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Chelsea Can't End City Dominance !

GAME 25 – Season Ending December 2006:

David Broom's Manchester City have been the dominant side in game 25's Premiership for a number of seasons now – and this was another title for them. They were pushed all the way however by Andrew Cummins' Chelsea who threw away a great chance to be champions as both sides faltered in the closing stages of the season. Over the last seven games of the season, City picked up just 8 points – and Chelsea managed a paltry 5 points. It shows how tough and competitive game 25 is though that even a form team over this period like Liverpool could only manage 13 points from 7 games – enough to move them into 4th place. City took the title with 45 points overall, Chelsea finished with 42 and Martin Flack's Man United finished third with 39 pts. United also won the Champions League, beating Liverpool 1-0 in the final thanks to a goal from Adriano. James Flack's Liverpool were 4th with 39 points.

Robert Crump's AC Milan won Serie A after a season in which they were pushed all the way by David Broom's Ajax. Milan finished the season on 57 points, four clear of Ajax. Steven McDonald's Roma were third with 44 pts and David Flack's Inter finished in 4th place with 42 points.

GAME 35 – Season Ending June 2006:

Phil's Juve Win The Title!

He's been better known in the past for bottling them – but Phil Barker led his team to the title as his Juventus side finished four points ahead of David Smith's AC Milan to lift Serie A – Juve ending the season on 55 pts, ahead of Milan on 51 with Ajax third on 42 and Roma fourth on 40 points. Milan won the FA Cup though, beating Ajax 1-0 in the final. David Smith's Chelsea won the Premiership at a canter, their 57 points well clear of second place Mark Lawrence side Man United on 49, with Aston Villa on 42 and in fourth place Keith Murphy's Tottenham on 38 points. Chelsea also won the FA Cup, beating Crystal Palace 2-1 in the final. The Champions League final saw Milan up against Juventus – and the San Siro side came out winners 1-0 thanks to a first half strike from Ibrahimovic.

GAME 35 – Season Ending June 2006:

Phil's Juve Don't Win The Title!

But Phil's Real Madrid do instead. It couldn't have been much closer, the top two both finishing on 51 points but Real Madrid having a better goal difference. Great news for Phil Barker though – his sides finishing in first and second place. It was a great recovery from Real who had trailed Juve by seven points at the halfway point in the season. Indeed, at this time it looked likely to be Ross Sharp's Valencia that provided the main threat. However, a 3-0 drubbing at the hands of Juve in week 13 saw Sharp throw in the towel – much to Barker's delight – an it was down to his two sides to play for the trophy. Peter Bennett's Barcelona finished in third place with 44 points and Stephen's Atletico Madrid were fourth with 40 points. Real Madrid also won the FA Cup beating Atletico Madrid 1-0 in the final.

The early season bragging rights ent to Chelsea when David Smith's side beat Juve in the Super Cup final for the second season in a row. Chelsea were surprisingly beaten 1-0 by Reece's Milan in the Champions League quarter finals though seemingly handing that one to Juventus. It wasn't to be though- Milan going on to batter Man United 3-0 in the semi final and then beat Juventus 1-0 in the final. Chelsea did retain their Premiership crown though – matching last seasons 57 points total in doing so and finishing 9 points clear of Reece's Arsenal. Gareth Howes' Liverpool were third with 43 points and Man United finished fourth on 40. Liverpool won the FA Cup thanks to a 1-01 win over West Ham in the final.

Phil Barker's Holland lifted the World Cup – goals from Van Persie and Van Nistelrooy helping them to a 2-1 victory over Argentina in the final.

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.

GAME 41 – Season Ending January 2007:

Another Title For Sketch!

Paul Sketcher's Piacenza did it again – their long serving manager winning another Serie A title, Piacenza with 51 pts ahead of Jamie Tate's Barcelona on 44, John Morrison's Udinese on 40 and Brian M.Christie's Juve who got 39. Juventus beat the champions to win the FA Cup though – Juve 2-1 winners there. Juve also won the Champions League, beating Adam Gatfield's Real Madrid 1-0 in the final. In the British league, Neil Overton's Arsenal won easily, finishing with 61 points, well clear of Lyn Harris' runners up Arsenal who got 45 pts. Chelsea trailed in third with 41 points and Newcastle were fourth with 38 points. Arsenal completed the double with a 3-2 cup final win over Newcastle, Thierry Henry scoring twice for the Gunners.

GAME 56 – Season Ending April 2006:

Carlisle Win The Prem!

David Carney was undoubtedly the dominant manager in game 56's Premiership – his teams finishing in the top three positions and very close together too. Despite a last week home defeat to Chelsea, Carlisle won the Premiership with 54 points, ahead of Everton on 53 and Chelsea on 52. The next placed team was Man United who had 35 points. Chelsea won the FA Cup, beating Everton 1-0 in the final. Mark Cunningham's AC Milan were champions of the European league – winning that with 47 points by just a point from Ciaran Marks' Juventus. Chris McCausland's Real Madrid were third only one point further back, level on 45 points with unmanaged Roma. Juve won the FA Cup, beating Monaco 3-1 in the final and then went on to complete a cup double by beating AC Milan 3-2 in the Champions League final.

GAME 56 – Season Ending November 2006:

Double Glory For Carlisle!

Carlisle retained their Premiership title, David Carney's side finishing on the same points total as the previous season – 54 – but this enough to leave them four points clear of another of David's sides Chelsea. Liverpool were third, also on 50 pts with David Carney's Everton side fourth with 42 pts. Chelsea beat Carlisle 1-0 in the FA Cup final but Carlisle went on to better things – lifting the Champions League crown with a 1-0 final victory over Jamie Maycroft's Barcelona. Jamie did win the league and cup double with Barsa though – the FA Cup final saw them beat Torino 3-2, whilst in the league they amassed 61 points to finish a mile clear of Michael Russell's Roma on 38. Third were Scott Rose's Real Madrid also with 38 and fourth were Stephen Russell's Juventus with 35 pts.

GAME 81 – Season Ending July 2006:

Sharp Lists Cake Baking Ronaldinho!

One of the highlights of the game 81 season saw Juve boss Ross Sharp transfer list star Ronaldinho – the Brazilian choosing to stay home baking rather than go to training. On the field, Juve could only manage third place in Serie A, as Ciaran Delaney's AC Milan beat off Ryan Doyle's Bayern Munich on goal difference – both sides finishing on 57pts. Juve had 51 and Ben Jago's Real Madrid were fourth with just 31pts. Bayern beat Juve 3-1 in the cup final – and there was more misery for Sharp's men as Tony Bainbridge's Notts County beat them 4-3 in the Champions League final. Tony's other side Newcastle won the Premiership with 48pts, Man United were second with 40pts, John Perrott's Liverpool were third on 36 whilst Celtic were fourth with 32. Arsenal beat Ipswich 1-0 to win the FA Cup.