

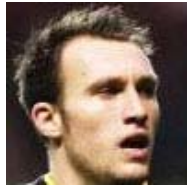
# So who do we fear next season (written July 23rd)

Pos	Team	Pts
1	Brighton	0
2	Burnley	0
3	Cardiff City	0
4	Coventry City	0
5	Crewe	0
6	Crystal Palace	0
7	Derby County	0
8	Hull City	0
9	Ipswich Town	0
10	Leeds United	0
11	Leicester City	0
12	Luton Town	0
13	Millwall	0
14	Norwich City	0
15	Plymouth	0
16	Preston	0
17	QPR	0
18	Reading	0
19	Sheffield Utd	0
20	Sheffield Wed	0
21	Southampton	0
22	Stoke City	0
23	Watford	0
24	Wolves	0

League Latest

If we go on alphabetical order, Brighton and Burnley will be promoted automatically. However, I believe the league is between seven te

ams. **Norwich** have held on to most of their players. Up front they may be the stron gest in the division with the excellent Dean Ashton, (pic'd left) ably assisted by Huckerby, Francis and Mckenzie. They have a good keeper in Green but it is perhaps their defence that is



suspect. Last season they leaked more goals than any other Premiership club, and you only have to look at how they caved in on the last day. The experienced Helveg is gone to Borussia Moenchengladbach and Matthias



Jonson another prolific striker at this level, has moved for £700,000 to Djurgardens in his native Sweden. Recent signings include the useful Andy

Hughes(pic'd above right) from Reading for £550,000 who can play in midfield or at full back. They have also secured Jurgen Colin form PSV Eindhoven, Jason Jarrett, Mathieu Louis-Jean and Peter Thorne from Cardiff City. They have lost their holding player in midfield, Holt but at 11/2 the bookies may be correct to have them as starti



ng favourites. **Wolves** under Glenn Hoddle will be a dangerous preposition next season in my opinion. They have spent the whole summer fending off bids for their striker, Kenny Miller from Sunderland while tempting Derby County (as yet unsuccessfully) with bids for striker, Rasziak and play maker, Idiakez. That said, Henri Camara the want away striker who spent last season on loan at Celtic and

Southampton will be a handful at this level if he stays, and he has pledged to honour his contract at Molineux. Carl Cort recently banged in three goals at Dundee so

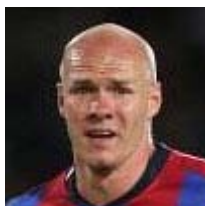


is in form. Jackie McNamara (pic'd left) was a clever acquisition at the back, and Rohan Ricketts (pic'd right) out wide is a good player. They have made no other significant signings as yet but I suspect they will, and under Hoddle if they can



turn some of last seasons draws into victories, I think they will make the Play-offs. At time of writing, goalkeeper, Paul Jones has just broken his jaw. Michael Oakes as we saw at Elland Road doesn't exactly inspire confidence.

Ian Dowie has done a marvelous job with **Crystal Palace**. I don't think he



will keep his best player, Andy Johnson, (pic'd left) who desperately wants to be in the English squad Germany. To do that he must go to a Premiership club. Like Leeds, he has lost his best right sided player, Routledge to Spurs, and let one of his



for



surplus strikers, Shipperley join Sheff United. Dougie Freedman (pic'd right) has penned a new deal



at Selhurst Park, as has Danny Grannville (pic'd left). Their Premiership experience will stand them in good stead but I'm not so sure they will go up automatically. Although difficult to beat I think they will draw many games especially without Johnson's predatory instincts around goal. I consider **Southampton** as a

threat purely and simply because of their manager. Redknapp wheels and deals with the best of them. At time of writing he has sold



Phillips and Crouch for £9M in total, and he maintains he needs four players in. I have no doubt he will get them, although how his relationship with Clive Woodward and his chairman, Rupert Lowe (a contemptible little man) develops might determine how the Saints do this season.



Michael Svensson (below right) is back in training and is an excellent central defender and they still have Niemi in goal who is probably the best in the division. He has added the ageless Dennis Wise and has vast experience in Nigel Quasie, Danny Higginbottom, Marian Pahars and Brett



Omerod ( who we know well). His son has retired, but if he can add a couple of decent forwards and midfielders, they may have a chance. Never underestimate our Harry. Another side with a contemptible man at the helm is **Sheff Utd** and Mr Neil Warnock. Surely his hoodoo over Leeds can't extend to another season. He has been more than active in the transfer market, spending



profusely on the quality that is Danny Webber (pic'd left) ( from Watford), Paul Ifill (pic'd right) ( from Millwall) and he has just nabbed Neil Shipperley. The jury



is out on him holding on to Phil Jagielka, who United turned down £3m for from West Ham . Their preoccupation with cups has constantly cost them automatic promotion, but next season I think they will go all out from the off. Warnock, although Blades through and through is not too popular with the supporters and if they wobble from the start he may find himself surplus to requirements at Bramall Lane. I still think they will qualify for the Play-offs. It would be foolish to write off **Ipswich Town** if only because of the wily old fox in charge, Joe Royale (pic'd right). They have lost plenty of quality players this summer, including their goalkeeper, plus star midfielder, Tommy Miller and the prolific Shefki Kuqi. Up front he has added big Sam Parkin, a big money signing from Swindon Town and will probably play him alongside Westlake or Naylor. I think Ipswich will find it much tougher next season and will finish nowhere near the third place they landed on this season. Another dark horse is **Derby County**, but I don't think Phil Brown can match George Burley's achievements of last season. I believe if Leeds Utd finish ahead of Norwich City next season they will be champions, and I think we have a really good chance of doing so. So



watch this space !!!!!



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