

**FANTASY CHALLENGE
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
FINAL
2021**

17th Final



Dave Rogers

v

James Bloomer

GAMEWEEK 38 (23rd May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

The 17th season of this major competition the Champions league has the managers competing in it from the top 5 divisions in the Super20 leagues. With the Group stage and then two-legged knock out stage it is the competition that has the most matches for a manager to get through to the final, 18 matches are required to get through to this prestigious final

The history of this competition tells us that managers that make the final have used a lot of skill to get here and if not already a name in the FC World they are going to be from now on.

It amazes me how season after season these major finals produce a story and once more the Champions League final has delivered.

Back in 2009 the FC Challenge expanded and had to introduce a new competition as there were too many managers to compete in the Champions League, this saw the birth of the Pyramid Cup. A competition for new managers and lower league managers over the seasons it has been great to watch managers progress from the Pyramid Cup into the Champions League. Six seasons after the birth of the Pyramid Cup managers that had been in a final made the Champions League final amazingly it wasn't just one manager both finalists had been runners-up in the Pyramid Cup. Four Seasons later Darren Cullen became the first manager to win both the Pyramid Cup and Champions League also becoming the third manager to play in both finals.

That victory for Cullen in 2018 was the last time a manager had appeared in both finals until this final. Which once more sees two managers who have Pyramid Cup final appearances to their name fight it out for this coveted trophy. Dave Rogers won the Pyramid Cup in 2019 and just two seasons later finds himself in this final hoping to become the second manager to have lifted both the Pyramid Cup and Champions League trophies. His opponent James Bloomer was runner-up in the Pyramid Cup in 2017.

James Bloomer also made the FC Cup final this season and has become only the second ever manager to achieve this feat, Omid Afzalghom making both finals back in 2010, Omid lost the FC Cup but won the Champions League Final a gameweek later. As we write this the FC Cup final is in progress so we do not know who James Bloomer is doing so at this time James Bloomer has the chance of achieving a unique double.

This next bit of text is from last seasons final with just the managers names changing as the two protagonists find themselves in the same situation as last seasons finalists. For both managers the final represents a massive moment in their careers. Bloomer is hoping to claim that all important first Major trophy (He may have claimed this by winning the FC Cup before this final) many managers have played the game only a select few have managed to win a major trophy. Whilst Rogers is looking for a Third title which would place him amongst the elite managers in the history of the FC World. It would potentially place him eighth in the all-time list of most successful managers.

After 18 matches it all boils down to this one gameweek which will take place on 1 day something that doesn't happen often during a normal season this season pretty sure it is a first and makes this cup final extra special. All will be revealed on Sunday 23rd May.

A difficult season is coming to an end and the chance of glory awaits both these managers lets hope it will be a final to remember.

Over the next few pages, we will profile the two managers and the FC expert gives his opinion on the final.

I hope you enjoy this Champions League Final Preview Edition.

I wish both managers all the best in this final.

Paul Richardson

Fantasy Challenge Founder

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PLAYER PROFILES

Dave Rogers

Joined Fantasy Challenge	2016	
Career Honours	2016 Pyramid Two 4 th Promoted	2019 Pyramid Cup Winner
	2017 Pyramid One 3 rd Promoted	2020 FC League Champion
	2019 Pyramid Premier Champion	2020 Conference Champion

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	66.67
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	118
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	33
GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	29
GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	8
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	69.61

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

2020 Group Stage

PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2016 Group Stage

2017 Quarter-Final

2018 2nd Round

2019 Winner

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group H

Daragh Prendergast	77	-	74
Glen Hogwood	49	-	33
Kieran Hogwood	70	-	49
Paul Richardson	68	-	85
Hans Hayrynen	59	-	39
Daragh Prendergast	56	-	49
Glen Hogwood	60	-	45
Kieran Hogwood	60	-	41
Paul Richardson	60	-	54
Hans Hayrynen	68	-	78

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Hans Hayrynen	10	8	0	2	609	485	124	24
2	Dave Rogers	10	8	0	2	627	545	82	24
3	Glen Hogwood	10	6	0	4	540	466	74	18
4	Kieran Hogwood	10	4	0	6	495	531	-36	12
5	Daragh Prendergast	10	2	0	8	504	610	-106	6
6	Paul Richardson	10	2	0	8	453	591	-138	6

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate		
2 nd Round	James Bastow	81	-	45	91	-	51	172	-	96
3 rd Round	Jonathan Strack	76	-	71	48	-	50	124	-	121
Quarter-Final	Steve Whitely	77	-	43	84	-	54	161	-	97
Semi-Final	Darren Cullen	118	-	114	51	-	35	169	-	149

James Bloomer

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2015
Career Honours 2015 Pyramid One 8th Place Lucky Promotion
 2017 Pyramid Premier 4th Place Promoted

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

THIS SEASON

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE 62.05
 HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE 131
 LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE 34
 GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49 28
 GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50 9
 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE 64.88

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

2018 2nd Round
 2019 Group Stage
 2020 Group Stage

PYRAMID CUP HISTORY

2015 2nd Round
 2016 Group Stage
 2017 Runner-Up

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group L

Jatin Joshi	54	-	73
Eoin Mooney	40	-	39
Omid Afzalalgholm	62	-	56
Ellie Turner	80	-	49
George Ferridge	52	-	47
Jatin Joshi	43	-	57
Eoin Mooney	58	-	66
Omid Afzalalgholm	34	-	35
Ellie Turner	44	-	69
George Ferridge	76	-	66

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Jatin Joshi	10	7	1	2	610	566	44	22
2	James Bloomer	10	5	0	5	543	557	-14	15
3	Eoin Mooney	10	4	2	4	603	589	14	14
4	George Ferridge	10	4	1	5	561	542	19	13
5	Omid Afzalalgholm	10	4	1	5	566	611	-45	13
6	Ellie Turner	10	3	1	6	593	611	-18	10

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Stuart Shepherd	87	- 53	76	- 92	163	- 145
3 rd Round	Andy Gurney	97	- 85	46	- 55	143	- 140
Quarter-Final	Roari Fox	63	- 39	62	- 70	125	- 109
Semi-Final	David Bardon	131	- 132	63	- 57	194	- 189



FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

We asked the Fantasy Challenge Expert to give us his thoughts on this year's Champions League Final. We have managed to give the FC Expert the two team line-ups from Gameweek 37.

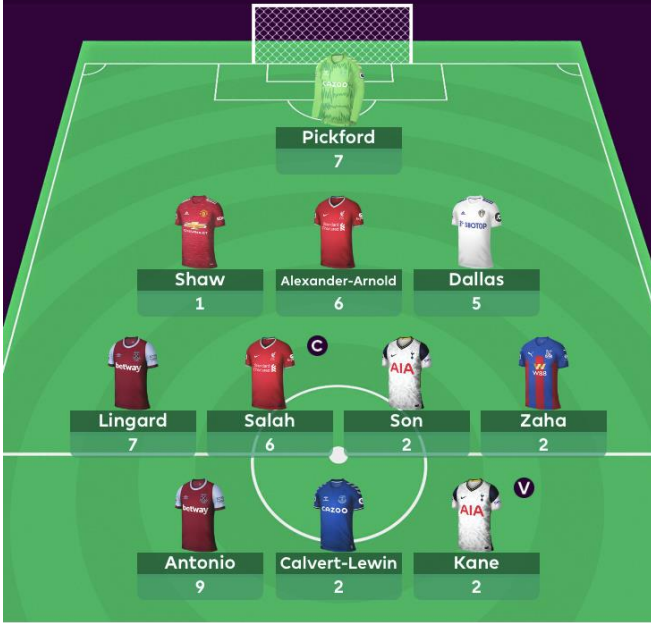
Dave Rogers

Gameweek 37

Squad

List

43 Average 49 Points 120 Highest



GKP



Forster 0

1. DEF



Rüdiger 9

2. DEF



Holding 2

3. MID



Jota 0

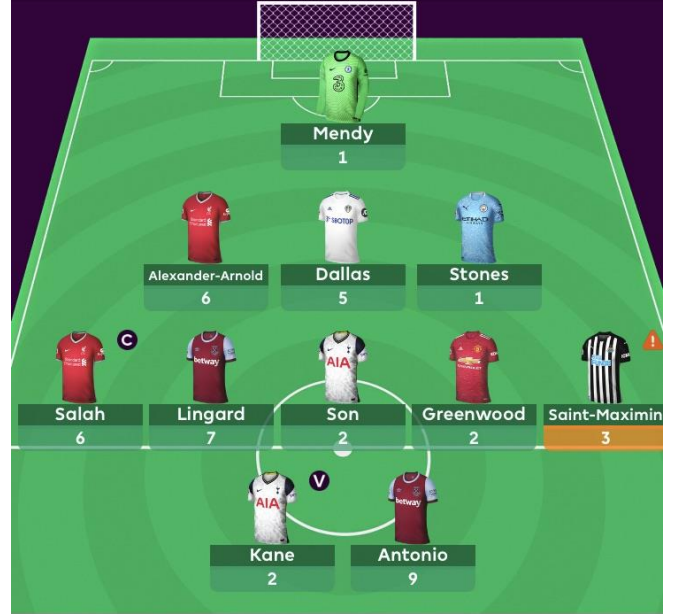
James Bloomer

Gameweek 37

Squad

List

43 Average 44 Points 120 Highest



GKP



Martinez 3

1. FWD



Watkins 9

2. DEF



Mitchell 1

3. DEF



Dunk 0

STAT ATTACK

49	SCORE	44
6	CAPTAIN	6
19	DEFENCE	13
17	MIDFIELD	20
13	ATTACK	11
1	TRANSFERS	1
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-5-2
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	NONE

THE ANALYSIS

Due to time constraints, I am not going to do as fully comprehensive analysis as I normally do but will go over what are normally the key points in any final.

Firstly, looking at the two teams from Gameweek 37 I think gives us one insight into this match in that it is going to be a close affair. With just 4 points separating the two managers in Gameweek 37, Dave Rogers coming out on top. Both managers did 1 transfer meaning that they only have 1 free transfer for this final and more importantly neither have any chips left so this final is going to be a proper old School fantasy shoot-out.

CAPTAIN – (Points for the Could have selected have been doubled)

DAVE ROGERS

Salah (Liverpool) 6 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Antonio (West Ham) 9 Points

Rudiger (Chelsea) 9 Points (on Bench)

Pickford (Everton) 7 Points

Lingard (West Ham) 7 Points

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 6 Points

Dallas (Leeds United) 5 Points

JAMES BLOOMER

Salah (Liverpool) 6 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Antonio (West Ham) 9 Points

Watkins (Aston Villa) 9 Points (on Bench)

Lingard (West Ham) 7 Points

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 6 Points

Dallas (Leeds United) 5 Points

Both managers got their Captain picks wrong which is unusual for two managers of such high calibre, more shocking was how many other players in their team scored higher and in fact both had a player on the bench who would have done better. That said it was very interesting to see both opt for Liverpool's Mo Salah the Egyptian forward who has returned to form of late helping Liverpool push for the Champions League places. Rogers had 6 other players who would have scored more whilst Bloomer had 5 who would have scored more. It shows for this final both have good options for captain.

BENCH OPTIONS

DAVE ROGERS

Forster (Southampton) 0 Points

Rudiger (Chelsea) 9 Points

Holding (Arsenal) 2 Points

Jota (Liverpool) 0 Points

11 POINTS

JAMES BLOOMER

Martinez (Aston Villa) 3 Points

Watkins (Aston Villa) 9 Points

Mitchell (Crystal Palace) 1 Points

Dunk (Brighton & Hove Albion) 0 Points

13 POINTS

Both managers with a decent number of points left on their bench. Mainly coming from single players. Rogers mistake was leaving Chelsea's Rudiger on the bench, a big question as although Chelsea have that Champions League Final next weekend they have not secured a place next season so will need to win. Interestingly Bloomer's mistake was leaving Aston Villa's Watkins on his bench Villa are at home to Chelsea during this final could Bloomer gamble that Rogers will feel he has to play Rudiger and hope that Watkins bags not only a goal but takes away a clean sheet from Rudiger. Other players on their bench Holding (Arsenal) for Rogers interesting although they struggle for clean sheets and Bloomer has Mitchell Crystal Palace who have a tough away trip to Liverpool. I can see both managers moving Rudiger and Watkins from the benches. Rogers will be thinking Manchester United's Luke Shaw could be rested ahead of the Europa League Final a straight swap for Rudiger, Bloomer must therefore gamble on that Watkins goal with Saint-Maximin (Newcastle) being injured being the idle replacement.

CHIPS

DAVE ROGERS

CHIPS

NONE

JAMES BLOOMER

CHIPS

NONE

Well neither manager has any chips to play so nothing to analyse thankfully as too many finals are coming down to how each manager deploys the chip, they have available. **Looking forward to what I call a proper game of Fantasy Football.**

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

DAVE ROGERS

FINANCE
£107.1

TRANSFERS
1

JAMES BLOOMER

FINANCE
£103.8

TRANSFERS
1

I have lumped in Finance, Transfers and Options all in one as the three are often linked. Both managers have 1 transfer available to them making a second would be a big risk in a final giving away points to an opponent so I do not see either making more than 01 transfer. Rogers has more money in the bank. Rogers transfer question is does he replace Jota (Liverpool) injured and mix up his midfield I wonder after that Tottenham result against Villa in the week if Rogers will be looking at Son and Kane away to Leicester on the final day with both teams needing a win, I think most people's confidence in Tottenham has evaporated. So maybe replace Son or Jota or a big call would be to replace Kane with Leeds Bamford who have an attractive final home game to West Bromwich Albion. The midfield transfer is difficult as the big hitter's form Manchester City and Manchester United could be rested for their upcoming European final. Maybe look to a Leeds player like Harrison or Raphinha. For Bloomer I think I have got his transfer down to just one option. The good news for Bloomer he has the money to make the transfer. I am going to suggest that Villa Chelsea will have goals and will not see clean sheet for either of Bloomer's goalkeepers. I think this has to be his transfer Either Mendy (Chelsea) or Martinez (Aston Villa) out looking at the following options Wolves goalkeeper Patricio at home to Manchester United, United have secured second and have European final on Wednesday so are expected to rest players, there is the Leeds keeper Meslier with that home game to West Bromwich Albion or big call and gamble on a Burnley keeper but with Pope potentially injured that could be a transfer that could go wrong they are away to Sheffield United or go match play and bring in Pickford (Everton) to neutralise his opponents points.

Both managers will need to take a look at the fixtures below of the final day of the season to try and figure out who will be really trying and whose season is over. The selection of captain could be vital to gaining success in this final.

THE FIXTURES FOR GAMEWEEK 38

Sunday 23rd May

Arsenal	V	Brighton & Hove Albion
Aston Villa	V	Chelsea
Fulham	V	Newcastle United
Leeds United	V	West Bromwich Albion
Leicester City	V	Tottenham Hotspur
Liverpool	V	Crystal Palace
Manchester City	V	Everton
Sheffield United	V	Burnley
West Ham United	V	Southampton
Wolverhampton Wanderers	V	Manchester United

THE VERDICT

Once more the two managers in this final have to think about the English clubs playing in European Finals although Chelsea surely can't rest players as they need a win. In fact, it is the host of teams fighting for a variety of European Places which could be rich pickings as they have something to go for, Chelsea, Liverpool, Leicester City, Tottenham, Everton and Arsenal all have a chance of European qualification.

Both managers did get their captain pick wrong I can't see them changing though as Salah does seem to be the sensible choice and it would take a brave move to stay from this. Rogers might think about Alexander-Arnold or that potential transfer of bringing in Leeds Patrick Bamford which would be a big decision.

I am going to stick my neck out and say that my predicted Watkins goal against Chelsea is going to make the difference as these two managers have 7 of the same players

FINAL VERDICT: - Bloomer to edge this final. I think this is going to be even closer than the 4-point difference in Gameweek 37.

IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW

In the event of a draw the match will go into a penalty Shoot-Out. A penalty shoot-out will take place, each team's top five-point scorers will go head-to-head to produce a result. If the best five scorers in the two teams cannot produce a result sudden death will take place with the next highest point scorers being next.

HISTORY

PREVIOUS FINALS

YEAR	WINNER	MATCH SCORE	RUNNER-UP
2005	Omid Afzalalghom	33 - 28	Paul Dwinfour
2006	Adam Pemberton	68 - 57	Jeff Aldersea
2007	Andy McLaren	65 - 56	Andrew Hilliard
2008	Nigel Finch	59 - 55	Dave Sinclair
2009	Oliver Shanks	62 - 32	Tim Walters
2010	Omid Afzalalghom	71 - 65	Joe Higgins
2011	Michael Carleton	38 - 36	Steve Shew
2012	Mark Angliss	56 - 44	Adam Pemberton
2013	Kojo Amofa	53 - 50	Kaska Porczyk
2014	Matt Hansell	59 - 48	Michael Lynn
2015	Andreas Themistocleous	56 - 43	Alistair Shields
2016	Tony Collins	61 - 27	Dan Varrow
2017	Hans Hayrynen	97 - 90	Tony Collins
2018	Darren Cullen	111 - 91	Sam Shew
2019	Pasquale Egisto	74 - 50	Steve Clarricoats
2020	Hans Hayrynen	69 - 63	Andrew Ogden

WINNERS

Hans Hayrynen	2
Omid Afzalalghom	2
Adam Pemberton	1
Andreas Themistocleous	1
Andy McLaren	1
Darren Cullen	1
Kojo Amofa	1
Mark Angliss	1
Matt Hansell	1
Michael Carleton	1
Nigel Finch	1
Oliver Shanks	1
Pasquale Egisto	1
Tony Collins	1

FINALISTS

Adam Pemberton	2	Joe Higgins	1
Hans Hayrynen	2	Kaska Porczyk	1
Omid Afzalalghom	2	Kojo Amofa	1
Tony Collins	2	Mark Angliss	1
Alistair Shields	1	Matt Hansell	1
Andreas Themistocleous	1	Michael Carleton	1
Andrew Hilliard	1	Michael Lynn	1
Andrew Ogden	1	Nigel Finch	1
Andy McLaren	1	Oliver Shanks	1
Dan Varrow	1	Paul Dwinfour	1
Darren Cullen	1	Pasquale Egisto	1
Dave Sinclair	1	Sam Shew	1
Dave Rogers	1	Steve Clarricoats	1
James Bloomer	1	Steve Shew	1
Jeff Aldersea	1	Tim Walters	1

HISTORY MADE

Hans Hayrynen victory in last season's final saw him become only the second manager in the history of FC to win the Champions League twice. Hans Hayrynen and Omid Afzalalghom have both won the competition twice having made two finals they both have a 100% record. Afzalalghom the inaugural winner in 2005 won the title 5 season later in 2010. Hans Hayrynen first won the trophy in 2017 gaining his second victory three seasons later 2020. Two other managers Adam Pemberton and Tony Collins have made two final but have only won one. Adam Pemberton took the title in 2006 the second season of the competition he would get back to the final in 2012 but lost to Mark Angliss. Tony Collins is the only manager to have made back to back finals winning in 2016 and returning in 2017 but unfortunately could complete an amazing feat of retaining the trophy losing in 2017 to Hans Hayrynen in Hans first Champions League victory.