



FANTASY CHALLENGE PYRAMID CUP FINAL 2019

JOSEPH GREENWOOD

VS

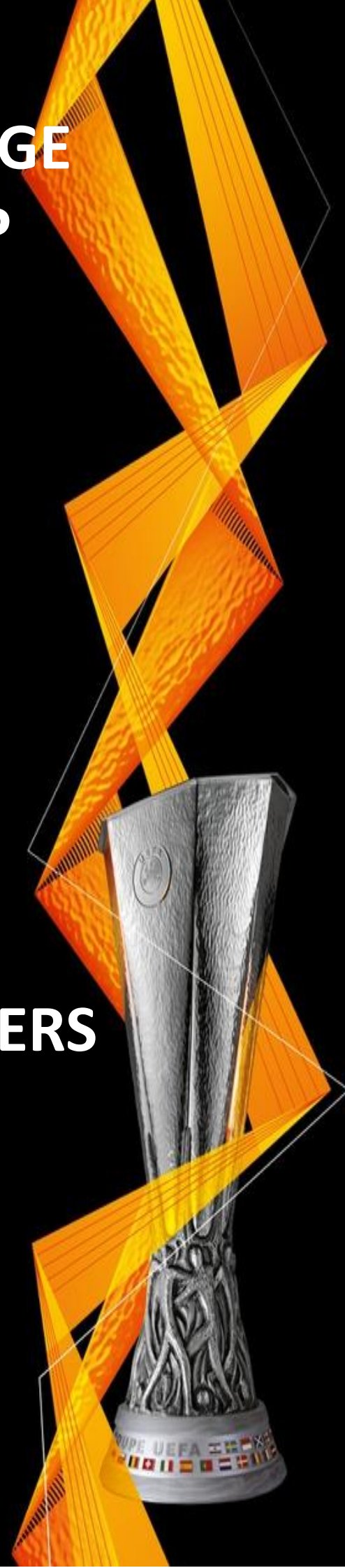
DAVE ROGERS

11th Final

GAMEWEEK 38

12th May

OFFICIAL FC MATCH PREVIEW



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this seasons Pyramid Cup Final preview.

Obviously, I do not have a favourite competition but I can bask in the glory of the Pyramid Cup, When I introduced it into the game due to the expansion of managers where there were too many playing to fit into the Champions League the competition was introduced. You wonder how it will be received and if it will really work, well this its 11th final I am in no doubt as to its importance in the FC World. Last Season Darren Cullen became the first manager to win the Pyramid Cup and then win the Champions League. Showing the way for all new managers and managers that have been competing in the lower leagues. It shows that managers can move through the Super20 Leagues and compete against the establishment in fact become part of the establishment.

10 managers have won this competition of those 10 two have decided to drop out. The 8 left in the game Sandeep Chohan is now in the Premier League albeit fighting relegation currently, Darren Cullen as we have mentioned being the first manager to have won both the Pyramid Cup and Champions League is currently in the Championship fighting to gain promotion into the Premier League. Four of the other winners are now all competing in the Champions League having moved into the higher super20 leagues. Mention must be made of Michael Lynn runner-up in the Pyramid Cup in its inaugural season he is now competing in the Premier League and has qualified for the Super20 cup. This season Champions League also sees another finalist of the Pyramid Cup taking part Steve Clarricoats will be competing in this season Champions League final just 3 seasons after losing that Pyramid Cup final.

The Pyramid Cup has proven to be the competition that all in the FC World hoped it would be highlighting the new and growing talent within the FC World with those previous finalists being proof of this fact.

It is important to note that whilst some in the view the Pyramid Cup as the poorer relation of the Champions League, the Pyramid Cup has always had major trophy status. In fact, for new managers it does represent a chance of winning all the major trophies as some of the legends in the game have never played in it.

Which brings us nicely onto this final where both Joseph Greenwood and Dave Rogers will eb hoping to gain their first major trophy.

Greenwood is in his Rookie season and will be inspired by the afore mentioned Sandeep Chohan who won this competition in his rookie season as now playing in the Premier League. He can also take inspiration form managers that have lost this final also, Michael Lynn who lost the first Pyramid Cup final is in 6th season in the top flight. Greenwood as has already secured promotion from Pyramid Two this season so will like those two managers be hoping that this is the start of a journey to the top of the FC World what better way than to join the elite band of managers to have won a major trophy.

Greenwood's opponent in this final is Dave Rogers who is in 4th season in the game and has already gained a reputation within the FC World as a manager to watch with 3 promotion adding his 3rd this season. He has a chance of claiming two major trophies this season as he is top of the FC Overall League further proof that both of today's finalists are adding to the rich history of this competition.

Over the next pages in this preview we profile our two managers how their run got them to this year's final. The FC expert takes a look at the two manager's teams and we show the history of the competition.

I hope you enjoy this Pyramid Cup Final Preview Edition.

All that is left for me to do is to wish both Joseph Greenwood and Dave Rogers all the best for this final.

Paul Richardson

Fantasy Challenge Founder

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PLAYER PROFILES

JOSPEH GREENWOOD

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	61.05
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	132
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	30
GAMEWEEK SCORE OVER 49	28
GAMEWEEK SCORE UNDER 50	9
PYRAMID CUP AVERAGE	66.31

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group L

Martyn Dewick	90	-	80
Peter Ward	43	-	40
Scott Nelson	53	-	29
Nurul Hussain	66	-	74
Martyn Dewick	52	-	51
Peter Ward	30	-	61
Scott Nelson	50	-	64
Nurul Hussain	81	-	80

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Martyn Dewick	8	5	0	3	500	426	74	15
2	Joseph Greenwood	8	5	0	3	465	479	-14	15
3	Peter Ward	8	4	0	4	435	382	53	12
4	Nurul Hussain	8	3	0	5	516	540	-24	9
5	Scott Nelson	8	3	0	5	368	457	-89	9

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Ryan Hill	72	- 36	51	- 45	123	- 81
3 rd Round	Anthony Lobo	32	- 39	61	- 46	93	- 85
Quarter-Final	Chad Pereira	58	- 8	95	- 84	153	- 92
Semi-Final	Aine Reilly	132	- 60	65	- 56	197	- 116

PROFILE

An impressive rookie season for Greenwood. He has secured promotion from Pyramid Two currently sitting on top of the table two points clear going into the last gameweek. In the FC Overall League, he is currently 15th a very respectable position in the overall league. To be inside the top 50 is a mark of a decent season, followed by top 20 then top 10 then the prize-winning positions 5th to 1st. With 173 managers in the league 15th place tells you all you need to know. The only blot on this season was a First Round exit in the FC Cup after a replay against the vastly experienced Raymond Turp. Going into the last gameweek of the season Greenwood has the chance to claim the Pyramid Two title and this Pyramid Cup which would be a fantastic double and a major trophy in his rookie season would put him established company of managers to have achieved this feat. What ever happens there is no doubt that the FC World experts are taking notice of this rookie manager.

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	65.72
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	123
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	20
GAMEWEEK SCORE OVER 49	31
GAMEWEEK SCORE UNDER 50	6
PYRAMID CUP AVERAGE	67.37

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group C

Ryan Hill	52	-	31
Bernard Aspell	53	-	65
Callum Hogwood	67	-	49
Kieran Lenthall	70	-	54
Ryan Hill	48	-	76
Bernard Aspell	42	-	42
Callum Hogwood	83	-	34
Kieran Lenthall	93	-	38

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Ryan Hill	8	6	0	2	461	350	11	18
2	Dave Rogers	8	5	1	2	508	389	119	16
3	Bernard Aspell	8	5	1	2	436	352	84	16
4	Kieran Lenthall	8	2	0	6	299	438	-139	6
5	Callum Hogwood	8	1	0	7	333	508	-175	3

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Adam Gill	67	- 50	53	- 41	120	- 91
3 rd Round	Alex Kam	37	- 31	65	- 62	102	- 93
Quarter-Final	Cormac Connaughton	20	- 14	108	- 98	128	- 112
Semi-Final	Katherine Beer	123	- 108	97	- 86	220	- 194

PROFILE

Dave Rogers is in his fourth season and up until last season had known nothing but success, he has certainly come back with a vengeance this season. Rogers in his rookie season gained promotion from Pyramid Two and followed that up the following season with promotion in Pyramid One finishing in 3rd place. IN that second season Rogers caught the attention of the FC World as he also got to the Quarter-Finals of this competition and finished 9th in the FC Overall League. He was obviously not a flash in the pan with two successful seasons but last season had many wondering if he had found his level finishing 13th in Pyramid Two although this sparked debate amongst the FC World fraternity as he finished 22nd in the FC Overall League once more showing good pedigree. This season as stated Rogers is back showing what he can do he has already claimed the Pyramid Premier title and is currently sitting top of the tree in the FC Overall League holding a 93 point lead alongside this final this is putting him with a great chance of claiming two major trophies which will put him amongst the games elite managers. The FC Cup is the only competition that has not gone to plan going out in the Second Round to Tony Collins (League One) a manager with a massive reputation within the FC World the former Champions League winner who made consecutive finals. What ever the outcome of this final gameweek in this final and the FC Overall League Rogers has the FC World talking about him again.



FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

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

Joseph Greenwood

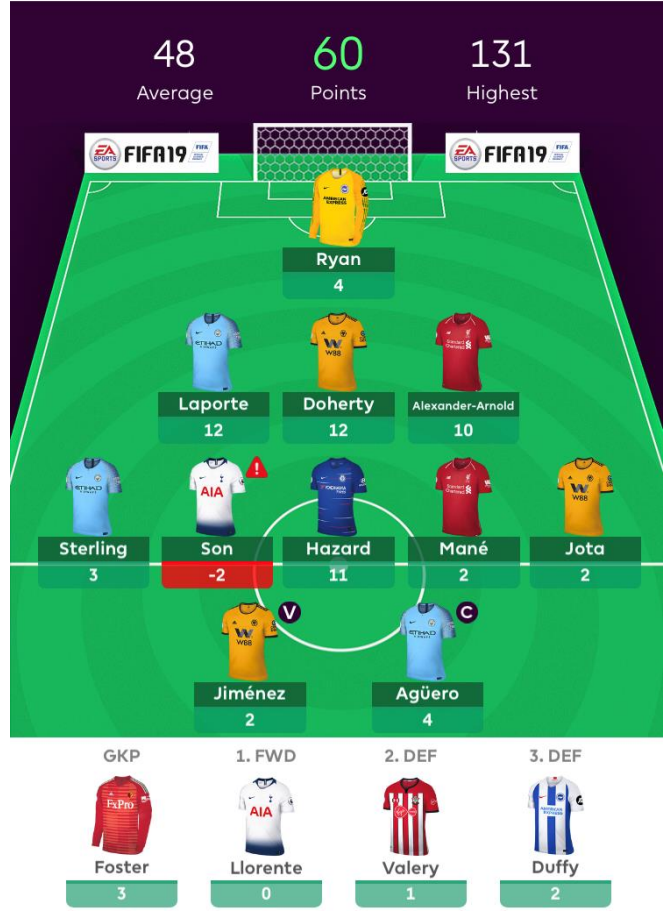
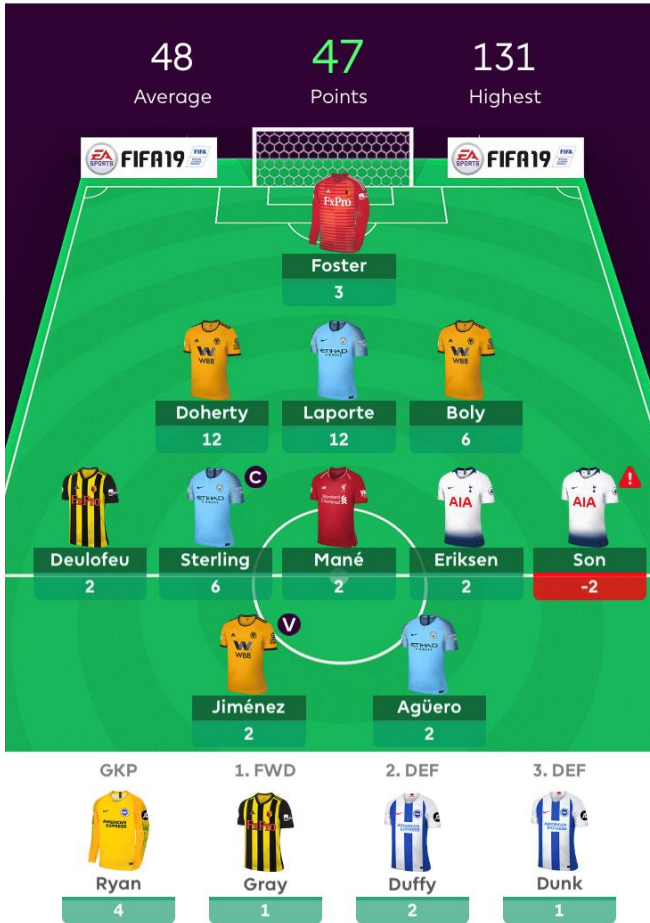
Dave Rogers

< Gameweek 37 >

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Squad List

Squad List



STAT ATTACK

47	SCORE	60
6	CAPTAIN	4
33	DEFENCE	34
10	MIDFIELD	16
4	ATTACK	6
1	TRANSFERS	1
3-5-2	FORMATION	3-5-2
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	NONE

THE ANALYSIS

A very busy time of the season for me as I need to do match analysis of three cup finals this year has become even more interesting as I do these, yesterday I completed the Champions League analysis and sent it off to FC Founder Paul Richardson I made mention of Liverpool's amazing comeback against Barcelona 24 hours later and Tottenham have also completed an amazing comeback being 3 down with 35 minutes to go then they came back with a 96th minute equaliser to send them through. I have already mentioned that I did not believe that Liverpool would come back. Today I am going to confirm that I always thought Tottenham would go through, although once they went two down on the night and three down on aggregate, I thought that they were out. Why do I mention these matches well for all the analysis these matches prove that anything can happen in football and by extension Fantasy is no different.

So to the two teams which in gameweek 37 would have seen Dave Rogers win 60 – 47 over Joseph Greenwood.

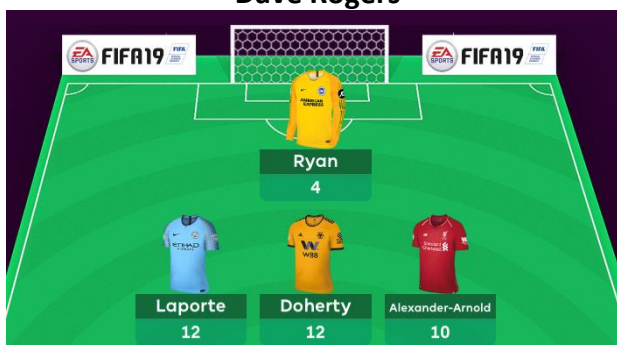
DEFENCE

Joseph Greenwood



Doherty (Wolves) & Laporte (Manchester City) gaining clean sheets and providing an assist with 3 bonus points saw them both bag 12 points. Boly (Wolves) also making a decent contribution of 6 with a clean sheet. Goalkeeper Foster (Watford) scoring 3 meaning that Ryan (Brighton) on his bench should have played as he scored 4 points. Other defenders on Greenwood's bench were sat in the right place.

Dave Rogers

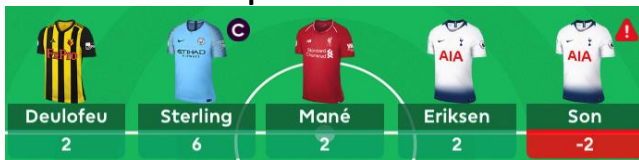


Doherty (Wolves) & Laporte (Manchester City) gaining clean sheets and providing an assist with 3 bonus points saw them both bag 12 points Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) scored 2 less points due to the fact that Liverpool conceded 2 goals. Rogers had Ryan (Brighton) in goal for 4 points. Rogers got every selection in his defence right, none of the players on the bench scoring more.

Both managers deploying a 3-man defence with two of the three the same. Alexander-Arnold outscoring Boly for Rogers in gameweek 37 and with Liverpool facing Wolves on the final day it could be very interesting if these two defenders go head to head in this final with the other defenders cancelling each other out. Although the two managers selected different keepers it is interesting that they actually have the same keepers, in gameweek 37 Rogers getting the selection correct. On the bench Greenwood has the Brighton duo of Duffy and Dunk. Brighton who are at home to Manchester City on the final day with Premiership survival secured I am not sure Greenwood would want to promote either for this final. On Rogers bench he also has Duffy. The other defender is Southampton's Valery who will be at home to already relegated Huddersfield, Rogers might have a decision to see if he should bring him for Doherty or leave Doherty in to cancel out Greenwood's selection as Doherty does have a great knack for getting involved in goals this season.

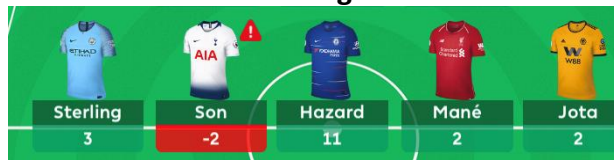
MIDFIELD

Joseph Greenwood



5 man midfield, Greenwood obviously feels this is where the points are but a return of 10 is not a great return. Greenwood needs his midfield to do better. Son being sent off did not help the cause. Raheem Sterling (Manchester City) top scoring in midfield with 6 but he was captain so these points have doubled.

Dave Rogers

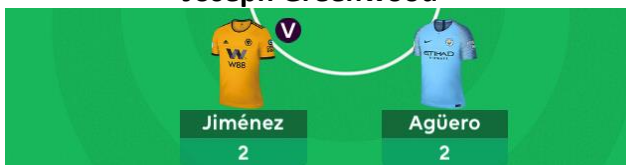


Rogers midfield was given respectability by Eden Hazard of Chelsea he hit two assists on his way to scoring 11 points 1 more than the entire of Greenwood's midfield. Rogers also suffered from the Son sending off with the rest of his midfield not really doing much with no other midfielder scoring more than 2 points.

Like the defence the two managers have several players the same both have Sterling (Manchester City), Son (Tottenham) and Mane (Liverpool). Worryingly for Greenwood is his other two midfielder Tottenham's Eriksen, with Tottenham now in the Champions League final will he play or be rested on the last day of the season Tottenham just need to avoid a massive defeat or for Arsenal to hit a high scoring win they have virtually qualified for next season competition. Also, he has Deulofeu (Watford) who will surely be thinking of the FA Cup final the question is are the players going to be coasting saving themselves for the final or fighting for a place in the starting line-up. Both managers will have to get rid of Son if they want to keep a five-man midfield as the Korean star is suspended for Gamweek 38. Rogers other midfielder Jota brings in the Liverpool Wolves question again.

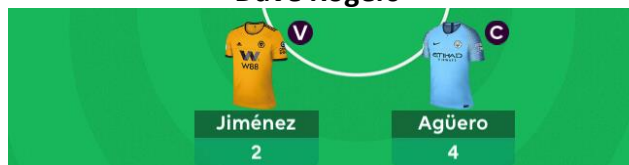
ATTACK

Joseph Greenwood



4-point return very disappointing with Watford Andre Gray on the bench only scoring a single point Greenwood is going to need more from his forward line.

Dave Rogers



Aguero as captain helped Rogers forward line to just 6 points. With Tottenham's Llorente on the bench not playing Rogers at least had picked the right players.

Once more these two managers showing a similarity within their squad both have the same front two. This is an area that both might look at I am not convinced by their options on the bench for the same reason mentioned for their respective midfields. Greenwood has Andre Gray with one eye on the FA Cup final and Tottenham in the Champions League final Dave Rogers has to wonder if Llorente will play any part on the final day of the Premier League season.

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

Joseph Greenwood

Sterling (Manchester City) 6 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Doherty (Wolves) 24 Points

Laporte (Manchester City) 24 Points

Boly (Wolves) 12 Points

Dave Rogers

Aguero (Manchester City) 4 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Doherty (Wolves) 24 Points

Laporte (Manchester City) 24 Points

Hazard (Chelsea) 22 Points

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 20 Points

Ryan (Brighton) 8 Points

Sterling (Manchester City) 6 Points

In the first elevens of these two managers they had seven of the same players with neither of them getting their captain selections correct. Rogers would have come out on top mainly because of the effort of Eden Hazard giving him a winning margin of 13 points, If Greenwood had selected either Doherty or Laporte he would have been able to over turn that margin. If Rogers had selected one of four other players would have given him a bigger winning margin even if Greenwood had got his selection correct.

CHIPS

Joseph Greenwood

NONE

Dave Rogers

NONE

Well this is easy as no chips were played and none are available for the final relief for me.

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

Joseph Greenwood

FINANCE

£104.7

TRANSFERS

1

Dave Rogers

FINANCE

£107

TRANSFERS

1

The first thing that strikes you about these two managers is the value of their squads. Both have increased the value of their squads. Which to me is a good indicator of not just great transfer dealings but shrewd management throughout the season. What is also interesting is both managers only have 1 transfer each both made a single transfer in Gamdeweek 37 with Greenwood bringing in Laporte for the injured Vertonghen (Tottenham), interestingly Rogers brought in Hazard for Eriksen if he had not made that transfer the two managers would eight of the same players in Gameweek 37 Hazard made the difference can he in this final. With them both having 1 transfer they also have £0.1 Million in the bank I think the transfer they have to make is Son out due to that suspension.

This final neither manager has a Chip to play so have taken out the Chip effect for this final as it is not relevant.

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 12th May

Brighton & Hove Albion	V	Manchester City
Burnley	V	Arsenal
Crystal Palace	V	AFC Bournemouth
Fulham	V	Newcastle United
Leicester City	V	Chelsea
Liverpool	V	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Manchester United	V	Cardiff City
Southampton	V	Huddersfield Town
Tottenham Hotspur	V	Everton
Watford	V	West Ham United

THE VERDICT

Recent finals I have been surprised but pleased that the two managers have not had too many of the same players this final though the two managers have ten of the same players in their squads of Fifteen.

With that many players being the same if these two managers are fully focused on this final, I think they will really be looking at the opposing manager in this match. For Dave Rogers he has the title already captured in Pyramid Premier with that title this could be his last time in the Pyramid Cup for a while he will be in the Champions League next season. He is chasing the FC overall League but will be happy with his squad that they will gain the points to get him over the line so he will be looking very closely at Joseph Greenwood's side. For Greenwood he has guaranteed promotion from Pyramid Two but the title is still at stake in the final gameweek so he might look at his final league match although of course this final represents the chance of a major trophy.

I feel both managers will put Foster in goal the Watford keeper has not been playing in the FA Cup and my understanding is he is not scheduled to play the final so he should play against West Ham. Ryan of Brighton at home to Manchester City is just too big a risk with City going for the big Premier League prize.

In defence I feel that Rogers has the better choices he can bring in Valery of Southampton but I do not see him changing the three selected in Gameweek 37. He might decide to go four at the back with Southampton at home to the relegated Huddersfield. Greenwood has a worry of having two Wolves defenders in a back three Wolves go to Liverpool who are on a high from reaching the Champions League final and are going for the Premier League title, you can never be sure but a Wolves clean sheet must be odds against. Greenwood must be looking at Boly, Doherty as we have stated previously always has the chance to get involved in a goal. Greenwood's options on the bench though are Brighton defences we have already covered that so does Greenwood go into the transfer market, but he surely has to transfer out Son which I am going to come onto shortly which could cost 4 points, so does he stay with the same back three.

In Midfield both have the suspended Son and both have .1 million in the bank they should have around £8.5 - £8.7 to invest in a midfielder, there are several options for both although an extra Manchester City midfielder not being one as they both have the complement of City players. The options are just too many to outline here I can see 12 potential options for both managers which makes this transfer so interesting. I doubt that these two managers will pick the same player but what will be going through their thought process with really only the Title being undecided. Relegation is done the Champions League are pretty much decided technically Arsenal can over turn Tottenham requiring 8 goals win on goal difference. So selecting a player who is going to play and has something to play for. As I write this we do not know if Arsenal or Chelsea have made the Europa League final which could be a potential worry although the final is not until 29th May so would managers be resting players now.

The forward lines are virtually the same again to change is going to cost points I can see Rogers sitting on his front two not making any changes. Does Greenwood go for a punt on Gray hoping that he wants to gain a place in that FA Cup final and gamble that Jimenez will not get anything out of the Liverpool game.

This final for me is going to come down to two decisions for both of the finalists, that transfer for Son who do they bring in then who do they make captain personally I can't see them straying from picking one of the City players. In gameweek 37 Greenwood opted for Sterling whilst Rogers went for Aguero. I do not think they will go for the City defender Laporte as I can see City scoring several goals to regain the title in the end it not being in doubt although nerves of course could come into play. If I am right surely both of them have to gamble on who is more likely to be involved in goals, you would have to say Aguero is bigger favourite to score but Sterling a bigger favourite to have an involvement in a goal also with Sterling there is the chance of clean sheet points, currently struggling to see Brighton scoring against City.

I do not see Rogers making more than 1 transfer why would he want to cost his team four points when going for the FC league title. Greenwood I think will be looking at Boly in defence and maybe Jimenez up front and will be contemplating losing four points for an extra transfer but he needs to be confident that who brings in will not only get those four points back but will add to that total.

I can see Rogers dropping either Jota or Jimenez and bringing in Valery and going four at the back. The differences between these two sides I think lie with Rogers Hazard being the real key for this final then Jota and Valery, could he even gamble on playing one up top in Aguero with Jota supplementing midfield and Valery coming into the defensive line.

FINAL VERDICT: - Rogers to claim the Pyramid Cup. An intriguing final which I do not see having more than 10 points between the two managers.

IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW

In the event of a draw the match will go into a penalty Shoot-Out. Each team's top five point scorers will go head to head to produce a result. If the best five scorer's 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
2009	James O'Leary	30	-	28	Michael Lynn
2010	Sandeep Chohan	90	-	75	Dan Calder
2011	James Conway	54	-	34	Matt Hansell
2012	Darren Cullen	52	-	47	Ben Clarkson
2013	James Bastow	61	-	37	Jatin Joshi
2014	Miki Mielonen	49	-	46	David Pewtner
2015	Heath Cram	45	-	31	Alvar Chambers
2016	Alvar Chambers	38	-	33	Steve Claricoats
2017	David Noel	97	-	53	James Bloomer
2018	Ian Baldwin	94	-	85	Karman Bansi

WINNERS

Alvar Chambers	1
Darren Cullen	1
David Noel	1
Heath Cram	1
Ian Baldwin	1
James Bastow	1
James Conway	1
James O'Leary	1
Miki Mielonen	1
Sandeep Chohan	1

FINALISTS

Alvar Chambers	2	James Conway	1
Ben Clarkson	1	James O'Leary	1
Dan Calder	1	Jatin Joshi	1
Darren Cullen	1	Joseph Greenwood	1
Dave Rogers	1	Karman Bansi	1
David Noel	1	Matt Hansell	1
David Pewtner	1	Michael Lynn	1
Heath Cram	1	Miki Mielonen	1
Ian Baldwin	1	Sandeep Chohan	1
James Bloomer	1	Steve Clarricoats	1
James Bastow	1		