

Necom News

Happy Halloween!

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Sketch Does It Again !

GAME 41 – Season Ending August 2006:

He's the longest serving manager in all of League Soccer – and he's won the league again! Piacenza destroyed everyone in their league to lift the Serie A title with 63 points, 19 clear of Robert Gatfield's Valencia who were second. Jamie Tate's Barcelona were third and Adam Gatfield's Real Madrid finished fourth. The signs though as the season drew to a close were that things are about to change in game 41 – with a new breed of quality young manager about to challenge Sketch's dominance next season. In the Premiership, Neil Overton's Arsenal found things even easier – winning every game on their way to the title. Lyn Harris' Man United had a good season – finishing on 58 points which would win most leagues – but not here. Arsenal beat Man City 2-0 to lift the FA Cup, and trounced United 3-1 to pick up the Champions League crown. Unmanaged Feirense beat unmanaged Torino 2-0 in the surprise European League FA Cup final, not sure what was going on there. Sketch's Italy thumped the CIS 5-2 in the World Cup final.

GAME 29 – Season Ending September 2006:

Lord Jim Takes The Champions League

Always a great and competitive league, Serie A in game 29 proved a tough battle, with John Ferguson taking it with his River Plate side, on 55 points – four clear of Lord Jim Ferguson's favourites Marseille. The French side finished second, three points clear of Paul Whitehead's Celta Vigo who themselves were just two points clear of Stephen Borthwick's Roma. Celta won the FA Cup, beating Roma 2-1 in the final. In the British league, David Crosby's Bolton found the going easy, finishing on 57 points, well ahead of Kyle McLroy's Man United who got 42, with Tottenham in third and Rangers fourth. United though won the FA Cup, beating Rangers 2-0 in the final – well done Kyle. And so to the Champions League. The favourites here all won their groups easily – Marseille, River Plate, Milan and Bayern Munich. Marseille were drawn in the same group as runaway Premiership winners Bolton Wanderers, and whilst the Lancashire side did hold Lord Jim's side to a 0-0 draw at the Reebok, those were the only points Marseille dropped – they beat Bolton 1-0 at home and won the group by a mile. Bolton on the other hand had a real struggle – they didn't win an away game and just scraped through ahead of Sheffield Wednesday and a disappointing Borussia Dortmund. The quarter finals in week 16 saw Marseille narrowly beat Juve 1-0, thanks to a goal from Di Vaio early in the second half. River Plate led 1-0 at half time against Man United, but two second half strikes from Raul

saw something of a shock as Kyle McLroy's side took out the Serie A leaders. AC Milan scraped through 1-0 thanks to a Hernan Crespo goal against Tottenham whilst a late Ronaldo strike was enough to see Bayern Munich through by the same scoreline against Bolton. So to the semis, and two surprisingly one sided contests really. Jamie Carragher scored an unlikely hat-trick as Marseille battered Man United 3-0, whilst Pirlo got three for AC Milan in a 4-1 win against Bayern Munich. The final between Milan and Marseille proved to be a close thing, as these things often are, with Marseille winning thanks to the only goal of the game – Tacchinardi scoring it just after half time.

Game 34 – Season Ending July 2006:

Markie Pipped At The Finishing Post!

The Serie A title couldn't have been any closer – Robert Valenti's Juve finishing level on points with Mark Wheat's AC Milan, same goal difference too, but Juve had scored two more goals! The Turin side were narrowly ahead most of the season, but when they lost 3-1 at Bayern Munich in the final week, a win by two clear goals for Barsa would be enough. They led easily in their game with Valencia – only to concede two soft goals and only win the game 3-2. Juve then won the double, as they followed this with a 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund in the FA Cup final. Ryan Smethurst's Accrington Stanley were team of the season in the British league, winning the FA Cup – beating Man United 3-0 in the final – and easily winning the 1st division. The Premiership went to Michael G's Ipswich Town, four points clear of Man City, with Mark Wheat's United third and Stuart Flight's Liverpool in fourth place. Nick Davenport's Millwall finished outside the top four for the first time after he'd quit the team for two months mid season. Michael G's Dortmund were third in Serie A (Nick Davenport's Real Madrid were fourth) and also won the Champions League, beating Man United 2-0 in the final thanks to two goals from Ronaldo.

Christmas Deadlines

As it gets closer to Christmas, the postal system in this country slows down somewhat – so we tend to extend deadlines towards the end of December. Don't just assume your game will be on its normal day – try to remember to look at the deadline printed on your sheets which will tell you exactly when your turns will take place.

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.

Feeder Finances

Feeder team finances have finally been introduced – which means you can now buy and sell players with your feeder team (your main team will receive any transfer funds for players sold and will have to pay up for any players the feeder team buys). Any gate money, TV money or prize money received by the feeder team will thus belong to your main team – but on the downside, your main team must pay all wages and contract fees agreed with the feeder side.

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.