



LISTENING

In order to do this task, you should follow these steps:

1. Listen to the podcast.
2. Do the exercises below.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text.
4. The answers to the exercises will be available on the website next week.

• **EXERCISES**

- 1) **Vocabulary.** Listen to the first part of the report (**Favourites**) and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

Favourites

The two-..... sides of AS Monaco and Paris Saint Germain are clear favourites in this season's Ligue 1 title race. Perhaps Paris are slightly more favoured to win the league as they are current holders, while Monaco have only just returned to the after a couple of seasons in the Backed by Qatari money, PSG have some of the best players in the world in their squad such as Swedish star Ibrahimovic, Brazilian defenders Thiago Silva and Marquinhos, Argentinian playmaker Javier Pastore and his countryman Lavezzi, Italian players Verratti and Motta, as well as French internationals, all under the guidance of former French international captain and national team coach Laurent Blanc. Monaco's financial backing comes from Russia, which has allowed them to buy the two Colombians Falcao and James Rodriguez, as well as Portuguese stars Carvalho and Moutinho, in addition to French internationals Toulalan, Abidal and Emmanuel Rivière. The fact that Paris have already won a title in recent times should give them the edge but do not any side that has Falcao in its starting XI.

2) **True or false.** Listen to the next part of the report (Dark horses), choose whether the following sentences are true or false and justify your answers (the true ones and the false ones).

a. True/ False: Lyon have started this season well.

.....

b. True/ False: Marseille are from the south of France.

.....

c. True/ False : Marserville have won more titles than any other French side.

.....

d. True/ False : Montpellier have won the title more recently than Marseille.

.....

e. True/ False : There have been four different winners of the Ligue 1 title in the past four years.

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• **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **To challenge for:** to compete for something
- **Cash-rich sides:** clubs with lots of money
- **Holder:** owner, possessor
- **The top flight:** the top division / League 1
- **The second tier:** League 2
- **Squad:** team
- **Playmaker:** a player whose role is to create scoring opportunities for his team mates
- **Countryman:** compatriot
- **A host of:** a lot of; a collection of
- **Guidance:** direction, supervision, leadership
- **Financial backing:** money support
- **Young starlet:** a player with a bright future

- **Write off:** rule out their chances
- **Break the moneybags monopoly:** try and defeat Monaco and PSG
- **To lie in:** to be situated in
- **Picked up the winners trophy:** won the title
- **Huge:** very big

• PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Ligue 1 Title Race 2013-14

Until recently, when discussing the top teams and leagues in Europe, it was common to mention the 'big 4' of Germany, Spain, Italy and England but now we can most definitely include France in that list as Ligue 1 starts to attract some of the best players in the world. In this report we preview the 2013-14 French season and ask which teams will **challenge for** the title.

Favourites

The two **cash-rich sides** of AS Monaco and Paris Saint Germain are clear favourites in this season's Ligue 1 title race. Perhaps Paris are slightly more favoured to win the league as they are the current **holders**, while Monaco have only just returned to **the top flight** after a couple of seasons in **the second tier**. Backed by Qatari money, PSG have some of the best players in the world in their **squad** such as Swedish star Ibrahimovic, Brazilian defenders Thiago Silva and Marquinhos, Argentinian **playmaker** Javier Pastore and his **countryman** Lavezzi, Italian players Verratti and Motta, as well as **a host of** French internationals, all under the **guidance** of former French international captain and national team coach Laurent Blanc. Monaco's **financial backing** comes from Russia, which has allowed them to buy the two Colombians Falcao and James Rodriguez, as well as Portuguese stars Carvalho and Moutinho, in addition to French internationals Toulalan, Abidal and **young starlet** Emmanuel Rivière. The fact that Paris have already won a title in recent times should give them the edge but do not **write off** any side that has Falcao in its starting XI.

Dark horses

Former dominant side in France, Lyon have had a really poor start to this season and already find themselves in mid-table after only 5 matches, meaning that it is already difficult for them to challenge for the title they last won back in 2008. Instead, many will look to southern side Marseille to try and break the **moneybags monopoly**. OM (Olympique de Marseille) last won the title in 2010 and currently **lie in** 4th place in the table and will be hoping that French internationals Gignac and Valbuena, as well as the Ayew brothers from Ghana can help them surprise football fans in France and win their 10th French title.

Only one other side has managed to win more French titles than OM and that is Lyon's great rival Saint-Étienne, who last **picked up the winners trophy** in 1981 and despite having started well this season, it would be a **huge** shock if they were to win the Ligue 1 race this season. 2012 winners Montpellier and Lille, who won the title in 2011, have both started slowly this season and will be fighting for a European place rather than the title.

Predictions? PSG to retain their title from Monaco with Marseille in third.