns in. Also make sure you use the correct action – TRAIN is the action you use if you want your staff member to go away and brush up on his skills, whilst COACH is the action used for one of your coaches to try to improve a player.

Deadline Dates

The post is a little erratic at the moment for some reason – if sending your turn by mail we'd advise you mail it a couple of days before it's due in. If sending by fax or email, it MUST be here at necom by 8am on the deadline day at the very latest.

The RETRAIN Action

The CP action has been abolished – you now need to use the RETRAIN action in the transfers to change a players position, change a staff members position or speciality, or change a player into a member of staff.

Remember, this needs to be written in the 'TRANSFERS' section of the return sheet, not in either the Extra Actions or the Staff Orders boxes.

The action to change a players position, or change a staff members position, or offer a player the chance to join your backroom staff is simply **RETRAIN**. It can now also be used to change the specialist skill that your coaches use.

To use the action, in the first box write the name of the player, in the second write the number of the player. In the third box, write the action – RETRAIN – and then in box four write the code for the new job, position or speciality. Take that from the list below:

G or GK – Change to goalkeeper
D or DEF – Change to a defender
M or MID – Change to a midfielder
A or ATT – Change to an attacker
P or PHYSIO – Change to a physio
S or SCOUT – Change to a scout
C11 - Change to coach specialising in youngsters
C12 – Change to coach specialising in fitness
C13 – Change to general training coach
C14 – Change to set pieces coach
C15 – Change to morale boosting coach
C16 - Change to positional play coach
C17 - Change to running coach
C18 - Change to agility coach
C19 - Change to ball control coach
C20 - Change to Passing coach
C21 - Change to Heading coach
C22 - Change to Shooting coach
C23 - Change to Intelligence coach
C24 – Change to team building coach
C25 – Change to match practice coach
C26 – Change to discipline coach
C27 - Change to training keepers coach
C28 - Change to defensive training coach
C29 - Change to training midfielders coach
C30 - Change to training forwards coach

Please remember that you can only change to one of the options listed above. You cannot change a player to one of the special D/M or M/A positions, nor can you change a player to a specific position, such as RB or CF.

Also note that you MUST write down the code above – we cannot type in your action if you write the words – it must be the code on the return sheet!

Players and staff whose positions are altered will suffer a drop in rating. You should be able to train them back to their previous rating given time however.

Remember – write this in the TRANSFERS section of the return sheet, not staff actions or extra actions.

Game 29, Season End April 2006

Sir Jim Reclaims His Crown

Marseille are back on top in game 29, and self proclaimed 'Sir Jim' of Marseille has granted himself a Lordship after the French side retook their title and added the Champions League trophy to it – he'll now be known as Lord Jim! Losing their Serie A title to Bayern Munich the previous season hurt Marseille deeply, and it took the French side three games to register their first victory. A run of five straight wins though took them to the summit by week 7 when they deposed Owen Michael's Monaco by beating their French rivals 2-0. A defeat at Bayern Munich in week 8 saw them slip briefly off the top, but Marseille were back in front a week later when Munich were held at home by Monaco. Those three stayed top – in pretty much those positions – right until the end of the season. Marseille holding a slender lead over both Bayern and Monaco. The lead had grown to 3 points by week 18 when the leaders were beaten 3-1 by River Plate. Bayern and Monaco then battled it out to join Marseille at the top – a battle which Owen Michael's side won, 2-1. Marseille and Monaco were then level on points with three games to go. It became a two horse race, as defending champions Munich then fell away dramatically, picking up just one point from their final three matches. Monaco, already with a worse goal difference, then dropped more points in week 20 with a 1-1 home draw against River Plate, which meant that Marseille needed just a point from their last game away at Sparta Prague. In the event, Marseille won 4-1 whilst Monaco could only draw 3-3 at Roma. Marseille finished on 50 points, four ahead of Monaco, with John Ferguson's River Plate a creditable third on 44 pts and Paul Ritchie's Celta Vigo fourth with 43pts.

The Champions League was totally dominated by the European league sides, who all took up the first and second spots in the groups. The semi finals saw Marseille narrowly beat Celta 1-0, Denilson scoring, and River Plate beat Munich 1-0 – Ednilson their scorer. That set up a final clash between Marseille and River Plate which was another close affair. The French side though just had the edge, and won the trophy thanks to Di Vaio's first half goal.

David Crosby's Bolton Wanderers side were the British champions, matching Marseille's points haul of 50, four clear of Kyle McLroy's Man United with Rangers third on 40pts and Tottenham fourth with 28. David started the season hoping for a 'top five finish' and a place in the Champions league, but as the season unfolded, Wanderers looked more and more like champions. The early season saw a tight battle at the top between Bolton and Man United. Bolton went top by a point in week 10, and increased that to four points by week 18. Bolton's home victory over Sheffield Wednesday in the penultimate week of the season was enough to guarantee the Reebok side the Premiership trophy.

A late goal from Alessandro Del Piero was enough to win the British FA Cup for Julie McKechnie's Glasgow Rangers, as Leicester were beaten 1-0 in the final. Juventus won the Euro FA Cup, thanks to goals from Da Costa and Van Nistelrooy in a 2-0 victory over AC Milan. The World Cup was won by Portugal who beat Poland 4-1 in the final.

Game 15

La Samp Boss In Retirement Shocker!

This week Sampdoria boss Gareth Evans announced his intention to retire at the end of the season after over 8 years in charge. Evans has won every trophy available including 8 Serie A titles during a very successful reign. But he believes now is the time to call it a day so a new generation of young managers can have the chance to come through. He said "It's been a brilliant 8 years for me, but there's nothing left for me to prove and I want to go out at the top if I can. It's been a real pleasure to manage some of the world's best players, especially after starting out with a team at the bottom of Serie A with no internationals! We got relegated that year, but we went on to win Serie B by 20 points and the rest is history!" His wish of going out at the top may well come true with his side 6 points clear at the top with 7 games to go. Only time will tell.

Game 1, Season End January 2006

Treble For Hammers

Ritchie Burgess' West Ham cleaned up domestically in the British league, winning the Premiership, FA Cup and League Cup this season. The title was never in any doubt, as the Hammers ran away with it from a pretty early point in the season, looking pretty much unstoppable and eventually finishing on 62 points, 9 clear of Naz Nieviarovski's Charlton. Sam Smyth's Liverpool were third with 44 pts and Amit Ganatra's Tottenham finished 4th on 39 pts. The Hammers came from a goal down at half time to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final, Moravcik and Donovan scoring, whilst in the League Cup, Chelsea were also the beaten side, 2-0 the score this time, Wilkie and Pessotto the scorers. John Evans' Arsenal side disappointed in the Premiership all season, indeed they spent most of it looking neverously over their shoulders at the bottom three. However, it certainly ended on a glorious note for the Gunners, as a late Harry Kewell strike sunk Inter Milan 1-0 in the Champions League final. The season saw a double disappointment for Sam Smyth's Inter who were also Serie A runners up, not quite able to keep up with deserved champions, Joe Hughes' Bayern Munich. In the end, Inter finished 9 points behind Bayern, but it was much closer for most of the season. They did have the consolation of winning both cups, Quintana's goal seeing off Ian Taplin's AC Milan 1-0 in the FA Cup final, Inter having already battered Ben Smith's Real Madrid 4-0 in the League Cup final. Bayern though were Serie A champions, with 56 points, Inter second on 47 with Daniel Makepeace's Barcelona third on 40 and Ben Smith's Real Madrid finishing fourth with 37.

Game 13, Season End June 2006

Barsa In Charge

James West's Barcelona dominated the latest game 13 season, with the Serie A title wrapped up early on - Barsa going through the season unbeaten, amassing 64 points and finishing nine clear of second placed Sporting Lisbon. Fiorentina were third, 19 points behind the champions, with Paul Gibson's Hamburg finishing fourth. The Euro FA Cup and League Cups both went their way too - in the FA Cup they beat Genoa 2-1 in the final thanks to two goals from Milan Baros, whilst in the League Cup final Fiorentina were thumped 3-0. Finally, Barsa took on and beat British league champions Manchester City in the finals of the Super Cup and the Champions League. The Super Cup was won by the Spanish side in week 12 by two goals to one, whilst in the final week, the Champions league completed their grand slam - they won that game 1-0 thanks to a first half strike from Toure. Robert Kings' City won the Premiership with 59 points, five clear of Paul Gibson's Man United with Mark Rowe's defending champions Liverpool in third with 50 pts. Jamie Maycroft's Middlesboro could only manage fourth but will surely be a force in future seasons. Liverpool beat City 1-0 in the FA Cup final, Moneworth the goalscorer for Mark's side, City winning the League Cup though - Millwall beaten 1-0 in that final.

Game 4, Season End March 2006

Palermo Shock Champions!

Considering game 4 played it's first season as a closed game, with just five managers battling it out, the season proved to be something of a thriller. Ralf Ingrao's Palermo stunned everyone to win the grand slam of league, FA cup League Cup and Champions league— despite the far more modest resources at their disposal compared to the likes to AC Milan, Inter, Roma and Juventus. The top four had been close all season, just a point or two between them through out indeed, but most of the betting was on Enzo Misuraca's Roma or Giuseppe Traina's Milan to lift the title. Calogero Ingrao's Juventus fell away dramatically – from leading the table in week 12 they slumped to finish 5th, twelve points off the champions. Giovanni Lucia's Inter Milan were also never really in the running and finished 4th on 42 points. A 1-0 defeat to Roma in week 20 ended Milan's title hopes, meaning it came down to the final game for Roma and Palermo. Roma won 2-1 at Fiorentina to put the pressure on their rivals, but Palermo held their nerve – beating Inter 1-0 at home for the title. They beat Juventus 1-0 in the Champions League final, Corinthians 1-0 in the FA Cup and had already picked up the league cup with a 2-0 win over Napoli.

For the record, no managers but Everton won the Premiership with 43pts, ahead of Ipswich (39), Chelsea (37) and Bolton (36). Huddersfield beat Spurs 1-0 in the FA Cup final, Celtic beat Man U 1-0 in the League Cup final. Game 25, Season End January 2006

City Edge It!

For the third consecutive season, David Broom's Manchester City won the Premiership - but it was a tight thing with Andrew Cummins' Chelsea almost stealing their crown. When City lost 1-0 at Robert Crump's Bideford Town in week 14, they dropped to third, four points behind the Stamford Bridge side. A Chelsea defeat against Dave Pearce's Leeds United in week 17, coupled with a 4-0 City win at Roger Flack's Tottenham on the same day saw that gap close to just a point, with the title decider in week 19 - City entertaining Chelsea at The City Of Manchester stadium. The Manchester side won that game 1-0, though in the same week they were knocked out of the Champions League at the semi final stage, John Crump's Sunderland beating them 1-0. Perhaps Chelsea minds were elsewhere, as they beat Middlesboro 1-0 in their semi final to go through to the Champions League final. City though had a 2 point lead at the top of the table, but a worse goal difference meant they needed to win their final game away to James Crump's Liverpool to be sure of the title. City failed - their game finishing 0-0 - only for Chelsea to blow their big chance as their game at Man United also finished 0-0. So Manchester City won the title, with 47pts, Chelsea second on 45 with Sunderland on 43 and Liverpool in fourth with 37pts. Chelsea beat Ipswich 1-0 to win the FA Cup, Middlesboro beating City 1-0 in the League Cup final. The Champions League went to Sunderland thanks to a last minute goal from David Trezeguet. Robert Crump's AC Milan dominated the European league, winning the title with 60 points, Steven McDonald's Roma were second with 52, one ahead of David Broom's Ajax who themselves were a point clear of Martin Flack's Barcelona. Milan clinched the double, beating Ajax 2-0 in the FA Cup final, but were denied a treble thanks to rivals Inter, Andrew Cummins side beating Milan 1-0 in the League Cup final. Robert Crump's England side won the World Cup, goals from Lampard and Terry as they came from behind to beat the Republic Of Ireland 2-1.

Game 25, Season End June 2006

Four In A Row For City

David Broom's Manchester City clinched their fourth Premiership title in succession, beating Leeds 1-0 in their final game to hold off James Crump's Liverpool. City finished on 56 points with Liverpool on 53. Martin Flack's Man United were third with 47 points whilst Andrew Cummins' Chelsea finished fourth with 45 points. Steven McDonald's Roma won Serie A after a thrilling finish - the title could have gone to any of the top three but Roma held their nerve, beating Barcelona 4-3 in the final game to win the title by a point from Robert Crump's AC Milan. David Broom's Ajax were six points off the top in third place, but were in with a chance until their final week 1-0 defeat at the hands of Milan. Real Madrid finished fourth, level on 49 points with Ajax. Liverpool beat Chelsea 1-0 in the FA Cup final, Roma beating Borussia Moenchengladbach by the same scoreline in the European one, whilst Chelsea beat Man City 1-0 in the Champions League final. England successfully defended their World Cup trophy, battering Holland 5-1 in the final with Michael Owen scoring four times.