



## READING COMPREHENSION

### ○ A MATCH REPORT: NEWCASTLE UNITED 3- BLACKBURN ROVERS 1

Newcastle United 3 - Blackburn Rovers 1.

Blackburn Rovers travelled to St. James' Park in Newcastle. Junior Hoilett scored one goal for the visitors, but it wasn't enough. Demba Ba, who only arrived at Newcastle this summer, scored a hat-trick for the Magpies to extend Newcastle United's unbeaten start to the season.

The first two goals for the Senegal international came in the first half within three minutes of each other. Junior Hoilett pulled one back (*acortó distancias*) for the visitors and kept Rovers fans hopes alive until Demba Ba headed home a third goal in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute.

Newcastle fans were frustrated when the club didn't get a high-profile striker to replace Andy Carroll during the summer transfer window (*traspasos realizados en el verano*). The fans did not celebrate Ba's arrival and the start of his career at St James' was uncertain.

But this was the day the 26-year-old chose to announce himself in style with a treble (*triplete*), which reminded fans of his potential. Last season, at West Ham, he scored seven goals in just 12 appearances.

Ba showed he was serious in the sixth minute with a long-range shot (*disparo desde una distancia larga*) that whistled over (*pasó por encima*) Paul Robinson's crossbar. He proved himself a danger after 21 minutes when he collected and perfectly controlled a cross from the left before turning (*enfrentarse*) central defender Scott Dann and smashing a right-foot shot past Robinson.

Just three minutes later, Ba scored again. Steven Taylor headed Danny Simpson's deep ball back across the penalty area and Ba headed it past Robinson from close range (*desde cerca*).

That really should have been it for the Magpies.

However, Rovers got themselves back into the match seconds later. Ryan Taylor lost possession at the halfway line. Mauro Formica took advantage and passed the ball to Olsson on the left who crossed the ball for Hoilett, who controlled the ball and threw it into the roof of the net.

Pardew was furious on the touchline, although he wouldn't be cross (*enfadado*) for too long. Seconds after an attack that led to a shot by Olsson that hit Newcastle's crossbar, Ba and Leon Best were both attacking Robinson's goal. Ba looped a header (*lanzó el balón de un cabezazo*) over Robinson and into the net and made the game safe.

Olsson was sent off for a second yellow card after a cynical challenge (*entrada*) on Leon Best and Rovers were down to 10 players. Even before Olsson's dismissal (*expulsion*), they didn't have enough to overcome (*superar*) the dominant Newcastle United.

### Exercises

**1. Match the words with the descriptions.**

unbeaten   touchline   challenge   visitors   transfer window   possession  
hat-trick   net

1. When one player scores 3 goals for the team in one game: .....
2. If a team has not lost any game we can say this about them: .....
3. Another way to say the team playing away from home: .....
4. The period when players can be bought and sold: .....
5. The time the ball is controlled by one team: .....
6. The area along the sides of the pitch: .....
7. The ball goes into it when you score: .....
8. Another word for a tackle: .....

**2. Are the following statements true or false? If you think the statement is false, rewrite the sentences and make them true. Use your own words.**

Example: Demba Ba scored all his goals in the first half.

False: Ba scored two goals in the first-half and one goal in the second half (in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute)

1. St. James' Park is home to the Magpies

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2. Ba got his first goal after just six minutes.

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3. It was 2-1 to Newcastle at half-time.

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4. Two of Newcastle's goals came from headers.

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5. Olsson fouled Best and got a straight red card.

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**3. Choose the correct answer for the following questions.**

1. In the match Newcastle United against Blackburn Rovers, who scored one goal for the visitors?

- a. Junior Hoilett
- b. Demba Ba
- c. Andy Carroll

2. How did Demba Ba score his hat-trick?

- a. He scored the three goals in the first half.
- b. He scored two goals in the first half and one goal in the second half.
- c. He scored one goal in the first half and two goals in the second one.