

Leicester City in football fairytale win

5th May, 2016



Football fans in the English city of Leicester have been celebrating a fairytale win for their club. Leicester City won England's Premier League for the first time in their 132-year-history.

The team beat the traditional powerhouses of Manchester United and Chelsea to the title. Many journalists are saying it is the greatest achievement in the history of sport. Leicester were bottom of the 20-team Premier League last year. They were nearly relegated to a lower league. However, their style of play totally changed this year. Their team spirit, the introduction of new players and a new coach all combined to make them almost unbeatable. They won the title on Sunday night and their supporters around the world went crazy.

Leicester City were promoted to England's Premier League only two years ago. They were hot favourites to go back down to the lower league again this season. No one gave them a chance of winning the Premier League. Last August, they were 5,000-1 against winning the title. That means if you had put a \$1 bet on them to win, you could now collect \$5,000. The actor Tom Hanks said he bet \$100 on Leicester to win and will now get \$500,000 back. Leicester's whole team cost less to buy than just one star in the top teams. Despite this, two Leicester players won the top player of the year awards in England. It is also likely that Leicester's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri will be world coach of the year.

Sources: *NY Times* / *Washington Post* / *npr.org*

Writing

Football is the greatest sport on Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football / fans / fairytale / traditional / journalists / achievement / promoted / favourites / season / chance / bet / collect / winning / awards / coach

True / False

- Leicester City is 132 years old. T / F
- The team lost to Manchester United and Chelsea. T / F
- Journalists say it is the greatest achievement in sports history. T / F
- Their style of play has not changed over the past few years. T / F
- Leicester were promoted to the Premier League last season. T / F
- Leicester were 5,000-1 against winning the Premier League. T / F
- The actor Tom Hanks said he bet on Leicester to win the Premier League. T / F
- The coach of Leicester City has been named as world coach of the year. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. fans | a. just |
| 2. win | b. performance |
| 3. achievement | c. joined |
| 4. nearly | d. hope |
| 5. combined | e. big name |
| 6. only | f. supporters |
| 7. chance | g. probable |
| 8. whole | h. almost |
| 9. star | i. victory |
| 10. likely | j. entire |

Discussion – Student A

- Which is the best word, 'football' or 'soccer'?
- What do you know about Leicester City's victory?
- What do you know about the English Premier League?
- What is the biggest fairytale in sport?
- What is your greatest sporting joy?
- How important is sport?
- Why does sport create so much passion in people?
- Why is football the world's most popular sport?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. celebrating a | a. the history of sport |
| 2. the greatest achievement in | b. unbeatable |
| 3. their style of | c. awards |
| 4. make them almost | d. favourites |
| 5. their supporters around the world | e. winning the title |
| 6. hot | f. coach of the year |
| 7. No one gave them | g. went crazy |
| 8. 5,000-1 against | h. a chance |
| 9. player of the year | i. play |
| 10. Ranieri will be world | j. fairytale win |

Discussion – Student B

- How has Leicester's victory changed football?
- How likely is it that Leicester will win again next season?
- What would it be like to play for Leicester City?
- Have you ever bet on a team or player?
- Is the English Premier League the best league in the world?
- How do you think the Leicester players feel right now?
- How much of Leicester's victory is because of the coach?
- What questions would you like to ask the Leicester players?

Spelling

- aerbtceling a fairytale win
- their 132-year ytsohir
- the natatdoiril powerhouses
- Many sisoluajrtn
- relegated to a lower aueelg
- their ueprtosprrs around the world
- hot riaosfvetu (UK) / rfesitaov (USA)
- No one gave them a hnecca of winning
- this nasose
- coetcll \$5,000
- player of the year awsrad
- world acoch of the year

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. j	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Football

You think football is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): basketball, Formula 1 or tennis.

Role B – Basketball

You think basketball is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): football, Formula 1 or tennis.

Role C – Formula 1

You think Formula 1 is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): basketball, football or tennis.

Role D – Tennis

You think tennis is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): basketball, Formula 1 or football.

Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| • karate | • football |
| • rugby | • swimming |
| • skiing | • basketball |
| • tennis | • Formula 1 |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.