



**FANTASY CHALLENGE
PYRAMID CUP
FINAL
2020**

COLIN DAVISON

VS

**JOSEPH
NICOLAIDES**

12th Final

GAMEWEEK 38



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 12th final I am in no doubt as to its importance in the FC World. Two seasons ago 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.

You will see on the last page of this preview the four managers who have made the Pyramid Cup final and gone to make a Champions League final which just cements this competition as a major trophy.

The Pyramid Cup continues 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.

Today's final is a very intriguing one as Colin Davison take son Joseph Nicolaides. Davison is in his rookie season and is one of a few managers trying to claim a major trophy in his rookie season which always captures the FC World's pundits. Joseph Nicolaides who dropped out of the game in 2015 for two seasons is back and now in his 3rd season back and trying to get his first major trophy.

The final represents an inaugural major trophy final for both managers and is a continuation of their battle throughout the season Joseph Nicolaides has been crowned Pyramid Two champion with Colin Davison chasing hard in second place, securing Runners-Up spot.

So both managers go into this final knowing that they have secured their promotions but will once more do battle for another title this season.

Last seasons final saw Dave Rogers win a tight encounter by just 4 points to beat Joseph Greenwood. Greenwood has put that setback behind him by claiming promotion from Pyramid One this season. Whilst Dave Rogers who is no longer in the Pyramid Cup as he progressed to the Conference and is in the Champions League has claimed promotion from the Conference to League Two next season.

Seeing what both managers have gone on to achieve a season after the final will be inspiring for both of today's managers, hoping that today's final will be the springboard for more and greater success.

It will be difficult for today's final to be as close as last season but as you look at where these two managers are currently in their league most will be predicting another close entertaining encounter for the Pyramid Cup final.

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 Colin Davison and Joseph Nicolaides all the best for this final.

Paul Richardson

Fantasy Challenge Founder

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PLAYER PROFILES

COLIN DAVISON

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	59.27
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	94
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	31
GAMEWEEK SCORE OVER 49	25
GAMEWEEK SCORE UNDER 50	12
PYRAMID CUP AVERAGE	57.12

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group F

Danzel D'Costa	60	-	34
Jonathon Kelly	48	-	46
Tim Oldfield	72	-	56
Daniel Hill	34	-	43
Danzel D'Costa	56	-	46
Jonathon Kelly	40	-	31
Tim Oldfield	55	-	56
Daniel Hill	47	-	49

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Colin Davison	8	5	0	3	412	361	51	15
2	Danzel D'Costa	8	5	0	3	367	365	2	15
3	Tim Oldfield	8	4	0	4	444	435	9	12
4	Daniel Hill	8	4	0	4	348	374	-26	12
5	Jonathon Kelly	8	2	0	6	373	409	-36	6

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg			2 nd Leg			Aggregate		
2 nd Round	Kieran Hogwood	53	-	63	72	-	53	125	-	116
3 rd Round	Lewis Wyatt	57	-	51	42	-	24	99	-	75
Quarter-Final	Katherine Beer	70	-	77	77	-	51	147	-	128
Semi-Final	Danzel D'Costa	79	-	37	52	-	59	131	-	96

PROFILE

In his Rookie season Davison is a manager having a great first season. He is having a solid season in the FC Overall League lying in 23rd place just over 40 points off a top ten finish. In the Fc Cup he had a great run to the 4th Round losing out to Alvar Chambers 46-58 missing out on a quarter-Final place. In his rookie season he was given a place in Pyramid Two and has taken advantage of not having to start in the bottom division. Davison has already claimed promotion he has secured second place in the division with one match to go he is in second place 4 points off top spot but 8 points clear of 3rd and 12 points clear of 6th place. A great performance with promotion being secured in Gamweek 35. Now he has this final to look forward to and a chance of claiming a major trophy in his rookie season. Davison run through to the final has been pretty seamless winning his group and winning each round faulty comfortably. In the Semi-Final he faced Danzel D'Costa who was runner-up in his group he did lose the 2nd leg match the only encounter in the four meetings he had lost.

STAT ATTACK

(After Gameweek 37)

AVERAGE GAMEWEEK SCORE	58.64
HIGHEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	107
LOWEST GAMEWEEK SCORE	23
GAMEWEEK SCORE OVER 49	27
GAMEWEEK SCORE UNDER 50	10
PYRAMID CUP AVERAGE	53.81

ROAD TO THE FINAL

1st Round Group Stage

Group E

Kyle Berry	71	-	47
Joseph Del Duca	63	-	56
Karman Bansi	56	-	49
Craig Lewis	51	-	69
Kyle Berry	50	-	46
Joseph Del Duca	33	-	33
Karman Bansi	23	-	61
Craig Lewis	75	-	69

FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	PLD	WON	DRW	LST	FOR	AGST	+/-	PTS
1	Joseph Nicolaides	8	5	1	2	422	430	-8	16
2	Karman Bansi	8	5	0	3	396	329	67	15
3	Craig Lewis	8	4	0	4	455	429	26	12
4	Kyle Berry	8	3	0	5	391	423	-32	9
5	Joseph Del Duca	8	2	1	5	350	409	-53	7

KNOCKOUT STAGE

		1 st Leg		2 nd Leg		Aggregate	
2 nd Round	Arpad Beres	45	- 63	77	- 38	122	- 101
3 rd Round	Sammy Abbey	48	- 43	23	- 22	71	- 65
Quarter-Final	Josphe Greenwood	71	- 69	72	- 62	143	- 131
Semi-Final	Richard Champion	42	- 35	61	- 55	103	- 90

PROFILE

Joseph Nicoaliades in his second spell in the FC World, His first spell saw 6 Seasons completed before he decided to drop out for a two-season break. In Those first six season a finish of 32nd in 2014 was his best finish in the FC Overall League a season with 160 managers competing. In the Super20 Leagues received a Lucky Promotion in his first season form the Pyramid Premier the in his 4th season in the Conference he gained promotion with a 3rd place finish. He finished 14th in League Two just two places above relegation. In the Fc Cup He had several defeats in the Qualifying Round the best he had done was get through o the 2nd Round. His first Season in the Pyramid Cup he got to the second round for the next five seasons he was in the Champions League and failed to get out of his group on each occasion. So he had not set the FC World alight onto his second spell in the game. His first season back in 2018 saw him re-join in Pyramid Two a 10th place was secured he also made the 2nd round of the Pyramid Cup and had his best ever run in the FC Cup getting to the 3rd round. Last season he survived relegation by points difference, another Qualifying Round defeat in the FC Cup and finishing bottom in his Pyramid Cup group. This season has been different though the Pyramid Two title has been secured and now the chance of a first major trophy.

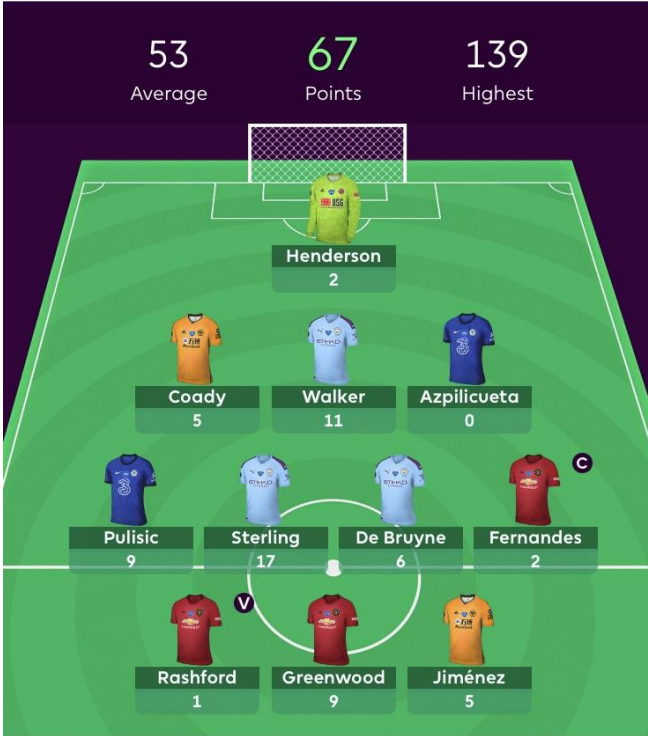


FC EXPERT MATCH ANALYSIS

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.

COLIN DAVISON
Gameweek 37+

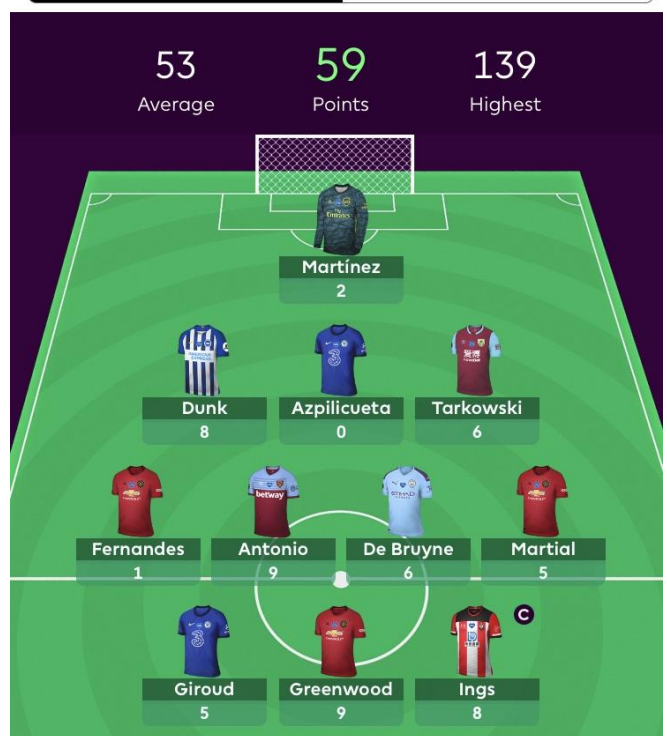
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GKP	1. MID	2. DEF	3. DEF
Ramsdale (11)	Saka (1)	Lundstram (1)	Fernández (6)

JOSPEH NICOLAIDES
Gameweek 37+

< Squad List >



GKP	1. MID	2. DEF	3. DEF
McCarthy (7)	David Silva (0)	Mendy (0)	Alexander-Arnold (13)

STAT ATTACK

67	SCORE	59
2	CAPTAIN	8
18	DEFENCE	16
34	MIDFIELD	21
15	ATTACK	22
1	TRANSFERS	1
3-4-3	FORMATION	3-4-3
		<i>Changed due to Automatic Substitutions</i>
NONE	CHIP PLAYED	NONE
NONE	CHIPS LEFT	BENCH BOOST

THE ANALYSIS

A very busy time of the season for me as I need to do match analysis of three cup finals. With the lockdown I have been given by FC Founder Paul Richardson's he would like the previews to be out on Friday at the latest even though they are taking place on Sunday. I will go through the teams but once more it is a final where one manager has a chip still to play which should tip the balance to them

If the two teams had met in gameweek 37 the result would have been as follow Colin Davison 67 – 59 Joseph Nicolaides.

DEFENCE



18 POINTS



16 POINTS

Kyle Walker (Manchester City) Proved to be the star performer for Davison claiming a clean sheet, Assist and bonus points. Conor Coady (Wolves) claimed a clean sheet, but a Yellow card meant he only secured 5 points. Azpilicueta (Chelsea) finished with no points as Liverpool hit 5 against Chelsea. Keeper Dean Henderson (Sheffield United) could only claim 2 points, as United lost 1-0 to Everton.

Lewis Dunk (Brighton) hit 8 points with Bonus points being added to his clean sheet. Tarkowski (Burnley) secured a clean sheet. Goalkeeper Martínez (Arsenal) had a disappointing return of 2 points. Azpilicueta (Chelsea) did even worse with no points, although he was an automatic substitution as Mendy (Manchester City) didn't play. Nicolaides left Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) on the bench with 13 points.

Both managers deployed a 3-man defence with Azpilicueta letting both down. The most significant part of both defences was Nicolaides failure to pick Alexander-Arnold meaning 13 points were left on the bench. Was going to say that Nicolaides will not be leaving Arnold on the bench in the final but he has a bench boost so it does not matter. Looking at the final day fixtures Davison will only be looking at Walker to once more secure a clean sheet. Nicolaides will be hoping that Arsenal can keep a clean sheet against Brighton. You would say that Tarkowski is a good bet but a last day match at home to Watford who have to win means it is not a certainty.

MIDFIELD



34 POINTS



21 POINTS

The only disappointment in this midfield performance was from captain Fernandes (Manchester United) picking up a Yellow card meant he only secured 1-point doubling to 2. Christian Pulisic (Chelsea) didn't start against Liverpool but turned in a stunning substitution appearance, Scoring and gaining an assist to score 9 points. Sterling (Manchester City) missed a penalty but still hit 16 points. De Bruyne (Manchester City) gaining an assist hit 6 points.

Antonio (West Ham) kept up his end of season form with a penalty alongside bonus points he hit 9. De Bruyne (Manchester City) got an assist to help him onto 6 points. Martial (Manchester United) got an assist to gain 5 points. A decent return from his midfielders as they either got on the scoresheet or gained an assist. One player though let them down Fernandes (Manchester United) the Portuguese midfielder has been the difference from Manchester United since arrival only got 1 point this gameweek.

Two big scores from the midfields interesting to see they both have Fernandes and De Bruyne, Fernandes being the big disappointment of the gameweek. Davison will be hoping that both Sterling and Pulisic can repeat their Gameweek 37 performances. Nicolaides will be hoping for more form Martial.

ATTACK

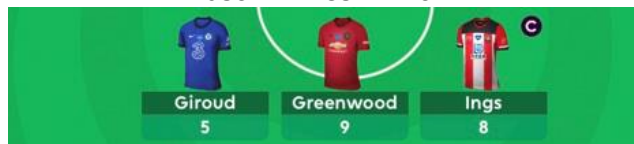
COLIN DAVISON



15 POINTS

Mason Greenwood (Manchester United) showing his promise with another goal hit 9 points. Jimenez (Wolves) gained an assist to score 5 points. Rashford (Manchester United) only 1 point after getting a yellow card was the only downfall in the front three. Davison might be wondering about having two players from the same team in a tough final fixture for Manchester United.

JOSEPH NICOLAIDES



22 POINTS

Greenwood (Manchester United) hit the most points in a forward line where everyone scored, 9 points for the young centre forward. Giroud (Chelsea) scored but was then subbed (he was actually an automatic substitution) in a 8 goal thriller but hit 5 points for Nicolaides. Ings (Southampton) got 8 points as captain but missed a penalty so should have had a better return.

Six centre forwards on show form the two managers and five all scoring or getting an assist to show the quality of the two teams forward lines. In Gameweek 37 Nicolaides came out on top and it should have been even better as Ings missed a penalty. Both managers have the young Greenwood. If they don't change, we see a head to head as Jimenez Wolves visit Giroud's Chelsea on the last day. Ings has a home game against Sheffield United which has the feel of a celebratory end of season for both clubs.

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

COLIN DAVISON

Fernandes (Manchester United) 2 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Sterling (Manchester City) 34 Points

Walker (Manchester City) 22 Points

Greenwood (Manchester United) 18 Points

Pulisic (Chelsea) 18 Points

JOSEPH NICOLAIDES

Ings (Southampton) 8 Points

COULD HAVE SELECTED

Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool) 26 Points

Greenwood (Manchester United) 18 Points

Antonio (West Ham) 18 Points

Neither manager got their captain picks in gameweek 37 right which is worry going into this final. For Davison what will give him hope though is that he had 4 great candidates in the gameweek he will be thinking one of these could fire in this final. Manchester City at home to Norwich must surely have him looking at Walker, Sterling or De Bruyne. Nicolaides got his captain pick horribly wrong, well the player who should have been captain was on the bench Alexander-Arnold. However, had Ings scored that penalty he would have hit 20 points. Looking at the last day of the season Nicolaides will be looking at the two Manchester City players who didn't play David Silva and Mendy. Surely Silva is going to play as it is his last Premier League game before he retires.

CHIPS

COLIN DAVISON

NONE

JOSEPH NICOLAIDES

BENCH BOOST

None played in Gameweek 37 but Nicolaides has his bench boost for the final if he had played this in Gameweek 37 it would have made all the difference as he had 20 points on the bench. Alexander-Arnold and Goalkeeper McCarthy (Southampton). His only concern being those two City players not playing anything like a 20-point return from his bench should surely see him win this final.

FINANCE / TRANSFERS / OPTIONS

COLIN DAVISON		JOSEPH NICOLAIDES	
FINANCE	TRANSFERS	FINANCE	TRANSFERS
£101.3	1	£100.2	1

Davison has 1 free transfer and £0.1 Million to add to any player he swaps out. He must be worried by his defenders Coady and Azpilicueta as they meet each other in a must win match for Chelsea but you fancy both teams to score to cost him Clean Sheet points. The question is on a final day where do find a clean sheet. Manchester City is the obvious candidate but he already has the maximum compliment of City players. A different proposition for Nicolaides as he will surely play that Bench Boost he has to look at Mendy as he didn't play and potentially look at a different Manchester City defender Garcia playing 90 minutes Zinchenko playing 24 even Stones coming on but Pep does keep rotating his back line so he might gamble on sticking with Mendy who had played the two previous games. With a bench boost he really needs a player that is going to play.

THEY HAVE MET BEFORE

Gameweek 15	Joseph Nicolaides	48	-	61	Colin Davison
Gameweek 34	Colin Davison	61	-	78	Joseph Nicolaides
Aggregate	Joseph Nicolaides	126	-	122	Colin Davison

THE CHIP EFFECT

CHIP	EXPLANATION
Wildcard	The Wildcard chip can be used twice a season, once in the first half of the season and once in the second half of the season. The Wildcard chip is played when confirming transfers that cost points and can't be cancelled once played.
Bench Boost	All the Players on your Substitute Bench score points for that gameweek
Free Hit	You can make unlimited transfers in the gameweek you play your free hit. When the gameweek finishes your team will revert to how it was setup the previous gameweek. You will lose any saved transfers so will only have 1 free transfer after a free hit has been played.
Triple Captain	Instead of the normal double points your Captains Points are tripled
OTHER INFORMATION	<p>Can I Play More than One Chip in a Gameweek Only one chip may be active in a Gameweek. For example, it is not possible to make transfers with your Wildcard chip and then use your Bench Boost chip in the same Gameweek</p> <p>The following chips can only be played once per season Bench Boost, Free Hit and triple Captain</p> <p>What happens to my Triple Captain chip if my captain doesn't play The triple point's bonus will be passed to your vice-captain. If your vice-captain doesn't play either then the bonus is lost, the chip isn't returned.</p>

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 26th July

Arsenal	V	Brighton & Hove Albion
Burnley	V	Watford
Chelsea	V	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Crystal Palace	V	Tottenham Hotspur
Everton	V	AFC Bournemouth
Leicester City	V	Manchester United
Manchester City	V	Norwich City
Newcastle United	V	Liverpool
Southampton	V	Sheffield United
West Ham United	V	Aston Villa

THE VERDICT

Looking at the two squads with just 4 players the same I would feel this would be an intriguing contest and the key would be the captain picks however Nicolaides has that Bench Boost which really puts the pressure on Davison to get his captain pick right.

As I look at Davison team and the fixtures on the final day, he must be going for one of his Manchester City players. He could gamble on Kyle Walker a clean sheet and an assist not so sure about Walker scoring. Or either of the two midfielders Sterling or De Bruyne surely both offering a goal scoring threat and chances of assists. Sterling representing the biggest goal threat but can he really hit as big a score again.

Nicolaides has De Bruyne and surely Silva will make that farewell appearance even without a crowd present. Just leave him to wonder about Mendy. Surely Nicolaides will go with one of these three also as captain which I feel will mean Davison will go for Sterling as he knows Nicolaides doesn't have Sterling he needs to have a different captain. I fancy Nicolaides to play it safe with De Bruyne. He does have the potential of a curve ball in the hope that Alexander-Arnold produces his gameweek 37 form away to Newcastle.

These captain picks and that Bench boost are the keys to this final.

FINAL VERDICT: - Nicolaides to claim the Pyramid Cup. That Bench Boost has to make all the difference in this final.

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	
2019	Dave Rogers	63	-	59	Joseph Greenwood	

WINNERS

Alvar Chambers	1
Darren Cullen	1
Dave Rogers	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
Colin Davison	1	Jatin Joshi	1
Dan Calder	1	Joseph Greenwood	1
Darren Cullen	1	Jospeh Nicolaides	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		

Progressing from, the Pyramid Cup

MANAGER

Michael Lynn
Matt Hansell
Darren Cullen
Steve Clarricoats

PYRAMID CUP

Runner-Up 2009
Runner-Up 2011
Winner 2012
Runner-Up 2016

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Runner-Up 2014
Winner 2014
Winner 2018
Runner-Up 2019