

FANTASY CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 2024

Cameron Wong V Owen Gredley



GAMEWEEK 38 (19th May)

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The 20th Final of the Champions League unbelievable to think that next season the competition will enter its third decade. The Champions League is widely recognised as being the most prestigious of the cup competitions although of course all are fantastic competitions.

The notoriety of the completion means that all managers are desperate to get up the Super20 League to qualify for this competition, with managers from the Premier to the Conference qualifying it is showcase to the top 96 manager in the super20 leagues from the previous season.

In its twenty-year history only two managers Hans Hayrynen and Omid Afzalaghom have managed to lift the trophy aloft. Only six managers have managed to make Two Finals with no manager ever reaching a Third final. It is interesting to note that no manager has won all the cup competitions. For some managers if you include the Pyramid Cup into the equation it would not be possible for some managers as they have never competed in the lower super20 leagues. That said no Manager has managed to win the Champions League, FC Cup, Super Twenty Cup and New Life Cup.

As each season goes past more managers are added to the list of major trophy winners but in terms of the history of the FC World the winners of the Seven Coveted Major trophies are small percentage of the managers who have competed in the entire history of the Fantasy Challenge game.

Today's finalist sees a contrast as we have Owen Gredley who is looking for his second major trophy and also his second Champions League trophy looking to join that elite club of multiple Champions League winners, whilst his opponent Cameron Wong is experiencing his first major final and the chance of lifting that first major trophy.

Owen Gredley has been a name in the FC World for some time and is in his second spell as a manager, joining in 2011 Owen shocked the FC World when he turned his back on the game in 2015, he had caught the eye with four promotions one being a lucky one then that resignation. He came back in 2018 once more catching the eye with another four promotions one being lucky a real symmetry to his two spells. Then two seasons ago he claimed the Champions League his first major trophy to forever go down in the history the FC World and is a real name to contend within the game. Just ask his father Ian Gredley a four-time major trophy winner as Owen knocked his dad out of this seasons Champions League at the semi-final stage.

Cameron Wong might not have quite the same history of Owen but he has also caught the eye in his FC World career. Now in his fourth season he has claimed three promotions two top ten finishes in the FC League and has been to two Quarter-Finals of the Pyramid Cup and one quarter-Final of the New Life Cup. This season is his inaugural season in the Champions League making the final at his first attempt. There is no doubt within the FC World community that Cameron will become a major trophy winner at some stage in his career.

Once more the Champions League serves up an intriguing final will Owen Gredley get that second Champions League title to become only the third manager to do so or will Cameron Wong claim his first major trophy which many have been predicting since his promotion winning rookie season.

Before I sign off, I want to apologise for any spelling and or grammatical mistakes in this preview the timeframes are just getting tighter every season the alternative is no preview. I would also like to express my thanks to Mike Carleton for his hard work and assistance in updating the game this season.

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

Cameron Wong

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2021

Career Honours	2021 Pyramid Three Runner-Up Promoted 2022 Pyramid One Runner-Up Promoted	2023 Pyramid Premier 4 th Promoted
Honourable Mention	2022 FC Overall League 10 th Place 2023 FC Overall League 9 th Place	

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY		PYRAMID CUP HISTORY		NEW LIFE CUP HISTORY	
2021		Quarter-Final			
2022		Group Stage		Quarter-Final	
2023		Quarter-Final			

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	69.05	GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	28
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	144	GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	9
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	23	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	72.61

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group J

Dan Jopp	64	-	35
Mark Freear	37	-	58
Dave Sinclair	92	-	87
Andy Taylor	52	-	51
Steve Shew	84	-	62
Dan Jopp	44	-	52
Mark Freear	68	-	50
Dave Sinclair	98	-	74
Andy Taylor	68	-	60
Steve Shew	26	-	34

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Dan Jopp	10	8	0	2	581	512	69	24
2	Cameron Wong	10	7	0	3	633	563	70	21
3	Steve Shew	10	6	0	4	579	592	-13	18
4	Andy Taylor	10	4	0	6	574	588	-14	12
5	Mark Freear	10	3	0	7	554	569	-15	9
6	Dave Sinclair	10	2	0	8	505	602	-97	6

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate		
2 nd Round	Adrian Comer	84	-	74	85	-	88	169	-	162
3 rd Round	Sanj Joshi	86	-	70	71	-	53	157	-	123
Quarter-Final	Dan Jopp	48	-	60	88	-	62	136	-	122
Semi-Final	Pete Cuckson	97	-	78	115	-	85	212	-	163

PLAYER PROFILES

Owen Gredley

Joined Fantasy Challenge 2011 Left 2015 rejoined 2018

Career Honours 2012 Pyramid Premier Runner-Up Promoted 2021 Conference Runner-Up Promoted
 2013 Conference Runner-Up Promoted 2022 League Two Champion
 2014 League Two 4th Promoted 2022 Champions League Winner
 2018 Pyramid One 4th Promoted

Honourable Mention 2011 Pyramid One 6th Lucky Promotion 2022 FC Overall League 7th Place
 2019 Pyramid Premier 9th Lucky Promotion

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY		PYRAMID CUP HISTORY		NEW LIFE CUP HISTORY	
2011		Group Stage			
2012		Quarter-Final			
2013	Second Round				
2014	Second Round				
2018		Group Stage			
2019		Group Stage			
2020		Second Round			
2021	Group Stage			Third Round	
2022	Winner				
2023	Group Stage				

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	64.97	GAMEWEEKS SCORE OVER 49	28
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	121	GAMEWEEKS SCORE UNDER 50	9
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	15	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AVERAGE	67.72

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group K

Nurul Hussain	35	-	59
Robert Gurney	57	-	43
Miki Mielonen	75	-	85
Rilwan Dawodu	29	-	51
Jonathon Kelly	63	-	83
Nurul Hussain	57	-	41
Robert Gurney	48	-	38
Miki Mielonen	94	-	90
Rilwan Dawodu	77	-	54
Jonathon Kelly	30	-	24

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Jonathon Kelly	10	7	0	3	588	534	54	21
2	Owen Gredley	10	6	0	4	565	568	-3	18
3	Miki Mielonen	10	5	0	5	554	540	14	15
4	Nurul Hussain	10	5	0	5	556	569	-13	15
5	Rilwan Dawodu	10	4	0	6	557	551	6	12
6	Robert Gurney	10	3	0	7	531	589	-58	9

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate		
2 nd Round	Joe Rudd	79	-	64	75	-	64	154	-	128
3 rd Round	James Dwinfour	91	-	79	57	-	68	148	-	147
Quarter-Final	Darren Cullen	84	-	79	58	-	62	142	-	141
Semi-Final	Ian Gredley	85	-	64	107	-	114	192	-	178



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.

CAMERON WONG

Gameweek 37

Squad List

83 Average **144** Points 174 Highest →

Bench Boost



OWEN GREDLEY

Gameweek 37

Squad List

83 Average **121** Points 174 Highest →



STAT ATTACK

144	SCORE	121
30	CAPTAIN	30
42	DEFENCE	43
37	MIDFIELD	37
41	ATTACK	41
2	TRANSFERS	1
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-4-3
	CHIP PLAYED	
BENCH BOOST		NONE
24 Points		
	CHIPS LEFT	
NONE		NONE

THE ANALYSIS

Well can you believe it I have got an extra day as finally we have a season where Gameweek 37 finished on Wednesday night allowing Fantasy Challenge founder Paul Richardson to give me the two cup finalists teams on a Thursday.

Although I have the extra time, I feel I have hit upon a formula that works, at the time of writing I can confirm that I predicting the 2024 FC Cup final correctly even after being put under extra pressure from Paul asking AI Microsoft CoPilot to also do an analysis and prediction, so once more you will see below me go through the key components as I see them in this final.

Looking at the two teams in Gameweek 37 is very interesting it is easy to take a quick glance and see that Cameron would have beaten Owen 144-121, but this result only happened due to the fact that Cameron played his bench boost, so you then take a deeper dive and you notice that in Gameweek 37 the two starting line-ups have only 1 player different. Even then it gets more intriguing as that different player for both clubs are a Newcastle Player. If you take away the bench Boost Owen would have won this match 121-120, because his defender Dan Burn scored 3 points whilst Cameron's Liverment scored 2 mainly because he got injured in Newcastle's first match of the gameweek against Brighton. If the injury had not occurred, they could quite easily have tied 121-121 all.

These cup finals played in the last gameweek are always made more intriguing we know no teams will have double headers but then you also have to ask the question what clubs are in a cup final and potentially will rest players. For both of today's finalists I do not think this is something they will have to navigate no Premier league side has made a European final this season, meaning that the only fixture left after the gameweek is the FA Cup Final well City have to win their last match to clinch an unbelievable and record breaking fourth Premier League title in succession their opponents in that cup final Manchester United potentially could but I think manager Erik ten Hag is desperate to try and get Unite das high as possible hoping to get 7th on the last day of the season.

I am going to go through three categories that I think will decide this final.

CHIPS

CAMERON WONG

CHIPS

NONE

OWEN GREDLEY

CHIPS

NONE

Why have I included Chips if neither manager has one to play in this final surely Chips are not having an affect on this final. Well, that is true but the reason for including this is that Cameron Wong decided to play his last chip in Gameweek 37 rather than hold it back for this final. Wong is chasing promotion from the Conference League and had a tough match and decided to go all in whilst he secured victory in his league match over 7th place d Nurul Hussain other results did not go his way though and he cannot be promoted. Hindsight is a wonderful thing he would have been better off saving that chip for the final and a chance to win his first major trophy. One small note if Wong had not played that chip he would have lost his league match to Nurul Hussain. **CONCLUSION:** - Neither manager has a clear advantage. However, you do wonder how costly that decision in Gameweek 37 could be for Wong.

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

CAMERON WONG

Haaland (Manchester City) 30 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Palmer (Chelsea) 14 Points

Foden (Manchester City) 11 Points

OWEN GREDLEY

Haaland (Manchester City) 30 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Palmer (Chelsea) 14 Points

Foden (Manchester City) 11 Points

Both managers got their captain pick correct and with City going for the title I can't see either of them gambling on not picking Haaland again especially as the Norwegian superstar has a home fixture against West Ham with the title to be won and West Ham virtually on the beach. **CONCLUSION:** - No advantage here unless one of them really gambles.

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

CAMERON WONG			OWEN GREDLEY		
FINANCE		TRANSFERS	FINANCE		TRANSFERS
SQUAD VALUE	IN THE BANK		SQUAD VALUE	IN THE BANK	
£104.3	£3.6	1	£104.7	£0.6	1

Both managers made transfers in Gameweek 37 so neither have an extra transfer interesting to see that Cameron made two transfers in that push for promotion but Owen also made a transfer when he had already secured promotion. This points to the fact that both managers have moved their eyes away from this major prize which is up for grabs. If we take a look at the finances of both we can see that Cameron has a much healthier transfer budget in fact £3 Million more than Owen, can he make use of this with his one transfer although it is difficult to see where he can get extra value into his team. The injured defender Newcastle's Livermento he has great options from his bench in Arsenal duo Ben White and Gabriel. For Owen the only player definitely out is Manchester United's Maguire but with a value of £4.3 Million and £0.6 does not give him great options, at first glance I would think Owen will be looking at the Aston Villa defenders, Konsa, Digne and Pau who are all under £5 Million, however Villa qualified for the Champions League this week so do they have anything to play for and will they have been celebrating too much since securing that coveted place. Both managers have Gordon of Newcastle in their squad who is down as having a 75% chance of playing but once more both have great options from their bench, Cameron has Arsenal's Havertz and Owen has Manchester United Fernandes. I must also make mention that both managers are also faced with that classic conundrum of I have a transfer I must use it but although it is a cup final and the last match of the season do they have to use it as it could cause disruption. **CONCLUSION:** - Whilst I do not see a massive advantage here you have to say that healthier transfer budget just tips the scales in the direction of Cameron Wong

THE DIFFERENTIAL'S

CAMERON WONG DIFFERENTIALS	OWEN GREDLEY DIFFERENTIALS
GOALKEEPER(S) Andre Onana (Manchester United)	GOALKEEPER(S) Jordan Pickford (Everton)
DEFENDER(S) Tino Livermento (Newcastle United) Gabriel (Arsenal)	DEFENDER(S) Dan Burn (Newcastle United) Harry Maguire (Manchester United)
MIDFIELDER(S) Kai Havertz (Arsenal)	MIDFIELDER(S) Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United)

Just four differentials I can not see Owen risking Everton's Pickford against Arsenal with the Gunners chasing Premier League glory. I think this will mean that Cameron will stick with Chelsea's Petrovic as a cancelling out policy feeling he has better differentials elsewhere. In defence Cameron's Gabriel of Arsenal looks like a massive differential and I do not see that Owen will be able to cancel out Gabriel with a transfer. In midfield it is a different story Cameron has Havertz who I think is a good bet to have a good last day of the season at home to Everton chasing that title I think Arsenal being behind will actually relax them and can see them running out easy winners against Everton. For Owen Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes under normal circumstances looks like he is the sort of player that would be up for the challenge but I like many have questions marks over Fernandes will the Unite s tar really be trying t put it all out their away top Brighton with nothing more than a potential 7th place at stake when he has an FA Cup final to look forward to I see Fernandes coasting to a certain extent fully focused on the FA Cup final to come, he knows he is going to have to be 100% in that final if Unite dare to stand any chance. **CONCLUSION:** - Once more it is only a slight advantage but I have to give it to Cameron, I do not see either of these managers changer their goalkeepers but those two Arsenal selections for Cameron I think are the differentials in this Final.

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 19th May

Arsenal	V	Everton
Brentford	V	Newcastle United
Brighton & Hove Albion	V	Manchester United
Burnley	V	Nottingham Forest
Chelsea	V	Bournemouth
Crystal Palace	V	Aston Villa
Liverpool	V	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Luton	V	Fulham
Manchester City	V	West Ham United
Sheffield United	V	Tottenham Hotspur

THE VERDICT

When I started to look at this final the main thing that kept on going over and over in my mind was Cameron Wong playing his last chip in Gameweek 37, it raised an amazing question is promotion from the Conference really more important than winning this a major final. Although playing that chip won him his vital match other results didn't go his way so to a certain extent it feels like that chip has been wasted, I a firm believer of karma in Fantasy football and you wonder has Wong evoked the Karma god by playing that Chip.

As I continued the Analysis of the two teams though and looked at the conclusions they went in the favour of Cameron Wong and not Owen Gredley. Interesting to see that Owen played a transfer in Gameweek 37 having already secured promotion I wondered if that was mistake costing him an extra transfer in this final but the transfer was bringing Gvardiol of City for his team mate Kyle Walker, now Gvardiol is in Wong's team was this Owen already using a transfer to negate a player in Wong's team!!!

However, you look at this final you immediately become aware that we are looking at two very accomplished managers Owen having already secured his promotion to the Championship and here looking for his second major trophy and Champions League in as many seasons. Whilst Wong might have missed out on promotion he was right in the mix again and has secured 6th place with a match to go just one place off promotion. The you look at the two squads and see how close they are these are two very strong squads.

So how do you separate these two managers well after carefully analysing the analysis I think the real component that is going to count in this final is the differentials, so who has the advantage there.

FINAL VERDICT: -

Cameron Wong to take the Champions League Final.

Although I am worried about the karma. This is going to be a very close final, as when these two end up picking their final elevens I think they will have nine of the same players so this final is going to come down to just two players.

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
2021	Dave Rogers	55	-	51	James Bloomer
2022	Owen Gredley	79	-	77	Tracy Thompsom
2023	Martyn Dewick	63	-	59	Dave Rogers

WINNERS

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

FINALISTS

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