

Ben Palmer (00:01.352)

Alright, so Matt, let's start with how do you think the Premier League top five is going to look come the end of the season?

Matt (00:08.846)

Well, I actually think it's going to be a lot closer title race this season. I think there's three or four teams that can realistically win it this year. So I think those four teams are going to be Liverpool, Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea. So for me, it's all about picking the order that those four come in. I think if Isaac goes to Liverpool, I think Liverpool will win the title again.

I do think that Man City might be the closest rivals. I just don't see how they can be that bad again. So I think they'll be there all thereabouts. And I think the other two are Chelsea and Arsenal that could be up there challenging. Certainly the only thing that puts me off about Chelsea a little bit is obviously how far they went in the World Club competition.

and I think that might just handicap them a little bit. So I'm going to go for Arsenal to finish third, Chelsea fourth. And in fifth place is probably going to surprise a lot of people because I've gone for Man United. Because I feel like without the European football, think Amorim has got a real chance of working with these players and implementing this system. And I think that that could be a massive help to them this season.

Ben Palmer (01:39.572)

Okay, so you've left off Newcastle, Aston Villa and Tottenham who would probably be a few other people's favourites to fill that fifth spot. You like Man United, probably their new signings are playing a big part of that. What don't you like about the other three?

Matt (01:58.99)

What don't I like? I think there's obviously got to be a massive improvement in Spurs given what happened to them last season in the Premier League. I know they were playing Champions League football as well which I think might hinder them in the Premier League campaign. So that's why don't like them. Aston Villa I think will be there or thereabouts. I think Newcastle could be but they've...

They've just not really kind of had the kind of summer transfer window that I think Eddie Howe might have been expecting. And I think if they lose ESAC, I think that is a massive blow to them. So I think that's why, mean, Aston Buller and Newcastle were challenging for me for Man United for that first ball.

Ben Palmer (02:49.024)

Yeah, no, that makes a lot of sense. So jumping across to European football, how do you see the Champions League shaping up next year? Possibly for a winner and which Premier League club do you fancy to go furthest?

Matt (03:03.348)

Yeah, obviously PSG looked like a pretty amazing team back end of last season. think the World Club Cup, obviously the Club World Cup was maybe a step too far for them at end of a very long season. So I think they'll be there or thereabouts, but I think you can never write

off Real Madrid in that competition. think their history in that competition is so steeped in the club. I think they'll be under a lot of pressure to...

regain that competition again because I think that's the one that they always kind of really want to set their hearts on at the start of the season. So I think it'll be between those two. think Real Madrid or PSG. As for the English team that will go the furthest, I think probably, I'd probably go for City. Just mainly because of the amount of experience that they've had over the last few years. You know, they're used to dealing with that kind of...

And because of how poorly last season went, think the motivation will be back there again. I think they probably did lose a little bit of motivation having won the Premier League four years in on the spin, eventually winning the Champions League. But I think that motivation should be back at City again next year.

Ben Palmer (04:19.766)

I mean, think it was Arsenal who went furthest last season. How do think them and Liverpool might do?

Matt (04:25.12)

Yeah.

Matt (04:29.036)

No, wouldn't surprise me if all three of those teams actually were kind of getting into the later stages of the tournament. know, it wouldn't be a massive surprise if you saw those three teams all in the quarter-finals and possibly even the semi-finals. You know, I think there's obviously a lot of rich heritage with those clubs in the Champions League in recent years and I think they could, could Premier League clubs have the ability to dominate the competition.

in terms of numbers when it goes into those final stages.

Ben Palmer (05:02.57)

Yeah, yeah, that makes a lot of sense. Jumping back to the Premier League race, sort of established a top five. How do you think the bottom three is going to look this year? Because for the past two seasons, we've seen both teams, know, all three teams that have come up have gone straight back down. Do you think that'll be a similar case this year or are they looking stronger?

Matt (05:22.188)

Do you know what, I hope it's not the case because I don't want to see it becoming just a formality that the three that come up go straight back down again. Because I think that makes the actual league a little bit anti-competitive. I think it would be good to see at least one of those teams stay up. Having said that, and kind of looking at the strength of the squads and...

the teams that did come up. Obviously Sunderland came up by the playoffs. That's always a really tricky one. know, so that's what did it that route last season. We all saw what happened to them last year. And so I would say Sunderland are probably the favourites to go

down. They'd be my first pick. I think Burnley, I think would be my second pick. And if one team was going to stay up, I think I would choose perhaps Leeds.

I think if Leeds do stay up, and again it will be a massive ask, it's a big task to stay up now coming up from the Championship, but I've got a sneaking feeling after the players that they've sold this season that Brentford might be one of the ones that could struggle a little bit this year. They've lost a lot of firepower, they might lose Whissa before the season starts and a new manager in place.

It was his first job in the Premier League as a manager. I think it could be a bit of a struggle for him.

Ben Palmer (06:55.061)

Yeah, you make a good point. A couple of other teams that might be in the mix with them are potentially Wolves, West Ham, Everton. A lot of those teams in the middle ground have either lost a lot of players or struggled to strengthen this summer.

Matt (07:11.516)

Yeah, mean, even teams like Bournemouth have lost a couple of key defenders. The left back I thought was outstanding. Obviously, lost Haussler as well to Real Madrid. was a fantastic prospect. So it'll be tough for them to repeat what they did last season, I think. But if they get the recruitment right, and we've seen Brighton do it, we've seen them sell and still kick on again the following season. So it is possible. So yeah, that would be my thoughts for the bottom three.

Ben Palmer (07:41.43)

Yeah, yeah, now that makes a lot of sense. Now we've seen an influx of strikers coming into the league, lots of moves happening, lots of moves still to happen by the looks of things. Who do you reckon is going to be a Golden Boot winner, second and third? How do you think that will shake up?

Matt (07:58.218)

Yeah, I mean you can never really look too far past Harland because it's just an out and machine when it comes to scoring goals. Even in a bad season, he'll rack up.

so mid-20s, early-30s. So, difficult to look past him. I think the challenges to him would be, I think if Isak goes to Liverpool, I think he could challenge. I think they create a lot of chances there. And he is a very good finisher. And obviously, Jokeres has had a couple of good years and Arsenal create lots of chances. They've been gagging for a cent forward for a couple of years now. So he should really be licking his lips at the thought of...

being first choice in that team with the amount of chances that they create. So that would be my top three for me for the top scorers.

Ben Palmer (08:48.722)

No more salad.

Matt (08:50.855)

Well, that's the one I had to leave out because I was like, I think if Isak goes to Liverpool, I think he could nick a fair chunk of Salah's goals. That was my thinking when it came to the top three.

Ben Palmer (09:03.381)

controversial stuff moving from moving from goals to assists who's gonna fill that void that Kevin De Bruyne seems to have left by going to Napoli who do you think will be the top three in in that regard

Matt (09:05.501)

Hahaha

Matt (09:18.058)

So my top three in that regard would be Kai Saka. He's always good for an assist. He's not a greedy player. He always gets to a point sometimes where he'd rather assist than score a goal himself. So Saka would be up there for me alongside Cole Palmer at Chelsea who I think is a fantastic footballer.

and I think he'll only get better and better as he gets older. Really clever player, loves the goal as well. And my third choice will be Bruno Fernandes, who has obviously been very pivotal and one of the few players that have come out with any credit the last couple of years and he's always there and thereabouts and he's got, I think, better players in front of him now to convert the chances that he does create. So I think he might be up there in the assists.

Ben Palmer (10:13.651)

Yeah, no, that makes sense. makes sense. Once again, no no Mo Salah in that list.

Matt (10:18.281)

I know, that was again a really difficult one to leave out. I'm a big fan of Palmer and Saka and I just think that Fernandes has been so consistent with his goals and his assists that I think he might make a real difference this season. So if you asked me for four, Salah would have been number four.

Ben Palmer (10:39.129)

Yeah, yeah. And that would be great news for England if those two boys could be firing just a year before the World Cup. Thomas Thookey would love that.

Matt (10:48.294)

Yeah.

Yeah, he certainly would. We'd all love that.

Ben Palmer (10:53.395)

So going for your player of the year then, if you had a top three, who'd you pick?

Matt (10:59.738)

Yeah, I mean it's always a really difficult one to try and predict the player that you kind of look for the guys that score loads of goals first and foremost because that's obviously quite a lot of the time they're the ones that kind of grab all the headlines. It's very rare you get like a Virgil van Dijk maybe to come in and win. So the three that I've gone for are you won't be surprised or goal scorers. So I went for Esac.

if he goes to Liverpool, because I think he will score a shedload of goals for them. And if they win the league, that'll also be another tick in the box. So basically, if Isaac goes to Liverpool and they win the league, I'm thinking Isaac will probably be player of year. That's my thinking behind that. I also, as I mentioned before, love Cole Palmer, again, not just for the assist, but because the boy can score goals as well.

I love the way he plays football, enjoy watching him play, sees passes that a lot of players don't see. So he'd be up there for me. And the other one I went with was Jokers. Because I think in that Arsenal team, just like Isak, I think they create so many chances that if he has a reasonable season, he should convert quite a lot of them. And I think he could be up there.

Ben Palmer (12:16.149)

Trust a man who scored goals for a living to tell us that those are the things that matter. So on a slightly less positive note, but who do you think will be the first Premier League manager to be sacked this season?

Matt (12:21.041)

Thank

Matt (12:30.504)

Yeah, this is always a kind of quite nasty one to talk about really, because you don't like people losing their jobs first and foremost. But I think, as I said before, with the relegation stuff, I think Brentford might struggle a little bit. And if they do, it will be interesting to see just how much patience they have with Keith Andrews. know, man in his first job, if he doesn't get off to a good start, it puts you under a lot of pressure straight away.

So he was kind of the guy that sprang to mind first and foremost. Or if you want a little bit of an outsider, because I think this one is about 16 to one, I think Graham Potter, if West Ham start badly, I think we'll be under pressure quite early. I really do. So they're the two names that kind of sprung out for me when I took a look down the list.

Ben Palmer (13:13.877)

Ben Palmer (13:21.129)

Makes a lot of sense. mean, Graham Potter, kind of snuck under the radar a little bit at the end of last season and, you know, had a couple of wins when perhaps they didn't really matter as much, but he didn't have an easy start to life at West Ham, he?

Matt (13:33.189)

Yes.

Matt (13:38.215)

No, he hasn't pulled up trees. He's obviously lost, lost as well. So it's gonna be, you know, it's gonna be tough for him. That West Ham team, you would imagine kind of being in that zone from, you know, anywhere from kind of, I don't know, 10th down to 16th, that kind of area. You know, and if they have a poor start, you know, West Ham aren't renowned for being particularly patient with their managers.

Ben Palmer (14:04.213)

Hmm. Another manager who, I mean, it's impossible to avoid the spotlight and, you know, the harsh realities of being the Man United boss, but do reckon Amram will still be Man United manager come January?

Matt (14:18.631)

Yeah, do you know what, I think you will. I think that for so long they've kind of chopped and changed the managers. I've got a feeling they've been fairly patient so far. And as I said before, if they are...

not playing in Europe and having a reasonable campaign in the Premier League and are challenging the European places, then I think they'll stick with it. They're back to him in the transfer market and I think the players that he has bought will make a difference. I like Cunha, I think he's got a lot to offer Man United. And Boimo had a very good season last year, talented boy, so there's no reason why they shouldn't improve quite a lot on that season show.

Ben Palmer (15:03.187)

Yeah, yeah, no, that makes a lot of sense. Speaking about yourself, which current Premier League manager do you reckon would have got the best out of you?

Matt (15:12.486)

That was a really interesting question when I looked through the passages. Most people in that situation are probably Pep Guardiola. But I look at it and go, actually, I don't think Pep Guardiola would have liked the way that I played. I was a bit too...

out of the norm. think he likes his patterns of play and players to do it. You've seen what he's done to Jack Grealish really, I think is the thing that I looked at and thought, he's knocked all that unpredictability out of Jack Grealish a little bit and that was the kind of player I was. So I kind of veered away from Pep. I actually got down to Thomas Frank, who I think has done a remarkable job at Brentford.

I really like him as a manager. I think he comes across as a really decent bloke, a bloke you want to play for as a player. know, his teams play good, attractive football. So yeah, I landed on Thomas Frank for that one.

Ben Palmer (16:09.961)

I like that answer a lot. And putting two and two together there, you've mentioned Jack Rielish, who Everton are currently talking about doing alone with. He has been linked with Tottenham. Do think that might be a better landing spot for him? Given that, you you said as a creative player, an outside the box kind of player in all senses, Thomas Frank might be actually a really good manager for him.

Matt (16:33.465)

Yeah.

Matt (16:37.318)

I think he would be. I also think it might be a little bit more likely given what's happened to James Madison. Because they've lost that bit of creativity for most of the season. So yeah, wouldn't surprise me if Tottenham did.

pop a sneaky little bid in for Jack and see if they can get him because he is a Tottenham kind of player, you like. The way that he likes to play. I was always described as a Spurs player and I had the chance to go there, turned it down, which was when I was 21 years of age. And I was actually a Spurs fan as a kid as well, which made it even more difficult.

Ben Palmer (17:19.285)

Why'd you turn it down?

Matt (17:21.434)

It was family situation at the time. I was just about to get married. My fiancée didn't want to go live in London. So I had to make a decision.

Ben Palmer (17:31.733)

Yeah, all for the best though. Yeah, and mean sticking with Grealish, if he does end up at Everton or wherever he ends up, do you think that, what do think he'd need to do next season in order to make the World Cup squad? Do you think that's a realistic proposition for him if he's playing regularly?

Matt (17:34.168)

Yeah, no regrets.

Matt (17:52.677)

Yeah, if he's playing regularly and creating and scoring goals on a regular basis, I think it would be difficult to ignore him from an England manager's point of view. Because if he is in good form, then there's not many better creative players in the English team, to be honest. He's right up there amongst the best of them. So I think he's got to be very careful about where he ends up. He's got to make sure he plays some football before the summer.

And yeah, if he is scoring regularly and assisting regularly, then I think it would be very hard for Thomas Tuchel to leave him out.

Ben Palmer (18:31.765)

Yeah, yeah, no, it'd good to see. I think he adds that sort of element of unpredictability that is often lacking from various sides, but particularly England side. Alexander Ezek, if you had to put your money where your mouth was, where's he going to be playing come 1st of September?

Matt (18:37.836)

Absolutely.

Matt (18:43.365)

Okay.

Matt (18:56.676)

I think he will be at Liverpool. I think he will be. In these situations, it's very rare that the club comes out on top and the player normally gets his own way in this situation. Obviously Newcastle probably have to make sure they have a replacement in before they sell him, but I think that probably will happen at some point and I think come September 1st, I think he'll be a Liverpool player.

Ben Palmer (19:21.139)

Yeah, I mean they want 150 million pounds for him. Do you think Alexander Isak's worth 150 million pounds?

Matt (19:29.123)

I don't think any footballer's worth £150 million quite frankly. So that's probably one of the hardest things that the players have to come to terms with when they make these moves is having that weight around their necks really of that massive fee. And that's one of the hardest things they have to deal with because the pressure that comes with that is enormous because the fans are expecting.

to pull up all sorts of trees because you just paid a king's ransom for it. So if it doesn't go well straight away, people aren't going to give you a huge amount of time to get it right. So yeah, I don't feel like any crop that's really worth 150 million could maybe mess up in its prime.

Ben Palmer (20:12.135)

Or maletus, yeah. Benjamin Sesko. No, maybe, it might be. Benjamin Sesko. 1st of September. Newcastle won him. Man United won him. RB Leipzig won him. Where do you think he ends up?

Matt (20:13.751)

No.

Matt (20:20.523)

Ha ha ha ha.

Matt (20:29.155)

I think from all the noises going around, I think he ends up at United. From what we're hearing, he's more keen on that move than the Newcastle one. And as I said before, if a player's got a desire and the money's there and there's decent figures they're talking about.

then that's what normally gets done. yeah, think come September the 1st, I think you'll probably be a Man United player, maybe even before then.

Ben Palmer (21:00.733)



If it was you in his position, which club would you choose? Because obviously Newcastle can offer more in terms of the immediate sporting project, if you will. But Man United has come with a heritage of being Man United. What strikes you as more important?

Matt (21:14.071)

Yeah.

Matt (21:20.516)

I think when you look at all the pros and cons, I think right at this moment in time, I'd probably choose Newcastle United. know, if Champions League football, number one.

And I think you also got probably a little less pressure at Newcastle than you would be under at Man United. The need to be immediately successful at Man United is unbelievable. You've seen what happened with Hoyland. You don't get off to a good start. You don't score goals straight away. You start getting criticized. You find yourself on the subs bench very quickly. And it's tough. I think at Newcastle, I think you'd probably get a little bit more slack as well.

Ben Palmer (22:03.103)

Yeah, that makes sense. And another man who's been linked quite heavily with Newcastle, amongst others, is Mark Gahey. Where do think he ends up this summer?

Matt (22:12.715)

Yeah, Marc's an interesting one. Obviously, Palace have got some European football. We don't know which one for sure just yet. So that's still that little carrot there for him. I think it wouldn't surprise me if he stayed at Palace, especially if they got their place back in the Europa League.

as opposed to the conference. think that might make a little bit of a difference in his mind. But certainly, I think if he was to leave Crystal Palace, I think probably Newcastle would be his destination. And I think it'd be a good signing for Newcastle. think that centre-half position, I think, is one that they could do with strengthening a little bit, and I think he would be that player.

Ben Palmer (22:57.845)

He's been linked quite a lot with Liverpool who obviously have a very established two at the moment with Van Dijk and Canarte. But Canarte much like Geyi is in the last year of his contract. Do think that's a move that Liverpool should push for this summer?

Matt (23:13.858)

I mean, depending on what they've heard from Carnate in terms of, does he want to sign another contract? Is his long-term future there? That would make a big difference. If they've spoken to him, he's of he's stalling little bit on negotiating the contract, then it would be best to have a contingency plan in place. And think Gahey would fit that role pretty well.

Ben Palmer (23:37.267)

Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. This summer, we've seen a lot of moves. Who are the three that have stood out to you as, like those signings?

Matt (23:47.202)

So I think the first one for me is that Arsenal have been screaming for a set before for a long time so Yoppa Rez I think was for me a must.

signing this summer for Arsenal. They had to sign a centre forward of some substance this summer. We've seen his gold scoring record over the last couple of seasons. It's been pretty impressive. yeah, think Arsenal getting a decent centre forward in was key. So that's my first one. I really like Kunja as a player. I think sometimes he can be a little hot-headed. So he's got to learn to curb that maybe a little bit. And that's something that Amroun can help him with.

But I think he's definitely a player that Man United were missing. didn't have, they haven't got that kind of player in their squad, I don't think. You know, he's very direct, he can score from anywhere. You know, so I really like him, I think he'll be a good signing for Man United. And my third one, I've gone for a bargain as opposed to one of the big money signings. Because I actually think Brentford getting Kelleher off Liverpool for 18 million quid.

I think he's a really good bit of business. I think he's a very good goalkeeper. Obviously he's been behind an excellent goalkeeper for a while. But I think when he's coming to the team, don't think he's let Liverpool down. I think he's an outstanding keeper. I think for 18 million quid, think Brentford have got themselves a bargain.

Ben Palmer (25:14.517)

I wholeheartedly agree with you there. I think there have been quite a few good keepers who have gone for fairly reasonable fees this summer. Georgi Petrovic also stands out as one who couldn't break in at Chelsea, but I think him and Keller are good signings there. So I like that. I like that shout a lot. On the flip side, who are some transfers which you can't really wrap your head around?

Matt (25:31.445)

Yeah, absolutely.

Matt (25:43.417)

Okay, so the first one, mean, Anthony Alanga is decent enough player, don't get me wrong, but I thought 55 million quid was way overpriced, if I'm honest.

So I've kind of gone for that as a baffling one because I just thought, you know, if they could have got him for like 30 million I would have gone, yeah, okay, I see that. But I just think 55 million quid, I've not seen 55 million quids worth of talent. You know, I think he's a good player.

But I thought that was overpriced a little bit for me. That would be the first one. Another one who I thought was a little bit overpriced. And he's a good goalkeeper, get me wrong, but James Trafford at 31 million. I think it's a lot of money to pay for. I think he was essentially going to be a backup goalkeeper. So another one that I kind of went, hmm, that's a strange one. Not just because of the price, but for the lad himself.

rather be at a club where I know I'm going to play and not be second fiddle to somebody else and just sit there and pick your money up. So that was kind one that baffled me little bit. And the other one, who I think is overpriced and it's very much in the Alanga type bracket because he's good player.

Don't get me wrong. And he's got ability there, but I think 52 million pounds for Noni Madweke, I think was also one that baffled me a little bit. And also from Art Storr's point of view, the fact that Chelsea are willing to let him go to one of their perceived rivals.

Matt (27:29.663)

I think that would be for me, that would be a bit of a red flag from Arsenal's point of view because they go, oh, why aren't they selling him to us? They obviously don't think he's that good. So to get 52 billion quid for him was one that made me scratch my head a little bit. So yeah, a little bit baffled by that one. The other one was probably Granit Shacker, who is, what's he now, 32, he's closing in on 33. I think his best days are behind him.

and he's going to be in a team that's, you know, he's gone from a by-labor cuisine team that were, you know, pretty good to being somebody who's going to be in a team that's going to be struggling at the bottom end of the table and I'm not sure he's going be used to that.

Ben Palmer (28:11.446)

Do you think it's a of a short sighted move in that case? Do you think it was a bit, oh we've got a young squad, we need someone with experience, let's go get.

Matt (28:20.861)

Yeah, yeah, I think that's that was possibly the case and obviously I just I think his best days are behind him and for that kind of money I don't think that could have maybe found somebody a little bit. I don't know because I don't even think he's you know that shows the greatest example as a senior pro you know we saw some of his tantrums at Arsenal so it's not like he's you know.

the model pro to set a great example for the young kids. So that's why it just kind of made me go, ah, that's a strange one.

Ben Palmer (28:55.092)

Yeah, yeah, I think I'm in that camp with you as well. think his image has been rehabilitated quite well by his time at Balevkust and I think people forget when he stormed off the pitch and his blue bars, yeah, which helps. So if Liverpool do get their hands on Isaac, which is, you know, the biggest if at the moment this summer, you've tipped them to win the league. How big do you think that gap could be? Are we talking like...

Matt (29:04.051)

Yeah, people have got short memories.

Hahaha

Ben Palmer (29:24.918)

they're going to cruise to the league or is it other teams that are going to to fight?

Matt (29:27.822)

Do you know what? I'd like to think the league was going to be bit tighter this year, to be honest. think the teams that were behind Liverpool last year have obviously got some work through. They took a bit of a punch to the face last season and I think they'll come back fully motivated to actually make a better fist of it this year.

So I think Liverpool will win the title if he signs, but I don't think it'll be a walkover like it was last season.

Ben Palmer (29:59.937)

Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. Isaacs had sort of a weird summer where it all kind of seemed to kick off actually quite late after a lot of moves were done. And then he went and, you know, first dropped out of the squad by saying he a groin injury or injury of some sort. Went and trained at his old club.

has since come back but might be barred from training. I mean, what do you think about his conducts? Where he's clearly pushing for a move. Do you think this is sort of acceptable behaviour from a player?

Matt (30:36.734)

I've never liked seeing players kind of down talls if you like, know, okay, know, minor groin injury and all that kind of stuff and I'm not really buying that. know, that's the excuse that's used just to get them away from the squad while all this is kicking off. I've never been a fan of players kind of signing contracts with clubs.

and then the minute another team comes sniffing around them going, oh yeah, I don't care about that contract anymore, just let me go, just get rid of me. So I just feel like players should be a little bit more loyal to the club so they actually sign those contracts too. And if the club at some point goes, know what, we've had a really good bid for you, we think this is what you're worth, here's the opportunity, do you wanna go and talk to them? That's how it should be, it shouldn't be the player going, no, I'm not,

I'm not happy here, I want go to that club because they're going to pay me more money. I'm only on a hundred grand a week here, I could be on two hundred grand a week there, well hang on a minute. You were quite happy when you signed that contract to take that money. So let's not get ahead of ourselves. So I just think it's not the way that I would have behaved, but it doesn't surprise me with the modern day footballer.

Ben Palmer (31:57.172)

Yeah, different breed. Yeah, mean, talking on the broader point of Newcastle as well, I mean, their summer has been awful. It sucked. They've got, they've overspent on Alanga. They've signed Aaron Ramsdale on loan, who's potentially not even going to be the starting goalkeeper. They've missed out on half the Premier League.

Matt (31:59.825)

Yeah.

Ben Palmer (32:23.094)

terms of signing new players, what do you think is happening there? Why is it going wrong?

Matt (32:29.243)

It's a really good question actually because you'd think that with the lure of Champions League football next season that it would be much easier to attract these kind of players. Now it'd be real kick in the teeth for them if SESCO decides that he would prefer to go and play at Man United with zero European football.

as opposed to going to play at Newcastle with Champions League football. I mean that would be a heck of a kick in the teeth if that does transpire, which it looks like it's going to. So that would signal it's pretty poor summer of business. But obviously there's still a few weeks to go, so we don't know what may end up in the pipeline. So yeah, so far it's been very disappointing and I'm sure Eddie Howe is very frustrated with how it's gone. And I think...

he'll be pushing in these last few weeks to strengthen that squad with some top quality players who don't prefer playing at clubs that are not even in European football.

Ben Palmer (33:29.972)

Yeah, do you think this is like, you know, from your experience, is this something that players potentially talk about? You know, it just seems that everyone's kind of in agreement that Newcastle is not a club you should join this summer.

Matt (33:43.547)

Yeah, I mean it's really strange. I don't know if it's anything to do with the finances there. You don't know if the wages they're offering are anywhere near perhaps what the likes of Man United and Liverpool are offering. And if that's the case then...

There's obviously the financial fair play that's got to be considered in all of this. So, yeah, it's really complex and unless you kind of really know the ins and outs of the finances behind the scenes, it's really difficult to make a good judgement call on what is the reason why these players are turning this club down.

Ben Palmer (34:21.418)

Yeah, yeah, yeah, no, And also speaking about another sort of transfer debacle that happened, Morgan Gibbs White, what do you think happened there?

Matt (34:34.076)

She said that's a really good question because I was completely baffled by it by that one I really was. all that interest in him, he then ends up signing a new contract and you just wonder, blimey, what has happened there? What's going on? It was just really strange the way they all transpired and again unless you're kind of privy to the behind-the-scenes talks and all that kind of stuff it's really difficult to make a judgment.

But you know, I like Morgan Gibson-White, I think he's a good player. I think had a cracking season last year. Where would he best fit? Would he be a Spurs type player? Probably. I think he's one of those players who can have a really good season, but I he's also got it in

him to kind of be having different spells. He's not always on top of his game and it's really difficult.

to do that, to be that consistent. so, yeah, I was surprised. I really was surprised when I saw that he signed a new contract with Forrest. I thought that was the last thing I was going to hear this summer.

Ben Palmer (35:44.151)

Yeah, I mean it was just so weird, like I'm with you on that. I thought this was going to be something that dragged on and on and that ultimately he was going to end up at Spurs. I was so stunned by his decision to commit to the club, especially because it made so much sense for him to try and take a step up considering he's on the fringes of the England squad. Like he only made the squad.

Matt (35:57.211)

Mmm.

Matt (36:09.891)

Yeah, absolutely.

Ben Palmer (36:13.044)

because Cole Palmer dropped out last time due to injury.

Matt (36:16.889)

Yeah, yeah, that's a very good point. I think if he's got those realistic ambitions for England, then I know only too well that it's much harder to get an England squad if you're not playing at one of the bigger clubs. And so, yeah, I thought that might have come into his thinking a little bit this summer. But, you know, things change very quickly in football and you never know what happens in January or at end of the season.

Ben Palmer (36:45.095)

Speaking about January, do you think there's a chance that he ends up at Tottenham then?

Matt (36:50.491)

I think depending on how the season's going at Forest, I think if they have a season like they did last year, which was pretty unbelievable really, then I think he'll probably be more than happy to stay because he'll have the profile. But if they struggle a little bit, and he's not in England contention, then he'll never know. might look at it again in January and go, I really want to go to the World Cup.

I need to get away from it. So yeah, we could see some movement there. And obviously, because he signed a new contract now, that'll push his valuation up. Forrest will get more money. So you never know. That could come into it.

Ben Palmer (37:31.766)

And another club that he was linked with was Man City. mean, obviously, you know, we've spoken about the sort of Tottenham type player and Man City not type player. Do you think

he, do you think that would be a good move for him or is he perhaps a better player under someone like Thomas Frank?

Matt (37:49.691)

I don't know, I think he'd adapt to Pep's ways. I think he could do that. I think he's got enough discipline about his play to be able to play the way that Pep wants him to play. So yeah, it wouldn't surprise me to see him at Man City at some point.

Ben Palmer (38:06.326)

Do think they'd be interested in going back for him in January?

Matt (38:10.523)

Again, you have to look at what the league table looks like come January before you start thinking about that kind of thing. If they're right in the mix and they feel like he could make a difference between now and the end of the season, then obviously they've got the cash there and they could go and splash that in January and have a real go at the title if they are within a few points of the top of the table or even sat on top of the table.

Ben Palmer (38:36.95)

We've spoken about some interesting strikers who have come to the Premier League and some interesting ones that already here. Which Premier League forward would you most have liked playing alongside?

Matt (38:51.304)

well, can't run one.

Ben Palmer (38:52.382)

Mm-hmm.

Matt (38:54.624)

That's a good question.

I think for his all-round play, obviously Harlan's probably the best goalscorer, but for the all-round play, think Isaac, his all-round play is probably a little bit better than...

Harland's, know, in terms of his his hold-up play and bringing other players into the game I think he's probably a little bit better than that So that would probably suit me better because obviously I like to score a lot of goals as well And if I was in the team with Harland, I probably would have get many chances

Ben Palmer (39:30.39)

Yeah, you want a supplier, not just a bags man.

Matt (39:35.328)

Yeah, no, I mean, I don't mind setting people up. I'd like to get my fair share too.

Ben Palmer (39:42.016)

Yeah, no, Isaac's a good child. I mean, I was thinking of someone like you. don't know, someone like Sesko, a big lad, you know, someone who'll take a lot of the brunt of you know, centre-backs attention, open up some space. Do you think you would have played well with him?

Matt (39:57.081)

Yeah, yeah, mean actually, you know, some of my best seasons were where I kind of played off of, I'm not saying he's in the same quality, but I played off of Ian Dowey at Southampton, who was just like a, probably got a little bit of flak from the Saints fans. I thought unfairly because he did a lot of.

good unseen work and he made a lot of space for me. He set up a lot of goals for me and took a lot of the defences away from Mark and me because he was such a physical presence and he would flick balls on and I'd know where he was flicking them to. So yeah, I could play off of that kind of striker quite easily.

Ben Palmer (40:37.079)

Is there someone in the Premier League now that you think, know, a striker specifically, gets a bit flack, maybe doesn't score as many as they should, but fits that category of a player who, you know, as a player you appreciate them, maybe as a fan you don't see it quite as much?

Matt (40:54.681)

I kind of look at Darwin Nunes along those lines. He puts a decent shift in for the team. He does a lot of good things and then he's not always the coolest finisher in front of goal.

Unfortunately for him, and I think that's probably going to cost him his Liverpool career. yeah, Dalvin is a guy that gives his all for the team every time. It just doesn't always work out for him.

Ben Palmer (41:26.391)

Yeah, yeah, I like that, yeah. I think he seems like the kind of guy you'd love to play with. He puts so much work in. But Liverpool fan, must be a nightmare watching him.

Matt (41:35.318)

Yeah. Yeah.

Ben Palmer (41:41.432)

So we spoke a little bit about the Club World Cup. Do you think that's something that Chelsea and City might come to regret participating in given Chelsea specifically? mean they are just in their preseason. Their players are going to play this Club World Cup then they're going to go play the World Cup. It's going to be a long, long period for them.

Matt (41:55.095)

Yeah.

Matt (42:06.89)



I think it's going to be a good challenge for the managers of both those clubs to manage the workload of those players. And as I said earlier, because Chelsea went that little bit further, it just means I think that they'll be, you know, perhaps, I mean, the one good thing about Chelsea is they've certainly got enough players to rotate the squad, you know, and City probably too as well. But I think it will have more of a detrimental effect.

on Chelsea possibly than at Wilma City just because they went that little bit further in its own.

Ben Palmer (42:38.743)

And you had them in your top five. Do you think that they might be a surprise contender to actually just not make it into the top five because of that?

Matt (42:50.873)

There is a possibility of that, yeah. I've taken that into consideration. So yeah, I mean it wouldn't surprise me at some point if they had a little bit of a dip. mean, probably not the first few months, but it wouldn't surprise me if around Christmas time you see that their results just go off the ball a little bit because they've played a lot of months of consecutive football. And it does take its toll a little bit on the body, and especially those players who are looking to go to the World Cup.

If they've got half an eye on that, also got to have half an eye on how their body is during the season. as I say, it's going to be a tough thing for the managers to try and manage the minutes of the players throughout the season. But that's what they get paid the big bucks for. So I don't feel sorry for them.

Ben Palmer (43:37.016)

You and me both. Speaking about that, how do you manage that as a player? You've got an eye on the national team and you've got an eye on what the manager might be looking for and thinking about, but you've also got a club to play for, pay your wages. How do you sort of contend with a World Cup or Euros year?

Matt (44:04.182)

Yeah, I mean, think that's something that the players themselves, I think each one of them is different. I think each one them have different fitness levels. I think the sports science departments are key in all of this at the moment as well, because they'll be able to monitor the workloads of the players, as well as have that input from the players about how they're feeling and what sort of levels they feel their game is at. So yeah, it's a tricky one. But like you say, the...

The players have to remember first and foremost, it's the clubs that pay your wages. You know, so you've got to do your best every time you put out for your club and you can't really kind of go in half-hearted. You know, so if you're going to be picked for a game, you can't be picking for the game going, yeah, but I've got that next week and I don't really want to go into that tackle. You know, so it's, I think they've got to be realistic and got to be true to their clubs and the people that pay their wages.

Ben Palmer (44:59.255)

think that perhaps Morgan Gibbs-White in that sense is actually just prioritising his club career over his international career and going, I've got a really good thing going here at Forest. I could make the step up to another club and put myself in a better position for England. But actually I want to have this good club career first and foremost.

Matt (45:25.226)

Yeah, yeah, mean, there's also the fact you've got to take into consideration that he might have looked at those clubs and thought, how am I going to be the first choice in my position every week? Whereas, you know, he kind of knows that Forrest is going to be. And that was an important factor for me when I was when I was at Southampton. You know, I always.

wanted to be playing football. And that's a consideration that players have to make when they're choosing to go to different club. They've got to look at the squad and go, okay, am I going to play every week? Because if that's what's important to you, that's the decision you've got to base it on. That's the information you've got to take on board and think, okay.

Do I want to be at a team where I might play 18 or 20 games this season? Or do I want to play every week? And that's a big thing in some players' minds. Not all players, I don't think, are just there for the money alone.

Ben Palmer (46:25.431)

Yeah, yeah, no, it makes a lot of sense, you know, sort of with the modern rigors of professional football, playing things like the Club World Cup in a summer, it kind of makes sense. have to prioritise certain things and, you know, sort of leave other things by the wayside.

Matt (46:45.022)

Yeah, absolutely.

Ben Palmer (46:47.223)

Man City, you know, talking about the Club World Cup, they have spent this summer but I mean what do you think the consequences would be if they had another season like last year? What happens to Pep Guardiola for instance?

Matt (47:05.45)

Yeah, that's a good question actually. I think he's bought up enough credit in the bank to not be under pressure for his job, let's put it that way, but I'm sure his own personal pride would have taken a bit of a bathroom. Last season was one that they've very quickly want to forget. Obviously they didn't go as far as they wanted to in the Club World Cup either.

So I think Pep's basically playing for his reputation next season because if he has another season like that one people are then going to start asking questions. I don't think they will to be honest.

His drive and his motivation, I think, will be back because of what happened that season. And I think he'll drill that into his players. He's had to cope with a lot, obviously, with players leaving to Braynor going. Obviously, he had Rodri injured for most of last season. And, you know, players who just kind of lost a little bit of form and a little bit of confidence. It's

amazing. It doesn't matter how good you are as a team. If you start losing a few games and your confidence goes...

it's really hard to get that back, you know, and that's kind of what happened to Manchester City last season, so they've got to get off to a good start, I think.

Ben Palmer (48:27.179)

Yeah, yeah, and I mean they've got quite a few players who will be going to the World Cup as well. Do you think that perhaps that actually might play into their benefit with, you know, people like Phil Foden, you know, and others sort of on those fringes of maybe a Cole Palmer should play or a Bukai Osaka should play? Do you think actually he might elevate his performance next season and help Manchester City more than he did last year?

Matt (48:54.676)

Yeah, I think with the World Cup on the horizon, think it is something that the players will obviously have half an eye on. And they'll want to be in the squad, so they'll be looking to find top form just so that the manager doesn't have an excuse to leave them out. Because there is competition for places in those squads, there definitely is that, so that should help Pep and should help people like Phil Foden to regain his form again.

Ben Palmer (49:22.753)

Yeah, yeah. Heading up north.

Celtic, four titles in a row, looked very good under Brendan Rodgers, seem very confident with the project they've got going on there. The Rangers, new owners, new manager, things are starting to look good, bit of a rough game against Motherwell, but last night they were brilliant in their Champions League qualification. How do you think the Scottish Premier League will shake up this season?

Matt (49:56.18)

I think I'd expect Rangers to get a little bit closer to Celtic this season. And then, you know, think Russell Martins' start of play was obviously something that got criticised down here quite a bit at Southampton. And I think rightly so because I think we didn't have the players that could play in the way that he wanted us to play. And I feel like he could have changed that a little bit.

and his stubbornness really was the reason he got the sack because I think actually some of them didn't really want to give him the sack. They liked him and unfortunately the results were just going very south as we saw. So I think he will make Rangers better and think we'll get him close to the Celtic. I'm not sure whether they can overtake them in one season. Like you say, already dropped points.

against Motherwell which is the kind of games that they've been dropping points in over the last few seasons which is why they haven't really gotten close to Celtic. But you also got this season which I thought was interesting was Tony Bloom investing at Hearts. Now he doesn't give away his money easily. He'll want to

try and shape things up in Scotland and I think I saw in an interview say that he'd want Hartz to be winning the title in the next decade. That's quite a statement given how dominant Celtic have been and with Rangers being normally the ones that are challenging. So it would be interesting to see what sort of input he has, what sort of investment they have at Hartz.

and just to see if they can actually get closer to the offer.

Ben Palmer (51:50.101)

Yeah, now is interesting you made that point because Tony Bloom has been very successful with every club, both clubs that he has, you know, been involved with. Brighton's the obvious one, but Union Saint-Gervais in Belgium, they won the title last year after, you know, not really being a feature in Belgian football for a long time. Do you think that that...

you know, could come quicker perhaps than a decade. Do you think that perhaps hearts could really shake it up?

Matt (52:22.641)

I mean, it wouldn't surprise me because the model that he's got down there at Brighton has been incredible. The one massively great thing that Brighton have done well is the recruitment.

And if they get the recruitment right at heart, it's not a league where you're playing teams of the ilk of Liverpool or PSG or Real Madrid. I must say it's only Celtic they've got to take over. But it's not that standard, it isn't that much higher.

that they can, you they've got spend a decade trying to get there. If they get the recruitment right, I think what they have to then do is if they are getting that recruitment right, is then to not sell their best players to Celtic. That, think for me, is the key to it.

This is where, down in England, a lot of fall down and they can't keep climbing because when you have a couple of good seasons as a smaller club, if you like, you do find that the bigger clubs come in, your best players, take your manager, and it becomes hard then to go again. So if they get the recruitment right at heart and they don't sell their best players to Celtic or Rangers, then who knows what could happen.

Ben Palmer (53:43.357)

Yeah, yeah, no, it will be really fascinating to see if that top two can become a top three and whether that can be hearts.

Matt (53:53.232)

Yeah, absolutely. We'll keep an eye.

Ben Palmer (53:54.623)

Yeah, no, I like that shout a lot. Scottish Player of the Year then. Last year, very deservedly, dies in Maeda. A sort of clean sweep of the awards. Do you think that it will be him again next year or do think there's someone else in that league who stands out to you as they can really break through?

Matt (54:14.482)

Yeah, mean, it's a fair chance it's going to be a Celtic player. But then you've got people like Lauren Shacklett, who scores a lot of goals. So, you know, he's obviously going to be in and amongst that, I would have thought the top scorers.

for the season that we spoke about earlier. You look at those guys that are scoring all the goals are the ones that get the headlines and when the trophies start being handed out they're normally at the top of the list. And the other one for me was Cyril Dessers who I think is a decent goalscorer. I think if he gets on a roll he could quite easily be challenging the top goalscorer up in Scotland and if you are in that

If you're in that battle, then you're normally in the running for player of the season as well.

Ben Palmer (55:06.784)

Yeah, he looked really good alongside Gasama and Ant-Man yesterday. I mean, that front three is frightening. They are quick and Dess is, you know, sort of that striker you spoke about about he's quite structured. He plays as a number nine and players seem to really play off him very well. Do you think that those, you know, that trio could be pivotal for Rangers to push this year?

Matt (55:31.449)

Yeah, I think that's one of the key things when you've got a team that like to play the way that Russell Martin does. I think you've got to have players up front that can worry teams in behind.

I think if you've got that pace, you then tend to find that the opposition will just back off a little bit and will allow the space then for the way that Russell Martin wants to play. So it's kind of key to have that kind of pace in your team. And he's obviously worked that out. I just hope we see a much closer title race in Scotland this year.

Ben Palmer (56:10.102)

Yeah, no, I think it's just always good for the league, good for any league. I mean, you mentioned Shankland, mentioned Dessers. Who do you think is going to be top scorers this season?

Matt (56:23.762)

Yeah, I think it will come out of one of those three that we've already mentioned. think I'll probably go for, think Deces might be up there. I'm gonna go for him as a, I think he's like maybe third or fourth favourite or something, but yeah, I'll have a little punt on Deces.

Ben Palmer (56:42.602)

Yeah, I like that. I like him as a player, so I don't hate that decision. mean, James Madison, we briefly touched on it, but how big a blow is that for them? And do think that they really need to find a solution in the transfer market?

Matt (57:00.173)

Yeah, I like James. He's an incredibly creative midfielder and when he's on song he can make the ball do anything. So it's a big blow for Spurs. Those ACL injuries are not very nice.

And that's pretty much his whole season now basically. So yeah, I think they would have to probably be looking at trying to fill that void. I think as we spoke earlier, you know, I think

the more I think about it, the more Jack British would make sense to get himself dispersed.

Ben Palmer (57:36.746)

Yeah, no, I like that. Yeah. It's a real shame for him because, you know, he's always been just on the edge of England's plans. You know, he's gone to tournaments and never been relied on, you know, sort being the 26th man, if you will. It's kind of gutting because this feels like it could have been a good chance for him to be involved once again.

Matt (57:59.824)

Yeah, now you've got to feel for the horrible injuries and any professional footballer that has to spend months in the treatment room, I can tell you it's not a nice feeling, I can assure you.

Ben Palmer (58:12.06)

Yeah, mean another young lad who could be on the way, know, could be on the move this summer. It seems likely that Tyler Dibling's going to go from Southampton. He's also been mentioned, you know, with Everton alongside Grealish. They made an offer for him around 35, 40 million mark. What would you value him at?

Matt (58:36.623)

It's an interesting one because obviously there's a lot of potential there. The first half of last season he was very good. Not quite so good when the new manager came in. I'm not sure those two saw eye to eye. The title has fallen quite considerably towards the back end of last season. So think on the back of that, I think that's what you're probably looking at.

at clubs making offers around the £35-40 million mark. It's been reported I think that 45 million plus add-ons and so that might be interested. Which I think anybody who bought him for 45 million quid and he fulfills anywhere near the potential he's got, I think there's definitely value in that because you could easily sell him on for more money after that.

Ben Palmer (59:29.32)

Yeah, I mean, how good do you reckon he is? How good can he become? I mean, we've got players like Phil Foden, Cole Palmer, Bukai Asaka, these top England guys. Do think that Tyler Dibling is potentially a new Bukai Asaka or someone like that?

Matt (59:49.827)

I mean there's definitely potential there. You know, think that's setting the bar quite high when you're talking about kind of the Fodans and the Sackers and the Grealish's maybe. But you know, I think there is definitely talent there. I think it's a case of, you know, can he find a club that's going to get the best out of him? I know he's a very shy boy, you know, and it might take him a little while to settle at a new club.

So all I would say if a club was going to buy him, all I would say to the fans is you might need to be patient with this one. It might be that it's a couple of years before you see the best of him. I remember myself as an 18, 19 year old. Your form is very erratic at that age.

You are up and down a lot. I was probably into my early 20s before I really settled into a rhythm.

a decent prolonged period of good form. So yeah, any club that does buy them I'd say to the supporters of them just be a little bit patient with them.

Ben Palmer (01:00:53.767)

Yeah, yeah. I mean, he spent that spell at Chelsea as a kid and then went back to Southampton. I think it was a bit big for him, know, bit of a big move early on. Do you think what clubs do you reckon that, you know, would suit him then in that case? I mean, he's been linked with Everton, obviously they've made offers. West Ham have been mentioned, Villa have been mentioned, Fulham have been mentioned.

Do one of those clubs stand out to you as actually this might be a better move for him?

Matt (01:01:26.478)

Do you know what, I'm thinking about that. think Villain might be a decent club for him. You know, I think he could go there and not be under immense pressure straight away to go in the team and start making a difference. You know, they've got a good settled team there. You know, I think they'll be challenging for the European places.

So I think it would be a nice club to go and settle in gradually at. And I think that's the important bit, I think, for him at the moment is for him not to go to a club where the expectations for him are going to be too high too soon.

Ben Palmer (01:01:58.966)

Do you think he'd be quite suitable replacement for Morgan Rogers then if he does leave?

Matt (01:02:05.55)

Yeah, I'd say so. I'd say so. Slightly different players, I think, but kind of similar areas of the pitch they operate in. So, yeah, could definitely be one that could slot into that place.

Ben Palmer (01:02:19.753)

Yeah, no, that makes a lot of sense. Dele Alli is, I mean, he's had a sort of torturous four or five years, but he's out of Fabregas's plans at Como. And, you know, one would assume he's going to be on the move this summer. Is there a team in England that you think he could come back to and sort find his happiness and find his form again?

Matt (01:02:44.09)

I mean, you'd like to think so. I mean, this was a boy who was a regular England player, not that many years ago. And he's not very old, he's not even 30 yet, is he? He's still late 20s. So, you know, if he can get himself right, his mind right, can get his body right, there's no reason why he can't play in the Premier League again, you know? I would say probably at this moment in time, given what's happened the last few years, it will be at a club possibly, you know, towards the bottom end.

Ben Palmer (01:02:54.293)

29.

Matt (01:03:14.125)

But I'm sure that there would be clubs because he's not going to cost a lot of money I would imagine. So there would be clubs willing to take a punt on him. So it wouldn't surprise me if one of the promoted teams actually took a little bit of a punt on him.

Ben Palmer (01:03:28.405)

Do you like one of those teams more than the other for someone like LAI?

Matt (01:03:34.349)

I'd say probably, think Sunderland could probably do with him more than the others, if I'm honest. I think they're going to need somebody that can kind of do a little bit something different, know, create something out of nothing and he has got that ability in him. So yeah, I think he'd be most useful at Sunderland.

Ben Palmer (01:03:59.735)

Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. It's a club that's doing a lot of good work with the young players and perhaps his experience, I mean, they went out and got a jacquer, as he said. Perhaps his experience could be helpful for them.

Matt (01:04:14.891)

I mean you'd hope so. You'd hope so. He's a good man.

Ben Palmer (01:04:19.094)

Yeah, and mean another player who's been linked with a move up north Dominic Calvert-Lewin. He's a free agent He's kind of been, you know linked with a lot of clubs Man United, Newcastle, Everton Several more but we're not seeing anything concrete at the moment Is there a club that you think best suits him there? And then why do you think it's taken a while for him to to find a club?

Matt (01:04:47.208)

Yeah, I mean it's bit surprising but I'm guessing the clubs are looking at it and looking at his injury record and I think that's the thing that's putting clubs off going for him this early in the transfer window. I don't think there's any doubt he'll get a club at some point but it's a bit surprising that somebody of that pedigree hasn't been snapped up already but by the looks of it it looks like other teams are trying to get some perhaps.

fitter options over the line before perhaps settling for Calvert-Lewin when they've missed out on other targets. That's what it seems like to me as an outsider's point of view because if you did get a fit Dominic Calvin-Lewin for the whole season, he'd fit into quite a lot of Premier League teams, even if he's not as the first choice striker.

is a very good second choice option. And I think that's possibly what he may end up being at start of season, just purely because clubs can't rely on him playing 30, 35 Premier League games in the season.

Ben Palmer (01:05:58.803)



Yeah, I mean not to dump every single player with issues in the North East but he has been linked with Sunland and Newcastle. Do you like one of those teams, Forum?

Matt (01:06:09.773)

Well obviously it depends what happens with Isak, depends what happens with Cesco, where he ends up. I can't see him as Newcastle's first choice. You he might go in as Sunderland's first choice, possibly. Where else would he be suited to? Would he be going as a Leeds first choice, a Burnley first choice? I don't know.

It's difficult because as I say, it's all about the fitness with him. But I think he'll end up going somewhere that already has a good first choice sent forward, they just need a decent second string to sit behind him. And I think that's where he may end up this season. So if that's at Newcastle, behind the ESAC, if he stays there, we don't know.

Ben Palmer (01:07:02.538)

Yeah, and then so finally Eddie Howe has been... He just seems like no one's talking to him at Newcastle. I mean, every time he's asked a question about Isaac, he genuinely seems to be finding out at the same time as we are, anything about him. I mean, they've missed out on all their targets, bar a langer, and now Isaac wants to leave.

Matt (01:07:22.539)

Yeah.

Ben Palmer (01:07:29.364)

Are you worried for Freddie at Newcastle?

Matt (01:07:33.258)

I think it is a little bit concerning, especially if they have a poor start to the season and you have that on top of a poor transfer window where you're not attracting the players. Because as we know, even if it's the clubs fault that they're not attracting the players because they're not paying the money, we know who pays the price for that when the results start going pear-shaped.

So it's going to be a difficult one. I feel a bit sorry for Eddie, quite frankly. I think he's a really good guy. An honest guy. He seems very upfront with the media, which I like. And I feel like he's been dealt a little bit of a rough hand this summer. hopefully for him, the club start off well, get some good results and he's not under pressure early.