

The Transfer Of Luis Figo



1) Discussion

- a) What are some of the most surprising transfers in recent years?
 - b) What have been the biggest transfers?
 - c) Can you think of any transfers to rivals?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) To Ignite (verb) | a) To gather or collect something, especially in large quantities or over a period of time. |
| 2) To Galvanise (verb) | b) Demonstrating passionate or intense feelings. |
| 3) Audacious (adjective) | c) Showing a bold and daring willingness to take risks or defy convention. |
| 4) Fervent (adjective) | d) To start or cause something to begin, often with Intensity or excitement. |
| 5) Seismic (adjective) | e) To motivate or inspire someone to take action. |
| 6) Masterstroke (noun) | f) Something that has a huge impact or significance, often causing widespread change. |
| 7) To Amass (verb) | g) A brilliant or exceptionally clever action or decision that leads to great success or achievement. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Ignite

To Galvanise

Audacious

Fervent

Seismic

Masterstroke

To amass

- 1) Real Madrid's acquisition of Zinedine Zidane in 2001 was hailed as a _____, as the French maestro played a pivotal role in the club's Champions League success and league dominance.
- 2) Throughout his career, Pelé _____ an astonishing array of records and achievements.
- 3) Neymar's transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain sent _____ shockwaves through the footballing world.
- 4) The rivalry between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo has sparked _____ debates among football enthusiasts.
- 5) In the summer of 2023, Al Ittihad made an _____ £150m offer for Liverpool forward Mo Salah.
- 6) Sir Alex Ferguson's leadership _____ Manchester United during his tenure, inspiring the team to numerous Premier League titles and Champions League triumphs.
- 7) Lionel Messi's move to Paris Saint-Germain _____ excitement among football fans worldwide.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What were some of the key factors behind Luis Figo's transfer to Real Madrid?

Figo to Real

In the annals of football history, few transfers have stirred as much controversy, passion, and drama as Luis Figo's move from Barcelona to Real Madrid. The Portuguese winger's switch from the Camp Nou to the Santiago Bernabeu in the summer of 2000 sent shockwaves through the footballing world, reshaping the landscape of Spanish football and **igniting** fierce rivalries that endure to this day.

The saga began with the Real Madrid presidential elections in 2000. Florentino Perez emerged as the leading candidate, promising **to galvanise** the club's fortunes with a bold vision. Central to his campaign was the **audacious** pledge to sign Figo, then a talismanic figure at Barcelona, if he won the presidency. Perez's promise electrified Madridistas, offering them a glimpse of a future where the brightest stars would wear the iconic white shirt of Real Madrid.

Against this backdrop of **fervent** anticipation, Perez secured victory in the elections, bringing in a new era at the Spanish giants. True to his word, he immediately set about completing Figo's transfer, with a record-breaking fee of €62 million triggering the release clause in the Portuguese's contract with Barcelona.

The implications of Figo's transfer were **seismic**. Beyond the huge fee and the controversy it provoked, the move represented a symbolic shift in the balance of power in Spanish football. Figo's decision to leave Barcelona, where he had achieved a legendary status among fans, for bitter rivals Real Madrid was seen as a betrayal by many Catalans. On the other hand, it was celebrated as a **masterstroke** by Madridistas, who hailed his arrival as a statement of intent in their quest for dominance.

Figo wasted no time in justifying his price tag and quelling any doubts about his loyalty. At Real Madrid, he seamlessly integrated into a star-studded lineup, forming a formidable attacking trio alongside Raul and Zinedine Zidane. His impact was



immediate and profound, as he dazzled fans with his electrifying pace, pinpoint crosses, and deadly accuracy from set-pieces. Figo played a pivotal role in Real Madrid's resurgence, helping them reclaim the La Liga title in his debut season and laying the foundation for a period of unprecedented success.

Over the course of his five-year spell at the Santiago Bernabeu, Figo etched his name into the annals of Real Madrid's storied history. He **amassed** a trophy collection that included two La Liga titles, one Champions League triumph, and numerous individual awards, cementing his status as one of the club's all-time greats. Despite the initial backlash from Barcelona fans, Figo's legacy at Real Madrid endures as a testament to his indomitable talent and unwavering commitment to success.

4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Figo's transfer to Real Madrid?
- b) How would you feel if you were a Barcelona fan?
- c) Do you think the reaction to his transfer was justified?
- d) What are your thoughts on Florentino Perez?

