



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and do the exercises below.

PEP GUARDIOLA AND BAYERN MUNICH PREPARE FOR PARTING OF THE WAYS

Pep Guardiola has confirmed he will make a decision over his future at Bayern Munich in the next week although it appears to have already been decided, with the German magazine Kicker saying he is definitely on his way amid increasing speculation that he may be set to replace Manuel Pellegrini at Manchester City.

The Catalan, who is in the final year of his contract with Germany's champions, has been repeatedly linked with a move to the Etihad Stadium next season, though his availability next season would also appeal to Manchester United and possibly Chelsea.

After Bayern's 1-0 win over Darmstadt on Tuesday, Guardiola refused to comment on questions about his future. "Tonight I have no answer," he said. "Next week there will be clarity." However, reports in Germany have stated that Guardiola has already informed Bayern that he will not sign a new contract, with Bild also claiming the Bundesliga champions are now braced for his departure.

Last month, the Bayern chairman, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, revealed that they had yet to begin negotiations over extending Guardiola's stay but admitted talks were scheduled to take place after Bayern's match against Hannover on Saturday. "It is not planned to push back that date," said Rummenigge. "We have always said there will be a decision in 2015. I know that it's late, just days before Christmas, but the talks will be held after the Hannover match, and we'll then announce a decision. It always continues. There is no person in this world who can't be replaced at some point. That's the state of things. Players come, players go and the same applies to coaches. They come and they go at one point."

The Bayern captain, Philipp Lahm, has told Guardiola that the squad would like him to extend his stay. "The team's position is clear, we enjoy working with our coach and we really, really want to keep doing so," he said.

The Spanish sports newspaper Marca has also reported that Guardiola's mind is already made up. On Wednesday, it published a story claiming the 44-year-old has rejected Bayern's offer of a new deal worth £14.5m (€20m) a season and is expected

to join Manchester City next season. That followed reports last month that the former Barcelona manager is set on leaving Germany because he would like “a change of scenery”.

Given the presence of the chief executive, Ferran Soriano, and the director of football, Txiki Begiristain, at the Etihad, both of whom he worked with at Barça, the former Spain international has been tipped for the City manager’s job several times. Manchester United has also been linked with Guardiola in the past, although sources at Old Trafford told the Guardian last week that they intend to take a back seat when his contract with Bayern expires because of their support for Louis van Gaal.

The former Chelsea and Real Madrid manager, Carlo Ancelotti, is rumoured to be the favourite to take over at Bayern should Guardiola leave, with the Italian already reportedly having been sounded out by officials at the German club. Ancelotti, who was sacked by Real last summer and replaced by Rafael Benítez, is currently on sabbatical having had a back operation in August.

Worksheet

- 1. It is said that Pep Guardiola will work next season for...**
 - a. Chelsea
 - b. Manchester United
 - c. Manchester City

- 2. According to some reports in Germany, Guardiola...**
 - a. Has already informed Bayern about signing a new contract with them
 - b. Has already informed Bayern about not signing a new contract with them
 - c. Has not discussed this topic with Bayern yet

- 3. The Bayern chairman, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge,...**
 - a. Accepts and understands Guardiola’s leaving
 - b. Accepts Guardiola’s leaving, although he does not understand it
 - c. Does not understand Guardiola’s leaving because the squad would like him to extend his stay

- 4. As stated in Marca, Guardiola...**
 - a. has not made up his mind yet
 - b. has already made a decision
 - c. is still thinking about his future

- 5. It is thought that the new manager of Bayern Munich will be...**
 - a. Louis van Gaal
 - b. Manuel Pellegrini
 - c. Carlo Ancelotti