

Necom News

January 2007

Vol.21, No.1

Liverpool Pip Lions To Title !

GAME 34 – Season Ending January 2007:

The Premiership title came down to a fight between Stuart Flight's Liverpool and Nick Davenport's Millwall teams. After failing to win the league last season, Nick wanted his title back at the New Den, and Millwall led the way up to week 17. Ryan Smethurst's Accrington Stanley were in the running up until that point too, whilst Mark Wheat's Man United were in the top four for most of the season without ever really threatening the top spot. However, Liverpool recorded a vital 1-0 victory over Millwall at Anfield in week 17 – and that proved to be the difference between the two sides as the scousers held their nerve to win the league with 54 points. Millwall finished second on 52 pts with Man United third on 46 pts. One win in their last six games saw Accrington slump to fourth place with 42 pts. Some joy for Millwall came in the form of the FA Cup – they beat Michael G's Ipswich 1-0 in the final thanks to a Robin Van Persie goal. There was a real upset in European competition – Man United won the Champions League as their more illustrious rivals fell away – United beating Ipswich 2-1 in the final after Ipswich had knocked out Liverpool in the semis and United had toppled Barcelona. Millwall failed to get out of their group – finishing behind Ipswich and Bayern Munich after a 0-0 draw with Juventus in their final game (Juve's only point in the competition).

Serie A went to Mark Wheat's Barcelona who pulled away from Sam Smyth's AC Milan in the latter stages after a close early battle. In week 15 Barsa led Milan by just a point – but a great finishing run from Markie's side saw them take the title by 8 points with 56pts. Michael G's Dortmund tied with Milan on 48pts whilst fourth were Gary Cunningham's Bayern Munich with 41 points. Milan won the FA Cup, beating Dortmund 1-0 in the final – Inzaghi the scorer.

GAME 1 – Season Ending August 2006:

Ritchie's Hammers Do It Again

It didn't look likely for most of the season, but West Ham won the Premiership yet again in game 1, and also took the Champions League – beating Charlton 1-0 in the final. When the Hammers lost to Charlton in week 12, leaving them 5 points behind the leaders, Upton Park boss Ritchie Burgess actually announced that he'd conceded the title to his rivals. 'They have a commanding lead and we won't be playing them again,' he explained. However, the following week Charlton were held 1-1 by Jamie Maycroft's Chelsea and the title race was back on.

By week 20 the top four were still in contention – Maz Nievirovski's Charlton headed the Hammers and Sam Smyth's Liverpool by two points, with Chelsea a point further back. Incredibly, Chelsea jumped from 4th to top the following week – Charlton lost at Bolton, whilst West Ham and Liverpool drew 1-1 at Anfield whilst Chelsea beat Arsenal 3-2 at Stamford Bridge. Now the top four were separated by just a point. So to the final week – Mark Gordon's Bolton beat Chelsea 1-0, Liverpool won 1-0 at Charlton – and West Ham won 1-0 at Everton. The Hammers and Liverpool tied on 47 pts, with Chelsea and Charlton tied on 45 pts. Bolton's great late run – which had determined the title winners itself – saw them climb to 5th place finishing on 44pts just three behind the leaders. Bolton also won the FA Cup – beating Man United 2-1 in the final.

The Euro league wasn't quite so close Sam Smyth's Inter (56pts) taking it by 7 points from Joe Hughes' Bayern Munich. Roma were third and Jamie Maycroft's Valencia fourth. Inter's lead over Bayern was actually pretty narrow most of the season – until a 3-2 win over their rivals in week 19 effectively decided the championship. Roma won the FA Cup though, beating Sam's side 1-0 in the cup final.

Game 15 – Season Ending August 2006: More Titles For Sampa!

Gareth Evans' Sampdoria won Serie A with 60pts, ten clear of Chris' Barcelona who themselves were 11pts clear of Michael Mann's Juve. La Coruna finished fourth whilst Sampa beat Galatasaray 2-1 in the FA Cup final. They also won the Champions League – beating Barcelona 1-0 in the final. In the British league, Trevor English' Newcastle won the Prem with 60pts, eleven clear of Gareth Evans' Arsenal. James Salvi's Man United were third and Celtic finished fourth. Arsenal won the FA Cup, thanks to a 1-0 win over Swansea in the final.

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.

Contract Pay Offs

It has been mentioned often before – and is in the rulebook – but here's the info once again so please don't say you haven't been warned!

When you SELL a player who hasn't asked to be sold, if he was on a higher wage than the standard wage for his overall rating, your club has to pay that player compensation – the extra wage multiplied by the number of weeks left on his contract.

This situation slightly reflects what happens in real life – for example Leeds United signed players like Robbie Fowler and Danny Mills on long contracts with big wages – and ended up paying them even when they were at other clubs. As far as League Soccer goes, it is a further factor for managers to consider when offering wages to players on the Out of Contracts List. As an example : If an 84ov player normally gets around £50,000 per turn, but you are paying him £100,000, then if you sell him when he has 30 weeks left on his contract, you'll have to compensate him by paying him 30 x £50,000 which is £1.5m

Obviously if you're getting the player for next to nothing from the Out of Contracts list, then it still may be a good deal for your club ... but that's for you to work out!

We've given managers a long grace period on this – and some probably thought we'd never get round to introducing it – but you will now be paying off your players contracts when you sell them from the start of February.

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.

Staff Wages & Ratings

I've tried to standardise the amount of money staff members expect to be paid. These are related to the staff members wage – with a 10 rated member of staff expecting to be paid a massive £50,000 per week! An 8 rated staff member would demand £32,000, whilst a 5 rated one would only be looking for £12,500. A staff member rated only 1 point would expect to be paid only £500 per week – but would of course require lots of training to get him to a level where he could be much use to you.

Staff will also occasionally drop ratings points if they haven't done any training – they'll need to keep brushing up on their skills and doing top up training sessions to learn new practices.

Game 82 – Season Ending August 2006: Easy For United!

With not many managers around this season, Andrew Williams' Man United found it easy to take the Premiership – finishing on 60 points. Joe Atkinson's Arsenal finished on 55 then it was a long way back to third placed Chelsea on 39 and Crystal Palace on 31. Serie A went to Barcelona (48pts) ahead of Nantes (41), Real Madrid (31) and Inter (30). Exeter City were surprise FA Cup winners, beating Watford 4-2 in the final, Steaua Bucharest winning the Euro FA 1-0 against Ajax. Man United beat Chelsea 3-0 in the final to win the Champions League, goals from Chivu, Eto'o and Adriano.

Game 75 – Season Ending August 2006:

Pinder Almost Dominates!

An amazing season in the formerly tough game 75 saw almost total dominance from Grimsby based boss Mark Pinder. It's seen as the toughest test by a lot of managers – but in a relatively short space of time Mark has won two promotions with Grimsby – and they're now Champions of Europe! Grimsby made it through to the Champions League final despite only having qualified as FA Cup winners (they were a 1st division side last season), and there they met another of Mark's sides – Monaco. In a delayed final, Grimsby won the crown 2-1. However, Monaco had plenty of other trophies to celebrate – including a 1-0 cup final win over Real Madrid and the Serie A title which they won by five points from Craig Bradfield's Roma. Ryan Doyle's Bayern Munich finished third with 47pts, six behind the champions, whilst Stuart Robertson's Lazio were fourth on 43 pts. The Premiership saw the closest finish though – Grimsby and George Coombes' Chelsea exchanging top spot throughout the season until week 21 when Grimsby put themselves into the driving seat with a thumping 5-2 win at Newcastle whilst Chelsea were held 0-0 by Hearts. That left Grimsby a point clear, with Mark Cunningham's Arsenal third and just out of the running. In the final match, Chelsea beat Tommy King's Newcastle 1-0 at Stamford Bridge, whilst Grimsby could only draw 0-0 with Ray Hardy's Everton – so the title once again went to Chelsea. The London side finished on 49 pts, with Grimsby on 47, Arsenal on 46 and Jamie Maycroft's Wolves fourth with 36 pts. Cup winners were Garysean Wilson's Celtic – who beat Wolves 1-0 in the final to get back into Europe. They also finally got back into the Premiership along with division 1 champions Hamilton and runners up Liverpool.

Game 3 – Season Ending August 2006:

Cov Hold Off Challenge From Gunners And 'Field!

The battle for the Premiership was a good one – with five teams in the running all season. Justin Purdy's Newcastle led by three points in week 15, and were still top of the table in week 19 but they then lost every game from that point to finish down in 5th place, nine points behind the eventual champions. Ciaron Mark's Huddersfield also held the lead over the closing stages – but it was Paul Davies' Coventry that came through in the final stages, winning their last three games to take the crown. Cov took on Liverpool in their final game – a win for either side could well have taken the title. In the end though Coventry beat Liverpool 3-2, a result which saw Ryan Smethurst's Pool side drop to fourth place, six points behind the champions. Justin Purdy's Arsenal beat Celtic 1-0 to finish second on 51 pts, three behind Coventry, whilst Huddersfield's hopes went when Arsenal beat them in week 21 and they were third with 50 pts. Arsenal beat Huddersfield 1-0 in the FA Cup final.

The Champions League was won by Inter Milan – Ryan Doyle's side all powerful as they overcame Liverpool 2-1 in the final thanks to goals from Recoba and Burdisso. They also beat Red Star 3-0 to win the FA Cup and won the Serie A title by four points from Gerard Kelly's Barcelona (56pts), with David Smith's Juventus (49pts) third and Jon Nicholls' Real Madrid (36pts) finishing fourth.

Game 4 – Season Ending August 2006:

'Incredible Season' Says Misuraca!

Enzo Misuraca's Roma took Serie A with 60 points after what manager Enzo Misuraca called an 'incredible season'. Roma were top pretty much throughout and finished 7 points clear of Giuseppe Traina's AC Milan. Ashley Lewis led Juventus into third place with 46 pts whilst Ralf Ingrao's Fiorentina could only manage fourth place – and 42 pts. Roma also won the FA Cup, beating Barcelona 1-0 in the final – but they couldn't complete the clean sweep as AC Milan managed to beat them in the Champions League final – Milan winning 1-0 thanks to a goal from Kaka. Natasha Grogan's Arsenal were Premiership Champions, finishing with 50pts, six clear of Robert Valenti's Liverpool. Tottenham were third with 43 pts whilst Ryan Bird's Man United were fourth on 38 points. United did win the FA Cup though, beating Liverpool 2-0 in the cup final.

Game 5 – Season Ending April 2006:

Merseyside Battle Goes Goodison Way!

A great battle in the Premiership between two top managers saw David Knowles' Everton and Jamie Maycroft's Liverpool fighting for the trophy. The two were neck and neck all season, but Liverpool led the table on goal difference going into the final game. Incredibly though, the Anfield side were sensational beaten 1-0 at home by Andy Cooper's Chelsea in their final match whilst Everton just scraped a point with a 1-1 draw at unmanaged Wolves. That gave Everton the title, finishing with 50 points. Liverpool were second with 49 and George Titch's Man United third with 47 pts. Chelsea finished fourth on 37 points. United then stopped Everton winning the double, beating them 1-0 in the FA Cup final thanks to a goal from Baptista. The European league went Titch's way – Bayern Munich winning it at a canter with 61 points, ahead of Rich Hyde's Inter Milan who were second with 55pts. Roma were third on 47pts and Barcelona fourth with 42. Barcelona beat Inter 2-1 in the final to take the FA Cup. Champions league also went to Balsa – Gareth Edwards side scoring two late goals to come from behind and beat Rich's Inter Milan 2-1.

Game 5 – Season Ending November 2006:

The Closest Finish Ever ???

Have we ever seen a finish this close in League Soccer? Not that I can remember anyway, as three clubs finished tied on 49 points and Chelsea won the crown on goal difference after battering Arsenal 4-1 at Highbury. Going into the final week, Billy Thomson's Newcastle were top with 46 points and a goal difference of +19. Andy Cooper's Chelsea were second with the same number of points and a goal difference of +18. Third were Lee Martin's Liverpool – again on 46 points but with a goal difference of +14. All three won their final games – so the decisive factor was the margin of victory. Newcastle could only manage a 1-0 win at home to Portsmouth, whilst Liverpool were too far behind anyway – and only won 3-2 away at Man United. So by virtue of their battering the Gunners, Andy Cooper's side narrowly won the title. Huddersfield won the FA Cup, beating Cardiff 1-0 in the final, but Chelsea had their sights on a bigger target – as they lifted the Champions League with a 1-0 final win over Portsmouth. Phil Cooper's Inter Milan won Serie A with 48 pts, ahead of Parma on 40, Jason Mullineaux' Real Madrid on 39 and Peter's Juventus on 37. The cup went to Inter thanks to a 1-0 win over Parma in the final.

Game 13 – Season Ending January 2007:

Barsa Do The Double!

A fine season for James West's Barcelona – they lifted the Serie A title with a huge 61 points and also won the FA Cup, beating Paris SG 2-0 in the final. Second in Serie A went to Paul Gibson's Hamburg with 52 pts whilst Milan were third on 41pts, the same total as Stuttgart. Arsenal did a double of their own – Amanda Johnson's Gunners side winning the Premiership with 59 pts, only two clear of Paul Gibson's Man United it must be said, and also won the Champions League – beating Hamburg 1-0 in the final. Third in the Prem went to Mark Rowe's Liverpool with 41pts whilst Middlesboro were fourth with 38pts. Man United ended any Arsenal dreams of a treble – beating them 3-2 in the FA Cup final.

Game 10 – Season Ending June 2006:

Newcastle Win The Treble!

Alex Nash's Newcastle won the Champions League (beating Lazio 1-0 in the final) FA Cup (where they beat Peterborough 1-0 in the final) and the Premiership (finishing on 52 points) for a superb treble. Carl Birch's Chelsea were second in the Prem with 47pts whilst Luke Johnson's Tottenham were third on 40pts and Anthony Brockway's Liverpool fourth with 34pts. In the Euro zone, Joe Hughes' AC Milan found Serie A too easy – finishing on 61 points, Lazio were second with 58 pts whilst Dean Brockway's Real Madrid were third on 46 and Nathan Jones' Inter Milan came fourth with 36pts. Vitesse beat Lazio 2-1 in the FA Cup final.