

Université Lumière Lyon 2

École doctorale 484 3LA – Lettres, langues, linguistique et arts

**Les commentaires sportifs télévisés
en anglais : caractérisation d'un
genre de discours spécialisé**

Volume 2 – Annexes

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Discipline : Anglais

Spécialité : Linguistique

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Présentée et soutenue publiquement le 7 novembre 2015

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Annexe 1 – Le corpus

1.1) La constitution du corpus : quelques remarques méthodologiques

Au début de nos recherches, nous avons rapidement dû nous rendre à l'évidence qu'il est pour ainsi dire impossible de se procurer des transcriptions de commentaires sportifs télévisés, que ce soit auprès des chaînes de télévision ou sur Internet. Cette indisponibilité, qui est sans doute à la fois cause et effet du faible intérêt universitaire pour ce type de discours, nous a contraint à procéder nous-même à la transcription du corpus ; or, une fois que nous nous sommes procuré les enregistrements des extraits de notre corpus, soit sur cassette vidéo (pour les extraits RUGBY1 et FOOT), soit par Internet au format AVI¹ (pour les extraits RUGBY2, 400M et CATCH), il s'est vite avéré que la transcription de commentaires sportifs télévisés est une tâche particulièrement laborieuse, pour plusieurs raisons. La présence systématique de micros d'ambiance autour du stade, destinés à reproduire l'ambiance des tribunes dans le salon des téléspectateurs, fait que les propos des commentateurs sont, selon l'enjeu de la rencontre et les péripéties qui la jalonnent, tantôt parasités par le bruit provenant des gradins, tantôt noyés dans les chants et les hurlements des supporters. Par ailleurs, les commentateurs étant rarement seuls en cabine, il arrive très souvent qu'ils se coupent la parole ou que leurs propos se chevauchent, ce qui contribue naturellement à faire de la transcription un exercice très laborieux.

Devant tant de difficultés, la question du volume du corpus se pose avec d'autant plus d'acuité. Tout en gardant à l'esprit que, plus le volume du corpus est important, plus il a des chances d'être représentatif, nous estimons qu'un corpus de volume relativement faible ne constitue pas nécessairement un frein à la recherche. En effet, l'étude d'un corpus très vaste n'est en rien gage de succès ou de rigueur : encore faut-il disposer de l'outillage adéquat. C'est ce que Kenneth W. Church *et al.* expliquent à propos de leur démarche de lexicographes :

¹ Le format *Audio Video Interleave* (ou AVI) est un format d'empaquetage conçu par Microsoft pour stocker des données audio et vidéo. Il est actuellement l'un des formats les plus populaires pour télécharger et regarder des vidéos.

Even in these days of large electronic corpora, it is often not possible for a lexicographer to find precisely the right bit of evidence that he or she needs at precisely the moment it is needed, to provide the answer to some question in some detail. Indeed, we cannot always be sure that we are asking the right question. A lexicographer is like a person standing underneath Niagara Falls holding a rainwater gauge, while the evidence sweeps in immeasurable torrents (1994 : en ligne).

Nous considérons par ailleurs que la quantité de données dont le chercheur a besoin dépend directement de l'objectif de ses travaux et de la nature du corpus étudié. En l'occurrence, l'objectif principal que nous nous fixons est d'identifier et d'examiner les phénomènes caractéristiques des commentaires sportifs télévisés. Notre corpus peut donc se contenter d'être « suffisamment grand pour représenter toutes les variétés pertinentes [d'une] langue et son vocabulaire caractéristique », pour reprendre une partie de la définition du corpus de référence proposée par John Sinclair (1996)² ; si, au contraire, notre ambition était de répertorier l'ensemble des faits de langue rencontrés dans les commentaires sportifs télévisés, en mettant l'accent sur la diversité plutôt que sur l'invariance, alors nous aurions recours à un corpus plus volumineux.

Avant de présenter en détail les extraits qui composent notre corpus, nous précisons les critères de sélection que nous avons retenus. Il faut d'emblée admettre que le hasard et les contraintes matérielles ont joué un rôle évident dans le choix des extraits : nous avons sélectionné les événements sportifs qui étaient disponibles au moment où nous souhaitions procéder à la transcription, par exemple lors de notre séjour en Australie. Nous n'avons pas retenu les origines géographiques des commentateurs parmi nos critères de sélection, celles-ci n'ayant pas d'intérêt majeur pour notre étude : il n'y a que dans la quatrième partie, au moment d'étudier les facteurs de variation des commentaires sportifs télévisés, que nous tenons compte des origines géographiques et sociales des commentateurs sportifs. En revanche, nous n'avons retenu que des événements sportifs relativement récents, afin de ne pas ajouter à la difficulté de notre tâche d'éventuelles considérations d'ordre diachronique : à l'exception de l'extrait CATCH qui date de 1991, toutes les rencontres sportives présentes dans le corpus se sont déroulées durant les années 2000.

Nous avons également attaché une attention particulière à la nature des événements sportifs retenus. Nous avons souhaité accorder la part belle à des sports très médiatisés dans le monde anglophone et auxquels on pense spontanément en évoquant les commentaires sportifs

² « A reference corpus is one that is designed to provide comprehensive information about a language. It aims to be large enough to represent all the relevant varieties of the language, and the characteristic vocabulary, so that it can be used as a basis for reliable grammars, dictionaries, thesauri and other language reference materials. » (Sinclair 1996 : en ligne)

télévisés : c'est pourquoi notre choix s'est porté sur le rugby (qui est le sport le plus représenté dans le corpus, avec deux extraits sur cinq) et le football. Étant donné que ces deux sports se ressemblent beaucoup du point de vue de leur format (les matchs de rugby et de football durent respectivement quatre-vingt et quatre-vingt-dix minutes), nous avons estimé qu'il serait judicieux d'inclure dans le corpus un événement sportif très court, afin de mesurer pleinement l'influence du paramètre temporel sur les commentaires sportifs télévisés : c'est la raison principale de la présence d'une épreuve de 400 mètres dans notre corpus, qui dure très exactement 43,45 secondes pour le vainqueur. Enfin, nous avons souhaité que notre corpus contienne un sport qui se distingue des autres, afin de voir si la différence entre cet extrait et le reste du corpus se donne à voir dans les commentaires sportifs télévisés, auquel cas nous pouvons peut-être en déduire que la nature des commentaires sportifs télévisés découle directement du statut du sport commenté. Cette volonté justifie notre choix d'inclure un combat de catch dans notre corpus, le catch étant une discipline qui occupe une place à part dans le monde du sport : avec ses combats largement scénarisés et ses personnages hauts en couleur, il s'agit indéniablement d'une discipline hybride, à la croisée du sport, du spectacle et du théâtre. Nous avons conscience qu'un tel choix ne va pas de soi et pourrait nous être reproché ; nous pensons cependant que l'étude de ce cas-limite peut être extrêmement enrichissante, à condition de garder à l'esprit qu'il occupe une place à part dans le corpus.

Après avoir mis en lumière les choix qui ont présidé à la constitution de notre corpus, nous présentons en détail chacun des cinq extraits qui le composent.

1.2) Les extraits du corpus

1.2.1) Le corpus de commentaires sportifs télévisés

L'extrait qui porte le nom RUGBY1 dans notre thèse correspond au quart de finale de la coupe du monde de rugby entre l'Angleterre et le Pays de Galles. Le match a eu lieu au Suncorp Stadium de Brisbane, le 9 novembre 2003, et a été remporté par les Anglais sur le score de vingt-huit points à dix-sept. Il est important de noter que, contrairement aux autres extraits, sa transcription est partielle : nous n'avons alors été en mesure de nous procurer que la première période du match. L'extrait RUGBY1 compte 5 280 mots et est commenté par Gordon Bray, Tim Horan et Chris Handy pour la chaîne de télévision australienne Channel Seven.

L'extrait RUGBY2, qui compte 11 880 mots, correspond au match de rugby international opposant l'Irlande et l'Angleterre, qui s'est disputé le 24 février 2007 à Dublin dans le cadre du tournoi des six nations. L'extrait se distingue du reste du corpus par le nombre de commentateurs impliqués, puisqu'ils sont cinq à intervenir au cours de la retransmission proposée par la chaîne de télévision britannique BBC : Eddie Butler, Brian Moore, Austin Healy, Philip Matthews (qui se trouve au bord de la pelouse) et Keith Wood (qui n'est pas au stade mais dans le studio). Il est à noter que le match s'est tenu au stade de Croke Park, normalement dédié aux sports gaéliques, ce qui n'est pas sans importance pour notre thèse, comme nous le montrons dans la quatrième partie (chapitre 1, section 3). L'Irlande s'est imposée sur le score de quarante-trois points à treize, ce qui constitue un écart inédit entre les deux nations.

L'extrait FOOT constitue le troisième et dernier cas de sport collectif dans notre corpus. Il correspond au match de football entre l'Irlande du Nord et le Pays de Galles, disputé au stade Windsor Park à Belfast le 8 octobre 2005. Cette rencontre, remportée par le Pays de Galles sur le score de trois buts à deux, comptait pour les qualifications à la coupe du monde 2006 en Allemagne – à laquelle aucune des deux nations n'a finalement participé. L'extrait FOOT compte 11 510 mots, il a été diffusé par la BBC et est commenté par Jonathan Pearce et Mark Bright.

L'extrait 400M renvoie à la finale de l'épreuve du 400 mètres des championnats du monde d'athlétisme d'Osaka. Par la force des choses, il est bien plus court que les précédents : il ne compte que 1 413 mots. La course s'est déroulée le 31 août 2007 au stade Nagai ; c'est Jeremy Wariner, alors champion du monde en titre, qui en est sorti victorieux, franchissant la ligne d'arrivée en 43,45 secondes. Cette course constitue un exploit historique pour les États-Unis, puisque c'est le premier triplé américain de l'histoire sur cette distance aux championnats du monde : Jeremy Wariner s'impose en effet devant ses compatriotes Lashawn Merritt et Angelo Taylor. La retransmission que nous avons sélectionnée est proposée par la chaîne américaine NBC et compte trois présentateurs : Tom Hammond, Lewis Johnson et Ato Boldon.

Enfin, l'extrait CATCH correspond au combat entre Hulk Hogan, alors champion du monde de la World Wrestling Federation, et The Undertaker. Il a eu lieu le 27 novembre 1991, pendant le tournoi Survivor Series à Detroit, et a été diffusé sur une chaîne de télévision à péage (*pay-per-view*). C'est The Undertaker qui est sorti victorieux de cet affrontement, faisant ainsi de lui le nouveau champion du monde de la discipline. Du point de vue de sa

longueur, l'extrait CATCH est comparable à 400M (1 630 mots). Il est commenté par Robert Marella et Bobby Heenan, deux anciens catcheurs dont les noms de scène étaient respectivement Gorilla Monsoon et The Brain ; cela n'est pas sans importance pour notre thèse, dans la mesure où ces surnoms apparaissent à plusieurs reprises dans l'extrait.

Grâce à ce corpus varié, d'une longueur d'environ 38 000 mots, nous sommes en mesure de procéder à un certain nombre d'analyses et de relevés. Toutefois, les données statistiques n'ont de sens que si elles sont interprétées ; or, il nous semble que la meilleure manière de le faire est de les comparer avec d'autres chiffres. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons sélectionné deux autres extraits, issus de domaines totalement étrangers aux commentaires sportifs télévisés et même au sport, qui nous permettront de mettre en perspective les résultats obtenus lors de nos différentes analyses des commentaires sportifs télévisés.

1.2.2) Les extraits NYT et POE

Le premier de ces documents est une nouvelle fantastique d'Edgar Allan Poe intitulée *The Tell-Tale Heart* (désormais POE). Elle a été publiée en 1843 dans la revue littéraire *The Pioneer*³, et traduite par Charles Baudelaire sous le titre *Le Cœur Révélateur*. Le second document est extrait d'un long article de presse, dont le titre est « *What Does Your Credit-Card Company Know About You?* » (désormais NYT). Il a été écrit par le journaliste économique Charles Duhigg et publié le 12 mai 2009 dans le *New York Times*.

Comme pour les extraits du corpus de commentaires sportifs télévisés, le choix de ces deux textes a largement été dicté par le hasard ; cependant, nous avons appliqué quelques critères de sélection. Le premier d'entre eux est quantitatif : nous avons sélectionné des documents contenant à peu près le même nombre de mots que les extraits du corpus, afin de simplifier les comparaisons. Le deuxième critère de sélection concerne la nature des textes. Dans la mesure où les commentaires sportifs télévisés sont produits dans des conditions exceptionnelles, nous avons souhaité comparer notre corpus à des textes dont le contexte de production est radicalement différent. Sachant que les commentaires sportifs télévisés relèvent du discours oral spontané et sont produits (au moins en partie) par des énonciateurs n'ayant pas reçu de formation littéraire ou universitaire, il nous a paru logique de sélectionner deux

³ *The Pioneer* est une revue littéraire américaine, fondée à Boston par James Russell Lowell et Robert Carter en 1843. Elle a cessé de paraître au bout de trois numéros, en grande partie à cause des problèmes de santé de J.R. Lowell.

documents écrits par des auteurs reconnus (l'un dans le monde de la littérature, l'autre dans celui du journalisme⁴).

Après avoir présenté le corpus sur lequel notre analyse des commentaires sportifs télévisés repose, nous formulons quelques remarques sur les difficultés que nous avons rencontrées lors de la transcription du corpus et sur les choix méthodologiques que nous avons opérés pour surmonter ces difficultés.

1.3) La transcription du corpus

Le passage de l'oral à l'écrit soulève inévitablement la question suivante : quelle forme la transcription doit-elle revêtir ? La principale difficulté réside dans l'utilisation de la ponctuation : s'il est indéniable que certains signes marquent un phénomène oral (le point d'exclamation indique typiquement une amplification des paramètres intonatifs), il n'en demeure pas moins vrai que la ponctuation a pour rôle premier de contribuer à l'organisation du texte et que les informations qu'elle porte sont à la fois syntaxiques, sémantiques et prosodiques. Selon cette logique, utiliser les signes de ponctuation dans la transcription semble périlleux dans la mesure où, en appliquant au texte les règles de la ponctuation écrite, nous risquons de nous écarter de la production orale originale en occultant des variations intonatives ou en suggérant des variations intonatives là où elles n'existent pas. Autant ce risque est relativement faible dans le cadre de productions orales formelles, qui tendent à respecter les codes de la langue écrite (nous pensons aux discours officiels), autant il est très important lorsque le discours concerné est produit de manière spontanée, de surcroît dans un cadre relativement informel – ce qui est évidemment le cas des commentaires sportifs télévisés.

Bien que l'utilisation de la ponctuation dans la transcription des commentaires sportifs télévisés pose d'évidents problèmes méthodologiques, il serait regrettable de nous passer de ces signes qui, comme le rappelle C. Leroy, sont « bien connus et faciles à manipuler » (1985 : 9). Le choix a ainsi été fait de détourner la valeur des signes de ponctuation en les débarrassant de leur rôle syntaxique afin qu'ils ne contiennent plus que des informations

⁴ En 2013, Charles Duhigg a reçu, avec d'autres confrères du *New York Times*, le Prix Pulitzer du reportage explicatif (« *Explanatory Reporting* ») pour une série de dix articles sur les pratiques économiques d'entreprises de haute technologie comme Apple.

prosodiques. C’est la raison pour laquelle nous avons pris le parti de recourir aux conventions de transcription proposées par D. Schiffrin (1987), qui sont présentées dans le tableau 8.

Tableau 1 : les conventions de transcription

Signe	Valeur prosodique associée
.	intonation descendante suivie d’une pause (comme à la fin d’une phrase déclarative)
?	intonation montante suivie d’une pause (comme à la fin d’une phrase interrogative)
,	intonation continue, pouvant être suivie d’une légère intonation montante ou descendante ou encore d’une courte pause
!	ton animé
...	pause ou rupture rythmique sans intonation descendante
:	allongement d’un son
<u>soulignement</u>	emphase moyenne
MAJUSCULES	emphase forte

Ces conventions de transcription présentent deux avantages majeurs. Tout d’abord, elles sont considérées avec égard par la communauté scientifique, comme nous l’avons rapidement constaté en effectuant des recherches sur l’emploi des signes de ponctuation dans la transcription de productions orales. Par ailleurs, il y a une correspondance assez nette entre le signe de ponctuation et la valeur qui lui est associée, ce qui rend son emploi très intuitif : ainsi, le point d’exclamation marque un ton animé, tandis que le point d’interrogation marque une intonation montante suivie d’une pause.

Outre ces conventions, nous avons tenu à respecter d’autres principes de transcription plus généraux. Notre volonté d’être aussi fidèle que possible aux propos des commentateurs ne s’est naturellement pas limitée à la prosodie : les erreurs de syntaxe et de conjugaison que compte notre corpus ne sont donc pas de notre fait.

Dans la mesure où nous utilisons les signes de ponctuation pour reproduire la prosodie des extraits de notre corpus, nous prenons le parti de ne pas appliquer les règles de la ponctuation classique, afin de ne pas créer de confusion inutile. En particulier, les points ne sont pas suivis de majuscules dans notre corpus, puisqu’ils ne signalent pas la fin d’une phrase mais une intonation descendante suivie d’une pause ; les majuscules concernent exclusivement les noms propres et le pronom personnel *I*, qui est toujours orthographié de la sorte. Par ailleurs, nous prenons l’initiative d’écrire les chiffres et les nombres en toutes lettres, essentiellement parce que cela nous permet de clarifier la manière dont ils sont

prononcés (nous pensons en particulier au chiffre 0, qui peut être prononcé *zero* ou *nil*, ou au syntagme nominal « *twenty-something-thousand people* », qui figure dans l'extrait CATCH).

Notre description de la méthode adoptée pour la transcription du corpus serait incomplète si nous ne précisions pas que nous avons également jugé utile d'insérer dans le texte des informations additionnelles. Le passage de l'oral à l'écrit engendre inévitablement une perte d'information, *a fortiori* lorsque la transcription porte sur un document audiovisuel ; dès lors, afin de combler ce déficit, dont nous pensons qu'il peut être problématique pour comprendre pleinement les transcriptions, nous avons pris le parti d'ajouter des informations entre parenthèses, sur le modèle des indications scéniques au théâtre.

Le contenu de ces indications est très variable, puisque nous avons mis en lumière tous les choix de réalisation susceptibles d'affecter les propos des commentateurs ; nous pouvons toutefois les résumer en trois catégories. En premier lieu, il nous a paru judicieux d'insérer dans les extraits quelques informations sur les plans proposés par les réalisateurs. En regardant les retransmissions sportives, nous observons que les réalisateurs privilégient les plans larges, qui permettent aux téléspectateurs de bénéficier d'une vue d'ensemble du terrain, mais qu'ils ont parfois recours à des plans serrés, que ce soit pour montrer l'expression sur le visage d'un joueur, la réaction d'un entraîneur ou la joie d'un spectateur. Afin de mettre en lumière l'éventuel lien entre les images diffusées et les propos des commentateurs, nous signalons les plans serrés par la mention « *showing* » suivie de l'élément visé, comme dans l'exemple ci-dessous :

Jonathan Pearce: October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly one-thousand-four-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the mighty Quinn, some call him in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... one of many.

Nous avons également signalé l'incrustation à l'écran de données textuelles et statistiques. Bien que les informations ainsi communiquées varient d'un sport à l'autre, elles sont le plus souvent utilisées pour présenter aux téléspectateurs les joueurs titulaires et la formation tactique adoptée, signaler les remplacements opérés par l'entraîneur et proposer des données statistiques – comme c'est le cas dans l'intervention suivante, où les propos de Chris Handy nous permettent d'avoir une idée précise de la nature des données statistiques proposées par le réalisateur (en l'occurrence, il s'agit du nombre de passes effectuées par les demis d'ouverture anglais et gallois) :

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Enfin, nous avons jugé utile de signaler la diffusion de ralentis (par la mention « *showing replay* »), pour les raisons que nous venons d'évoquer : nous estimons qu'il est indispensable de mettre en relation les propos des commentateurs et les images montrées à l'écran pour pleinement comprendre le fonctionnement des commentaires sportifs télévisés. Il faut préciser que, contrairement à l'incrustation de données statistiques, les ralentis sont monnaie courante dans les retransmissions sportives : ainsi, J. Blociszewski rappelle qu'au football on en compte parfois jusque 120 par rencontre et précise que « la durée totale des ralentis représente environ 10 % du match » (2007 : 113)⁵.

⁵ Nous remarquons par ailleurs que J. Blociszewski porte un regard très critique sur cette omniprésence des ralentis : il considère que « le *ralenti* est le symptôme le plus flagrant de cette utilisation mal comprise et malsaine de la technique » (2001 : 4).

1.4) L'extrait RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: (*showing England team*) let's look at the English team... they have a lot of old stagers there, Martin Johnson's thirty-three, Jason Leonard equals the world record, he's thirty-five, Neil Back thirty-four, Dallaglio thirty-one, and Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper. (*showing Wales team*) and the Welsh team... they have stuck to the form players from last weekend. number twelve, Iestyn Harris, the high-priced League signing who'll take on that crucial role, and always we'll be on the number eleven Shane Williams to see if he can reproduce his magic which we saw last weekend. and the two sides observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives at war time. so, Tim, is the Welsh team capable of upset, as we await the anthems?

Tim Horan: well, there's a wonderful atmosphere, here down the sideline, and the Welsh body languages as they ran out... they don't think it's a one-horse race tonight, they wanna repeat their upset performance last weekend against the All Blacks.

Gordon Bray: (*showing referee*) our referee tonight is Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped. he speaks fluent French, he has a French father. Jonny Wilkinson gets the fourth quarter-final under way here, at Suncorp Stadium, and Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, down towards the twenty-two.

Chris Handy: well, a good clearance there by Stephen Jones, the first touch there very important at test match, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, didn't get the opportunity for his forwards to get underneath the ball.

Gordon Bray: so, Jones getting his hands on that ball, the big Welsh prop... here's Dawson! clean break! Cooper from behind... he's made forty metres. Back, quickly to Vickery, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... and now Thompson, this massive England hooker just fifteen metres out!

Tim Horan: great try from the English forwards...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven from behind by Leonard! still, it's only fifteen! here's Robinson, almost stepping through... and it's against the number eight Jonathan Thomas. seven phases there for England...

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) the break came from absolutely nothing, he telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper here in jersey nine for Wales... and Robinson, that's a HUGE hit there by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position here at Suncorp. (*showing Jonathan Thomas*) that man, Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail on Tuesday, he's become an overnight hero. no goal, off the woodwork, and well anticipated by Taylor. we saw he missed one from in front against Samoa...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming off the post, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred percent every game, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come off the post.

Gordon Bray: I watched him in his warm-up, he started hitting those balls, started kicking, an hour forty minutes before the kick-off...

Tim Horan: it was quite incredible, the rhythm and... he goes to achieve that, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble initially with their line-out, second one that... and yet in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity here for Wales and England front rows... haven't really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... but taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining on the spot.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, (*showing replay*) well that surely came forward from his hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. he's got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose head, well there was an unmarked man outside, Wales choose to go inside but they still have big numbers on the right, Jones the prop here, Sidoli, yes! did he lose it? he did! no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! they had England chopped to bits. (*showing replay*) God almighty, he chose to pelt to the line, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, take your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: now England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point here, Chris, that there was no awkward movement before you pop your opponents.

Chris Handy: and I think that was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tighthead, he was just like a real wedge in the scrum... (*showing replay*) but look at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: and that's where the Welsh, that's where they'll get change tonight going wide, attacking on Dan Luger's side, and outside of Will Greenwood, that's where they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again tonight.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... having to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. and well taken there by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is on the outside, here he is, now another chance for Taylor, and Williams! has he got the speed?

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that he's got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. (*showing replay*) what another great thrust, no lack of vision here, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going wide.

Gordon Bray: second week in a row, the Welsh are not reading the script! this isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by their back three.

Chris Handy: (*showing Adam Jones*) Adam Jones, the curly head at tighthead prop for Wales on the far side...

Gordon Bray: so, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms until the ball is out of the scrum. but you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, as well. they're covering up in desperation at the moment, and here's Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties so far... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just short at the halfway line, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: now you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: this is Charvis, couldn't get away from Martin Johnson, lost a bit of grounds, Jones... and Jason Robinson on his twenty-two, almost sliding through the gap, but Taylor got him on halfway... here's Cohen, trying to get his arm over the defender, Dawson, Thompson, England making steady progress...

Chris Handy: this is when they've got to continue to get in behind the Welsh. running straight...

Gordon Bray: that's Dan Luger coming in from right wing. Moody's out in his position, Wilkinson, and Ben Kay was manhandled there.

Chris Handy: making their tackles count, the Welsh, they are hitting with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, (*showing Lewis Moody*) and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised in the end. (*showing replay*) have a look at this, first that one, and then the next time they come right, there's Moody coming straight over the top, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: (*showing Clive Woodward*) and the England coach might be worried, the first ten minutes for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding so far.

Chris Handy: and England finding some inroads in around the ruck and mauls, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: but Neil Back was there, assisted by Moody... Wilkinson again... packs himself! Dallaglio, Dawson, Cohen's outside, that's an excellent defence again for Wales.

Chris Handy: Ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's still on the ground, number nine for England, had Jason Robinson lurking just on his left side... (*showing replay*) here we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just didn't see Robinson on his left-hand side... good defence from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: score here at Suncorp, nil all after nearly eleven minutes.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them in the last couple of weeks, they had Wally Lewis in the last couple of days, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot tonight.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, also, Tim, spoke to them for ninety minutes, and Robinson inside his twenty-two, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. obstruction against Neil Back, penalty kicking-range. chance for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson there... does anyone know where he's gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: so this is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... (*showing replay*) and the obstruction very clear there, under the referee's nose... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look out there, you'll see just right next to the referee, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of these ideas, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: and another poster, two in a row! similar position, still, no score. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and Wilkinson with a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. this is Jones, on half-way, to Gareth Thomas. William's out on his side with a bit of room here, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. Stephen Jones, mishandle there by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and in behind... Luger, here goes Williams! Williams is still going, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: wonderful opportunity, just here in the middle, Cockbain, from Queensland, Dallaglio...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play over the halfway line here.

Tim Horan: well, once again, we've seen the Welsh going in behind Dan Luger's wing, he's coming off his wing...

Gordon Bray: well, good start there from Brent Cockbain, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog in the middle of the Welsh pack will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog from out back Queensland... there's Cooper there. so the referee ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper now, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away quickly and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it at the moment.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting now, Jason Robinson on the right-hand side, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum here for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage straight ahead, so is Luger, Dawson here, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're in centre field, thirty-five metres out, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, when they've been defending, and tremendous enterprise when they've had the ball. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but in behind his twenty-two he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found then, (*showing replay*) but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap down the middle, must be a metre gap between both teams.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation there, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tighthead, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come through, he's been told to stay outside.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was on his feet.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner in the World Cup.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed on his feet...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got over the advantage line...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up here at Suncorp, it's still nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright again... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine, and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. (*showing Clive Woodward*) and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward within the coach's box...

Chris Handy: yeah, that'll relieve him... but it will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, seventeen and a half minutes before the first point was scored.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: and it's always crucial, after you put points on, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it here.

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just this constant cacophony, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, he was speared into the ground here, Thomas... Gareth Thomas

now, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones on the loop, Charvis in good support, thirty metres out...

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can they get a turnover? there it is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England five from half-way...

Chris Handy: and another turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli here on the left wing.

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: accidentally bumped into his man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards out wide, they just pushed them towards the sideline, forcing them to change the angle. (*showing replay*) Thomas did well to be here, but...

Gordon Bray: so that's an accidental offside. really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh there...

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with that, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. not at test level though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial next five minutes there for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: over Johnson's head, lost, and hit there by Charvis... it's all looking very shaky for England at the moment. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: beautiful scrum to England, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: and there is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, they're looking to find gaps just around the ruck, Brent Cockbain here slamming one of the England players out of the way who was standing in front of him... and this is Vickery! some communication from the referee, just making sure that the tacklers roll away, once the ball carriers go to the ground. Wilkinson, that's Moody, and the twenty-two-metre line just ahead.

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... that quick ball enables them to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going now for England... they're keeping it in close, but they're making headway there. Back, then to Luger, but now the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: there goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: right foot, out to the left.

Chris Handy: we've seen that often, Tindall was wide, no one marking up much on him.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: TEN PHASES!

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? (*showing replay*) great work, forcing him to go to field goal... see that last phase they just had, just before we restart play, the defence hit them and knocked the English pack out of the advantage line, that's when Wilkinson decided, enough for now, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: and Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, tonight we want to discover how well we can do. and they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery at the moment, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: they're not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks last week. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. they must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: so Tindall, and now Greenwood, fullback in front, didn't have a close support, Tindall again, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says it went backwards. certainly the momentum of that dropped ball suggested it was a knock-on... here's Johnson, still there for England, Greenwood, the play-maker, space for Back, here's Leonard! what a shame he wasn't ten-metre faster... this man is, and he's well caught by Thomas. Dawson again for Cohen... Wales really marking up, that was Adam Jones the tighthead prop, now Dallaglio... England pounding the Welsh defence here. Dawson is close, Leonard sealing off...

Chris Handy: nine phases on that occasion. the best thing that can happen here is that they only take the three points... but they run!

Gordon Bray: Back is there... Mark Jones on the far side was ever alert, and he had the height over the smallest forward on the field!

Tim Horan: well, that was an opportunity for England to go six points up, in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute, the Welsh played on quickly with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: Robinson here... straight into Harris, almost the ten-metre line, Wilkinson again, Greenwood, and Tindall! Williams across, put into touch! grand covering, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders there too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have taken England out of their comfort zone. they've had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. and that is not part of the playing for them. (*showing replay*) and then they're forced to come this side... the Welsh have broken them up, in isolating them, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took that kick across to touch, when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. he kicked for touch instead, and then Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because he kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player on the field. so if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: Charvis waiting at the front, just outsmarting England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. rigorous defence from Wales, just on England's side of halfway. now Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive there from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion now, forty-five metres out. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: and this is when they need Jonny Wilkinson, to get their first receiver and start organising their phase play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb in the opening quarter.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... in favour of England. here's Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: and there's Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive there, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger on the short side...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson now, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess at the moment... and a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway before he was hit by Mark Taylor.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just as the ball arrived. (*showing replay*) have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, he had a huge gap there...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England there, just ahead of this Welsh side, at Suncorp. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans here, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of that so far.

Gordon Bray: and a clever little kick by Cooper, here comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. just short of half-way.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson on the ground, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... he was thinking about it.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio there, finally gets it over the halfway line. Greenwood, looking for the open territory between the full-back and the left wing... and Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found twenty metres... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. this guy really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can confirm that that was a scheduled change, he was always gonna come of at the thirty minutes mark.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious that time, put his head down. and was happy just to secure the ball. now Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, a hundred-and-eleven caps today, and Back is driven onto his heels.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it here, one, two tackles and then they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: now Wilkinson, in behinds, clever little kick... Jones slips out of the tackle, Thomas now, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack here for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet him, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... here's Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure at the moment...

Tim Horan: well you could throw a blanket over the English side at the moment, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: and on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, here, if he can hit around Kay, no problem! off he goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, in the village of Aberystwyth, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off today, and that's why!

Chris Handy: not one of the tries of the tournament, THE try of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering they had Ben Kay, a lock forward... they got dusted, they got dusted for pace, they got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: (*showing replay*) well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball back inside as Ben Cohen came across, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... his fourth test try, in his forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: and the consummate skill of the little scrum-half who is playing on the left side, he started it with that horrible kick, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed that try, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... that's the thing that works you so hard. if they can control a bit of peel here, they can keep this up. if they have to keep tackling it'll wear them down.

Gordon Bray: well they ran out of petrol last week against New Zealand, in the last ten minutes, but if they can go for the eighty here, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw there a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. when it's their restart, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, on that occasion he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw to the line-out, forty metres out.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it: one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby here in Brisbane.

Chris Handy: clever thinking here by England, going to the sider, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... so England setting up play here again, thirty metres out. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, here's Wilkinson, and Robinson... he's beaten two, he didn't release it here... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by Cohen in the eleven jersey here... Cohen did the right thing, he went to ground with the ball

knowing that anyone who falls on him will be penalised... he steadied, stayed up and pressured the massive Ben Cohen into a mistake. they're slowing things down... they're gonna take the line-out five metres out, immediate response, Charvis, with the dark hair in the middle of the pack. they work out how they're gonna score, this time through the forwards. will they have a crack at them?

Gordon Bray: and very selective refereeing there by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball on the ground on the other side of half-way.

Tim Horan: and this is what England did to so many teams, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: they're almost there... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium at Suncorp, there's all but the white jerseys up on their feet. England now together, but this man, Charvis, he led them so well last Sunday night... it just seems that like after a midday rest, these guys are on fire! (*showing replay*) what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, Colin Charvis, the captain, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, as he did last week against the All Blacks, as he does again tonight against England, (*showing Colin Charvis*) and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, he's had a special perm in that hairstyle, and that's two tries in the week, against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, they're not maintaining the width that they displayed so far on tour.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. and in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood there as spectators, as Charvis drove over the line. and that's little Williams, here playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here as we close on half time, four minutes before the break, Dallaglio... but underneath there, a brilliant tackle by prop forward Thomas, and Wilkinson makes another mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, (*showing replay*) just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width, there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and here's Jones! Wales on the rampage again! lucky bounce for Wilkinson... and now Luger, it's gone backwards! and that sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself right to the flanks...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, (*showing Clive Woodward*) as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: (*showing Dan Luger*) as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. what price a driving maul from this line-out... they have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli again, and they sack it that time.

Chris Handy: they can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: Jones, loose pass for Harris, that's unfortunate, chance for a turnover, Wales through Jones, and Williams. he was punctured by the England tight forwards... they just can't pick it up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: advantage to England, they can hurt from here.

Gordon Bray: they gotta do something here. here's Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland.

Gordon Bray: but there's nothing on here, for England. they just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: short-side opportunity for Dawson...

Gordon Bray: he hesitated... did he release? he lost it! stolen there by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because they've been taken out of their pattern, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: Thomas up to full-back from Jones, and it was dropped by the referee! knock-on, sir!

Tim Horan: former test scrum-half for Ireland, and he's put down that one... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) Daffyd Jones, good work on his feet, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. they weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: so Stephen Jones again, Taylor, Jones goes in to scrum-half, Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: caught in a bad position there...

Gordon Bray: well, about thirty seconds to go on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, they've gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson again, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close this gap... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's there, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he held on to dear life.

Chris Handy: he's gotta let go cause he's off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, lost ahead by England, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, big one for Wales here! McBryde's there, so too is Jones, and Cohen's across! what an exciting forty minutes of rugby here... (*showing referee blowing the whistle*) and it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead here by ten to three.

1.5) L'extrait RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: thank you John, good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association. they never thought it would happen but here we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, Brian.

Brian Moore: yes, even with headphones on, it was ringing in my ears, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: now then there was a Croke park effect when Ireland came here two weeks ago to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, this is on a level higher than that. (*showing Mary McAleese*) the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations, Ireland froze in their blocks but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not there, this for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: yes, well everyone was saying he's an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played here once, familiarity only comes, you know, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to the stadium...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Phil Vickery and Mary McAleese*) Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle there, the twenty-three-year-old in on the wing in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle from Warrington, deep in rugby league country, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the rugby league code.

Brian Moore: going down there, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if they are to stand a chance here, they must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: (*showing the referees*) the match officials, Joël Jutge from France will be the man in the middle. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man on the field, the thirty-three-year-old from Munster...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job today, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and then he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go around Farrell.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: well, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, you know, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it today, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and the president too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: well they didn't play for the first twenty, did they? very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows there, they'll be crucial for Ireland today, if they can repeat what they've done in the last three occasions to England then Ireland will be on their way... (*showing Irish supporters*) and that lot will be cheering them for every single yard they make.

Eddie Butler: and what comes next may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen at Croke Park. just waiting for the president to return to her seat. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the Six Nations, played two, won two.

(*The orchestra plays God Save the Queen*)

Brian Moore: I thought that was amazing.

Eddie Butler: what was all the fuss about...

(*The orchestra plays The Soldier's Song*)

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you what, Eddie, I got a lump in my throat from that.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff here at Croke Park, the central game of the middle-weekend of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens over the next début minutes. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride there, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. it's not about pride, it's not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, it's about doing the right things at the right time.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the six nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit (*showing starting line-ups*) but can this pack of forwards hold themselves together in the early moments? it's their first choice pack, they're all there, and Paul O'Connell the big gun in the middle. Brian O'Driscoll returns to the outside centre spot to the captaincy, again, they're at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and behind the scrum, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him on his first test outing. (*showing substitutes*) the replacements, experience all around, flair to come, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head here in the RBS six nations, (*showing referee*) and what a job for Joël Jutge of France, it's gonna be feisty out there, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other in the opening moments?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for them not to, they'll be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down very quickly.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just being re-wired there...

Brian Moore: I would've thought today that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball upon Olly Morgan and Strettle earlier on, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested early.

Eddie Butler: (*showing David Strettle*) good all-round footballer, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... he's scored five tries on his début in the England sevens, five tries in one half, that's never been done before, here he is, this is different, this is the Six Nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that he's quick, but it's a whole different level! he would never have experienced anything approaching this. the noise here is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and not for the first time the fields of Atherry goes around Croke Park, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been everywhere, seen everything, this for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get under it, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off in Dublin, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run it, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send it to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, winning his second cap. somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, first moment of hesitation. England with a turnover ball, offside, penalty... and a kicking chance for Wilkinson.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about that kick was that the Irish, although it was in their twenty-two, they had an overlap there, and they could've moved the ball one further, (*showing replay*) bit of barging there, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside in front of him...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) seen this before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: in the second minute of play, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. another penalty from that old left boot of Wilkinson, (*showing scoreboard*) Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, what was I saying, you know, unforced errors, and that was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming from the back, people coming from the side, and therefore they weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: good take by Danny Grewcock... Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby freeing himself there, Denis Hickie, safe catcher...

Brian Moore: extra man!

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... and here's the extra man, Dempsey, Shane Horgan inside him, Josh Lewsey with the tackle, Peter Stringer arrives. O'Gara, O'Driscoll, towards Strettle the newcomer... and that will be good for the nerves of Strettle, ushered it safely over the goal line, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was a good ten fifteen metres away.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, that's a good tackle by Magnus Lund, Stringer to O'Gara, and again they're kicking behind Strettle, that's a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly where they want to be.

Brian Moore: well he does that almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. now this is... but we'll see where the game goes from here, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on the England throw?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: they do, Simon Easterby went up for it, it's safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. this is what they did against Scotland in the first game, early investment work by the heavy forwards. good play by England. Ellis, Shane Horgan, in field to Dempsey, makes the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! and Ireland have the penalty, good work by Ireland's fullback.

Brian Moore: well they'll settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet they wish they could've had the ball, cause there were men on their right-hand side for them to exploit, (*showing replay*) well he just slips off him, doesn't he? not good first at tackling, once you get to break the game line everything flows from there.

Eddie Butler: Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton when he was with Ireland, just in the years when the game went professional, and Ireland were a very different outfit back then, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson, this little contest within a contest between two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby. (*showing scoreboard*) and it's all-square here at Croke Park, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said before the match I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle from start to finish, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, places it more centrally, Paul O'Connell, good catch. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, O'Gara, O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll, that put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was inside, and that was Wilkinson who tackled at centre...

Eddie Butler: now then Strettle, with a chance to counter, Peter Stringer, back covering, well read by the scrum-half. Shane Horgan. England plays in front of the kicker, not ten metres.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) sort of bounced well, not within ten, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack there, inside the outside centre down the centre channel but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell inside him.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara who scored all Ireland's points against France in the last match, including the first-half try... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) Paul O'Connell, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. Rory Best the hooker, just checking the call, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag it down, Easterby and Leamy, the back-rowers, break away from the ruck. Stringer, O'Gara, back behind Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. here's a glimpse of his pace, was he taken late by Horgan?

Brian Moore: no, he wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. O'Gara in support, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: well, there was a venture from Strettle there, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, three or four supporting players, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: George Chuter, (*showing Phil Vickery*) there's the captain Phil Vickery, Joël Jutge still having a few problems with his communications, (*showing George Chuter*) this is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well taken by Martin Corry, well played. Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan. a little one, O'Connell goes back, it's bouncing free.

Brian Moore: he's gonna box-kick this.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed his half-back partner Wilkinson who went deliberately down field, the switch between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, Jonny Wilkinson, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: no full-back!

Eddie Butler: but Martin Corry is there, well taken on the second attempt. it's out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, Wilkinson to Mike Tindall.

Brian Moore: and he gets it off the field! (*showing replay*) well he did well the second time, didn't he? I think there's a little bit of shepherding there by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: Rory Best of Ulster, Paul O'Connell of Munster, Donacha O'Callaghan at the front, O'Connell, behind him, O'Connell the target, well taken, well read by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, Wilkinson, Andy Farrell! the offload came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. Strettle, had a busy opening period, the follow-up tackle by Horgan, but that's better by Strettle, very good counter-attack, but only as far as Girvan Dempsey, Strettle has to make the tackle.

Brian Moore: he did well there.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up this blind side for Ireland, O'Driscoll, infield, Horgan just couldn't quite take the pass from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: well, though Andy Farrell offloaded, and Brian O'Driscoll kicked there, he did make ground against D'Arcy. (*showing replay*) well, a bit hopeful, that, wasn't looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline there. (*showing statistics*) England, what's that, about twelve pounds a man heavier, David Wallace in the back row is the lightest, I think I know who the heaviest is, that'll be big John Hayes in the front row. now, England are not going down there, Brian?

Brian Moore: yeah, I think so, but the pause has got to be succinct... that was better, because it was succinct, and it was the same timing. that should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery turning in?

Brian Moore: yeah. Vickery bending on the arm, oh, shocking decision. well his shoulders aren't gonna be above his head, (*showing replay*) look, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and you can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent him double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) and you see there, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. and the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about that.

Eddie Butler: he's up and running. Jonny Wilkinson, Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Strettle in from the opposite wing, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. introduction to the international midfield, England though have it, George Chuter took the pass from Farrell, Farrell goes into the ruck, Ellis, Wilkinson, only Corry outside him, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, a lot of forwards outside Harry Ellis, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up elsewhere. England are still in possession, George Chuter, tackled by David Wallace, lost! oh, the charge down... waste of a turnover, perhaps, (*showing Peter Stringer*) but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap behind England.

Brian Moore: yeah... (*showing replay*) well it was really caused by the fact that the gang tackled there, and that's the real problem, he's driven backwards. interesting watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that earlier on, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke away from the scrum, did well, now, then, Ireland, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see it, they did have men outside D'Arcy for a moment.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like that, if it had gone straight to him, they would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll short to Dempsey, offload, picked up by Denis Hickie, Stringer, Leamy, runs against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. now they have numbers again, Shane Horgan, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone before that.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well what a waste, you will see, three to one out here, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and managed to get into, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision there, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay outside. if you get caught in the middle, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France a couple of weeks ago, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip here, (*showing replay with animations*), Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities out there, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: interesting on that last penalty, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke before that, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you that one, but it was a clear foot in the Irish scrum, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted that!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... Rory Best, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. George Chuter, oh, leave him alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle behind that ruck, yeah it is, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented here... well the problem they're having is that the initial surge is not full enough. they've got to get the momentum for the initial surge.

Eddie Butler: and the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, very solid scrum, Wilkinson, to Farrell. that's just outside their twenty-two, and Ireland have a penalty. hanging on after the tackle.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well he got the ball round there, but he's got to let go, there... the problem is, if he'd let go straight away... he'd move his body, a double movement, he's always gonna get pain for that.

Eddie Butler: Gordon D'Arcy, David Wallace, Denis Leamy, quickly there, (*showing Andy Farrell*), Andy Farrell, the culprit. Ireland with a chance to take the lead.

Brian Moore: well you can say that, but there, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were there before any England back row arrived.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those outside him, whether something broke down there, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever it was, it wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks his second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Wilkinson, just easing his forwards pack. he's gone quite a central path so far, and he's gone down that channel again, oh no, he's gone towards the touchline, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. tackled by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, O'Gara. huge kick by O'Gara, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. Morgan, keeps it in play, Leamy, Girvan Dempsey. this time, the safety of touch, and down there is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous out wide, England trying to attack fairly close into the scrums, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a little bit wider, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball into his hands a little earlier on.

Eddie Butler: Magnus Lund, Danny Grewcock, it's stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, now then was Brian O'Driscoll in front of O'Gara? Olly Morgan waits for it. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, quickly taken, Harry Ellis to Worsley outside him, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut back towards help, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well that's good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to here...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing in there?

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) that was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England down towards the Irish twenty-two, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that's good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! two in a row, now, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and they turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty down there for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: it's quite heavy now!

Eddie Butler: it is, it is, and it's a slippery pitch, it's well known for its slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well that's a terrible kick he's made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: (*showing crowd*) the rain falls on Hill Sixteen. they won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell again, this time off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, they would've wanted a quicker ball than that but they might have numbers now, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken on

the outside, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read it well, but then, just a sign there that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see it coming down here, the crowd are complaining that that was a block, but it wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly there, just for a second...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) there's Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback, (*showing Shane Horgan*) and there's big Shane Horgan, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was in his way, and Horgan simply cleared him out of the way.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) oh, you can't do that, that's a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at these days!

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out as O'Connell goes up again, that should be a penalty, they have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but that is too blatant.

Brian Moore: unsubtle. (*showing replay*) come on, you know the rules, can't touch a man in the air, dangerous. said earlier on, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did he give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, that was an Irish throw won again by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, yet again, the Ireland line-out is starting to get into the English line-out, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating itself.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster, but there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly, that O'Connell being a front jumper but today he's jumping all over the place, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: and in the last ten minutes, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring down here.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson this time goes straight down the field, where David Wallace waits. that's a good tackle by Lund, Stringer, his fractured finger has healed, O'Gara, good kick, quickly taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for it, Olly Morgan knocked it on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, O'Gara, Gordon D'Arcy is in space, oh, well read in the end by Josh Lewsey. well read indeed, because there was real danger then.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone towards the tail of the line-out, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, that could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. close, though, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, there, (*showing replay*) I just thought for a second that he turned him there, that was Vickery, was that, on the floor?

Eddie Butler: good work here by the England captain, just sort of wrap yourself into a position on the floor... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... but Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself down there, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well not really, you're not allowed to do that anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up down there, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area before the game that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance so far.

Eddie Butler: well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game, and then of course France came with their scrummage challenge as they always present, and

Ireland did pretty well there, and they've done well again! O'Gara, D'Arcy, now on the loop from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer waits, O'Gara with a dummy, how well that worked against France... Shane Horgan, Rory Best the hooker, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands in there, Horgan, offloads to Easterby, Hickie's outside him, he can't, he can, he's on his feet! Lewsey saves England, has he saved them enough? Ireland just short, penalty to Ireland...

Brian Moore: that could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... and if it's a yellow card that close to the line, is it a case for a penalty try?

Brian Moore: possibly, but the ball still had to be passed along the back-line, there were a lot of defenders there, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: don't tell me, don't tell me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it is! oh, he knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: how much of that was dangerous, he was cynical! (*showing replay*) crucial things, good backing-up work, shows a lot of pace, here, doesn't he? he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up again.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) well that's not dangerous, is it? so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands now, because I imagine, Brian, drive...

Brian Moore: must do. very important for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: a slight delay. erm, not sure why, is it the old communication thing again, with Joël Jutge? actually it's Olly Morgan who's down the touchline, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking off towards the changing room.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, is it?

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) hamstring, looks like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go on the right wing, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw that close to the goal line. O'Connell is the target, well taken, on comes the drive, looks pretty good, Ireland through the middle, not quite there yet...

Brian Moore: it's coming back though!

Eddie Butler: Stringer goes on his own, it's gone loose, brilliantly offloaded...

Brian Moore: great hands!

Eddie Butler: great try for Ireland, fantastic one, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, sleight of hand, power by the forwards, great combination work against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that they might have spoilt that, because Stringer passed away, I thought they'd closed it down, but great hands in the middle, always men outside I was wondering if they could get there, (*showing replay*) I just thought that they might have closed it all down with that poor pass, but that's lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about this! D'Arcy, O'Driscoll picking it up on the half-volley, good ball from D'Arcy.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better of the last fifteen minutes, they started to get into England's line-out, England have not been able to get themselves out of their own half, now they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: two points added, Ireland sixteen, England three, and suddenly the complexion of the game has changed completely. (*showing replay*) Brian O'Driscoll's pass, and Girvan Dempsey's finish.

Brian Moore: well, there were two pieces of good handling there, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and then O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood?

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed in the last five or ten minutes.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, Wilkinson, held by two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best, Paul O'Connell rips through the outskirts of the ruck and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry tossed over...

Brian Moore: he did well to retain that but he's still being driven backwards, slow ball...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle now, Wilkinson, yeah, the change of tactic, get going forward lads, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, held in the air, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is the guilty party. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's always a dodgy moment, (*showing replay*) that is a tackle on a player in the air....

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about that, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want you to do that.

Eddie Butler: well he didn't do anything! Wilkinson, O'Gara, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna say...

Brian Moore: that was perfect!

Eddie Butler: it was, it was, but actually, it went wrong at the end. still, it's all going well for Ireland at the moment.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion as well, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Magnus Lund*) of course, Magnus Lund, perhaps lucky to be there, England would've been down to six in the pack. his brother Eric is captain of Norway. well taken, Louis Deacon, England's chance to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, went for Ronan O'Gara, and now England with numbers, Matthew Tate, Josh Lewsey, Lewsey still going, Callaghan is over there, Ellis, this is better by England, Martin Corry held up, George Chuter goes in, his Leicester team-mate, now it's to deck. o:h, wasn't quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: difficult to see from this far away. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't there quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms around it and when they went down they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on that shoulder.

Brian Moore: possibly came when he went and fell with O'Driscoll, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men outside there!

Eddie Butler: well... it was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. Lewsey, not a thumper, just a delicate one, Denis Leamy takes it, the big, strong Munster number eight does well there, and now then it might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills it behind the white line, Matthew Tate, not much ground made, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge down there, that's a cruel...

Brian Moore: outside?

Eddie Butler: surely not. did he?

Brian Moore: well, he marked it inside, unless it went sideways...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see that again!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) I don't understand that. is he inside the twenty-two when he kicks it?

Eddie Butler: did he carry it back in?

Brian Moore: I don't think so.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: very flat!

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan!

Brian Moore: he's gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, that's a brilliant tackle! fantastic tackle, but Ireland are coming through again, O'Connell's dropped it! and Wilkinson kicks it safely over the dead ball line. two great chances for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) you can see what they're doing here, angling in first, to fix the back, and then they rely on this pace there, Horgan coming back, he's a big man as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well there...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did the tackle, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) O'Connell should've held on to that.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well that's because their primary possession is suffering. in the end, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of that, O'Gara, whenever the ball's been loose, whenever he's had the chance he's just pinned England right back to these areas. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been in their respective twenty-twos, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: three and a half minutes to go to half-time, England, five metres from their own line, and oh, Stringer, what a sub-driven... Magnus Lund, was it? Back over the try line.

Brian Moore: well they're a man down, and they're still going in, now they're a man down with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan, you gotta have another man there!

Eddie Butler: they have, and Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer, has to guard that blind side... Horgan, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked that blind side gap, that's a try! I think that's David Wallace, they'll go to video replay, and I think that will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: and if it is, if he confirms the try, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in the previous scrum. (*showing replay*) I think you can see just see him touch it down here, there, there you are, that's a try. and they're out of sight at the moment... I said Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: try for the greens awarded, Joël Judge raises his arm and Ireland are clear now, and how England have suffered while they've been down to fourteen, Danny Grewcock in the sin bin.

Brian Moore: yet again... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) well O'Connell there, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? in the line-outs, he's been driving, revving his pack up there, I think England will want half-time to come very quickly. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done it again, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't missed.

Brian Moore: well this makes Ireland's poor start against France even more expensive in a way, doesn't it?

Eddie Butler: England set off again in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, O'Gara for touch. England with one minute and a few seconds in which to salvage something from this first half. (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ireland, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot of, I've said it earlier on, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back, it was nine-three when he went off, it's now twenty-three-three. Louis Deacon, good ball at last. Farrell, takes on O'Driscoll. Ball well presented. Joe Worsley, nothing really up that blind side, but they want to stretch play as far as they can, and here they come the other way, and then Mike Tindall tries to straighten, tackled by David Wallace, what an outstanding Six Nations Wallace he's having! Farrell again, this time takes on Simon Easterby... oh, good picking-up job by Martin Corry. Ellis, infield to Perry Freshwater, but it's all gone wrong for England, Josh Lewsey, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you that's a very good follow-up

tackle by Rory Best upon Lewsey! Farrell... Ireland will hoof this off the park, and that will be the break. that's it, Joël Jutge blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, at the midway point.

Brian Moore: well you'd think they'd almost won the game, I mean, they've got a long way to doing that, they dominated the last twenty-five minutes, and England, no lack in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, here at Croke Park, it's the first ever international between England and Ireland here, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

HALF-TIME

Eddie Butler: yep, half-way, and half-time, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on into the back row instead of Magnus Lund, and it's gonna be Ronan O'Gara, immaculate kicking in the first half, to restart play. Tom Rees, oh, he watched it bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well they've recovered but it's not as tight as you want, from the pressure, o:h!

Eddie Butler: and if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, indecision again... that was never Harry Ellis's ball, (*showing replay*) wow, that could've gone anywhere, could it, O'Connell he's everywhere, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: he's a sort of carrot-hair rhino, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, his last two games, he's been ineffective, but today, he's looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: he was better against France, but he's been awesome today, so far. time for England to recover yet. Martin Corry starts with that line-out, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, that's better, that's what we saw in the first game, Marcus Horan, great work by the prop, and Ireland...

Brian Moore: oh, he should've gone...

Eddie Butler: it can still go! Ireland have knocked the ball on here... great opportunity lost, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come in from the centre to have a word with the players inside. a player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know what's disappointing as well, from an England point of view, two players that got stuck in...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: when trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win this ball, probably, but look where they are, again!

Eddie Butler: on their own twenty-two, and turned by the Irish scrummage, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, that's rubbish!

Eddie Butler: ha ha, did you somehow guess that this was coming?

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just popped out of the top! it will be interesting to see from the reverse side...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the one picked out, on the far side?

Brian Moore: yes, he was, yeah.

Eddie Butler: this is simple for Ronan O'Gara, at the start of the second half...

Brian Moore: it's not what England wanted, is it, it's just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: six out of six for Ronan O'Gara, twenty-six points to three.

Brian Moore: well he's been perfect off the floor, but equally impressive has been the way, (*showing replay*) oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of them, that's the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, Gordon D'Arcy, good footwork, Tom Rees made the tackle in the end, oops, (*showing Marcus Horan*) that's Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to it. England are gonna bring a change into the front row, Julian White is coming on the field, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going off, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different then.

Brian Moore: well he did from tight head as well.

Eddie Butler: do you think he'll play, will he go to loose head?

Brian Moore: I think he will. well, Vickery can be better at loose head, so you may get Vickery there.

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...

Brian Moore: Easterby has got his hands in there as well.

Eddie Butler: just slows it up, just slows it up for Tindall, Andy Farrell, oh, that's a good delivery to Mike Tindall, Joe Worsley, let it go for Harry Ellis in the end, that is Julian White, not best known for his running in the loose, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't commit too many forwards, Farrell, behind Shane Horgan, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...

Brian Moore: and they need to start doing this, and now. (*showing replay*) that's a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they hitherto have been doing, and get the line-out clean, (*showing Paul O'Connell*) with that man I suspect...

Eddie Butler: who's towards the tail, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, they've got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man in here, no it's Simon Easterby who's at scrum-half who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose in the law book?

Brian Moore: if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score from here, from this period of play. they've had so little ball in the twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, oh, might just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. Josh Lewsey, heads past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll, great work by Lewsey on the rear foot...

Brian Moore: Rees...

Eddie Butler: England within five metres, Harry Ellis, they keep it short, it's Tom Rees again...

Brian Moore: I think they're gonna go blind this time, slow, too slow...

Eddie Butler: switch of play by Joe Worsley, no way through there, Rory Best makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: no options, has he?

Eddie Butler: no! there are a lot of forwards out here, Andy Farrell, here's Matthew Tait, Josh Lewsey...

Brian Moore: come on! he's in, he's in!

Eddie Butler: Dave Strettle on his début is going to have to suffer, trial by video. (*showing David Strettle*) the flying machine, he thinks he's got it. what a début it would be for England's winger! (*showing referee*) Joël Jutge waits. (*showing replay*) TRY!

Brian Moore: I think it's a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, that's up, it's a try. England desperately needed that, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! it was a quick ball...

Eddie Butler: well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get there, Girvan Dempsey... (*showing referee*) confirmation by Romain Poite, Strettle on the scoreboard. first game, first try.

Brian Moore: well I don't know why there's booing here, it was quite clear!

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson to put England into double figures. brilliant kick, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. (*showing statistics*)

fourth highest scorer in test rugby with nine-hundred-eleven. and Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of him, just over the thousand mark.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) good passing, Farrell. draws his man, keeps it relatively straight and that creates room outside.

Eddie Butler: Jo Worsley, who was involved...

Brian Moore: there are men left here if the ball comes quickly... too late.

Eddie Butler: England backs against Irish forwards there, but they're gone the other way. just may have handed it back to Girvan Dempsey.

Brian Moore: well that was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers out there!

Eddie Butler: good tackle by Phil Vickery on Ireland's fullback. O'Gara, just to settle things down, get back down there. Lewsey with not much space, will he keep it in field?

Brian Moore: no! (*showing statistics*) well the balls won in opponents' twenty-two, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more in the Irish half and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing so far, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts inside Wilkinson. quick ball for Ireland now, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in in one way, and they keep going that way, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: that was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static now for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it infield, but in touch. England's throw.

Brian Moore: but again, the result is, England are back in their twenty-two, Ireland are well able to attack the lineout...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day at the line-outs, it's alright for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming in the side there, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in from behind the back foot... oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both there...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing there, in midfield. well spotted by the referee, it's easy from here, we are perched above the ground and sometimes at ground level it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think that was relatively easy, actually!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's the problem, he's too close, if he'd been another five yards away, no problem. but this is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points when they're on offer.

Eddie Butler: well, it is half-way, well, of course it's no surprise he's gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six-three down in the opening seconds of the first half, twenty-six-thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: (*showing distance to posts*) dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: and the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have such a support behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is there to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage still being played, Girvan Dempsey still in possession. it's there for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come into the second row, (*showing Brian Ashton*) there's Brian Ashton, Palmer on, Danny Grewcock off.

Brian Moore: just for a second there, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have another penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. the first half, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're constantly on the back foot, this is what happens, the decisions go your way...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) the simple instruction, going for goal. The all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, (*showing Tom Palmer*) there's Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and meanwhile Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake this time, England now have half the number of points Ireland have. (*showing Eddie O'Sullivan*) Eddie O'Sullivan, will he be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan, and they're holding up and they're driving backwards, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, no sooner than you got three points, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school when you could do that... you can't do that, it's against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea either.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: never in doubt!

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged them a bit further in front.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson to restart, and England have to restart again. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get underneath it, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands wide...

Eddie Butler: David Wallace in midfield took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's there too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes forward, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll there... turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: called by the touch judge I think, (*showing replay*) oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, he was in a much better position than I was.

Eddie Butler: well, not much, we're slightly off-line.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened two or three times, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: and that doesn't happen very often.

Brian Moore: no, not to Lewsey!

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. and that shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged today, they've done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose that as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, actually.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone over from tight to loose head, he's the one nearest us, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush in defence might just have saved England there.

Brian Moore: well he saw it, didn't he, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: and that's what they've done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps too. Ireland with a chance to come wide, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted across, Hickie though, still in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT?

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it quickly. no time to stop now, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer out of the way. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey now, Strettle, it's gone forward, that one was forward. play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: they're walking, out there!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery from the front row, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go anywhere now, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play till the whistle! to be fair to them they were a long way away to the far side, and they may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke at half-time about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about it. look now, (*showing statistics with animations*) England are playing an outside-to-inside defence, the outside man is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players there, they are all arrowing in, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same

thing, which they weren't in the first half, which means Ireland are struggling to get wide. again, Mike Tindall does it, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, watch Mike Tindall, he shoots out the line, goes for the intercept, and forces O'Gara back inside. he's preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England in the first half.

Brian Moore: Austin, do you think that O'Gara saw it? if he had just had a little more dexterity, he would've thrown behind him, they were three on one, you know, he's got to see that and take his... he's gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: yeah, absolutely, but, we saw just there when Andy Farrell made the interception, he tried to do it then, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. he's come to a strange position, he's gone to a sort of outside centre position, good attacking opportunity on both sides for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, if you've never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, you are doing it now. three to two on their left-hand side!

Eddie Butler: Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now the gap has shut. O'Gara knew it was closed, and Julian White has knocked on. just for a moment it seemed to open up then, but England closed it pretty... pretty well.

Brian Moore: well they took the wrong options, they went the wrong way, then. (*showing replay*) there's the knock-on.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis having some sort of breathless passage which went on for two minutes, now then Gerry Flannery has come on, Rory Best has gone off. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well today. Ireland put him into tight blind side. Shane Horgan has vacated it, but he's straight behind the scrum, he's now gone into it, but the scrum has wheeled away from its...

Brian Moore: that's a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: by whom?

Brian Moore: number eight.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. O'Connell, with a little pick-up and drive, now O'Gara goes for the gap, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie, oh, great pick-up by Shane Horgan! now then, are we gonna replay, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll at the bottom of that. so now...

Brian Moore: I don't know how he got from Horgan! I thought he'd gone beyond!

Eddie Butler: I was looking at the touchline, yeah! referee knew...

Brian Moore: he's not even looking!

Eddie Butler: no, he knew the ball was held up. great sleight of hand, though, (*showing replay*) let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: good hands for Horgan today... and good work there by Tindall, to hold him up!

Eddie Butler: it's all Ireland though, England had their say at the start of the second half but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go for the wide option, the kick to Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: IT'S A TRY!

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, wonderful work, the six-foot tall Horgan, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.

Brian Moore: well what a touch for Ireland, they were under pressure for the first ten minutes, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... (*showing replay*) well judged, and, well Horgan is just a big, tall, athletic man, isn't he, no contest really. that looks very easy, and it's not, actually!

Eddie Butler: they always had the width, and Shane Horgan kept that width, he always had the outside line on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go infield because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know where that really came from? about two minutes earlier, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped on the floor really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara... keeps up his one-hundred percent record, eight out of eight, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys at the back row for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey in, and we saw a great take there from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: (*showing score*) thirty-six-thirteen, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! O'Driscoll...

Brian Moore: good hands.

Eddie Butler: that little tight hamstring, perhaps, to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland in twenty-nine tests, and O'Driscoll is down, that hamstring's gone again, Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell back into the midfield, but there'll be worried looks on Irish bench, cause O'Gara has moved into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated. David Wallace, the attack goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer waits. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't go into this ruck, he'll go straight to the dressing room. it's a turnover for England, stay out of that ruck, Brian! think icepack, in changing room. o:h... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) now he's gotta go, he's gotta go, surely. he's going back to his position!

Brian Moore: well from the time you saw that, he just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance here, I think he's gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) it's the contact after passing, your mind sort of switches off. he looks alright there. okay, he says, calm down everybody, he's saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's alright, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage today.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, very conspicuous, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. change at scrum-half for England, Shaun Perry of Bristol is on. Gerry Flannery finds the target of the line-out, nothing wrong with his passing skills, Girvan Dempsey! Dennis Hickie kept the inside line, Ireland come back quickly the other way. O'Gara, Leamy, batters into Louis Deacon and Julian White, there are numbers out here, the rushed defence doesn't work, Hickie, D'Arcy, oh... Hickie still in possession, Stringer, are they going for the high one again? up comes Shane Horgan again, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, Wallace, couldn't get his hands on it, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball out of play. knock-on.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that could've gone anywhere, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, it squirmed away... I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up for a brief moment as he thought it was gonna drop into his hands and he was gonna stroll over the line, but...

Eddie Butler: change for Ireland in the back row, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... here is David Wallace, Best goes in, first man, to the breakdown. Stringer checks the blind side, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man on the field.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men wide, if they stretch it.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, good footwork by Wallace, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised there if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, well read!

Brian Moore: I thought it was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: (*showing statistics*) there you are, twenty to six, ball won in opponent's twenty-two, not always the definitive statistic, but it's very telling usually, and on this occasion it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson's comeback has had a little, well it's not a wake-up call because it was tough against Italy, but the winning run will come to an end here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: you know the feel you get about the Irish team when they play this way, is that they're well balanced. the players are in the right positions, they complement each other in units, and when it flows, they look very good!

Eddie Butler: a change in the front row, big John Hayes goes off, and Simon Best comes on. Ulster now, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation. oh that's well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock it on? Ireland's record win, twenty-eight-twenty-four in two-thousand-and-six, and twenty-two-nil in nineteen-forty-seven, this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record-setting day for Ireland, if it stays like this. England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross. Farrell, knock-on, another England attack comes to nothing. as you were saying, Brian, just the mixture of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, poor pass!

Eddie Butler: another change for England at hooker, George Chuter comes off, and on comes Lee Mears of Bath.

Brian Moore: all the work he's supposed to do, it ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. fresh legs to run around and make some tackles. There's eight-and-a-half minutes to go.

Brian Moore: totally illegal binding! how can a referee not see that!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! the green there, he's supposed to bind on the top of the shirt. the referee's there, where is he binding, he's on the arm!

Eddie Butler: the top of the arm, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't it?

Brian Moore: no, it's not, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: Josh Lewsey, he's in a spot of bother now, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry waits, Wilkinson in the pocket clears.

Brian Moore: well, this is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting over the half-way, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. they've weathered the storms, they've scrapped well, they've balanced well...

Eddie Butler: and Brian O'Driscoll comes off...

Brian Moore: he should've gone off earlier...

Eddie Butler: and on goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame him, though, he wants to milk every moment of this reception at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: (*showing Irish supporters*) all hail to the king!

Eddie Butler: Neil Best at the line-out. Gerry Flannery picks up, Jo Worsley makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body all over the place, not his fault...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's off, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us into the corner! he's over-kicked it!

Brian Moore: oh! a rare mistake.

Eddie Butler: more rugby tonight in Paris, France on course for the Grand Slam against Wales.

Brian Moore: just mentioning the French, you know, when the Irish think back at this season, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that they could not, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the Grand Slam should've been theirs this year.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry tackled by Stringer, and England forced backwards yet again, little Lee Mears drives at Ronan O'Gara, Perry, Farrell, possession handed back, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, O'Gara!

Brian Moore: he doesn't need to, does he!

Eddie Butler: he doesn't need to at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect him, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: o:h, that's not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) oh, surely that touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: yes.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, still winning line-out ball.

Brian Moore: you see that, Flannery there, he did enough damage to mess that ball up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: and they continue to make a mess of the England ruck. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, they need numbers. well picked up, Wilkinson. a sort of up-and-under from within his own twenty-two, a chance here for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery in midfield. tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, (*showing Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby*) there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... Philip Matthews. happy?

Philip Matthews: yeah, it just strikes me, Brian, I don't know what you think, England's confidence today has not been there, has it. when they started the second half brightly, it faded very quickly. they did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on it faded. Brian, what are you saying about the Farrell thing, where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?

Brian Moore: he's too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: yeah, I couldn't agree with you more, it's just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety there, they're gonna have to change it.

Brian Moore: so, you know, England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games after a long losing streak, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: that's absolutely right, yeah.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, you know, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: well I think they struggled upfront and when Ireland got their numbers on their line-outs in the first half. Paddy Wallace is also on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting upfront, Brian, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: they haven't been stuffed upfront, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, here is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright Brian, here we go, you have a little decision to make? man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... what hasn't he done today, he's flown around in the loose, he's been deadly solid in the line-out, he's been abrasive, combative, he's put a super game and forwards get too little credit anyway. it's those people who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to it, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly either, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, God!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, it's the icing! the icing on a cake that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. and it is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back from defeat against France in the last round! (*showing Isaac Boss*) I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for the try.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well... once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, as simple as that, it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field, and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: and I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have they got an appetite for me, this is Neil Best, still, the long dark hair, penalty to Ireland. Boss takes it quickly...

Brian Moore: kick it off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: that is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. they complement each other, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but they should've been in Grand Slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the Grand Slam, but for the Triple Crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

1.6) L'extrait FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: plenty of time and space. Delaney galloping up there in support, and he gets it. Damien Johnson's there with him. now, a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time... towards Hartson, away by Davis. and this is Fletcher, Delaney. Maik Taylor, a good handling, man. brimmed full with confidence at the moment.

Mark Bright: great take. as I was just saying, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting it, it's swirling around, and two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City. it was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: inspired, just one of those performances and...

Jonathan Pearce: and then he was beaten by a horrible one!

Mark Bright: it says something when the goalkeeper's the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: cleared away by Fletcher, and towards Hartson. now Ryan Giggs. Damien Johnson was in there. Duff, to Gillespie, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. Murdock, half an error under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has it. Murdock started at Manchester United as well! this is Giggs, teasing cross! punched away only as far as Hartson. now Fletcher, Ricketts, Welsh club player of the year, took that award the other day, the run blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: took that throw-in a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: looks to be unhappy with Duff there, momentarily, but Duff gets it away. Ricketts to Fletcher, James Quinn was in there, Partridge couldn't get it back but now it comes to Simon Davies, chance here for Wales! oh, he pinged it!

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick him up, he comes in off the line, and he's in a position between the midfield and the forwards. now there's no one to close him down. and it's a free shot at target. (*showing replay from a different angle*) here he is, just in the in-between section... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: he hasn't scored since he found the back of the net for Tottenham away at Charlton, in February two-thousand-and-four. here's Ryan Giggs, Earnshaw through the middle... just thinking back, Mark, to when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy, back in October two-thousand-and-two, you know, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... and it happens as well, one minute you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and next thing you know, you're a forgotten man, you know, and he's had plenty of injury problems... referee there, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, you know, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward there, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. and I think that, as we can... what we know here... that's something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfield player, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance in that second half against England from the Villa youngster... This'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy again, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! (*showing Colin Murdock*) has scored for his country, it was a header in October of two-thousand-and-four, against Austria.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well here and as you can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, you can just see, a couple on the edge of the eighteen-yard box, and then a few dropped into the box, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff when they've got the ball...

Mark Bright: yeah, it's a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) well I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle as he tries to take it in his way. I think he was unlucky not to get a free kick there.

Jonathan Pearce: His dad had passed away in the build-up to the game... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get beyond Partridge, and does so, but the cross away behind for the goal kick at the railway end. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) well, he's had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years now, (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn in the middle making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is there with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) unlucky there, Quinn, you could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it in the path, and it was well anticipated there by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the eighty-six World Cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. aimed at James Quinn, denied in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. the Belfast boy clears it away. it's his sixth cap for his country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. (*showing John Toshack*) a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... from experienced players who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... as Mark was saying, he has mentioned today, he needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think it was Ricketts, wasn't it... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) it was Ricketts there who blocked him.

Mark Bright: yeah, the obstruction there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised he didn't get a yellow card for that!

Jonathan Pearce: now Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is there as well. aimed it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back again, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... they'll miss the final game in the cup if they pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) look at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, look, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but you know, where was Partridge in the original challenge? he's way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up he goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on

the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. (*showing Irish supporters*) twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... since last month!

Mark Bright: who could blame them...

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. the twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: no! Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if he'd been on the half-turn he could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. he decided to hold it, lay it back, and it broke the move down.

Jonathan Pearce: he has struggled to rediscover the verve of his early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, Mark, to that... his shin problem...

Mark Bright: well there it goes, and you got people saying, well, he's never been the same since the injury and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, you know, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. but it's good to see him fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's there again, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances in the air. Capaldi, to Davis, now Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces today... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but the foul was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... he sort of pushed his hands out to say no, but he didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting in the way there... sometimes you might-just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. (*showing replay*) he's under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! here comes Quinn, there he is with the arms... just impeded the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, you know, I'm gonna-threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap today, James Quinn, went through that long barren spell as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly a thousand-four-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the mighty Quinn, some call him in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... one of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, over the top towards Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing here, Earnshaw's back-heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross there... particularly for the penalty area, four Welsh players in there... especially after the crosses he'd put in earlier, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver on that occasion.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: he has to get in front Collins, doesn't he? he's alert to the situation.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner here to Wales. it's their first of the game, we've been playing for twenty-four minutes.

Mark Bright: (*showing Irish fans*) the crowd behind that goal are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... it's really hard to believe, it's incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with the corner, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and now this is Healy. he needs to hold it up there. pursued by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help there, Healy, everyone went past him. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick then, for Northern Ireland. twenty-five minutes gone, no goals. in the air by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. can't

control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. might have fouled Damien Johnson there... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was very close to it. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, earlier in this qualifying group. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. this is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's in the middle, Hartson in there as well, behind him... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late to the edge of the penalty area, and Wales are ahead after twenty-six minutes, with a fine, fine goal. (*showing Welsh supporters*) time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but it all started way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was there for him and then all he had to do was cut it back. here he is, no one can get near to him, Davies arriving before. he had one shot, it's gone over, one had gone wide. he just takes it, times it just nice... and Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. he's been bothered all week by his injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern here, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: yes, definitely. I was lucky, I spent the day over here with Lawrie Sanchez on Wednesday, and err, the whole day from morning till the evening. it was good to be around the boys... and what he emphasized to me is, he doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. it's definitely something he wanted to build on, and that was the fear. they started the game really well, but on that occasion, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled high, he is troubled in the air, Jones, again, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting off the ground, Paul Jones. he's only played the one game, you know, this season, Mark... it was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, (*showing players celebrating*) and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal in the John Toshack era. second era of course, he managed for one game previously. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by the goal... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, since Craig Bellamy scored two against Hungary back in February of last year, John Toshack's first game back in charge. his previous spell as I say lasted just the one match, it was against Norway back in ninety-four. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, hasn't he, nice and tight to the strikers. he can get in front, he gets in front and wins it, he's very strong in the air.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching the half-hour mark. Wales lead. in towards Murdock, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie again. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) here's a long throw... and watch everyone getting in each other's way, there, John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football again in England with Rotherham, he was a while in Scotland with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and here's the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well there. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) really contributed to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side in Cardiff. they were down to nine men but they still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, was he being pulled back there?

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, he could've appealed there...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought he was being pulled, Mark!

Mark Bright: yeah, looked like it to me. he slightly lost control of the ball, but I think it was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of it.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's there, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think that's a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that today. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back in and the defender push him out of the way, winning and go and head the ball. same with James, err, James Collins at the back here, as well, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, forward by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, will he run at Sam Ricketts here? he does so, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie over the years, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come inside and play, try and take him on on the outside and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Northern Ireland's fourth of the game. here's Quinn at the near post, it's beyond him, headed down by James Collins, was it? no, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said that was a corner. it definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. (*showing replay*) here it is, yeah, Murdock's climbing all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer from Cardiff by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal originally, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham this season. suspended today.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance today.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: yeah...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Hartson...

Mark Bright: as he tried to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went out again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing John Hartson*) a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that in a while...

Mark Bright: yeah... it just gives you a lift, you know... (*showing replay*) and here he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes here...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, you know, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, you know, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but, you know, the good point, after an hour or so, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, just that sharpness in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick there, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom last weekend. Wales have this free kick. ten minutes to go in the first half. Partridge looks for Hartson, a broken wrestling match in the penalty area, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side, the Plymouth Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry there, in Wales, or Ireland, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes from Canada and he was actually born in Norway, his dad played there. also played for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now this is David Healy, buzz of anticipation whenever he gets it. Duff, high to James Quinn, James Collins was underneath it.

Mark Bright: unlucky Quinn, it bounced well there for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney, Simon Davies, Capaldi wins it, Collins away, this is Damien Johnson, space here for Gillespie, if he looks to his right-hand side he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria in October nineteen-ninety-four, second appearance for his country.

Mark Bright: amazing, isn't it, one goal, in what, sixty... (*showing replay*) it's worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit down this way, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap to his right-hand side, maybe if he just waited a little bit... it's always worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, lovely run, beyond Duff and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest, Earnshaw's in the middle, behind him, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! again a midfield runner making a late entry into the penalty box, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs.... two-nil to Wales.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) we've seen this many times over the years, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, a little glance up, he used to be criticized in his earlier part of his career for not delivering but on this occasion, picks out, beautiful run there, you can see Robinson stretching to get into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and here we go. he can pick out of two or three here, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, second midfield player of the day getting in there and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. nineteen places above Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, isn't there... he just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till that ball went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing he's been doing all his career, really, just going past, attacking people, and it opened up because he was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: a morale-bolstering first half, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... but he's got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over his career he's seen it all, hasn't he? Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo, he just said he's been through all this before... he said, for where I want to get, I'll be thick-skinned, I'll make the decisions I'll have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: his fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years. he won the title with Real Madrid, don't forget.

Mark Bright: yeah, his first season.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder here... and Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... was that a clear goal scoring opportunity? it's a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess that's punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card here, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: no sense in getting mad... (*showing replay*) it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased that back, a poor clearance, and then this is... that there, you don't, you cannot... when you're under pressure like that, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: the foul, the first foul was way outside the box. it's gonna be John Hartson, and he's being booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: well, that's given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... (*showing replay*) does he slip? and he's guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: lacked power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. (*showing Irish supporters*) let-off for Northern Ireland. could it change the course of the game? Robinson's in there again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: fantastic, but it was a mistake that led to that, it was a poor clearance from him, there was a little bit of pressure but... (*showing replay*) this is about gauging and guessing right here, and he does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. all credits to the goalkeeper. fine save. and it was just the lift they needed, as well, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, now space for Capaldi to get the cross in, high for James Quinn, comes down to Healy, scrambled away to Davis, offside, was it? no, it's not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, (*showing the referees*) this is the referee, right down there, we can see from where we are, he's right there on the spot...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) and James Quinn in the air...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men in an offside position.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Delaney, good first half, Earnshaw, very open and stretched again, Ryan Giggs, aims at Hartson, it was too high... Wales are playing their best football in a long, long while.

Mark Bright: Robinson's in there looking for his second as well...

Jonathan Pearce: given away by Davies, this is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, now Elliott, forward by Duff and an offside flag against James Quinn.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say they've lost four straight defeats! and obviously Gabbidon's missing as well, and Bellamy, really important players...

Jonathan Pearce: Bellamy injured, Savage has quit the scene... has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, Ben Thatcher felt that, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he's got Healy in the middle, Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Partridge*) Quinn holds his hand up there, acknowledging the mistake... it's one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get in front of the attacker there, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, part of John Toshack's new Wales... made his *début* in a friendly against Hungary, started the Toshack reign, this is Earnshaw... wins the throw.

Mark Bright: that's good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent after the England victory, they could be embarrassed today. on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, they're punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it now. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, no Hughes don't forget at the back for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card here, for Delaney, for time-wasting! It means that that's his second card of the campaign, he'll miss the game against Azerbaijan, having just come back into the side. block by Davis,

Quinn to his left, Healy making a run through the middle, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first after twenty-six minutes, and Carl Robinson from midfield adding the second on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez mid-week and he just said, you know, he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game, and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half here for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, (*showing replay*) and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead here by two goals to nil.

Half-time

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking from right to left, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. And all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing at the moment. an early ball down the right by Duff, headed away by Partridge. now Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and Delaney away... and Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you in a moment on that, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country in exactly eleven years this week.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, (*showing replay*) and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come from midfield, a lovely weighted one-two here, that touch was the killer touch there, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying at half-time, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: first minute of the second half, two-one. the game's been very open, right from the start. given away by Gillespie very nearly there, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted in the air, (*showing James Collins*) and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming here. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... (*showing replay*) and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm at first, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around on the floor, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, on the bench, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, (*showing replay*) burst through, lovely finish.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, from back to front, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away from the defence, that was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, where are you, and slotted it down in the corner.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that after the hard work they've done in the first half, they've gone in there, and Toshack was doing his team talk at half-time, and said, you know, we should be three up, this should be game, set and match, you come out, and concede a goal straight away, different complex on the game now. the crowd are back, (*showing John Toshack*) he's concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: he is concerned, not too sure whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, they're trying to put something back in place... and here comes Northern Ireland again, Healy and Davis together, it's Healy, cross by Johnson, looking for Quinn, and Wales rocking at the start of the second half, and down temporarily to ten men.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped to the centre-back position, I'm not sure it's enough here, somebody from up front, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping down into the midfield, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's off the pitch.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Irish supporters*) they're buoyant again.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Collins*) he looks in some pain, doesn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: given a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe it? Steven Davis! what a start to the second half! within four and a half minutes, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it at half-time, we heard Ian Downing, you know, I think he felt something could happen here. great throw, challenged again, the ball drops down, he's just the first on to it! he reacts so quickly (*showing replay*), Quinn's causing trouble everywhere, he's in the near post here, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's picking up, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams it in, this is an unbelievable start... for Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! his first goal for his country, Steven Davis. and he fizzed it in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: just seen it so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen them on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think, it doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. and it changes so quickly, and the momentum's now with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: and how costly, the injury to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and Northern Ireland back in it. now Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's there, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say he was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been on the field of play, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, ifs, buts and maybes... (*showing James Collins*) he's there, now he's going off, you know, to me it's like his shoulder popped out, he's off the pitch, I think it was Robinson who dropped into the centre-back position, you need players to react quickly. and it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: Richard Duffy has come on for him now. he's on a loan at the moment, at Coventry. Portsmouth player, he's on a loan for a season. and a free kick here for Wales. tumultuous start to the second half. Giggs and Fletcher there, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space in the penalty area. (*showing Robert Earnshaw*) well Earnshaw earned the free kick, driven off the ball, you can just hear the drums are going now, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and buoyant as well, Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of them today. interesting to hear the boys talking at half-time in the studio, Mark. and Barry saying, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that they wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing away from home, just that confidence. and all of a sudden... back on level terms, back on level terms in a few minutes as well...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing David Healy*) Healy, as he made that run, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone into a centre-half position for Wales after the substitution, Duffy coming on at right-back. Delaney of course played there many times before.

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play everywhere.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. (*showing David Healy*) a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, David Healy. from Downpatrick. one of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums at the time, a wonderful goal he scored against Austria. Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by (*showing Irish supporters*) Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game in a swirling four minutes. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is in there, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: (*showing Sam Ricketts*) yeah, I've got four men! please help him!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts again under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop kindly for Giggs, and now John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him there too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing that penalty area. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, out it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah. foot up to the block... the difference there between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped down, in the Welsh defence, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped down there, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball in the box.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight there of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international in his time, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set up these days, Terry Gibson is there as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal in the nineteen-eighty-two World Cup finals against Spain, in Spain.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, John, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine at half-time what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around quickly, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: here's a free kick to Wales. (*showing John Toshack*) John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played in Wales a year ago. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is there to his left, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and through the wall... but not beyond Maik Taylor.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked another seven or eight yards on that, further forward.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie in there again, he's a man possessed at the moment, now Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming in off a wide position. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball at the start of this second half. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... (*showing two players arguing*) more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration there. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it at the edge of the box... just as he gets loose from there, (*showing replay*) he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, every time you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game when they last met, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty that day.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position now... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies just on the right side. it's a good shooting opportunity. good play from Earnshaw there, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running past him, no one coming around to show for a shot... (*showing replay*) ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: again it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights moments ago, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing there as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! on the hour, the game swings again! and it's the Welsh captain who restores their lead. and which way is this one gonna turn out?

Mark Bright: well, what a game we've got here! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for this! (*showing replay*) he's got a wall covering one side of the goal, and that means you're responsible for the other side, and I think he's gambling on going left, and then he reacts to go right, he's got the wall covering one side, now that far side must be his responsibility. there's the wall, it's covering his left-hand side of the goal, so that means the right-hand side of the goal's his responsibility. it doesn't even go in the corner, it's just left of centre. I think that's a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan in March two-thousand-and-three. how much did he learn from the previous free kick moments ago?

Mark Bright: well, it was a little bit further out as well, and as I said, Ryan Giggs would've liked this free kick to be another eight yards forward. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! and important this, for both countries. the more victories they get, the higher up the group they can finish, will affect their draw for the next World Cup qualifier. not the European Championship qualifier, as some people have been saying. it's too late for that. they've got too much to do to finish above the teams in their sort of specific tier of countries. away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it out there, Robinson does just that. just sort of caught in two minds!

Mark Bright: I think he just saw somebody out of the corner of his eye, there, might've been-Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run off him, and this is Davies, and Hartson's in space if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: yeah, the big fellow came into the box, took it in his stride, then it just wouldn't settle for him, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi came across, and robbed him of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Quinn back inside his own penalty area as well, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy away downfield. sixty-two minutes gone. Giggs's corner, Fletcher couldn't get beyond James Quinn, the Welsh leading by three goals to two. it was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: he did well... the referee's played the advantage there as well. a foul on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: Duffy in here, Hartson's away through the middle, he was actually standing offside, I think he's offside again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. Ryan Giggs, Simon Davies, lots of space, too much space. it's all Wales at the moment!

Mark Bright: Duffy's come on as a substitute, anticipating that ball on the half-way line, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: a substitution for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be Chris Brunt on, from Sheffield Wednesday, very promising. Elliott will be the man who departs. Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, twenty years of age, started off at Middlesbrough, and won the FA Youth Cup with them, and went on loan to Sheffield Wednesday initially. he scored a couple of goals at the weekend against Coventry.

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, yeah, so obviously they're looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: he scored a great goal at under-twenty-one level, against Scotland. Gillespie looking long, a foul against Healy...

Mark Bright: well, tumbling with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. what a come-back now as centre-back in his first game since May, at the end of last season.

Mark Bright: doesn't carry any weight, does he? very lean, and it doesn't matter, you know, you work and work and work, when you come back from injury, it's just the games, that's what we were talking about, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw, to Simon Davies, got the shot away, palmed that just behind Earnshaw, Craigan was second to it, this is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous every time they come forward, Earnshaw! offside, wouldn't have counted.

Mark Bright: just end to end, isn't it? you know, you just wouldn't believe at half-time when Wales were two-nil up, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, now they're behind again, and now the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales (*showing replay*) this is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took it early, when it came across him, just a great strike there, look at the far side, and when the keeper parries the ball you can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Ian Downing in the studio right now.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Downie.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, got it down but cleared away by Partridge, chance here, Johnson! good block, important save by Jones, and here come Wales, flying on the counter. this is terrific stuff. so open. Giggs, Hartson way offside. Northern Ireland came out. (*showing replay*) and here come the home side again, this is Brunt, his first touch as a substitute. good block by Jones, wasn't it? and Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: it was, yeah... the defence is no... they just stood still, he's aiming straight down at the goalkeeper there, he goes across the goal, just like Davies did a few minutes earlier, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi, Robinson, who finds Giggs, Earnshaw offside.

Mark Bright: Giggs and Davies, that was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, in the second half, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball inside as opposed to wide on the wings.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs tracking back, and winning it! conceded the foul here.

Mark Bright: I think he's saying somebody tell me, tell me there's a man behind me. (*showing replay*) Johnson did well there, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: that's a splendid save again!

Mark Bright: that's what I like with the referee's decision, if you want to take it early, you know, without putting a wall up, you know, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for

winning the free kick, (*showing replay*) there you go, hand on it, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones out of... off his line.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. Brunt's corner kick. just cleared away from Duff's head by Duffy. and the pressure swings back on the Welsh goal!

Mark Bright: Gillespie with a corner from this side.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops in the last couple of moments. and unopposed there, allowed to make the save.

Mark Bright: disappointed with the pressure there, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it away from the goalkeeper. you know, there's an area, really, between the penalty spot and the six-yard box, it's too far from the keeper to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack before today, and especially in this second half, they've looked dangerous every time they attack.

Mark Bright: well, it's been open, hasn't it? I mean, at times, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side on a Friday! end to end! both teams playing deep, lots of work for midfield players to do... it's really enjoyable, you know, not gonna criticise a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, offside.

Mark Bright: well, Healy was coming back, he was in front of the defence and as that ball has come over his head he's coming back onside, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: just under twenty minutes left. Partridge will take it. he started off with West Ham, Partridge. this is Capaldi, to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control, brings Davis into the play, and now Duff, high back to James Quinn, Brunt was behind him, Simon Davies. caught in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: good pressure from Johnson there, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: so important for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, this is Brunt, Capaldi, too far for Jones, Healy headed it back across, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get there.

Mark Bright: the curl on the ball, lovely shaped, coming away from the goalkeeper, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddalling, you head it, and it hits the guy in front of you.

Jonathan Pearce: and the corner for Northern Ireland, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl it in. Quinn is in there, so is Murdock. cleared away by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard up and down that Northern Ireland right. forward by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it in the air, Murdock in there, away by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt onside, a hanging cross, and away by Duffy under pressure.

Mark Bright: a good defending, really, and good pressure as well, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball in the penalty area. a short one.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, and another corner. and the pressure beginning to mount.

Mark Bright: everybody back now, the Welsh team. the eighteen-yard box, majority in the six, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones making sure he's got room, doesn't want to come through a thicket of players, but has to do just that, he didn't get the punch away, did that hit an arm? Robinson! it was Brunt who had the little stab at the end of it, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson on the arm! slid down his arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think he thought he was gonna get challenged, his arm was up, and his head was pointing downwards.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, is that a penalty? Healy went over. and the Northern Ireland coaching staff are on their feet, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: handball?

Jonathan Pearce: is that a handball by Delaney? Quinn! unbelievable pressure here. back in by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis again, Murdock stayed forward, Gillespie's header, and drops it just wide. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing to his hand, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact there. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) but a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd behind the goal. (*showing replay*) this is the in-swinger. this one goes up in the air... that there, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: yes, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, back to goal, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: but throughout the game, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it into the six-yard area, Wales have looked uncomfortable. especially since James Collins went off.

Mark Bright: yeah, he was dominant in the air in the first half of the game. (*showing John Toshack*) you know, Partridge is comfortable in the air, Delaney's got the height, he's coming there, but it's just one of those situations where it's continually coming back in the box in the air, and it's swirling round, and people don't move out of the way when you want to go and clear it, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack there, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's there, oh, good goalkeeping. Really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Healy*) we saw the frustration on Healy when he turned away, a little bit of anger, (*showing replay*) I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just here. because if he gets a touch, it's a penalty. there he's frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. now Giggs, on beyond Duff, Johnson there, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. finds Gillespie, good play. high, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: and Delaney... now this is forward by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie now. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging the touch line. Healy's there in front of him, so who's in the middle? Quinn is in the middle, if they can-get it in there. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution here for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go off, and Vaughan is coming on for his fourth cap. and they'll just leave John Hartson up front here, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfield player.

Mark Bright: he is a midfield player. he plays for Crewe, he's very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five in the midfield and just leave John Hartson on his own at front.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson back in there, oh it's beyond Murdock and Quinn!

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone to the left-hand side of midfield, and Ryan Giggs has come over to this right at the moment, he's just standing off Davies, but I wonder if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, Mark, in the closing stages?

Mark Bright: well, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, you know, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, you know, they can all take a chance when the time is right.

Jonathan Pearce: here is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets there, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. (*showing Colin Murdock*) thirty-year-old from Ballymena, started off at Old Trafford but didn't make the grade there. while he was at Old Trafford, I think he was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, now Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. that is frustrating because I know on Wednesday they were working really hard on getting that ball into the box, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts now, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: again it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for now, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure he should try and strike that with the outside of his foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick in again. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight out of play again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up as the game has gone on, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. away by Craigan. energy levels sap, eleven minutes to go. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it in the air, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, away by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got back at him but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence there from Healy. (*showing David Partridge*) Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. at this time of the game, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: he'll miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney. and Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. ten minutes to go. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. (*showing Paul Jones*) Jones organising the wall, four men in it, that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players in the wall. and Northern Ireland about to make another substitution. another Crewe player is about to come on, this time it'll be Steve Jones, we'll see him in a minute but it's Giggs meanwhile who gives it away, Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. and Northern Ireland wanna make the substitution here, it's gonna be Mike Duff who departs, and Steve Jones who comes on. comes from Londonderry, twenty-eight-year-old, this is his nineteenth appearance for his country, another player who played for England at semi-pro level.

Mark Bright: he's a forward, he's quick.

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over on that right-hand side, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. now Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. now Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: doesn't need to do that. doesn't need to do that, giving it away. even though Giggs made the run. what he does is, he takes a defender with him, there's a bit more space, come inside, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, you know, he's been unlucky not to get anything in the box so far, you know, he's come to lead in the line, holding it up, bringing people into play, you know, big player, strong, back to goal, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Keith Gillespie*) can Northern Ireland provide another twist in the turn of an extraordinary game? Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, at two-two, at the start of the second half, Quinn, Davis again, just too far for Healy.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it as well, (*showing replay*) Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just a bit too far. here it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball there, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis at the start of the second half made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal now separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is there with him, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won in the air well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt in space. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised there by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson meanwhile, and he's gone down, and

Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and still they play on, and he looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: everywhere, everywhere, decisions everywhere!

Jonathan Pearce: and they get the cross back in... Quinn! couldn't get out of the way!

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) oh, the Welsh players, they're furious there. Carl Fletcher was down on the floor, and wanted them, I think, to kick the ball out, he soon got up, and back on his feet, complaining to the referee now, that he was down. it's not a head injury, you know, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that they're in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, under five minutes to go, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan again. as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper, Lawrie Sanchez turned around and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause he knows it's so important coming towards the end of the game. you gotta keep that ball away from the goalkeeper.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: that's the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. (*showing Damien Johnson*) he's fouled him there. stokes up that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are gonna make another substitution, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on at centre-half, and (*showing Sam Ricketts*) Ricketts is the man who makes way, presumably Collins will go straight up there and play on the left side, will he?

Mark Bright: he was a midfield player originally, wasn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he started off as a midfielder.

Mark Bright: yeah, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: winning his second cap, he made his *début* in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary. woo:h! rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! three minutes to go, just under. World Cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future World Cup qualification. Jones, Johnson, in towards James Quinn, lovely lay-off, Jones was in there but couldn't find his way through and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. well, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, all the way to the end, good clearance there from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous now, arms are flying in the penalty area but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Ryan Giggs*) Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen there, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! well, he struck that!

Mark Bright: well, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! (*showing replay*) here it comes, we can see the rain coming down now, there, it's just away from everybody, you know, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: into the last minute. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. now a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, now this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club-mate, towards James Quinn, suspicion of a little punch there by Partridge?

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything at this stage.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up now to tell us how much time we'll have added on. four minutes.

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by the fourth official, Kevin Blon. Vaughan, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, this is Robinson, Duffy, good run by Simon Davies, just too far in front of him. terrific entertainment. away by Delaney, Hartson offside.

Mark Bright: the kick's weak. they've gotta get around Quinn. they've just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get around him. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's out here...

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together there, but it was dropped in short Carl Robinson headed it away, now Craigan, one minute of stoppage time played. Brunt's header down, Duffy blocked and clears.

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience there, he had Simon Davies just in front of him, just roll the ball into feet, and then Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: high up towards Murdock, who'll surely stay forward in this stoppage time period, Gillespie hoists it, James Quinn backing on to Fletcher who held his ground, now Giggs! oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, a long way out I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing there, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, has he? I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) knocks it beyond the defender, and he would've had a clear run down that side. two minutes of stoppage time played. and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it has, it's been really enjoyable, you know, for two different reasons, you know, on the back of that great win against England, if they could back it up here, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, four straight defeats, you know, lots of criticism for the manager, looks like he's answered the critics, for the time being anyway.

Jonathan Pearce: Northern Ireland without a victory here against Wales in thirty years. on to Jones, they'll have to wait a minute longer, or will they? this is Johnson, Vaughan's across there with him, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone beyond! Murdock's on the far post, Quinn is there too, it's loose, it's come to Healy! goodness me, he struck that!

Mark Bright: it looked like a handball...

Jonathan Pearce: it hit Partridge, didn't it?

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: and now Wales can break away, in the last minute of stoppage time. Duffy on the overlap, Hartson's in the middle, offside. and he's tickled it in, but he was always in an offside position. your overall thoughts, Mark?

Mark Bright: well, just a fantastic entertaining game, you know, a great start from Wales, and a great comeback from Ireland obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: seconds to go. hoisted it there again, looking for Murdock, and just turned away... only as far as Davis. Murdock... oh! and surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: well, it's incredible really, it's just one end to the other, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap past Davies a few moments earlier.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! and Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park, on sixty-one minutes, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

1.7) L'extrait 400M

Tom Hammond: up next is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back world championship gold medals. Lewis, you were talking earlier about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up here in Osaka.

Lewis Johnson: it has, in a two-hour surprise, because we have not had a wind issue here at these world championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains in Waco, Texas, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but again, the other elements that he was looking forward, the fast track which he has, the great competition which he has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, Ato.

Ato Boldon: and I can tell you, Lewis, I can admit to you guys now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the one-hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres in quite some time, and Jeremy Wariner in lane six is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor just his insides on lanes five and four.

Tom Hammond: so Jeremy Wariner will come into the race as in the favourite, there are as Ato mentioned three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: and an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers all over the world, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the world championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen today.

Ato Boldon: I spoke to Johnson for about an hour about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes down to close finish at the end, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience this year, he's run forty-four point sixty-two to win in Paris, forty-four point four in Rome, forty-four point three in Monaco, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: and I talked to Jeremy Wariner today about this evening and his plan throughout the World Championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him tonight was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, now his personal best's forty-three point fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: (*showing contestants*) lane two, Avarad Moncur of the Bahamas, gold medallist of the two-thousand-and-one world championships, lane three Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record at the two-thousand-and-five, world's bronze medallist in the world championships in Helsinki. lane four, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in the four-hundred metre hurdles. lane five, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four point zero-six at the US championships, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, then the third of the three Americans in a row is Jeremy Wariner, defending Olympic and World Champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four point thirty-four. lane seven, Leslie Djohne from France who lored his French national record, forty-four point forty-six in his semi-final race, he was seventh at the Athens Olympics. in lane eight, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, fourth at the two-thousand-and-five world championships, and in lane nine, Johan Wissman of Sweden, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records in both his races here, first round and semi-finals, in forty-four point fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing Jeremy Wariner*) well I had a talk with Clyde Hart today, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race in his semi-final, around twenty-one seconds at two-hundred, thirty-two seconds at three-hundred, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens in the last hundred metres.

Ato Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, Lewis, he said, don't think for a second that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are right behind him, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most

dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate lane six, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: and there's the gun! Angelo Taylor lane four, Lashawn Merritt five, Jeremy Wariner in six, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Ato Boldon: look for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all through the rounds, this move down the back stretch from Angelo Taylor, in lane four.

Tom Hammond: and Jeremy Wariner is there, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher from Canada, into the turn for home, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's straight away now and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, here is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three point forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: and Tom, the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get close enough to him at three-hundred, put some pressure on him, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. he took this race out, he could not see them to his inside, but he stuck to his script, and at three-hundred metres he was clear, and he never looked back, they never were able to pull up on his side and really challenge him.

Tom Hammond: and the official time, forty-three point forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: and that was the goal, coming out here for this final, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

Ato Boldon: (*showing Angelo Taylor*) tremendous running by Wariner. as we look at a disappointed Angelo Taylor, I thought he put himself out of it, he didn't make the move that we normally see from him down that back stretch and it might have cost him in that final.

Tom Hammond: but it is a US sweep led by Jeremy Wariner, the defending champion.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing replay*) Wariner told me that in his phases he wanted to get out hard the first sixty metres, then keep that pace on the back stretch, then when he'd get on the turn, really pump the arms and make the legs come up, and then off the turn coming up to straight away where he is right now, it's just an all-out kick. and the final thing that Jeremy said he would not do, he would not look over to the clock before he got to the finish line, that he'd run through the tape and then look, and we saw that on the replay, Wariner running through the tape, trying to get the fastest time possible, but without the doubt he has sent the message to everyone around the world that I am unbeatable.

Ato Boldon: alright guys, how scary is this four by four four-hundred metres relay really going to be!

Tom Hammond: oh!

Ato Boldon: Angelo Taylor has to be disappointed with forty-four point thirty-two, he looked so good during the rounds, but it's not about how you run the rounds, it's how much you save for the final, and Angelo Taylor looked like he actually was a little bit tired this evening, coming off of that final turn.

Lewis Johnson: just think about the work that Clyde Hart has done with Jeremy Wariner, physically they are so, so different, and Jeremy Wariner has advanced so much faster than Michael Johnson did, as he creeps ever closer to forty-three point eighteen, the existing world record over this event.

Tom Hammond: and Lashawn Merritt, you know, running a pretty good race here too to take the silver medal, for him, forty-three point ninety-six, breaking forty-four seconds. when we come back, the men's hundred-and-ten metres hurdle final, and we'll hear from Jeremy Wariner, world champion.

1.8) L'extrait CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about at the Joe Louis Arena, here in Survivor Series. here we go... (*showing child in crowd*) boy, all these little Hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is in the town, the electricity is going all over the world, Hulkamania's gonna be put to rest very, very shortly...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run for quite some time. I've seen what the Hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over till it's over.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing Hulk Hogan*) you're looking at the greatest wrestler in the world today, the World Wrestling Federation world champion Hulk Hogan! (*showing poster*) hulkamania lives forever!

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker*) he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing on the back of my head, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkamania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person at the concession stand or in the hallway, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. sooner or later it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody will, he will.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in there! could weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty good idea, he felt it on the back of his head! duck underneath by the Hulk Hogan off the ropes, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and out of there immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...

Bobby Heenan: the true mark of a coward.

Robert Marella: the true mark of a champion!

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... but I don't think Hulk Hogan did it as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: that certainly is not obvious to me at this point in time, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: that's what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands behind the Hulkster, not like being out there with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, on your side.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, I'm never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs all over the world are in there with him. well he's gonna need them to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for him to win tonight... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, that could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer's talking from the outside... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about that guy!

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence since he entered that ring, has he? he's been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at this! COME ON! (*showing Paul Bearer*) YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out there, what happened?

Robert Marella: your monitor went out... your brain went out! from the outside it was a blatant attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble right now... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got out of there in a hurry. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of the big guy. into the ropes!

Bobby Heenan: but he didn't knock him down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: he couldn't slam him. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel it, I can see it! couldn't knock him down, couldn't slam him. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow right between the eyes! you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first into the corner, and back to the other side for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, he's really rocking him real and now, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down on his feet.

Bobby Heenan: but he is still standing! and he has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan out. now throw him back into the ring, cause you can't beat him on the floor.

Robert Marella: oh! Hulkster face first right into the steel steps!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made here! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. come on, ref! number one, you should've sent that guy back to the dress room before this match even started.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power from that urn, there's something in there that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown here by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has on his arm, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next World Wrestling Federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, from the outside, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out in a minute...

Bobby Heenan: tension in the air, we could cut it with a knife, here in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City. everyone just sitting there right on the edge of their seats, ready to explode at any moment!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's on the edge of her seat!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane behind her!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down into the mat, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that here!

Robert Marella: well they're both still on their feet!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. can you hear me?

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty-something-thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold right on the forehead of the Hulk...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up by now...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission by now.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning World Wrestling Federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, ba:...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength from that urn...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother here...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead ninety percent of this match! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at that, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's some place else right now! his body may be in Motown, but his mind is out there some place.

Robert Marella: well that arm dropped twice, had it dropped one more time, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's on his feet, they're both on their feet! Hulk Hogan, Monsoon, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... wow! what a flying first there by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: get the flowers ready, sign in the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: look at that big dent in the urn, it's probably where he clubbed the Hulkster from behind with it...

Bobby Heenan: so what...

Robert Marella: so what, yeah...

Bobby Heenan: it's my opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: he's too cold to sweat! he'd have to have blood and pores to sweat...

Robert Marella: I've never seen him perspire.

Bobby Heenan: look at the ease!

Robert Marella: he's gonna try to ply him with a tombstone! OH YES! no one has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, look at that, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: who's not immortal now, Brain?

Bobby Heenan: he's still on his feet! the Undertaker is STILL on his feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster continues to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: he's down to one knee! the first time he's been down on one knee...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up – oh watch this! (*Showing Ric Flair entering the Arena*) where is he going?

Bobby Heenan: the real world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... what business does he have down there?

Bobby Heenan: well you'd better talk to Ric Flair, I don't know... I mean it, I really don't know.

Robert Marella: Hulkster finally... oh, says what are you doing down there, roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: why would he go touch Flair? he never touched the ring, he never got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: what business does Flair have down there?

Bobby Heenan: I don't know, but he doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, from the outside, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. look at this! Flair with a chair! he got piledrived right into the steel chair!

Bobby Heenan: wait a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a new world champion! the new World Wrestling Federation champion, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told you so!

Robert Marella: this is horrendous! three guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: Hulkamania is dead! and is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking down here is the new World Wrestling Federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

1.9) L'extrait POE

TRUE! – nervous – very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses – not destroyed – not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily – how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture – a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees – very gradually – I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded – with what caution – with what foresight – with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it – oh so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly – very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha! – would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously – oh, so cautiously – cautiously (for the hinges creaked) – I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights – every night just at midnight – but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how he has passed the night. So you see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.

Upon the eighth night I was more than usually cautious in opening the door. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before that night had I felt the extent of my own powers – of my sagacity. I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph. To think that there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled at the idea; and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled. Now you may think that I drew back – but no. His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness, (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers,) and so I knew that he could not see the opening of the door, and I kept pushing it on steadily, steadily.

I had my head in, and was about to open the lantern, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and the old man sprang up in bed, crying out – "Who's there?"

I kept quite still and said nothing. For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down. He was still sitting up in the bed listening; – just as I have done, night after night, hearkening to the death watches in the wall.

Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan of mortal terror. It was not a groan of pain or of grief – oh, no! – it was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe. I knew the sound well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled up from my own bosom, deepening, with its dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me. I say I knew it well. I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had turned in the bed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him. He had been trying to fancy them causeless, but could not. He had been saying to himself – "It is nothing but the wind in the chimney – it is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "It is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp." Yes, he had been trying to comfort

himself with these suppositions: but he had found all in vain. All in vain; because Death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim. And it was the mournful influence of the unperceived shadow that caused him to feel – although he neither saw nor heard – to feel the presence of my head within the room.

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little – a very, very little crevice in the lantern. So I opened it – you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily – until, at length a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye.

It was open – wide, wide open – and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness – all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon the damned spot.

And have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over acuteness of the senses? – now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew that sound well, too. It was the beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meantime the hellish tattoo of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man's terror must have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment! – do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst. And now a new anxiety seized me – the sound would be heard by a neighbor! The old man's hour had come! With a loud yell, I threw open the lantern and leaped into the room. He shrieked once – once only. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the heart beat on with a muffled sound. This, however, did not vex me; it would not be heard through the wall. At length it ceased. The old man was dead. I removed the bed and examined the corpse. Yes, he was stone, stone dead. I placed my hand upon the heart and held it there many minutes. There was no pulsation. He was stone dead. His eye would trouble me no more.

If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs.

I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings. I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye – not even his – could have detected any thing wrong. There was nothing to wash out – no stain of any kind – no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught all – ha! Ha!

When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o'clock – still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart, – for what had I now to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the police. A shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises.

I smiled, – for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search – search well. I led them, at length, to his chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim.

The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still

chatted. The ringing became more distinct: – it continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling: but it continued and gained definiteness – until, at length, I found that the noise was not within my ears.

No doubt I now grew very pale; – but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. Yet the sound increased – and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound – much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath – and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly – more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. Why would they not be gone? I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men – but the noise steadily increased. Oh God! what could I do? I foamed – I raved – I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder – louder – louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God! – no, no! They heard! – they suspected! – they knew! – they were making a mockery of my horror! – this I thought, and this I think. But anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! – and now – again! – hark! louder! louder! louder! Louder! –

"Villains!" I shrieked, "dissemble no more! I admit the deed! – tear up the planks! – here, here! – it is the beating of his hideous heart!"

1.10) L'extrait NYT

Rudy Santana's day began recently, as almost all his working days begin, with a name on a screen. The name that April morning belonged to a Massachusetts man in his mid-30s. He owed money on a credit card and a second mortgage, the screen told Santana, and was separated from his wife. He was behind in paying back \$28,900.97 in debt. Which was why he was on Santana's screen.

When Santana reached him by phone, the man quickly began talking about his ex-wife. "Listen," the man said. "I called her about this debt, and a guy picked up — a guy I've never heard before — and when I asked for her, he hung up on me. Can you believe that? We used that money to renovate the kitchen! And now she won't even talk to me! Who the hell was that guy who answered the phone?"

"So you've spoken to your wife?" Santana asked, his voice soft and gentle. "Were you able to have a good talk with her? Even when you're angry, it's important to talk. Did you talk about the debt?"

"Yeah, we talked about it," the man replied. He paused and released a small sob. "You know, she told me we would be together until we died. I know I have to pay this. But I'm not going to pay her half. I won't damn pay it."

"I know," Santana said. "This is difficult, and I'll be honest — I think you're doing a great job. You're really strong. But the thing is, to the bank, they don't make a distinction between you and your wife. To them, it's just debt. They just want to get paid.

"I think I can do something for you, though," Santana continued, glancing at his screen. It was filled with information about the man, including the fact that he had recently sold his home at a loss. Some of this information had been sent by the man's bank to Santana's employer, Sunrise Credit Services, which collects delinquent debts for companies like Citigroup, Bank of America and HSBC. Santana's company had added notes, too, including helpful tips — he is easier to reach in the mornings, for example — and new ways to contact him.

"Look," Santana said. "I know you're angry at your wife. One step to ending that anger is putting this debt behind you. It will really help you find peace. You owe about \$29,000. How much do you think you can pay?"

"Well, how much are you gonna help me?" the man shot back. "These banks got all this taxpayer money from the government, and they're the ones who ruined the market for my house! I helped bail them out. I think the banks should be paying me, instead of trying to suck all the life out of us they can!"

It was the first of numerous blowups that Santana would confront that day. Bill collectors don't tend to encounter many pleasantries, even in the best of times. And these are nowhere near the best of times, for borrowers or for the banking and credit-card industries that lend to them. After two decades of almost constant expansion and profitability, card companies today are in deep trouble. Monstrous losses — estimated to top \$395 billion over the next five years — are growing as cardholders, brought low by the recession, walk away from their debts. And Congress and President Obama are pushing for legislation that would make it much harder for companies to hike up interest rates and charge many of the sneaky fees that have been an easy source of revenue for years.

So credit-card firms are changing their business plans. Gone are the days of handing out cards willy-nilly and hoping that the cardholders who dutifully pay up will offset the losses from those who default. Today companies are focusing on those customers most likely to honor their debts. And they are looking for ways to convince existing cardholders that if they only have enough money to pay one bill, it's wiser to pay off their credit card than, say, the phone.

Put another way, credit-card companies are becoming much more interested in understanding their customers' lives and psyches, because, the theory goes, knowing what makes cardholders tick will help firms determine who is a good bet and who should be shown the door as quickly as possible.

Luckily for the industry, small groups of executives at most of the large firms have spent the last decade studying cardholders from almost every angle, and collection agencies have developed more sophisticated dunning techniques. They have sought to draw psychological and behavioral lessons from the enormous amounts of data the credit-card companies collect every day. They've run

thousands of tests and crunched the numbers on millions of accounts. One result of all that labor is the conversation between Santana — a former bouncer whose higher education consists solely of corporate-sponsored classes like “the Psychology of Collections” — and the man from Massachusetts. When Santana contacted the man last month, he was armed with detailed information about his life and trained in which psychological approaches were most likely to succeed.

Eventually, the man from Massachusetts called Santana back with a proposal. He had spoken to his ex-wife, he said. They wanted to wipe out their debt by paying just \$10,000 — only 35 percent of what they owed.

Santana had actually already sought permission from the bank to settle for as little as \$10,000. It’s an open secret that if a debtor is willing to wait long enough, he can probably get away with paying almost nothing, as long as he doesn’t mind hurting his credit score. So Santana knew he should jump at the offer. But as an amateur psychologist, Santana was eager to make his own diagnosis — and presumably boost his own commission.

“I don’t think that’s going to work,” Santana told the man. Santana’s classes had focused on Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, a still-popular midcentury theory of human motivation. Santana had initially put this guy on the “love/belonging” level of Maslow’s hierarchy and built his pitch around his relationship with his ex-wife. But Santana was beginning to suspect that the debtor was actually in the “esteem” phase, where respect is a primary driver. So he switched tactics.

“You spent this money,” Santana said. “You made a promise. Now you have to decide what kind of a world you want to live in. Do you want to live around people who break their promises? How are you going to tell your friends or your kids that you can’t honor your word?”

The man mulled it over, and a few days later called back and said he’d pay \$12,000.

“Boom, baby!” Santana shouted as he put down the phone. “It’s all about getting inside their heads and understanding what they need to hear,” he told me later. “It really feels great to know I’m helping people in pain.”

To understand how the credit-card industry got interested in psychology, you have to go way back, to a time when many Americans didn’t have a credit card, when almost every company charged the same interest rate regardless of a cardholder’s riskiness and when people often paid off their entire balance each month. All the way back, that is, to the 1980s.

Just a little more than two decades ago, the credit-card business was a quiet, slightly boring industry dominated by banks looking for easy revenue. Card issuers made money by collecting annual dues and interest payments from cardholders as well as fees from merchants each time a customer used a card. Then the math whizzes arrived. They emphasized that the biggest profits didn’t come from people who always paid off their bills but rather from less-responsible clients who never paid their entire balance, and thus could be milked through silently skyrocketing interest rates, late fees and other penalties. Since 1995, the percentage of the industry’s income from cardholder fees has more than doubled to 40 percent. In 2005, as the push to sign up cardholders peaked, the industry sent out more than 10.2 billion credit-card solicitations, which would cover more than the entire world’s population. Two years later, card companies collected \$40.7 billion in profits before taxes, according to R. K. Hammer, a credit-card advisory firm. Today Americans carry an average of 5.3 all-purpose cards in their wallets, and the average household has \$10,679 in credit-card debt, according to the industry publication *The Nilson Report*.

But giving credit cards to riskier customers posed a problem: how do you know which cardholders will pay something each month, providing fat profits, and which will simply run up a huge tab and then disappear?

The Ph.D.’s arrived at two solutions. The first was to create thousands of new kinds of cards with their own credit limits, terms and interest rates. Such a strategy theoretically protected companies by limiting how much a cardholder could buy and by charging sufficiently high interest rates to ensure that if a few cardholders walked away, the companies still made plenty of money.

The other solution was learning to predict how different types of customers would behave. Card companies began running tens of thousands of experiments each year, testing the emotions elicited by various card colors and the appeal of different envelope sizes, for instance, or whether new immigrants

were more responsible than cardholders born in this country. By understanding customers' psyches, the companies hoped, they could tell who was a bad risk and either deny their application or, for those who were already cardholders, start shrinking their available credit and increasing minimum payments to squeeze out as much cash as possible before they defaulted.

The exploration into cardholders' minds hit a breakthrough in 2002, when J. P. Martin, a math-loving executive at Canadian Tire, decided to analyze almost every piece of information his company had collected from credit-card transactions the previous year. Canadian Tire's stores sold electronics, sporting equipment, kitchen supplies and automotive goods and issued a credit card that could be used almost anywhere. Martin could often see precisely what cardholders were purchasing, and he discovered that the brands we buy are the windows into our souls — or at least into our willingness to make good on our debts. His data indicated, for instance, that people who bought cheap, generic automotive oil were much more likely to miss a credit-card payment than someone who got the expensive, name-brand stuff. People who bought carbon-monoxide monitors for their homes or those little felt pads that stop chair legs from scratching the floor almost never missed payments. Anyone who purchased a chrome-skull car accessory or a "Mega Thruster Exhaust System" was pretty likely to miss paying his bill eventually.

Martin's measurements were so precise that he could tell you the "riskiest" drinking establishment in Canada — Sharx Pool Bar in Montreal, where 47 percent of the patrons who used their Canadian Tire card missed four payments over 12 months. He could also tell you the "safest" products — premium birdseed and a device called a "snow roof rake" that homeowners use to remove high-up snowdrifts so they don't fall on pedestrians.

Testing indicated that Martin's predictions, when paired with other commonly used data like cardholders' credit histories and incomes, were often much more precise than what the industry traditionally used to forecast cardholder riskiness. By the time he publicized his findings, a small industry of math fanatics — many of them former credit-card executives — had started consulting for the major banks that issued cards, and they began using Martin's findings and other research to build psychological profiles. Why did birdseed and snow-rake buyers pay off their debts? The answer, research indicated, was that those consumers felt a sense of responsibility toward the world, manifested in their spending on birds they didn't own and pedestrians they might not know. Why were felt-pad buyers so upstanding? Because they wanted to protect their belongings, be they hardwood floors or credit scores. Why did chrome-skull owners skip out on their debts? "The person who buys a skull for their car, they are like people who go to a bar named Sharx," Martin told me. "Would you give them a loan?"

Some credit-card companies began using these and other discoveries to find new customers and to scrutinize existing cardholders. A few firms began sending offers to people who had registered for baby showers or weddings, for example, since data showed that getting married or having a child — in addition to making people buy lots of new stuff — often also makes them more responsible. Other companies started cutting cardholders' credit lines when charges appeared for pawnshops or marriage therapy because data indicated those were signs of desperation or depression that might lead to job loss.

But on the whole, companies, including Canadian Tire, stuck to more traditional methods of managing risk, like raising interest rates when someone was late paying a bill, because they worried that customers would revolt if they found out they were being studied so closely.

"If you show us what you buy, we can tell you who you are, maybe even better than you know yourself," said Martin, who now works for Wal-Mart Canada. "But everyone was scared that people will resent companies for knowing too much."

Then last year, the economy blew up. Three things became obvious very quickly. First, all those extra charges that theoretically protected credit-card companies from losing money? Well, the worst-case models were way off, and some companies started hemorrhaging cash. Second, many of the predictions that card companies built around their understandings of people's psyches were surprisingly accurate, even during an economic tsunami. And finally, when people start losing their jobs and feeling poor, it suddenly becomes very, very important to figure out how to persuade them to pay their credit-card bills.

Data-driven psychologists are now in high demand, and the industry is using them not only to screen out risky debtors but also to determine which cardholders need a phone call to persuade them to mail in a check. Most of the major credit-card companies have set up systems to comb through cardholders' data for signs that someone is going to stop making payments. Are cardholders suddenly logging in at 1 in the morning? It might signal sleeplessness due to anxiety. Are they using their cards for groceries? It might mean they are trying to conserve their cash. Have they started using their cards for therapy sessions? Do they call the card company in the middle of the day, when they should be at work? What do they say when a customer-service representative asks how they're feeling? Are their sighs long or short? Do they respond better to a comforting or bullying tone?

Annexe 2 – L'intelligibilité des commentaires sportifs télévisés

En jaune : ellipses qui ne peuvent être interprétées par le co-texte

En vert : déictiques dont la référence ne peut être reconstruite

En bleu : verbes à l'emploi inhabituel

2.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: let's look at the English team... they have a lot of old stagers **there**, Martin Johnson's thirty-three, Jason Leonard equals the world record, he's thirty-five, Neil Back thirty-four, Dallaglio thirty-one, and **Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper**. and the Welsh team... they have stuck to the form players from last weekend. **number twelve, Iestyn Harris**, the high-priced League signing who'll take on **that crucial role**, and always we'll be on the number eleven Shane Williams to see if he can reproduce his magic which we saw last weekend. and the two sides observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives at war time. so, Tim, is the Welsh team capable of upset, as we await the anthems?

Tim Horan: well, there's a wonderful atmosphere, here down the sideline, and **the Welsh body languages as they ran out**... they don't think it's a one-horse race tonight, they wanna repeat their upset performance last weekend against the All Blacks.

Gordon Bray: our referee tonight is Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped. he speaks fluent French, he has a French father. Jonny Wilkinson gets the fourth quarter-final under way here, at Suncorp Stadium, and **Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones**, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, down towards the twenty-two.

Chris Handy: well, **a good clearance there** by Stephen Jones, **the first touch there** very important at **test match**, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, **didn't** get the opportunity for his forwards to get underneath the ball.

Gordon Bray: so, **Jones getting his hands on that ball**, the big Welsh prop... **here's** Dawson! **clean break! Cooper from behind**... he's made forty metres. **Back, quickly to Vickery**, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... and **now Thompson, this massive England hooker just fifteen metres out!**

Tim Horan: **great try from the English forwards**...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven from behind by Leonard! still, it's only fifteen! **here's** Robinson, almost stepping through... and **it's** against the number eight Jonathan Thomas. **seven phases there for England**...

Chris Handy: **the break** came from absolutely nothing. **he** telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper **here** in jersey nine for Wales... and Robinson, **that's** a HUGE hit **there** by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: **Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position** here at Suncorp. that man, Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail on Tuesday, he's become an overnight hero. **no goal, off the woodwork**, and **well anticipated by Taylor**. we saw he missed one from in front against Samoa...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming off the post, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred percent every game, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come off the post.

Gordon Bray: I watched him in his warm-up, he started hitting those balls, started kicking, an hour

forty minutes before the kick-off...

Tim Horan: it was quite incredible, the rhythm and... he goes to achieve that, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble initially with their line-out, second one that... and yet in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity here for Wales and England front rows... haven't really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... but taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining on the spot.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, well that surely came forward from his hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. he's got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose head, well there was an unmarked man outside, Wales choose to go inside but they still have big numbers on the right, Jones the prop here, Sidoli, yes! did he lose it? he did! no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! they had England chopped to bits. God almighty, he chose to pelt to the line, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, take your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: now England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point here, Chris, that there was no awkward movement before you pop your opponents.

Chris Handy: and I think that was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tight-head, he was just like a real wedge in the scrum... but look at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: and that's where the Welsh, that's where they'll get change tonight going wide, attacking on Dan Luger's side, and outside of Will Greenwood, that's where they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again tonight.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... having to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. and well taken there by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is on the outside, here he is, now another chance for Taylor, and Williams! has he got the speed?

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that he's got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. what another great thrust, no lack of vision here, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going wide.

Gordon Bray: second week in a row, the Welsh are not reading the script! this isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by their back three.

Chris Handy: Adam Jones, the curly head at tight-head prop for Wales on the far side...

Gordon Bray: so, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms until the ball is out of the scrum. but you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, as well. they're covering up in desperation at the moment, and here's Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties so far... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just short at the halfway line, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: now you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: **this** is Charvis, **couldn't** get away from Martin Johnson, **lost** a bit of grounds, **Jones...** and Jason Robinson **on his twenty-two**, almost sliding through **the gap**, but Taylor got him on halfway... **here's** Cohen, trying to get his arm over **the defender**, **Dawson**, **Thompson**, England **making** steady progress...

Chris Handy: **this** is when they've got to continue to get in behind the Welsh. **running** straight...

Gordon Bray: **that's** Dan Luger coming in from right wing. Moody's out in his position, **Wilkinson**, and Ben Kay was manhandled **there**.

Chris Handy: **making** their tackles count, the Welsh, they are **hitting** with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised in the end. have a look at **this**, first **that one**, and then the next time **they** come right, **there's** Moody coming straight over **the top**, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: and the England coach might be worried, the first ten minutes for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding so far.

Chris Handy: and England **finding** some inroads in around the ruck and mauls, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: but Neil Back was **there**, assisted by Moody... **Wilkinson** again... **packs** himself! **Dallaglio**, **Dawson**, Cohen's outside, **that's** an excellent defence again for Wales.

Chris Handy: ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's still on the ground, number nine for England, **had** Jason Robinson lurking just on his left side... **here** we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just **didn't** see Robinson on his left-hand side... **good defence** from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: **score** here at Suncorp, nil all after nearly eleven minutes.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them in the last couple of weeks, they had Wally Lewis in the last couple of days, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot tonight.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, also, Tim, spoke to them for ninety minutes, and **Robinson inside** his twenty-two, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. **obstruction against** Neil Back, penalty kicking-range. **chance** for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson **there**... does anyone know where he's gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: so **this** is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... and the **obstruction very clear** **there**, under the referee's nose... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look out **there**, you'll see just right next to the referee, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of these ideas, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: and **another poster**, two in a row! **similar position**, still, **no score**. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and **Wilkinson with** a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. **this** is Jones, on half-way, **to Gareth Thomas**. William's out on his side with a bit of room **here**, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. **Stephen Jones**, **mishandle** **there** by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and in behind... **Luger**, **here** goes Williams! Williams is still **going**, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: **wonderful opportunity**, just here in the middle, **Cockbain**, **from Queensland**, **Dallaglio**...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play over the halfway line **here**.

Tim Horan: well, once again, we've seen the Welsh going in behind Dan Luger's wing, he's coming off his wing...

Gordon Bray: well, **good start** **there** **from Brent Cockbain**, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog in the middle of the Welsh pack will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog from out back Queensland... there's Cooper **there**. so **the referee**

ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper now, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away quickly and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it at the moment.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting now, Jason Robinson on the right-hand side, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum here for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage straight ahead, so is Luger, Dawson here, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're in centre field, thirty-five metres out, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, when they've been defending, and tremendous enterprise when they've had the ball. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but in behind his twenty-two he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found then, but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap down the middle, must be a metre gap between both teams.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation there, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tighthead, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come through, he's been told to stay outside.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was on his feet.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner in the World Cup.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed on his feet...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got over the advantage line...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up here at Suncorp, it's still nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright again... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine, and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward within the coach's box...

Chris Handy: yeah, that'll relieve him... but it will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, seventeen and a half minutes before the first point was scored.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: and it's always crucial, after you put points on, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it here.

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just this constant cacophony, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, he was speared into the ground here, Thomas... Gareth Thomas now, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones on the loop, Charvis in good support, thirty metres out...

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can they get a turnover? there it is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England five from half-way...

Chris Handy: and another turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli here on the left wing.

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: accidentally bumped into his man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards out wide, they just pushed them towards the sideline, forcing them to change the angle. Thomas did well to be here, but...

Gordon Bray: so **that's** an accidental offside. really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh **there...**

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with **that**, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. not at test level though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial next five minutes **there** for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: **over Johnson's head**, **lost**, and **hit there** by Charvis... **it's** all looking very shaky for England at the moment. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: **beautiful scrum to England**, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: and **there** is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, **they're** looking to find gaps just around the ruck, Brent Cockbain **here slamming** one of the England players out of the way who was standing in front of him... and **this** is Vickery! **some communication from the referee**, just making sure that **the tacklers** roll away, once **the ball carriers** go to the ground. Wilkinson, **that's** Moody, and **the twenty-two-metre line just ahead**.

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... **that quick ball** enables them to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going now for England... they're keeping **it** in close, but they're making headway **there**. **Back**, then **to Luger**, but now the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: there goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: **right foot**, **out to the left**.

Chris Handy: we've seen that often, Tindall was wide, **no one marking up much on him**.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: **TEN PHASES!**

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? great work, forcing **him** to go to field goal... see **that last phase they** just had, just before we restart play, the defence hit **them** and knocked the English pack out of the advantage line, that's when Wilkinson decided, **enough for now**, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: and Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, tonight we want to discover how well we can do. and they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery at the moment, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: they're not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks last week. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. they must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: **so Tindall**, and now Greenwood, **fullback in front**, **didn't** have a close support, **Tindall again**, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says **it** went backwards. certainly the momentum of **that dropped ball** suggested it was a knock-on... **here's** Johnson, still **there** for England, **Greenwood**, the play-maker, **space for Back**, **here's** Leonard! what a shame he wasn't ten-metre faster... **this man** is, and **he's** well caught by Thomas. Dawson again for Cohen... **Wales really marking up**, **that** was Adam Jones the tighthead prop, **now Dallaglio...** England pounding the Welsh defence **here**. Dawson is close, **Leonard sealing off...**

Chris Handy: **nine phases on that occasion**. the best thing that can happen **here** is that **they** only take the three points... but **they** run!

Gordon Bray: **Back is there...** Mark Jones on the far side was ever alert, and he had the height over **the smallest forward on the field!**

Tim Horan: well, **that** was an opportunity for England to go six points up, in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute, the Welsh played on quickly with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: **Robinson here...** straight into Harris, **almost the ten-metre line**, **Wilkinson again**, **Greenwood**, and Tindall! **Williams across**, **put into touch!** **grand covering**, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders **there** too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have taken England out of their comfort zone. they've had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. and that is not part of the playing for them. and then they're forced to come **this side...** the Welsh have broken them up, in isolating them, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took **that kick** across to touch, when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. he kicked for touch instead, and then Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because he kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player on the field. so if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: **Charvis waiting** at **the front**, just **outsmarting** England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. **rigorous defence from Wales**, just on England's side of halfway.

now Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive there from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion now, forty-five metres out. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: and this is when they need Jonny Wilkinson, to get their first receiver and start organising their phase play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb in the opening quarter.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... in favour of England. here's Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: and there's Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive there, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger on the short side...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson now, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess at the moment... and a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway before he was hit by Mark Taylor.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just as the ball arrived. have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, he had a huge gap there...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England there, just ahead of this Welsh side, at Suncorp. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans here, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of that so far.

Gordon Bray: and a clever little kick by Cooper, here comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. just short of half-way.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson on the ground, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... he was thinking about it.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio there, finally gets it over the halfway line. Greenwood, looking for the open territory between the full-back and the left wing... and Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found twenty metres... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. this guy really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can confirm that that was a scheduled change, he was always gonna come of at the thirty minutes mark.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious that time, put his head down. and was happy just to secure the ball. now Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, a hundred-and-eleven caps today, and Back is driven onto his heels.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it here, one, two tackles and then they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: now Wilkinson, in behinds, clever little kick... Jones slips out of the tackle, Thomas now, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack here for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet him, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... here's Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure at the moment...

Tim Horan: well you could throw a blanket over the English side at the moment, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: and on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, here, if he can hit around Kay, no problem! off he goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, in the village of Aberystwyth, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off today, and that's why!

Chris Handy: not one of the tries of the tournament, THE try of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering they had Ben Kay, a lock forward... they got dusted, they got dusted for pace, they got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball back inside as

Ben Cohen came across, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... his fourth test try, in his forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: and the consummate skill of the little scrum-half who is playing on the left side, he started it with that horrible kick, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed that try, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... that's the thing that works you so hard. if they can control a bit of peel here, they can keep this up. if they have to keep tackling it'll wear them down.

Gordon Bray: well they ran out of petrol last week against New Zealand, in the last ten minutes, but if they can go for the eighty here, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw there a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. when it's their restart, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, on that occasion he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw to the line-out, forty metres out.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it, one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby here in Brisbane.

Chris Handy: clever thinking here by England, going to the siders, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... so England setting up play here again, thirty metres out. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, here's Wilkinson, and Robinson... he's beaten two, he didn't release it here... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by Cohen in the eleven jersey here... Cohen did the right thing, he went to ground with the ball knowing that anyone who falls on him will be penalised... he steadied, stayed up and pressured the massive Ben Cohen into a mistake. they're slowing things down... they're gonna take the line-out five metres out, immediate response, Charvis, with the dark hair in the middle of the pack. they work out how they're gonna score, this time through the forwards. will they have a crack at them?

Gordon Bray: and very selective refereeing there by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball on the ground on the other side of half-way.

Tim Horan: and this is what England did to so many teams, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: they're almost there... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium at Suncorp, there's all but the white jerseys up on their feet. England now together, but this man, Charvis, he led them so well last Sunday night... it just seems that like after a midday rest, these guys are on fire! what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, Colin Charvis, the captain, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, as he did last week against the All Blacks, as he does again tonight against England, and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, he's had a special perm in that hairstyle, and that's two tries in the week, against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, they're not maintaining the width that they displayed so far on tour.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. and in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood there as spectators, as Charvis drove over the line. and that's little Williams, here playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here as we close on half time, four minutes before the break, Dallaglio... but underneath there, a brilliant tackle by prop forward Thomas, and Wilkinson makes another mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width,

there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and here's Jones! **Wales on the rampage again!** **lucky bounce for Wilkinson...** and now **Luger**, **it's** gone backwards! and that sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself right to the flanks...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. **what price a driving maul from this line-out...** they have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: **Sidoli again**, and they sack **it** that time.

Chris Handy: **they** can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: **Jones**, **loose pass for Harris**, that's unfortunate, **chance for a turnover**, **Wales through Jones**, and **Williams**. he was punctured by the England tight forwards... they just can't pick **it** up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: **advantage to England**, they can hurt from **here**.

Gordon Bray: they gotta do something **here**. **here's** Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: **good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland**.

Gordon Bray: but there's nothing on **here**, for England. they just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: **short-side opportunity for Dawson...**

Gordon Bray: he hesitated... did he **release**? he lost **it!** **stolen there** by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because **they've** been taken out of **their pattern**, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: **Thomas up to full-back from Jones**, and **it** was dropped by the referee! **knock-on**, sir!

Tim Horan: **former test scrum-half for Ireland**, and he's put down **that one**... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: **Daffyd Jones**, **good work on his feet**, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. **they** weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: so **Stephen Jones again**, **Taylor**, Jones goes in to scrum-half, **Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory** that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: **caught in a bad position there...**

Gordon Bray: well, **about thirty seconds to go** on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, they've gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson again, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close **this gap**... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's **there**, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he **held on to dear life**.

Chris Handy: he's gotta let go cause he's off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, **lost ahead by England**, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, **big one for Wales here!** McBryde's **there**, so too is Jones, and Cohen's **across!** what an exciting forty minutes of rugby **here...** and it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead **here** by ten to three.

2.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: thank you John, good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association. they never thought it would happen but here we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, Brian.

Brian Moore: yes, even with headphones on, it was ringing in my ears, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: now then there was a Croke park effect when Ireland came here two weeks ago to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, this is on a level higher than that. the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations, Ireland froze in their blocks but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not there, this for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: yes, well everyone was saying he's an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played here once, familiarity only comes, you know, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to the stadium...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle there, the twenty-three-year-old in on the wing in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle from Warrington, deep in rugby league country, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the rugby league code.

Brian Moore: going down there, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if they are to stand a chance here, they must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: the match officials, Joël Jutge from France will be the man in the middle. Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man on the field, the thirty-three-year-old from Munster...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job today, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and then he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go around Farrell.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: well, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, you know, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it today, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and the president too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: well they didn't play for the first twenty, did they? very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows there, they'll be crucial for Ireland today, if they can repeat what they've done in the last three occasions to England then Ireland will be on their way... and that lot will be cheering them for every single yard they make.

Eddie Butler: and what comes next may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen at Croke Park. just waiting for the president to return to her seat. Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the Six Nations, played two, won two.

Brian Moore: I thought that was amazing.

Eddie Butler: what was all the fuss about...

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you what, Eddie, I got a lump in my throat from that.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff here at Croke Park, the central game of the middle weekend of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens over the next début minutes. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride **there**, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. it's not about pride, it's not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, it's about doing the right things at the right time.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the six nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit but can **this pack of forwards** hold themselves together in the early moments? it's their first choice pack, they're all there, and **Paul O'Connell the big gun in the middle**. Brian O'Driscoll returns to the outside centre spot to the captaincy, again, they're at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and behind the scrum, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him on his first test outing. the replacements, **experience all around, flair to come**, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head here in the RBS six nations, and what a job for Joël Jutge of France, it's gonna be feisty out there, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other in the opening moments?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for them not to, they'll be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down very quickly.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just **being re-wired there...**

Brian Moore: I would've thought today that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball upon Olly Morgan and Strettle earlier on, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested early.

Eddie Butler: **good all-round footballer**, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... he's scored five tries on his début in the England sevens, five tries in one half, that's never been done before, **here** he is, this is different, this is the Six Nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that he's quick, but it's a whole different level! he would never have experienced anything approaching this. the noise **here** is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and not for the first time the fields of Athenry goes around Croke Park, and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been everywhere, seen everything, this for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get under it, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off in Dublin, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run **it**, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send it to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, **winning his second cap**. somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, **first moment of hesitation**. England with a turnover ball, **offside, penalty...** and **a kicking chance for Wilkinson**.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about that kick was that the Irish, although it was in their twenty-two, they had an overlap **there**, and they could've moved the ball one further, bit of barging **there**, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: **the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside** in front of him...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: seen **this** before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: in the second minute of play, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. **another penalty from** that old left boot of Wilkinson, Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, what was I saying, you know, **unforced errors**, and that was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming from the back, people coming from the side, and therefore they weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: **good take by Danny Grewcock**... Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby **freeing himself there**, Denis Hickie, **safe catcher**...

Brian Moore: **extra man!**

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... and **here's** the extra man, **Dempsey**, **Shane Horgan inside him**, **Josh Lewsey with the tackle**, Peter Stringer arrives. **O'Gara**, **O'Driscoll**, **towards Strettle the newcomer**... and **that** will be good for the nerves of Strettle, **ushered** it safely over the goal line, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was a good ten fifteen metres away.

Eddie Butler: **Wilkinson**, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, **that's** a good tackle by Magnus Lund, **Stringer to O'Gara**, and again **they're** kicking behind Strettle, **that's** a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly where they want to be.

Brian Moore: well **he** does **that** almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. now **this is**... but we'll see where the game goes from **here**, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on **the England throw**?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: they do, Simon Easterby went up for it, it's safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. this is what they did against Scotland in the first game, **early investment work by the heavy forwards**. **good play by England**. **Ellis**, **Shane Horgan**, **in field to Dempsey**, **makes** the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! and Ireland have the penalty, **good work by Ireland's fullback**.

Brian Moore: well they'll settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet they wish they could've had the ball, cause there were men on their right-hand side for them to exploit, well **he** just slips off **him**, doesn't **he**? **not good first at tackling**, once you get to break the game line everything flows from there.

Eddie Butler: Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton when he was with Ireland, just in the years when the game went professional, and Ireland were a very different outfit back then, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! **one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson**, **this little contest** within a contest between two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby. and it's all-square here at Croke Park, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said before the match I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle from start to finish, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: **Wilkinson**, **places it** more centrally, **Paul O'Connell**, **good catch**. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, **O'Gara**, **O'Driscoll**, **O'Driscoll**, **that** put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was inside, and **that** was Wilkinson who **tackled** at centre...

Eddie Butler: now then **Strettle**, **with a chance to counter**, **Peter Stringer**, **back covering**, well **read** by the scrum-half. **Shane Horgan**. England plays in front of the kicker, **not ten metres**.

Brian Moore: sort of **bounced** well, not within ten, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack **there**, inside the outside centre down the centre channel but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell inside him.

Eddie Butler: **Ronan O'Gara** who scored all Ireland's points against France in the last match, including the first-half try... **Paul O'Connell**, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. **Rory Best the hooker**, just checking **the call**, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag **it** down, Easterby and Leamy, the back-rowers, break away from the ruck. **Stringer**, **O'Gara**, **back behind**

Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. **here's** a glimpse of his pace, was he taken late by Horgan?

Brian Moore: no, he wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. **O'Gara in support**, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: well, there was a venture from Strettle **there**, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, **three or four supporting players**, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: **George Chuter**, **there's** the captain Phil Vickery, Joël Jutge still **having** a few problems with his communications, **this** is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well **taken** by Martin Corry, well played. **Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan**. **a little one**, O'Connell goes back, **it's** bouncing free.

Brian Moore: **he's** gonna box-kick **this**.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed his half-back partner Wilkinson who went deliberately down field, **the switch** between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, **Jonny Wilkinson**, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: **no fullback!**

Eddie Butler: but Martin Corry is **there**, well **taken** on the second attempt. **it's** out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, **Wilkinson to Mike Tindall**.

Brian Moore: and he gets **it** off the field! well he did well **the second time**, didn't he? I think there's a little bit of shepherding **there** by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: **Rory Best of Ulster**, **Paul O'Connell of Munster**, **Donacha O'Callaghan at the front**, **O'Connell**, behind him, **O'Connell the target**, well **taken**, well **read** by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, **Wilkinson**, **Andy Farrell!** **the offload** came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. **Strettle**, **had** a busy opening period, **the follow-up tackle** by **Horgan**, but **that's** better by Strettle, **very good counter-attack**, but **only as far as Girvan Dempsey**, Strettle has to make **the tackle**.

Brian Moore: he did well **there**.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up **this blind side** for Ireland, **O'Driscoll**, **infield**, Horgan just couldn't quite take **the pass** from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: well, though Andy Farrell **offloaded**, and Brian O'Driscoll **kicked there**, he did make ground against D'Arcy. well, a bit hopeful, **that**, **wasn't** looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline **there**. England, what's **that**, about twelve pounds a man heavier, David Wallace in the back row is the lightest, I think I know who the heaviest is, that'll be big John Hayes in the front row. now, England are not going **down there**, Brian?

Brian Moore: yeah, I think so, but **the pause** has got to be succinct... **that** was better, because it was succinct, and it was the same timing. **that** should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: **Phil Vickery turning in?**

Brian Moore: yeah. **Vickery bending on the arm**, oh, **shocking decision**. well his shoulders aren't gonna be above his head, look, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and you can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent him double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: and you see **there**, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. and the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about that.

Eddie Butler: **he's** up and running. **Jonny Wilkinson**, **Farrell**, **Wilkinson on the loop**, **Strettle in from the opposite wing**, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. **introduction to the international**

midfield, England though have **it**, George Chuter took **the pass** from Farrell, Farrell goes into **the ruck**, Ellis, Wilkinson, **only Corry** outside him, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, **a lot of forwards outside Harry Ellis**, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up elsewhere. England are still in possession, **George Chuter**, **tackled** by David Wallace, **lost!** oh, **the charge down...** **waste of a turnover**, perhaps, but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap behind England.

Brian Moore: yeah... well it was really caused by the fact that **the gang tackled there**, and that's the real problem, **he's** driven backwards. **interesting** watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that earlier on, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke away from the scrum, **did** well, now, then, **Ireland**, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see **it**, they did have men outside D'Arcy for a moment.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like **that**, if it had gone straight to him, they would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: **O'Driscoll short to Dempsey**, **offload**, **picked up** by Denis Hickie, **Stringer**, **Leamy**, **runs** against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. now **they** have numbers again, **Shane Horgan**, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone before that.

Brian Moore: well what a waste, you will see, three to one **out here**, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and **managed** to **get into**, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision **there**, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay outside. if you get caught in the middle, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France a couple of weeks ago, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip **here**. Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities **out there**, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: **interesting** on that last penalty, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke before that, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you that one, but it was a clear foot in the Irish scrum, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted that!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... **Rory Best**, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. **George Chuter**, oh, leave him alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle behind that ruck, yeah **it is**, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented **here**... well the problem they're having is that the initial surge is not full enough. they've got to get the momentum for the initial surge.

Eddie Butler: and the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: **Harry Ellis**, very solid scrum, **Wilkinson**, **to Farrell**. **that's** just outside their twenty-two, and Ireland have a penalty. **hanging on** after the tackle.

Brian Moore: well **he** got the ball round **there**, but **he's** got to let go, **there**... the problem is, if **he'd** let go straight away... **he'd** move his body, a double movement, **he's** always gonna get pain for that.

Eddie Butler: **Gordon D'Arcy**, **David Wallace**, **Denis Leamy**, quickly **there**, **Andy Farrell**, **the culprit**. **Ireland with a chance to take the lead**.

Brian Moore: well you can say that, but **there**, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were there before any England back row arrived.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those outside him, whether something broke **down there**, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever it was, it wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks his second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: **Wilkinson**, just easing his forwards pack. he's gone quite a central path so far, and he's gone down that channel again, oh no, he's gone towards the touchline, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. **tackled** by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, **O'Gara**. **huge kick by O'Gara**, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. **Morgan**, keeps **it** in play, **Leamy**, **Girvan Dempsey**. this time, **the safety of touch**, and **down there** is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous out wide, England trying to attack fairly close into the scrums, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a little bit wider, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball into his hands a little earlier on.

Eddie Butler: **Magnus Lund**, **Danny Grewcock**, **it's** stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, now then was Brian O'Driscoll in front of O'Gara? Olly Morgan waits for **it**. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, **quickly taken**, Harry Ellis to Worsley outside him, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut back towards help, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well **that's** good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to **here**...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing in **there**?

Eddie Butler: **that** was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England down towards the Irish twenty-two, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: **that's** good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! two in a row, now, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and they turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty down **there** for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: it's quite heavy now!

Eddie Butler: it is, it is, and it's a slippery pitch, it's well known for its slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well **that's** a terrible kick he's made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: the rain falls on Hill Sixteen. **they** won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell again, this time off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, **they** would've wanted a quicker ball than **that** but they might have numbers now, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken on **the outside**, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read **it** well, but then, just a sign **there** that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see **it** coming down **here**, the crowd are complaining that **that** was a block, but **it** wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly **there**, just for a second...

Eddie Butler: **there's** Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback, and **there's** big Shane Horgan, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was in his way, and Horgan simply cleared him out of the way.

Brian Moore: oh, you can't do **that**, **that's** a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at these days!

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out as O'Connell goes up again, **that** should be a penalty, **they** have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but **that** is too blatant.

Brian Moore: unsubtle. come on, you know the rules, can't touch a man in the air, dangerous. said earlier on, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did **he** give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, **that** was an Irish throw won again by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, yet again, the Ireland line-out is starting to get into the English line-out, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating itself.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster, but there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly, that O'Connell being a front jumper but today he's jumping all over the place, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: and in the last ten minutes, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring **down here**.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson this time goes straight down the field, where David Wallace **waits**. **that's** a good tackle by Lund, **Stringer**, his fractured finger has healed, **O'Gara**, good kick, quickly taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for **it**. Olly Morgan knocked **it** on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, **O'Gara**, Gordon D'Arcy is **in space**, oh, **well read** in the end by Josh Lewsey. **well read** indeed, because there was real danger **then**.

Brian Moore: both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone towards the tail of the line-out, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, **that** could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. **close**, though, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, **there**, I just thought for a second that **he** turned **him there**, **that** was Vickery, was **that**, on the floor?

Eddie Butler: **good work here** by the England captain, just sort of wrap yourself into a position on the floor... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... but Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself down **there**, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well not really, you're not allowed to do that anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up down **there**, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area before the game that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance so far.

Eddie Butler: well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game, and then of course France came with their scrummage challenge as they always present, and Ireland did pretty well **there**, and they've done well again! **O'Gara**, **D'Arcy**, **now on the loop** from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer **waits**, **O'Gara with a dummy**, how well that worked against France... **Shane Horgan**, **Rory Best the hooker**, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands **in there**, **Horgan**, **offloads** to Easterby, Hickie's outside him, he **can't**, he **can**, he's on his feet! Lewsey saves England, has he saved them enough? **Ireland just short**, **penalty to Ireland**...

Brian Moore: **that** could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... and if it's a yellow card **that** close to the line, is it a case for a penalty try?

Brian Moore: possibly, but the ball still had to be passed along the back-line, there were a lot of defenders there, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: don't tell me, don't tell me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it is! oh, he knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: how much of **that** was dangerous, he was cynical! **crucial things**, **good backing-up work**, **shows** a lot of pace, **here**, doesn't he? he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up again.

Eddie Butler: well **that's** not dangerous, is **it**? so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands now, because I imagine, Brian, **drive**...

Brian Moore: **must do**. **very important** for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: **a slight delay**. erm, **not sure** why, is it the old communication thing again, with Joël Jutge? actually it's Olly Morgan who's down the touchline, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking off towards the changing room.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, is it?

Eddie Butler: **hamstring**, **looks** like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go on the right wing, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw **that** close to the goal line. O'Connell is the target, **well taken**, on comes **the drive**, **looks** pretty good, Ireland **through the middle**, **not** quite **there** yet...

Brian Moore: **it's** coming back though!

Eddie Butler: Stringer **goes** on his own, **it's** gone loose, brilliantly **offloaded**...

Brian Moore: **great hands**!

Eddie Butler: **great try for Ireland**, **fantastic one**, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, **sleight of hand**, **power by the forwards**, **great combination work** against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that they might have spoilt **that**, because Stringer **passed away**, I thought they'd closed **it** down, but **great hands in the middle**, **always men outside**, I was wondering if they could get **there**. I just thought that they might have closed **it** all down with **that poor pass**, but **that's** lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about **this!** **D'Arcy**, **O'Driscoll picking it** up on **the half-volley**, **good ball from D'Arcy**.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better of the last fifteen minutes, they started to get into England's line-out, England have not been able to get themselves out of their own half, now they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: **two points added**, Ireland sixteen, England three, and suddenly the complexion of the game has changed completely. **Brian O'Driscoll's pass**, and **Girvan Dempsey's finish**.

Brian Moore: well, there were two pieces of good handling **there**, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and then O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood?

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed in the last five or ten minutes.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, **Wilkinson**, **held** by two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best, Paul O'Connell rips through the outskirts of the ruck and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry **tossed over**...

Brian Moore: he did well to retain **that** but he's still being driven backwards, **slow ball**...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle now, **Wilkinson**, yeah, **the change of tactic**, get going forward **lads**, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, **held** in the air, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is the guilty party. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's always a dodgy moment, **that** is a tackle on a player in the air....

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about that, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want you to do that.

Eddie Butler: well he didn't do anything! **Wilkinson**, **O'Gara**, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna **say**...

Brian Moore: **that** was perfect!

Eddie Butler: it was, it was, but actually, it went wrong at the end. still, it's all going well for Ireland at the moment.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion as well, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: of course, Magnus Lund, **perhaps lucky** to be **there**, England would've been down to six in the pack. his brother Eric is captain of Norway. **well taken**, **Louis Deacon**, **England's chance** to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, **went** for Ronan O'Gara, and now **England with numbers**, **Matthew Tate**, **Josh Lewsey**, **Lewsey still going**, Callaghan is over **there**, **Ellis**, **this** is better by England, Martin Corry **held up**, George Chuter goes **in**, **his** Leicester team-mate, now **it's** to deck. o:h, **wasn't** quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: **difficult** to see from **this** far away. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't **there** quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms around it and when they went down they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on **that shoulder**.

Brian Moore: possibly **came** when he went and fell with O'Driscoll, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men outside **there**!

Eddie Butler: well... **it** was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. **Lewsey**, **not a thumper**, just a delicate **one**, Denis Leamy takes **it**, the big, strong Munster number eight does well **there**, and now then **it** might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills **it** behind the white line, **Matthew Tate**, not much ground **made**, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge down **there**, **that's** a **cruel**...

Brian Moore: **outside**?

Eddie Butler: **surely not**. **did he**?

Brian Moore: well, he marked **it inside**, unless **it** went sideways...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see **that** again!

Brian Moore: I don't understand **that**. is **he** inside the twenty-two when **he** kicks **it**?

Eddie Butler: did **he** carry **it** back in?

Brian Moore: I don't think so.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: **very flat**!

Eddie Butler: **O'Driscoll**, **Shane Horgan**!

Brian Moore: he's gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, **that's** a brilliant tackle! **fantastic tackle**, but Ireland are coming through again, O'Connell's dropped **it**! and Wilkinson kicks **it** safely over the dead ball line. **two great chances** for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: you can see what **they're** doing **here**, angling in first, to fix the back, and then they rely on **this pace there**, **Horgan coming back**, he's a big man as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well **there**...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did the tackle, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: O'Connell should've held on to **that**.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well that's because their primary possession is suffering. in the end, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of that, O'Gara, whenever the ball's been loose, whenever he's had the chance he's just pinned England right back to these areas. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been in their respective twenty-twos, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: **three and a half minutes to go** to half-time, **England**, five metres from their own line, and oh, **Stringer**, what a **sub-driven...** **Magnus Lund**, was it? **Back** over **the try line**.

Brian Moore: well **they're** a man down, and **they're** still going **in**, now **they're** a man down with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan, you gotta have another man **there!**

Eddie Butler: they have, and Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer, has to guard that blind side... **Horgan**, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked **that blind side gap**, **that's** a try! I think **that's** David Wallace, **they'll** go to video replay, and I think **that** will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: and if it is, if **he** confirms the try, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in the previous scrum. I think you can see just see **him** touch **it** down **here**, **there**, **there** you are, **that's** a try. and **they're** out of sight at the moment... I said Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: **try for the greens awarded**, Joël Jutge raises his arm and Ireland are clear now, and how England have suffered while they've been down to fourteen, **Danny Grewcock in the sin bin**.

Brian Moore: yet again... well O'Connell **there**, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? in the line-outs, he's been driving, revving his pack up **there**, I think England will want half-time to come very quickly. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done **it** again, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't **missed**.

Brian Moore: well this makes Ireland's poor start against France even more expensive in a way, doesn't it...

Eddie Butler: England set off again in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, **O'Gara for touch**. **England with** one minute and a few seconds, in which to salvage something from this first half. **Ireland**, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort, and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot **of**, I've said it earlier on, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back... it was nine-three when he went off, it's now twenty-three-three. **Louis Deacon**, **good ball** at last. **Farrell**, **takes** on O'Driscoll. **Ball well presented**. Joe Worsley, nothing really up **that blind side**, but **they** want to stretch play as far as **they** can, and **here they** come **the other way**, and then Mike Tindall tries to **straighten**, **tackled** by David Wallace, what an outstanding Six Nations Wallace he's having. **Farrell** again, this time **takes** on Simon Easterby. oh! **good picking-up job** by Martin Corry. **Ellis**, **infield to Perry Freshwater**, but it's all gone wrong for England, **Josh Lewsey**, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you **that's** a very good follow-up tackle by Rory Best upon Lewsey! **Farrell...** Ireland will hoof **this** off the park, and **that** will be the break. that's it, Joël Jutge, on halfway, blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, at the midway point.

Brian Moore: well you'd think they'd almost won the game, I mean, they've got a long way to doing that, they dominated the last twenty-five minutes, and England, **no lack** in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, here at Croke Park, it's the first ever international between England and Ireland here, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

SECOND HALF

Eddie Butler: yep, **half-way**, and **half-time**, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on into the back row instead of Magnus Lund, and it's gonna be Ronan O'Gara, **immaculate kicking** in the first half, to restart play. **Tom Rees**, oh, he watched **it** bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well **they**'ve recovered but **it**'s not as tight as you want, **from the pressure**, o:h!

Eddie Butler: and if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, **indecision** again... **that** was never Harry Ellis's ball, wow, **that** could've gone anywhere, could it, O'Connell he's everywhere, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: he's a sort of carrot-hair rhino, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, his last two games, he's been ineffective, but today, he's looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: he was better against France, but he's been awesome today, so far. **time** for England to recover yet. Martin Corry starts with **that line-out**, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, **that**'s better, **that**'s what we saw in the first game, **Marcus Horan**, **great work** by the prop, and **Ireland**...

Brian Moore: oh, **he** should've **gone**...

Eddie Butler: **it** can still **go**! Ireland have knocked the ball on **here**... **great opportunity lost**, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come in from the centre to have a word with the players **inside**. a player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know what's disappointing as well, from an England point of view, **two players that got stuck in**...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: when trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win **this ball**, probably, but look where they are, again!

Eddie Butler: **on their own twenty-two**, and **turned** by the Irish scrummage, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, **that**'s **rubbish**!

Eddie Butler: ha ha, did you somehow guess that **this** was coming?

Brian Moore: well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just **popped** out of **the top**! **it** will be interesting to see from the reverse side...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, **the one picked out**, on the far side?

Brian Moore: yes, he was, yeah.

Eddie Butler: **this** is simple for Ronan O'Gara, at the start of the second half...

Brian Moore: **it**'s not what England wanted, is **it**, **it**'s just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: **six out of six** for Ronan O'Gara, **twenty-six points to three**.

Brian Moore: well **he**'s been perfect off the floor, but equally impressive has been **the way**, oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of them, that's the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, **Gordon D'Arcy**, **good footwork**, Tom Rees made the tackle in the end, oops, **that**'s Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to **it**. England are gonna bring a change into the front row, Julian White is coming on the field, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going off, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different then.

Brian Moore: well he did from tight head as well.

Eddie Butler: do you think he'll play, will he go to loose head?

- Brian Moore:** I think he will. well, Vickery can be better at loose head, so you may get Vickery there.
- Eddie Butler:** Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...
- Brian Moore:** Easterby has got his hands in **there** as well.
- Eddie Butler:** just **slows it** up, just **slows it** up for Tindall, **Andy Farrell**, oh, **that's** a good delivery to Mike Tindall, **Joe Worsley**, **let** it go for Harry Ellis in the end, **that** is Julian White, **not best known** for his running in the loose, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't **commit** too many forwards, **Farrell**, **behind Shane Horgan**, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...
- Brian Moore:** and they need to start doing this, and now. **that's** a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they hitherto have been doing, and get the line-out clean, with **that man** I suspect...
- Eddie Butler:** who's towards the tail, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, **they've** got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man **in here**, no it's Simon Easterby who's at scrum-half who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose in the law book?
- Brian Moore:** if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score from **here**, from this period of play. they've had so little ball in the twenty-two.
- Eddie Butler:** **Harry Ellis**, oh, **might** just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. **Josh Lewsey**, **heads** past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll, **great work by Lewsey** on the rear foot...
- Brian Moore:** **Rees...**
- Eddie Butler:** **England within five metres**, **Harry Ellis**, **they** keep **it** short, it's Tom Rees again...
- Brian Moore:** I think **they're** gonna go blind this time, **slow**, **too slow...**
- Eddie Butler:** **switch of play by Joe Worsley**, **no way** through **there**, Rory Best makes the tackle.
- Brian Moore:** **no options**, has he?
- Eddie Butler:** no! there are a lot of forwards **out here**, **Andy Farrell**, **here's** Matthew Tait, **Josh Lewsey...**
- Brian Moore:** come on! **he's** in, **he's** in!
- Eddie Butler:** Dave Strettle on his début is going to have to suffer, **trial by video**. the flying machine, he thinks he's got it. what a début it would be for England's winger! Joël Jutge **waits**. **TRY!**
- Brian Moore:** I think it's a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, **that's** up, **it's** a try. England desperately needed **that**, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! **it** was a quick ball...
- Eddie Butler:** well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get **there**, Girvan Dempsey... **confirmation by Romain Poite**, **Strettle on the scoreboard**. **first game**, **first try**.
- Brian Moore:** well I don't know why there's booing **here**, **it** was quite clear!
- Eddie Butler:** Jonny Wilkinson **to put** England into double figures. **brilliant kick**, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. **fourth highest scorer** in test rugby with nine-hundred-eleven. and Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of him, just over the thousand mark.
- Brian Moore:** **good passing**, Farrell. **draws** his man, **keeps it** relatively straight and that creates room **outside**.
- Eddie Butler:** **Jo Worsley**, who was **involved...**
- Brian Moore:** there are men left **here** if the ball comes quickly... **too late**.
- Eddie Butler:** **England backs against** Irish forwards **there**, but they're gone **the other way**. just **may** have handed **it** back to Girvan Dempsey.
- Brian Moore:** well **that** was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers **out there!**
- Eddie Butler:** **good tackle by** Phil Vickery on Ireland's fullback. **O'Gara**, just to settle things down, get back **down there**. **Lewsey with** not much space, will he keep it in field?

Brian Moore: no! well the balls won in opponents' twenty-two, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more in the Irish half and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing so far, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts inside Wilkinson. quick ball for Ireland now, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in in one way, and they keep going that way, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: that was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static now for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it infield, but in touch. England's throw.

Brian Moore: but again, the result is, England are back in their twenty-two, Ireland are well able to attack the lineout...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day at the line-outs, it's alright for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming in the side there, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in from behind the back foot... oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both there...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing there, in midfield. well spotted by the referee, it's easy from here, we are perched above the ground and sometimes at ground level it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think that was relatively easy, actually!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: yeah, that's the problem, he's too close, if he'd been another five yards away, no problem. but this is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points when they're on offer.

Eddie Butler: well, it is half-way, well, of course it's no surprise he's gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six-three down in the opening seconds of the first half, twenty-six-thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: and the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have such a support behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is there to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage still being played, Girvan Dempsey still in possession. it's there for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come into the second row, there's Brian Ashton, Palmer on, Danny Grewcock off.

Brian Moore: just for a second there, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have another penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. the first half, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're constantly on the back foot, this is what happens, the decisions go your way...

Eddie Butler: the simple instruction, going for goal. The all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, there's Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, and meanwhile Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake this time, England now have half the number of points Ireland have. Eddie O'Sullivan, will he be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan, and they're holding up and they're driving backwards, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, no sooner than you got three points, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school when you could do that... you can't do that, it's against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea either.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: never in doubt!

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged them a bit further in front.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson to restart, and England have to restart again. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get underneath it, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands wide...

Eddie Butler: David Wallace in midfield took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's there too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes forward, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll there... turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: called by the touch judge I think, oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, he was in a much better position than I was.

Eddie Butler: well, not much, we're slightly off-line.

Brian Moore: yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened two or three times, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: and that doesn't happen very often.

Brian Moore: no, not to Lewsey!

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. and that shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged today, they've done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose that as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, actually.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone over from tight to loose head, he's the one nearest us, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush in defence might just have saved England there.

Brian Moore: well he saw it, didn't he, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: and that's what they've done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps too. Ireland with a chance to come wide, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted across, Hickie though, still in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT?

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it quickly. no time to stop now, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer out of the way. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey now, Strettle, it's gone forward, that one was forward. play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: they're walking, out there!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery from the front row, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go anywhere now, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play till the whistle! to be fair to them they were a long way away to the far side, and they may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke at half-time about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about it. look now, England are playing an outside-to-inside defence, the outside man is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players there, they are all arrowing in, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same thing, which they weren't in the first half, which means Ireland are struggling to get wide. again, Mike Tindall does it, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, watch Mike Tindall, he shoots out the line, goes for the intercept, and forces O'Gara back inside. he's preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England in the first half.

Brian Moore: Austin, do you think that O'Gara saw it? if he had just had a little more dexterity, he would've thrown behind him, they were three on one, you know, he's got to see that and take his... he's gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: yeah, absolutely, but, we saw just there when Andy Farrell made the interception, he tried to do it then, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. he's come to a strange position, he's gone to a sort of outside centre position, good attacking opportunity on both sides for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, if you've never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, you are doing it now. **three to two** on **their left-hand side**!

Eddie Butler: **Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on** Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now **the gap** has shut. O'Gara knew it was closed, and Julian White has **knocked on**. just for a moment it seemed to open up **then**, but England closed it pretty... pretty well.

Brian Moore: well they took the wrong options, they went the wrong way, **then**. **there's** the knock-on.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis **having** some sort of breathless passage which went on for two minutes, now then Gerry Flannery has come on, Rory Best has gone off. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well today. Ireland put him into tight blind side. Shane Horgan has vacated it, but he's straight behind the scrum, he's now gone into it, but the scrum has wheeled away from **its**...

Brian Moore: **that's** a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: by whom?

Brian Moore: number eight.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. **O'Connell**, with a little pick-up and drive, now O'Gara goes for **the gap**, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, **O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie**, oh, **great pick-up** by Shane Horgan! now then, are we gonna replay, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll at the bottom of **that**. so now...

Brian Moore: I don't know how he **got** from Horgan! I thought he'd **gone** beyond!

Eddie Butler: I was looking at the touchline, yeah! **referee knew**...

Brian Moore: he's not even looking!

Eddie Butler: no, he knew the ball was held up. **great sleight of hand**, though, let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: **good hands** for Horgan today... and **good work there** by Tindall, to hold **him** up!

Eddie Butler: **it's** all Ireland though, England had their say at the start of the second half but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go for **the wide option, the kick to**, Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: **IT'S A TRY!**

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, **wonderful work, the six-foot tall Horgan, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.**

Brian Moore: well what a touch for Ireland, they were under pressure for the first ten minutes, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... **well judged**, and, well Horgan is just a big, tall, athletic man, isn't he, **no contest** really. **that** looks very easy, and **it's** not, actually!

Eddie Butler: **they** always had **the width**, and Shane Horgan kept **that width**, he always had the outside line on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go infield because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know where **that** really came from? about two minutes earlier, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped on the floor really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: **Ronan O'Gara... keeps** up his one-hundred percent record, **eight out of eight**, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys at the back row for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey **in**, and we saw a great take **there** from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: **thirty-six-thirteen**, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! **O'Driscoll**...

Brian Moore: **good hands**.

Eddie Butler: **that little tight hamstring**, perhaps, **to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy**, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland in twenty-nine tests, and O'Driscoll is down, **that hamstring's** gone again, **Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell back** into the midfield, but there'll be worried looks on Irish bench, cause O'Gara has moved into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated. **David Wallace, the attack** goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer **waits**. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't

go into this ruck, he'll go straight to the dressing room. it's a turnover for England, stay out of that ruck, Brian! think icepack, in changing room. o:h... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. now **he's** gotta go, **he's** gotta go, surely. **he's** going back to **his position!**

Brian Moore: well from the time you saw **that, he** just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance **here**, I think **he's** gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: **it's** the contact after passing, your mind sort of switches off. **he** looks alright **there**. okay, **he** says, calm down everybody, **he's** saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's alright, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage today.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, **very conspicuous**, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. **change at scrum-half** for England, Shaun Perry of Bristol is **on**. Gerry Flannery finds the target of the line-out, **nothing wrong** with his passing skills, **Girvan Dempsey!** Dennis Hickie kept **the inside line**, Ireland come back quickly **the other way**. **O'Gara, Leamy, batters** into Louis Deacon and Julian White, there are numbers **out here**, the rushed defence doesn't work, **Hickie, D'Arcy**, oh... **Hickie still in possession, Stringer**, are they going for **the high one** again? up comes Shane Horgan again, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, **Wallace, couldn't** get his hands on **it**, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball out of play. **knock-on**.

Brian Moore: **that** could've gone anywhere, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, **it** squirmed away... I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up for a brief moment as he thought **it** was gonna drop into his hands and he was gonna stroll over **the line**, but...

Eddie Butler: **change for Ireland** in the back row, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... **here** is David Wallace, Best goes in, **first man**, to the breakdown. Stringer checks **the blind side, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle**. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man on the field.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men wide, if they stretch **it**.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, **good footwork by Wallace**, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised **there** if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, **well read!**

Brian Moore: I thought **it** was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: **there** you are, **twenty to six, ball won in opponent's twenty-two**, not always the definitive statistic, but it's very telling usually, and on this occasion it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: **Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen**. Jonny Wilkinson's comeback has **had a little**, well it's not a wake-up call because it was tough against Italy, but the winning run will come to an end here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: you know the feel you get about the Irish team when they play this way, is that they're well balanced. the players are in the right positions, they complement each other in units, and when it flows, they look very good!

Eddie Butler: **a change in the front row**, big John Hayes goes **off**, and Simon Best comes **on**. **Ulster now, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation**. oh **that's** well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock **it** on? Ireland's record win, **twenty-eight-twenty-four in two-thousand-and-six, and twenty-two-nil in nineteen-forty-seven**, this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record-setting day for Ireland, if it stays like this. **England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross**. Farrell, **knock-on**, another England attack comes to nothing. as you were saying, Brian, **just the mixture** of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, **poor pass!**

Eddie Butler: **another change for England** at hooker, George Chuter comes **off**, and **on** comes Lee Mears of Bath.

Brian Moore: all the work he's supposed to do, it ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. **fresh legs** to run around and make some tackles. There's eight-and-a-half minutes to go.

Brian Moore: **totally illegal binding!** how can a referee not see that!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! **the green there**, **he's** supposed to bind on the top of the shirt. the referee's **there**, where is he binding, he's on the arm!

Eddie Butler: the top of the arm, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't it?

Brian Moore: no, it's not, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: **Josh Lewsey**, he's in a spot of bother now, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry **waits**, Wilkinson in the pocket **clears**.

Brian Moore: well, this is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting over the half-way, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. they've weathered the storms, they've scrapped well, they've balanced well...

Eddie Butler: and Brian O'Driscoll comes **off**...

Brian Moore: he should've gone **off** earlier...

Eddie Butler: and **on** goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame him, though, he wants to milk every moment of this reception at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: all hail to **the king!**

Eddie Butler: **Neil Best at the line-out**. Gerry Flannery **picks up**, Jo Worsley makes **the tackle**.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body all over the place, **not his fault**...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's off, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us into the corner! he's over-kicked **it!**

Brian Moore: oh! **a rare mistake**.

Eddie Butler: **more rugby tonight in Paris**, **France on course** for the Grand Slam against Wales.

Brian Moore: just mentioning the French, you know, when the Irish think back at this season, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that **they could not**, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the Grand Slam should've been theirs this year.

Eddie Butler: **Shaun Perry tackled** by Stringer, and **England forced** backwards yet again, little Lee Mears drives at Ronan O'Gara, **Perry, Farrell**, **possession handed back**, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, **O'Gara!**

Brian Moore: he doesn't **need to**, does he!

Eddie Butler: he doesn't **need to** at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect him, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: **o:h**, that's not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: oh, surely **that** touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: yes.

Eddie Butler: **Martin Corry**, still **winning** line-out ball.

Brian Moore: you see **that**, Flannery **there**, he did enough damage to mess **that ball** up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: and **they** continue to make a mess of **the England ruck**. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, **they** need numbers. **well picked up**, Wilkinson. **a**

sort of up-and-under from within his own twenty-two, a chance here for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery in midfield. tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... Philip Matthews. happy?

Philip Matthews: yeah, it just strikes me, Brian, I don't know what you think, England's confidence today has not been there, has it. when they started the second half brightly, it faded very quickly. they did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on it faded. Brian, what are you saying about the Farrell thing, where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?

Brian Moore: he's too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: yeah, I couldn't agree with you more, it's just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety there, they're gonna have to change it.

Brian Moore: so, you know, England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games after a long losing streak, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: that's absolutely right, yeah.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, you know, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: well I think they struggled upfront and when Ireland got their numbers on their line-outs in the first half. Paddy Wallace is also on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting upfront, Brian, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: they haven't been stuffed upfront, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, here is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright Brian, here we go, you have a little decision to make? man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... what hasn't he done today, he's flown around in the loose, he's been deadly solid in the line-out, he's been abrasive, combative, he's put a super game and forwards get too little credit anyway. it's those people who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to it, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly either, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, God!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, it's the icing! the icing on a cake that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. and it is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back from defeat against France in the last round! I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for the try.

Brian Moore: well... once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, as simple as that, it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field, and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: and I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have they got an appetite for me, **this** is Neil Best, still, **the long dark hair**, **penalty to Ireland**. Boss takes it quickly...

Brian Moore: kick **it** off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: **that** is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. they complement each other, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but they should've been in Grand Slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the Grand Slam, but for the Triple Crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

2.3) Analyse de FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: **plenty of time and space**. **Delaney galloping up there** in support, and he gets **it**. Damien Johnson's **there** with him. now, a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time... **towards Hartson**, away by Davis. and **this** is Fletcher, **Delaney**. **Maik Taylor**, a good handling, man. **brimmed full with confidence at the moment**.

Mark Bright: **great take**. as I was just saying, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting **it**, it's swirling around, and **two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side**, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City. it was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: **inspired**, just **one of those performances** and...

Jonathan Pearce: and then he was beaten by a horrible one!

Mark Bright: it says something when the goalkeeper's the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: **cleared away by Fletcher**, and **towards Hartson**. **now Ryan Giggs**. Damien Johnson was **in there**. **Duff**, **to Gillespie**, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. **Murdock**, **half an error** under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has **it**. Murdock started at Manchester United as well! **this** is Giggs, **teasing cross!** **punched away only as far as Hartson**. **now Fletcher**, **Ricketts**, Welsh club player of the year, **took** that award the other day, **the run** blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: **took that throw-in** a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: **looks** to be unhappy with Duff **there**, momentarily, but Duff gets **it** away. **Ricketts to Fletcher**, James Quinn was in **there**, Partridge couldn't get **it** back but now **it** comes to Simon Davies, **chance here for Wales!** oh, he pinged it!

Mark Bright: it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick him up, he comes in off **the line**, and he's in a position between the midfield and the forwards. now there's no one to close him down. and it's a free shot at target. **here** he is, just in the in-between section... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: he hasn't scored since he found the back of the net for Tottenham away at Charlton, in February two-thousand-and-four. **here's** Ryan Giggs, **Earnshaw through the middle...** **just thinking back**, Mark, to when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy, back in October two-thousand-and-two, you know, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... and it happens as well, one minute you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and next thing you know, you're a forgotten man, you know, and he's had plenty of injury problems... referee there, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, you know, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward there, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. and I think that, as we can... what we know here... that's something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfielder, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance in that second half against England from the Villa youngster... This'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy again, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! has scored for his country, it was a header in October of two-thousand-and-four, against Austria.

Mark Bright: they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well here and as you can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, you can just see, a couple on the edge of the eighteen-yard box, and then a few dropped into the box, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff when they've got the ball...

Mark Bright: yeah, it's a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: well I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle as he tries to take it in his way. I think he was unlucky not to get a free kick there.

Jonathan Pearce: his dad had passed away in the build-up to the game... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get beyond Partridge, and does so, but the cross away behind for the goal kick at the railway end. well, he's had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years now, rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn in the middle making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is there with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: unlucky there, Quinn, you could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it in the path, and it was well anticipated there by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the eighty-six World Cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. aimed at James Quinn, denied in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. the Belfast boy clears it away. it's his sixth cap for his country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... from experienced players who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... as Mark was saying, he has mentioned today, he needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think it was Ricketts, wasn't it... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: it was Ricketts there who blocked him.

Mark Bright: yeah, the obstruction there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised he didn't get a yellow card for that!

Jonathan Pearce: now Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is there as well. aimed it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back again, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... they'll miss the final game in the cup if they pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: look at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, look, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but you know, where was Partridge in the original challenge? he's way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up he goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... since last month!

Mark Bright: who could blame them...

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. the twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: no! Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if he'd been on the half-turn he could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. he decided to hold it, lay it back, and it broke the move down.

Jonathan Pearce: he has struggled to rediscover the verve of his early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, Mark, to that... his shin problem...

Mark Bright: well there it goes, and you got people saying, well, he's never been the same since the injury and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, you know, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. but it's good to see him fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's there again, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances in the air. Capaldi, to Davis, now Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces today... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but the foul was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... he sort of pushed his hands out to say no, but he didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting in the way there... sometimes you might-just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. he's under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! here comes Quinn, there he is with the arms... just impeded the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, you know, I'm gonna-threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap today. James Quinn, went through that long barren spell as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly a thousand-four-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. the mighty Quinn, some call him in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... one of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, over the top towards Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing here, Earnshaw's back-heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross there... particularly for the penalty area, four Welsh players in there... especially after the crosses he'd put in earlier, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver on that occasion.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: he has to get in front Collins, doesn't he? he's alert to the situation.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner here to Wales. it's their first of the game, we've been playing for twenty-four minutes.

Mark Bright: the crowd behind that goal are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... it's really hard to believe, it's incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with the corner, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and now this is Healy. he needs to hold it up there. pursued by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help there, Healy, everyone went past him. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick then, for Northern Ireland. twenty-five minutes gone, no goals. in the air by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. can't control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. might have fouled Damien Johnson there... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was very close to it. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, earlier in this qualifying group. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. this is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's in the middle, Hartson in there as well, behind him... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late to the edge of the penalty area, and Wales are ahead after twenty-six minutes, with a fine, fine goal. time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence.

Mark Bright: it was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but it all started way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was there for him and then all he had to do was cut it back. here he is, no one can get near to him, Davies arriving before. he had one shot, it's gone over, one had gone wide. he just takes it, times it just nice... and Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. he's been bothered all week by his injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern here, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: yes, definitely. I was lucky, I spent the day over here with Lawrie Sanchez on Wednesday, and err, the whole day from morning till the evening. it was good to be around the boys... and what he emphasized to me is, he doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. it's definitely something he wanted to build on, and that was the fear. they started the game really well, but on that occasion, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled high, he is troubled in the air, Jones, again, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting off the ground, Paul Jones. he's only played the one game, you know, this season, Mark... it was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal in the John Toshack era. second era of course, he managed for one game previously. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by the goal... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, since Craig Bellamy scored two against Hungary back in February of last year, John Toshack's first game back in charge. his previous spell as I say lasted just the one match, it was against Norway back in ninety-four. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, hasn't he, nice and tight to the strikers. he can get in front, he gets in front and wins it, he's very strong in the air.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching the half-hour mark. Wales lead. in towards Murdock, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie again. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: here's a long throw... and watch everyone getting in each other's way, there, John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football again in England with Rotherham, he was a while in Scotland with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and here's the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well there. really contributed to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side in Cardiff. they were down to nine men but they still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, was he being pulled back there?

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, he could've appealed there...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought he was being pulled, Mark!

Mark Bright: yeah, looked like it to me. he slightly lost control of the ball, but I think it was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of it.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's there, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think that's a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that today. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back in and the defender push him out of the way, winning and go and head the ball. same with James, err, James Collins at the back here, as well, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, forward by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, will he run at Sam Ricketts here? he does so, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie over the years, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come inside and play, try and take him on on the outside and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Northern Ireland's fourth of the game. here's Quinn at the near post, it's beyond him, headed down by James Collins, was it? no, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said that was a corner. it definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. here it is, yeah, Murdock's climbing all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer from Cardiff by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal originally, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham this season. suspended today.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance today.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: yeah...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Hartson...

Mark Bright: as he tried to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went out again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that in a while...

Mark Bright: yeah... it just gives you a lift, you know... and here he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes here...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, you know, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, you know, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but,

you know, **the good point**, after an hour or so, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, **just that sharpness** in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick **there**, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom last weekend. Wales have this free kick. **ten minutes to go in the first half**. Partridge looks for Hartson, **a broken wrestling match in the penalty area**, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... **one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side**, the Plymouth Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry there, in Wales, or Ireland, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes from Canada and he was actually born in Norway, his dad played there. **also played** for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now **this** is David Healy, **buzz of anticipation whenever he gets it**. **Duff, high to James Quinn**, James Collins was underneath **it**.

Mark Bright: **unlucky Quinn**, **it** bounced well **there** for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: **Delaney, Simon Davies**, Capaldi wins **it**, **Collins away**, **this** is Damien Johnson, **space here** for Gillespie, if he looks to his right-hand side he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria in October nineteen-ninety-four, **second appearance for his country**.

Mark Bright: **amazing**, isn't it, one goal, in what, **sixty**... **it's** worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit down **this way**, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap to his right-hand side, maybe if he just waited a little bit... **it's** always worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: **Giggs, lovely run, beyond Duff and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest**, Earnshaw's in **the middle**, behind him, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! **again a midfield runner making a late entry into the penalty box**, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs... **two-nil to Wales**.

Mark Bright: we've seen this many times over the years, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, **a little glance up**, he used to be criticized in his earlier part of his career for not delivering but on this occasion, **picks out, beautiful run there**, you can see Robinson stretching to get into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and **here** we go. he can pick out of two or three **here**, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, **second midfield player of the day getting in there** and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: **first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish**. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. **nineteen places above Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings**. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, isn't there... he just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till **that ball** went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing he's been doing all his career, really, just going past, attacking people, and **it** opened up because he was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: **a morale-bolstering first half**, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... but he's got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over his career he's seen it all, hasn't he? **Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo**, he just said he's been through all this before... he said, for where I want to get, I'll be thick-skinned, I'll make the decisions I'll have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: **his fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years**. he won the title with Real Madrid, don't forget.

Mark Bright: yeah, his first season.

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder **here**... and Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... was **that** a clear goal scoring opportunity? it's a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess that's punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card **here**, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: **no sense in getting mad**... it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased **that** back, **a poor clearance**, and then **this** is... **that there**, you **don't**, you **cannot**... when you're under pressure like **that**, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: the foul, the first foul was way outside the box. **it's** gonna be John Hartson, and he's being booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: well, that's given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... does he slip? and **he's** guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: **lacked** power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. **let-off for Northern Ireland**. could it change the course of the game? Robinson's in **there** again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: fantastic, but it was a mistake that led to **that**, it was a poor clearance from **him**, there was a little bit of pressure but... **this** is about gauging and guessing right **here**, and **he** does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. **all credits to the goalkeeper**. **fine save**. and it was just the lift they needed, as well, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: **Elliott**, now **space for Capaldi to get the cross in**, **high for James Quinn**, **comes down to Healy**, **scrambled away** to Davis, **offside**, was it? no, **it's** not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, **this** is the referee, right **down there**, we can see from where we are, he's right **there on the spot**...

Jonathan Pearce: and **James Quinn in the air**...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men in an offside position.

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Delaney, **good first half**, **Earnshaw**, **very open and stretched again**, **Ryan Giggs**, **aims** at Hartson, **it** was too high... Wales are playing their best football in a long, long while.

Mark Bright: Robinson's **in there** looking for his second as well...

Jonathan Pearce: **given away by Davies**, **this** is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, **now Elliott**, **forward by Duff** and **an offside flag against James Quinn**.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say they've lost four straight defeats! and obviously Gabbidon's missing as well, and Bellamy, really important players...

Jonathan Pearce: **Bellamy injured**, Savage has quit the scene... has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, Ben Thatcher felt that, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Quinn, and he's got Healy in **the middle**. Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: Quinn holds his hand **up there**, acknowledging the mistake... it's one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get in front of the attacker there, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: **Partridge**, part of John Toshack's new Wales... **made** his début in a friendly against Hungary, **started** the Toshack reign, **this** is Earnshaw... wins **the throw**.

Mark Bright: that's good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent after the England victory, they could be embarrassed today. on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, they're punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it now. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, no Hughes don't forget at the back for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make. and Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card here, for Delaney, for time-wasting! It means that that's his second card of the campaign, he'll miss the game against Azerbaijan, having just come back into the side. block by Davis, Quinn to his left, Healy making a run through the middle, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first after twenty-six minutes, and Carl Robinson from midfield adding the second on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez mid-week and he just said, you know, he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game, and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half here for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead here by two goals to nil.

HALF-TIME

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking from right to left, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. And all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing at the moment. an early ball down the right by Duff, headed away by Partridge. now Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and Delaney away... and Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you in a moment on that, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country in exactly eleven years this week.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come from midfield, a lovely weighted one-two here, that touch was the killer touch there, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying at half-time, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: first minute of the second half, two-one. the game's been very open, right from the start. given away by Gillespie very nearly there, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted in the air, and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming here. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm at first, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around on the floor, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, on the bench, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, **burst through**, **lovely finish**.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, from back to front, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away from the defence, **that** was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, where are you, and slotted it down in the corner.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that after the hard work they've done in the first half, they've gone in there, and Toshack was doing his team talk at half-time, and said, you know, we should be three up, this should be game, set and match, you come out, and concede a goal straight away, different complex on the game now. the crowd are back, **he's** concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: **he** is concerned, **not too sure** whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, **they're** trying to put something back in place... and here comes Northern Ireland again, **Healy and Davis together**, it's Healy, **cross by Johnson**, looking for Quinn, and **Wales rocking at the start of the second half**, and **down temporarily to ten men**.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped to the centre-back position, I'm not sure it's enough **here**, somebody from up front, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping down into the midfield, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's off the pitch.

Jonathan Pearce: **they're** buoyant again.

Mark Bright: **he** looks in some pain, doesn't **he**?

Jonathan Pearce: **given** a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe **it**? **Steven Davis!** what a start to the second half! within four and a half minutes, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it at half-time, we heard Ian Downing, you know, I think he felt something could happen **here**. **great throw**, **challenged** again, the ball drops down, **he's** just the first on to it! **he** reacts so quickly, Quinn's causing trouble everywhere, he's in the near post **here**, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's **picking up**, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams **it** in, this is an unbelievable start... for Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! **his first goal for his country**, Steven Davis. and he fizzed **it** in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: **just seen it** so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen them on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think, it doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. and it changes so quickly, and the momentum's now with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: and how costly, the injury to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and **Northern Ireland back in it**. now Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's **there**, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say he was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been on the field of play, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, **ifs, buts and maybes**... he's **there**, now he's going off, you know, to me it's like his shoulder popped out, he's off the pitch, I think it was Robinson who dropped into the centre-back position, you need players to react quickly. and it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: Richard Duffy has come on for him now. he's on a loan at the moment, at Coventry. **Portsmouth player**, he's on a loan for a season. and **a free kick here** for Wales. **tumultuous start to the second half**. **Giggs and Fletcher there**, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space in the penalty area. well Earnshaw earned the free kick, **driven off** the ball, you can just hear—the drums are going now, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. and **buoyant as**

well, Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of them today. interesting to hear the boys talking at half-time in the studio, Mark. and Barry saying, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that they wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing away from home, just that confidence. and all of a sudden... back on level terms, back on level terms in a few minutes as well...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy, as he made that run, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone into a centre-half position for Wales after the substitution, Duffy coming on at right-back. Delaney of course played there many times before.

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play everywhere.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, David Healy. from Downpatrick. one of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums at the time, a wonderful goal he scored against Austria. Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game in a swirling four minutes. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is in there, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've got four men! please help him!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts again under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop kindly for Giggs, and now John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him there too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing that penalty area. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, out it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah. foot up to the block... the difference there between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped down, in the Welsh defence, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped down there, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball in the box.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight there of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international in his time, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set up these days, Terry Gibson is there as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal in the nineteen-eighty-two World Cup finals against Spain, in Spain.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, John, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine at half-time what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around quickly, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: here's a free kick to Wales. John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played in Wales a year ago. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is there to his left, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and through the wall... but not beyond Maik Taylor.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked another seven or eight yards on that, further forward.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie in there again, he's a man possessed at the moment, now Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming in off a wide position. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball at the start of this second half. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration there. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it at the edge of the box... just as he gets loose from there, he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, every time you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game when they last met, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty that day.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position now... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies just on the right side. it's a good shooting opportunity. good play from Earnshaw there, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running past him, no one coming around to show for a shot... ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: again it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights moments ago, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing there as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! on the hour, the game swings again! and it's the Welsh captain who restores their lead. and which way is this one gonna turn out?

Mark Bright: well, what a game we've got here! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for this! he's got a wall covering one side of the goal, and that means you're responsible for the other side, and I think he's gambling on going left, and then he reacts to go right, he's got the wall covering one side, now that far side must be his responsibility. there's the wall, it's covering his left-hand side of the goal, so that means the right-hand side of the goal's his responsibility. it doesn't even go in the corner, it's just left of centre. I think that's a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan in March two-thousand-and-three. how much did he learn from the previous free kick moments ago?

Mark Bright: well, it was a little bit further out as well, and as I said, Ryan Giggs would've liked this free kick to be another eight yards forward. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! and important this, for both countries. the more victories they get, the higher up the group they can finish, will affect their draw for the next World Cup qualifier. not the European Championship qualifier, as some people have been saying. it's too late for that. they've got too much to do to finish above the teams in their sort of specific tier of countries. away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it out there, Robinson does just that. Just sort of caught in two minds!

Mark Bright: I think he just saw somebody out of the corner of his eye, there, might've been Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run off him, and this is Davies, and Hartson's in space if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: yeah, **the big fellow** came into **the box**, took **it** in his stride, then it just wouldn't settle for him, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi **came across**, and robbed him of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: **Quinn back** inside his own penalty area as well, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy away downfield. **Sixty-two minutes gone**. **Giggs's corner**, Fletcher couldn't get beyond James Quinn, **the Welsh leading** by three goals to two. It was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: he did well... the referee's played the advantage **there** as well. **a foul** on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: **Duffy in here**, Hartson's away through **the middle**, he was actually standing offside, I think he's offside again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. **Ryan Giggs**, **Simon Davies**, **lots of space**, **too much space**. it's all Wales at the moment!

Mark Bright: Duffy's **come on** as a substitute, anticipating **that ball** on the half-way line, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: **a substitution** for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be Chris Brunt on, from Sheffield Wednesday, **very promising**. Elliott will be the man who departs. Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, **twenty years of age**, **started off** at Middlesbrough, and **won** the FA Youth Cup with them, and **went** on loan to Sheffield Wednesday initially. he scored a couple of goals at the weekend against Coventry.

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, yeah, so obviously **they're** looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: he scored a great goal at under-twenty-one level, against Scotland. **Gillespie looking** long, **a foul** against Healy...

Mark Bright: well, **tumbling** with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. **what a come-back now** as centre-back in his first game since May, at the end of last season.

Mark Bright: **doesn't** carry any weight, does he? **very lean**, and it doesn't matter, you know, you work and work and work, when you come back from injury, it's just the games, that's what we were talking about, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Earnshaw, **to Simon Davies**, **got** the shot away, **palmed** that just behind Earnshaw, Craigan was second to it, **this** is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous every time they come forward, **Earnshaw! offside**, **wouldn't** have counted.

Mark Bright: just **end to end**, isn't it? you know, you just wouldn't believe at half-time when Wales were two-nil up, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, now they're behind again, and now the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales. **this** is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took it early, when **it** came across him, **just a great strike there**, look at **the far side**, and when the keeper parries the ball you can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Ian Downing in the studio right now.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Downie.

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Quinn, **got it** down but **cleared away** by Partridge, **chance here**, **Johnson!** **good block**, important save by Jones, and **here** come Wales, flying on the counter. this is terrific stuff. **so open**. **Giggs**, Hartson way offside. Northern Ireland came out. and **here** come the home side again, this is Brunt, **his first touch** as a substitute. **good block by Jones**, wasn't it? and Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: it was, yeah... the defence is **no...** they just stood still, he's aiming straight down at the goalkeeper **there**, he goes across the goal, just like Davies did a few minutes earlier, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: **Capaldi**, **Robinson**, who finds Giggs, **Earnshaw offside**.

Mark Bright: **Giggs and Davies**, **that** was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, in the second half, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball inside as opposed to wide on the wings.

Jonathan Pearce: **Giggs tracking back**, and **winning it!** **conceded** the foul **here**.

Mark Bright: I think he's saying somebody tell me, tell me there's a man behind me. Johnson did well **there**, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: **that's** a splendid save again!

Mark Bright: **that's** what I like with **the referee's decision**, if you want to take **it** early, you know, without putting a wall up, you know, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for winning the free kick, **there** you go, hand on **it**, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones out of... off his line.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. **Brunt's corner kick**. just **cleared away** from Duff's head by Duffy. and the pressure swings back on the Welsh goal!

Mark Bright: **Gillespie with a corner from this side**.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops in the last couple of moments. and **unopposed there**, **allowed** to make **the save**.

Mark Bright: **disappointed** with the pressure **there**, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it away from the goalkeeper. you know, there's an area, really, between the penalty spot and the six-yard box, it's too far from the keeper to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack before today, and especially in this second half, they've looked dangerous every time they attack.

Mark Bright: well, it's been open, hasn't it? I mean, at times, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side on a Friday! **end to end!** both teams **playing deep**, **lots of work for midfield players to do**... it's really enjoyable, you know, **not gonna criticise** a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: **Partridge, offside**.

Mark Bright: well, Healy was coming back, he was in front of the defence and as that ball has come over his head he's coming back onside, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: **just under twenty minutes left**. Partridge will take **it**. he started off with West Ham, Partridge. **this** is Capaldi, **to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control**, brings Davis into the play, and now **Duff, high back to James Quinn**, Brunt was behind him, **Simon Davies**. **caught** in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: **good pressure from Johnson there**, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: **so important** for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, **this** is Brunt, **Capaldi, too far for Jones**, Healy headed it back across, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get **there**.

Mark Bright: **the curl on the ball, lovely shaped**, coming away from the goalkeeper, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddling, you head it, and it hits the guy in front of you.

Jonathan Pearce: and **the corner for Northern Ireland**, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl it in. Quinn is **in there**, so is Murdock. **cleared away** by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard up and down that Northern Ireland right. **forward by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it in the air, Murdock in there, away by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt onside, a hanging cross, and away by Duffy under pressure**.

Mark Bright: **a good defending**, really, and **good pressure as well**, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball in the penalty area. **a short one**.

Jonathan Pearce: **this** is Gillespie, and **another corner**. and **the pressure beginning to mount**.

Mark Bright: **everybody back now**, the Welsh team. **the eighteen-yard box, majority in the six**, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: **Jones making sure** he's got room, **doesn't** want to come through a thicket of players, but has to do just that, he didn't get **the punch** away, did that hit an arm? **Robinson!** it was Brunt who had **the little stab** at the end of **it**, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson on the arm! **slid** down his arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think he thought he was gonna get challenged, his arm was up, and his head was pointing downwards.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, is that a penalty? Healy went over. and the Northern Ireland coaching staff are on their feet, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: handball?

Jonathan Pearce: is that a handball by Delaney? Quinn! unbelievable pressure here. back in by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis again, Murdock stayed forward, Gillespie's header, and drops it just wide. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing to his hand, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact there. but a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd behind the goal. this is the in-swinger. this one goes up in the air... that there, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: yes, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, back to goal, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: but throughout the game, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it into the six-yard area, Wales have looked uncomfortable. especially since James Collins went off.

Mark Bright: yeah, he was dominant in the air in the first half of the game. you know, Partridge is comfortable in the air, Delaney's got the height, he's coming there, but it's just one of those situations where it's continually coming back in the box in the air, and it's swirling round, and people don't move out of the way when you want to go and clear it, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack there, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's there, oh, good goalkeeping. Really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: we saw the frustration on Healy when he turned away, a little bit of anger, I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just here. because if he gets a touch, it's a penalty. there he's frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. now Giggs, on beyond Duff, Johnson there, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. finds Gillespie, good play. high, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: and Delaney... now this is forward by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie now. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging the touch line. Healy's there in front of him, so who's in the middle? Quinn is in the middle, if they can-get it in there. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution here for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go off, and Vaughan is coming on for his fourth cap. and they'll just leave John Hartson up front here, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfield player.

Mark Bright: he is a midfield player. he plays for Crewe, he's very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five in the midfield and just leave John Hartson on his own at front.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson back in there, oh it's beyond Murdock and Quinn!

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone to the left-hand side of midfield, and Ryan Giggs has come over to this right at the moment, he's just standing off Davies, but I wonder if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, Mark, in the closing stages?

Mark Bright: well, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, you know, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, you know, they can all take a chance when the time is right.

Jonathan Pearce: here is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets there, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. thirty-year-old from Ballymena, started off at Old Trafford but didn't make the grade there. while he was at Old Trafford, I think he was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, now Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. that is frustrating because I know on Wednesday they were working really hard on getting that ball into the box, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts now, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: again it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for now, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure he should try and strike that with the outside of his foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick in again. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight out of play again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up as the game has gone on, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. away by Craigan. energy levels sap, eleven minutes to go. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it in the air, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, away by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got back at him but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence there from Healy. Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. at this time of the game, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: he'll miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney, and Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. ten minutes to go. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. Jones organising the wall, four men in it, that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players in the wall. and Northern Ireland about to make another substitution. another Crewe player is about to come on, this time it'll be Steve Jones, we'll see him in a minute but it's Giggs meanwhile who gives it away, Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. and Northern Ireland wanna make the substitution here, it's gonna be Mike Duff who departs, and Steve Jones who comes on. comes from Londonderry, twenty-eight-year-old, this is his nineteenth appearance for his country, another player who played for England at semi-pro level.

Mark Bright: he's a forward, he's quick.

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over on that right-hand side, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. now Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. now Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: doesn't need to do that. doesn't need to do that, giving it away. even though Giggs made the run. what he does is, he takes a defender with him, there's a bit more space, come inside, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, you know, he's been unlucky not to get anything in the box so far, you know, he's come to lead in the line, holding it up, bringing people into play, you know, big player, strong, back to goal, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: can Northern Ireland provide another twist in the turn of an extraordinary game? Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, at two-two, at the start of the second half, Quinn, Davis again, just too far for Healy.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it as well, Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just a bit too far. here it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball there, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis at the start of the second half made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal now separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is there with him, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a

pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won in the air well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt in space. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised there by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson meanwhile, and he's gone down, and Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and still they play on, and he looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: everywhere, everywhere, decisions everywhere!

Jonathan Pearce: and they get the cross back in... Quinn! couldn't get out of the way!

Mark Bright: oh, the Welsh players, they're furious there. Carl Fletcher was down on the floor, and wanted them, I think, to kick the ball out, he soon got up, and back on his feet, complaining to the referee now, that he was down. it's not a head injury, you know, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that they're in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, under five minutes to go, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan again. as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper, Lawrie Sanchez turned around and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause he knows it's so important coming towards the end of the game. you gotta keep that ball away from the goalkeeper.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: that's the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. he's fouled him there. stokes up that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are gonna make another substitution, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on at centre-half, and Ricketts is the man who makes way, presumably Collins will go straight up there and play on the left side, will he?

Mark Bright: he was a midfield player originally, wasn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he started off as a midfielder.

Mark Bright: yeah, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: winning his second cap, he made his début in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary. woo:h! rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! three minutes to go, just under. World Cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future World Cup qualification. Jones, Johnson, in towards James Quinn, lovely lay-off, Jones was in there but couldn't find his way through and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. well, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, all the way to the end, good clearance there from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous now, arms are flying in the penalty area but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen there, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! well, he struck that!

Mark Bright: well, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! here it comes, we can see the rain coming down now, there, it's just away from everybody, you know, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: into the last minute. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. now a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, now this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club-mate, towards James Quinn, suspicion of a little punch there by Partridge?

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything at this stage.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up now to tell us how much time we'll have added on. **four minutes.**

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by the fourth official, Kevin Blon. **Vaughan**, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, **this** is Robinson, **Duffy**, good run by **Simon Davies**, just too far in front of him. **terrific entertainment.** away by **Delaney**, **Hartson** offside.

Mark Bright: **the kick**'s weak. **they**'ve gotta get around Quinn. **they**'ve just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get around him. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's **out here...**

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together **there**, but **it** was dropped in short Carl Robinson headed **it** away, now **Craigan**, **one minute of stoppage time played.** **Brunt's header down**, **Duffy** blocked and **clears.**

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience **there**, he had Simon Davies just in front of him, just roll the ball into feet, and then Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: **high up towards Murdock**, who'll surely stay forward in this stoppage time period, Gillespie hoists it, **James Quinn backing** on to Fletcher who held his ground, now **Giggs!** oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, a long way out I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing **there**, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, has he? I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: **knocks** it beyond the defender, and he would've had a clear run down that side. **two minutes of stoppage time played.** and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it has, it's been really enjoyable, you know, for two different reasons, you know, on the back of that great win against England, if they could back it up here, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, **four straight defeats**, you know, **lots of criticism for the manager**, looks like he's answered the critics, for the time being anyway.

Jonathan Pearce: **Northern Ireland without** a victory here against Wales in thirty years. **on to Jones**, they'll have to wait a minute longer, or will they? **this** is Johnson, Vaughan's across **there** with him, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone beyond! Murdock's on the far post, Quinn is there too, **it**'s loose, **it**'s come to Healy! goodness me, he **struck that!**

Mark Bright: it looked like a handball...

Jonathan Pearce: **it** hit Partridge, didn't it?

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: and now Wales can break away, in the last minute of stoppage time. **Duffy on the overlap**, Hartson's in the middle, offside. and he's tickled it in, but he was always in an offside position. your overall thoughts, Mark?

Mark Bright: well, **just a fantastic entertaining game**, you know, **a great start from Wales**, and **a great comeback from Ireland** obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: **seconds to go.** hoisted it **there** again, looking for Murdock, and just **turned away...** only as far as Davis. **Murdock...** oh! and surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: well, it's incredible really, it's just one end to the other, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap past Davies a few moments earlier.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! and Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park, on sixty-one minutes, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

2.4) Analyse de 400M

Tom Hammond: up next is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back World championship gold medals. Lewis, you were talking earlier about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up here in Osaka.

Lewis Johnson: it has, in a two-hour surprise, because we have not had a wind issue here at these World Championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains in Waco, Texas, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but again, the other elements that he was looking forward, the fast track which he has, the great competition which he has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, Ato.

Ato Boldon: and I can tell you, Lewis, I can admit to you guys now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres in quite some time, and Jeremy Wariner in lane six is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor just his insides on lanes five and four.

Tom Hammond: so Jeremy Wariner will come into the race as in the favourite, there are as Ato mentioned three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: and an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers all over the world, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the World Championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen today.

Ato Boldon: I spoke to Johnson for about an hour about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes down to close finish at the end, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience this year, he's run forty-four point sixty-two to win in Paris, forty-four point four in Rome, forty-four point three in Monaco, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: and I talked to Jeremy Wariner today about this evening and his plan throughout the World Championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him tonight was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, now his personal best's forty-three point fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: lane two, Avarad Moncur of the Bahamas, gold medallist of the two-thousand-and-one World Championships, lane three Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record at the two-thousand-and-five, world's bronze medallist in the World Championships in Helsinki. lane four, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in the four-hundred metre hurdles. lane five, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four point zero-six at the US championships, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, then the third of the three Americans in a row is Jeremy Wariner, defending Olympic and World Champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four point thirty-four. lane seven, Leslie Djohne from France who lored his French national record, forty-four point forty-six in his semi-final race, he was seventh at the Athens Olympics. in lane eight, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, forth at the two-thousand-and-five World Championships, and in lane nine, Johan Wissman of Sweden, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records in both his races here, first round and semi-finals, in forty-four point fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: well I had a talk with Clyde Hart today, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race in his semi-final, around twenty-one seconds at two-hundred, thirty-two seconds at three-hundred, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens in the last hundred metres.

Ato Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, Lewis, he said, don't think for a second that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are right behind him, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most

dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate lane six, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: and there's the gun! Angelo Taylor lane four, Lashawn Merritt five, Jeremy Wariner in six, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Ato Boldon: look for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all through the rounds, this move down the back stretch from Angelo Taylor, in lane four.

Tom Hammond: and Jeremy Wariner is there, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher from Canada, into the turn for home, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's straight away now and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, here is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three point forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: and the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get close enough to him at three-hundred, put some pressure on him, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. he took this race out, he could not see them to his inside, but he stuck to his script, and at three-hundred metres he was clear, and he never looked back, they never were able to pull up on his side and really challenge him.

Tom Hammond: and the official time, forty-three point forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: and that was the goal, coming out here for this final, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

2.5) Analyse de CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about at the Joe Louis Arena, here in Survivor Series. here we go... boy, all these little Hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is in the town, the electricity is going all over the world, Hulkmania's gonna be put to rest very, very shortly...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run for quite some time. I've seen what the Hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over till it's over.

Bobby Heenan: you're looking at the greatest wrestler in the world today, the World Wrestling Federation world champion Hulk Hogan! hulkmania lives forever!

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing on the back of my head, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkmania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person at the concession stand or in the hallway, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. sooner or later it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody will, he will.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in there! could weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty good idea, he felt it on the back of his head! duck underneath by the Hulk Hogan off the ropes, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and out of there immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...

Bobby Heenan: the true mark of a coward.

Robert Marella: the true mark of a champion!

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... but I don't think Hulk Hogan did it as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: that certainly is not obvious to me at this point in time, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: that's what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands behind the Hulkster, not like being out there with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, on your side.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, I'm never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs all over the world are in there with him. well he's gonna need them to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for him to win tonight... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, that could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? Paul Bearer's talking from the outside... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about that guy!

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence since he entered that ring, has he? he's been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at this! COME ON! YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out there, what happened?

Robert Marella: your monitor went out... your brain went out! from the outside it was a blatant attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble right now... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got out of there in a hurry. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of the big guy. into the ropes!

Bobby Heenan: but he didn't knock him down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: he couldn't slam him. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel it, I can see it! couldn't knock him down, couldn't slam him. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow right between the eyes! you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first into the corner, and back to the other side for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, he's really rocking him real and now, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down on his feet.

Bobby Heenan: but he is still standing! and he has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan out. now throw him back into the ring, cause you can't beat him on the floor.

Robert Marella: OH! Hulkster face first right into the steel steps!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made here! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. come on, ref! number one, you should've sent that guy back to the dress room before this match even started.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power from that urn, there's something in there that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown here by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has on his arm, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next World Wrestling Federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, from the outside, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out in a minute...

Bobby Heenan: tension in the air, we could cut it with a knife, here in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City. everyone just sitting there right on the edge of their seats, ready to explode at any moment!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's on the edge of her seat!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane behind her!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down into the mat, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that here!

Robert Marella: well they're both still on their feet!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. can you hear me?

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty something thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold right on the forehead of the Hulk...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up by now...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission by now.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning World Wrestling Federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, ba:h...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength from that urn...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother here...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead ninety percent of this match! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: look at that, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's someplace else right now! his body may be in Motown, but his mind is out there some place.

Robert Marella: well that arm dropped twice, had it dropped one more time, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's on his feet, they're both on their feet! Hulk Hogan, Monsoon, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... wow! what a flying first there by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: get the flowers ready, sign in the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: look at that big dent in the urn, it's probably where he clubbed the Hulkster from behind with it...

Bobby Heenan: so what...

Robert Marella: so what, yeah...

Bobby Heenan: it's my opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: look at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: he's too cold to sweat! he'd have to have blood and pores to sweat...

Robert Marella: I've never seen him perspire.

Bobby Heenan: look at the ease!

Robert Marella: he's gonna try to ply him with a tombstone! OH YES! no one has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, look at that, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: who's not immortal now, Brain?

Bobby Heenan: he's still on his feet! the Undertaker is STILL on his feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster continues to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: he's down to one knee! the first time he's been down on one knee...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up, oh watch this! where is he going?

Bobby Heenan: the real world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... what business does he have down there?

Bobby Heenan: well you'd better talk to Ric Flair, I don't know... I mean it, I really don't know.

Robert Marella: Hulkster finally... oh, says what are you doing down there? roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: why would he go touch Flair? he never touched the ring, he never got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: what business does Flair have down there?!

Bobby Heenan: I don't know, but he doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, from the outside, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. look at this! Flair with a chair! he got piledriven right into the steel chair!

Bobby Heenan: wait a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a new world champion! the new World Wrestling Federation champion, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told you so!

Robert Marella: this is horrendous! three guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: hulkamania is dead! and is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking down here is the new World Wrestling Federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

Annexe 3 – Les anaphores cohésives

En bleu : anaphores endophoriques

En vert : ellipses cohésives

En jaune : connecteurs logiques cohésifs

3.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: (*showing England team*) let's look at the English team... **they** have a lot of old stagers there, Martin Johnson's thirty-three, Jason Leonard equals the world record, he's thirty-five, Neil Back thirty-four, Dallaglio thirty-one, and Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper. (*showing Wales team*) **and** the Welsh team... **they** have stuck to the form players from last weekend. number twelve, Iestyn Harris, the high-priced League signing who'll take on that crucial role, and always we'll be on the number eleven Shane Williams to see if he can reproduce his magic which we saw last weekend. **and the two sides** observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives at war time. **so**, Tim, is the Welsh team capable of upset, as we await the anthems?

Tim Horan: well, there's a wonderful atmosphere, here down the sideline, and the Welsh body languages as they ran out... **they** don't think it's a one-horse race tonight, **they** wanna repeat **their** upset performance last weekend against the All Blacks.

Gordon Bray: (*showing referee*) our referee tonight is Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped. **he** speaks fluent French, **he** has a French father. Jonny Wilkinson gets the fourth quarter-final under way here, at Suncorp Stadium, and Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, down towards the twenty-two.

Chris Handy: well, a good clearance there by Stephen Jones, the first touch there very important at test match, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, didn't get the opportunity for his forwards to get underneath the ball.

Gordon Bray: **so**, Jones getting his hands on that ball, the big Welsh prop... here's Dawson! clean break! Cooper from behind... **he's** made forty metres. Back, quickly to Vickery, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... **and now** Thompson, this massive England hooker just fifteen metres out!

Tim Horan: great try from the English forwards...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven from behind by Leonard! **still**, it's only fifteen! here's Robinson, almost stepping through... **and** it's against the number eight Jonathan Thomas. seven phases there for England...

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) the break came from absolutely nothing, he telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper here in jersey nine for Wales... **and** Robinson, that's a HUGE hit there by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position here at Suncorp. (*showing Jonathan Thomas*) that man, Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail on Tuesday, he's become an overnight hero. no goal, off the woodwork, and well anticipated by Taylor. we saw **he** missed one from in front against Samoa...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming off the post, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred per cent every game, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come off the post.

Gordon Bray: I watched **him** in **his** warm-up, **he** started hitting those balls, started kicking, an hour forty minutes before the kick-off...

Tim Horan: **it** was quite incredible, the rhythm and... **he** goes to achieve **that**, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble initially with **their** line-out, second one that... **and yet** in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity here for Wales and England front rows... **haven't** really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... **but** taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining on the spot.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, (*showing replay*) well that surely came forward from **his** hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. **he's** got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose-head, well there was an unmarked man outside, Wales choose to go inside but they still have big numbers on the right, Jones the prop here, Sidoli, yes! did **he** lose it? **he did!** no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! **they** had England chopped to bits. (*showing replay*) God almighty, **he** chose to pelt to the line, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, take your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: **now** England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point here, Chris, that there was no awkward movement before you pop your opponents.

Chris Handy: **and** I think **that** was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tight-head, he was just like a real wedge in **the scrum**... (*showing replay*) **but** look at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: **and that's** where the Welsh, **that's** where they'll get change tonight going wide, attacking on Dan Luger's side, and outside of Will Greenwood, that's where they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again tonight.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... **having** to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. **and well taken** there by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is on the outside, here he is, now another chance for Taylor, and Williams! has **he** got the speed?

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that **he's** got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. (*showing replay*) what **another** great thrust, no lack of vision here, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going wide.

Gordon Bray: second week in a row, the Welsh are not reading the script! **this** isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by **their** back three.

Chris Handy: (*showing Adam Jones*) Adam Jones, the curly head at tight-head prop for Wales on the far side...

Gordon Bray: **so**, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms until the ball is out of the scrum. **but** you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, **as well**. **they**'re covering up in desperation at the moment, and here's Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties so far... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just short at the halfway line, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: **now** you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: this is Charvis, couldn't get away from Martin Johnson, lost a bit of grounds, Jones... **and** Jason Robinson on his twenty-two, almost sliding through the gap, but Taylor got him on halfway... here's Cohen, trying to get his arm over the defender, Dawson, Thompson, England making steady progress...

Chris Handy: this is when **they**'ve got to continue to get in behind the Welsh. running straight...

Gordon Bray: that's Dan Luger coming in from right wing. Moody's out in his position, Wilkinson, and Ben Kay was manhandled there.

Chris Handy: making their tackles count, the Welsh, they are hitting with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, (*showing Lewis Moody*) and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised in the end. (*showing replay*) have a look at this, first that one, and then the next time they come right, there's Moody coming straight over the top, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: (*showing Clive Woodward*) **and** the England coach might be worried, the first ten minutes for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding so far.

Chris Handy: **and** England finding some inroads in around the ruck and mauls, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: **but** Neil Back was there, assisted by Moody... Wilkinson **again**... **packs himself!** Dallaglio, Dawson, Cohen's outside, that's an excellent defence again for Wales.

Chris Handy: Ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's still on the ground, number nine for England, had Jason Robinson lurking just on his left side... (*showing replay*) here we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just didn't see Robinson on his left-hand side... good defence from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: score here at Suncorp, nil all after nearly eleven minutes.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them in the last couple of weeks, they had Wally Lewis in the last couple of days, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot tonight.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, **also**, Tim, spoke to **them** for ninety minutes, and Robinson inside his twenty-two, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. obstruction against Neil Back, penalty kicking-range. chance for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson there... does anyone know where **he**'s gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: **so this** is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... (*showing replay*) **and the obstruction** very clear there, under the referee's nose... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look out there, you'll see just right next to the referee, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of **these ideas**, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: **and** another poster, two in a row! **similar** position, still, no score. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and Wilkinson with a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. this is Jones, on half-way, to Gareth Thomas. William's out on **his** side with a bit of room here, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. Stephen Jones, mishandle there by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and in behind... Luger, here goes Williams! Williams is still going, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: wonderful opportunity, just here in the middle, Cockbain, from Queensland, Dallaglio...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play over the halfway line here.

Tim Horan: well, once again, we've seen the Welsh going in behind Dan Luger's wing, he's coming off his wing...

Gordon Bray: well, good start there from Brent Cockbain, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog in the middle of the Welsh pack will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog from out back Queensland... there's Cooper there. so the referee ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper now, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away quickly and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it at the moment.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting now, Jason Robinson on the right-hand side, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum here for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage straight ahead, so is Luger, Dawson here, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're in centre field, thirty-five metres out, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, when they've been defending, and tremendous enterprise when they've had the ball. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but in behind his twenty-two he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found then, (showing replay) but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap down the middle, must be a metre gap between both teams.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation there, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tight-head, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come through, he's been told to stay outside.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was on his feet.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner in the World Cup.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed on his feet...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got over the advantage line...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up here at Suncorp, it's still nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright again... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine, and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. (showing Clive Woodward) and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward with the coach's box...

Chris Handy: yeah, **that**'ll relieve **him**... **but it** will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, seventeen and a half minutes before the first point was scored.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: **and** it's always crucial, after you put points on, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it here.

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just **this constant cacophony**, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, **he** was speared into the ground here, Thomas... Gareth Thomas **now**, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones on the loop, Charvis in good support, thirty metres out...

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can **they** get a turnover? there **it** is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England five from half-way...

Chris Handy: **and another** turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli here on the left wing.

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: **accidentally bumped** into **his** man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards out wide, they just pushed them towards the sideline, forcing them to change the angle. (*showing replay*) Thomas did well to be here, but...

Gordon Bray: **so** that's an accidental offside. really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh there...

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with **that**, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. **not at test level** though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial next five minutes there for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: over Johnson's head, lost, and hit there by Charvis... it's all looking very shaky for England at the moment. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: beautiful scrum to England, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: **and** there is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, **they**'re looking to find gaps just around the ruck, Brent Cockbain here slamming one of the England players out of the way who was standing in front of him... **and** this is Vickery! some communication from the referee, just making sure that the tacklers roll away, once the ball carriers go to the ground. Wilkinson, that's Moody, and the twenty-two-metre line just ahead.

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... that quick ball enables **them** to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going **now** for England... **they**'re keeping it in close, but **they**'re making headway there. Back, then to Luger, but now the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: there goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: right foot, out to the left.

Chris Handy: we've seen **that** often, Tindall was wide, no one marking up much on him.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: TEN PHASES!

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? (*showing replay*) great work, forcing **him** to go to field goal... see **that last phase** **they** just had, just before we restart play, the defence hit **them** and knocked the English pack out of the advantage line, that's when Wilkinson decided, enough for now, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: **and** Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, tonight we want to discover how well we can do. **and** they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery at the moment, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: **they**'re not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks last week. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. **they** must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: **so** Tindall, and now Greenwood, fullback in front, didn't have a close support, Tindall again, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says it went backwards. certainly the momentum of that dropped ball suggested it was a knock-on... here's Johnson, **still** there for England, Greenwood, the play-maker, space for Back, here's Leonard! what a shame **he** wasn't ten-metre faster... this man **is**, and he's well caught by Thomas. Dawson **again** for Cohen... Wales really marking up, that was Adam Jones the tight-head prop, now Dallaglio... England pounding the Welsh defence here. Dawson is close, Leonard sealing off...

Chris Handy: nine phases on **that occasion**. the best thing that can happen here is that **they** only take the three points... **but they** run!

Gordon Bray: Back is there... Mark Jones on the far side was ever alert, and he had the height over the smallest forward on the field!

Tim Horan: well, **that** was an opportunity for England to go six points up, in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute, the Welsh played on quickly with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: Robinson here... straight into Harris, almost the ten-metre line, Wilkinson again, Greenwood, and Tindall! Williams across, put into touch! grand covering, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders there too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have been taken England out of their comfort zone. **they**'ve had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. **and that** is not part of the playing for **them**. (*showing replay*) **and then they**'re forced to come this side... the Welsh have broken **them** up, in isolating **them**, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took that kick across to touch, when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. **he** kicked for touch **instead**, and then Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because **he** kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player on the field. **so** if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: Charvis waiting at the front, just outsmarting England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. rigorous defence from Wales, just on England's side of halfway. **now** Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive there from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion now, forty-five metres out. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: **and** this is when **they** need Jonny Wilkinson, to get **their** first receiver and start organising **their** phase play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb in the opening quarter.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... **in favour of England**. here's Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: **and** there's Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive there, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger on the short side...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson **now**, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess at the moment... **and** a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway before he was hit by Mark Taylor.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just as the ball arrived. (*showing replay*) have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, **he** had a huge gap there...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England there, just ahead of this Welsh side, at Suncorp. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans here, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of **that** so far.

Gordon Bray: **and** a clever little kick by Cooper, here comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. just short of half-way.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson on the ground, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... **he** was thinking about **it**.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio there, finally gets it over the halfway line. Greenwood, looking for the open territory between the full-back and the left wing... **and** Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found twenty metres... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. **this guy** really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can **confirm** that **that** was a scheduled change, **he** was always gonna come of at the thirty minutes mark.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious **that time**, put his head down. **and was** happy just to secure the ball. **now** Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, a hundred-and-eleven caps today, and Back is driven onto his heels.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it here, one, two tackles and then they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: **now** Wilkinson, in behinds, clever little kick... Jones slips out of the tackle, Thomas now, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack here for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet **him**, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... here's Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure at the moment...

Tim Horan: well you could throw a blanket over the English side at the moment, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: **and** on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, here, if he can hit around Kay, no problem! off **he** goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, in the village of Aberystwyth, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off today, and that's why!

Chris Handy: **not one** of the tries of the tournament, **THE try** of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering **they** had Ben Kay, a lock forward... **they** got dusted, **they** got dusted for pace, **they** got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: (*showing replay*) well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball back inside as Ben Cohen came across, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... **his** fourth test try, in **his** forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: **and** the consummate skill of **the little scrum-half** who is playing on the left side, **he** started it with **that horrible kick**, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed **that try**, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... **that's** the thing that works you so hard. if **they** can control a bit of peel here, **they** can keep this up. if **they** have to keep tackling it'll wear **them** down.

Gordon Bray: well **they** ran out of petrol last week against New Zealand, in the last ten minutes, but if **they** can go for the eighty here, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw there a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. when it's **their** restart, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, on that occasion he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw to the line-out, forty metres out.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it: one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby here in Brisbane.

Chris Handy: clever thinking here by England, going to the sider, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... **so** England setting up play here **again**, thirty metres out. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, here's Wilkinson, and Robinson... **he's** beaten two, **he** didn't release it here... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by Cohen in the eleven jersey here... Cohen did the right thing, he went to ground with the ball knowing that anyone who falls on him will be penalised... **he** steadied, stayed up and pressured the massive Ben Cohen into a mistake. **they're** slowing things down... **they're** gonna take the line-out five metres out, immediate response, Charvis, with the dark hair in the middle of the pack. **they** work out how **they're** gonna score, this time through the forwards. will **they** have a crack at **them**?

Gordon Bray: **and** very selective refereeing there by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball on the ground on the other side of half-way.

Tim Horan: **and this** is what England did to so many teams, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: **they're** almost there... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium at Suncorp, there's all but the white jerseys up on their feet. England now together, but this man, Charvis, he led them so well last Sunday night... it just seems that like after a midday rest, **these guys** are on fire! (*showing replay*) what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, Colin Charvis, the captain, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, as he did last week against the All Blacks, as he does again tonight against England, (*showing Colin Charvis*) and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, **he's** had a special perm in **that hairstyle**, and that's two tries in the week, against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, they're not maintaining the width that they displayed so far on tour.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. **and** in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood there as spectators, as Charvis drove over the line. **and** that's little Williams, here playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here as we close on half time, four minutes before the break, Dallaglio... **but** underneath there, a brilliant tackle by prop forward Thomas, and Wilkinson makes **another** mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, (*showing replay*) just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width, there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and here's Jones! Wales on the rampage **again**! lucky bounce for Wilkinson... **and now** Luger, it's gone backwards! **and that** sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself right to the flanks...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, (*showing Clive Woodward*) as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: (*showing Dan Luger*) as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. what price a driving maul from this line-out... **they** have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli **again**, and **they** sack it that time.

Chris Handy: **they** can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: Jones, loose pass for Harris, that's unfortunate, chance for a turnover, Wales through Jones, and Williams. **he** was punctured by the England tight forwards... **they** just can't pick it up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: advantage to England, they can hurt from here.

Gordon Bray: **they** gotta do something here. here's Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland.

Gordon Bray: **but** there's nothing on here, for England. **they** just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: short-side opportunity for Dawson...

Gordon Bray: **he** hesitated... did **he** release? **he** lost it! stolen there by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because **they**'ve been taken out of **their** pattern, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: Thomas up to full-back from Jones, and it was dropped by the referee! knock-on, sir!

Tim Horan: former test scrum-half for Ireland, and **he**'s put down that one... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) Daffyd Jones, good work on his feet, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. **they** weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: **so** Stephen Jones **again**, Taylor, Jones goes in to scrum-half, Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: **caught** in a bad position there...

Gordon Bray: well, about thirty seconds to go on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, **they**'ve gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson **again**, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close this gap... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's there, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he held on to dear life.

Chris Handy: **he**'s gotta let go cause **he**'s off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, lost ahead by England, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, big one for Wales here! McBryde's there, so too is Jones, and Cohen's across! what an exciting forty minutes of rugby here... (*showing referee blowing the whistle*) **and** it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead here by ten to three.

3.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: thank you John, good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic athletic association. they never thought **it** would happen but **here** we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, Brian.

Brian Moore: yes, even with headphones on, **it** was ringing in **my** ears, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: **now then** there was a Croke park effect when Ireland came here two weeks ago to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, **this** is on a level higher than that. (*showing Mary McAleese*) the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations, Ireland froze in their blocks but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not there, **this** for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: yes, well everyone was saying **he's** an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played **here** once, familiarity only comes, you know, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to **the stadium**...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Phil Vickery and Mary McAleese*) Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle there, the twenty-three-year-old in on the wing in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle from Warrington, deep in Rugby League country, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the Rugby League code.

Brian Moore: going down there, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if **they** are to stand a chance **here**, **they** must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: (*showing the referees*) the match officials, Joël Jutge from France will be the man in the middle. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man on the field, the thirty-three-year-old from Munster...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job today, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and then he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go around Farrell.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: well, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, you know, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it today, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and **the president** too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: well **they** didn't play for the first twenty, did **they**? very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows there, they'll be crucial for Ireland today, if they can repeat what they've done in the last three occasions to England then Ireland will be on their way... (*showing Irish supporters*) **and** that lot will be cheering **them** for every single yard **they** make.

Eddie Butler: **and** what comes next may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen at Croke Park. just waiting for **the president** to return to **her** seat. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the six nations, played two, won two.

(*The orchestra plays God Save the Queen*)

Brian Moore: I thought **that** was amazing.

Eddie Butler: what was all the fuss about...

(*The orchestra plays The Soldier's Song*)

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you what, Eddie, I got a lump in my throat from **that**.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff here at Croke Park, the central game of the middle-weekend of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens over the next début minutes. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride there, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. **it's** not about pride, **it's** not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, **it's** about doing the right things at the right time.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the six nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit (*showing starting line-ups*) but can this pack of forwards hold themselves together in the early moments? it's **their** first choice pack, **they're** all **there**, and Paul O'Connell the big gun in the middle. Brian O'Driscoll returns to the outside centre spot to the captaincy, again, **they're** at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and behind the scrum, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him on his first test outing. (*showing the substitutes*) the replacements, experience all around, flair to come, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head **here** in the RBS six nations, (*showing referee*) and what a job for Joël Jutge of France, it's gonna be feisty out there, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other in the opening moments?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for **them not to**, **they'll** be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down very quickly.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just being re-wired there...

Brian Moore: I would've thought today that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball upon Olly Morgan and Strettle earlier on, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested early.

Eddie Butler: (*showing David Strettle*) good all-round footballer, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... **he's** scored five tries on **his** début in the England sevens, five tries in one half, that's never been done before, here **he** is, this is different, this is the six nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that **he's** quick, but **it's** a whole different level! **he** would never have experienced anything approaching **this**. **the noise here** is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and not for the first time the fields of Atherry goes around Croke Park, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been everywhere, seen everything, **this** for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get under it, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off in Dublin, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run **it**, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send **it** to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, winning his second cap. Somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, first moment of hesitation. England with a turnover ball, offside, penalty... **and** a kicking chance for Wilkinson.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about **that kick** was that the Irish, although it was in their twenty-two, they had an overlap there, and they could've moved the ball one further, (*showing replay*) bit of barging there, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside in front of him...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) seen this before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: in the second minute of play, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. another penalty from that old left boot of Wilkinson, (*showing scoreboard*) Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, **what was I saying**, you know, unforced errors, and **that** was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming from the back, people coming from the side, and therefore **they** weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: good take by Danny Grewcock, Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby freeing himself there, Denis Hickie, safe catcher...

Brian Moore: extra man!

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... **and** here's the extra man, Dempsey, Shane Horgan inside him, Josh Lewsey with the tackle, Peter Stringer arrives. O'Gara, O'Driscoll, towards Strettle the newcomer... **and** that will be good for the nerves of Strettle, ushered it safely over the goal line, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was a good ten fifteen metres away.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, that's a good tackle by Magnus Lund, Stringer to O'Gara, and again they're kicking behind Strettle, that's a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly where they want to be.

Brian Moore: well **he** does **that** almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. **now** this is... **but** we'll see where the game goes from here, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on the England throw?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: **they do**, Simon Easterby went up for **it**, **it's** safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. **this** is what **they** did against Scotland in the first game, early investment work by the heavy forwards. good play by England. Ellis, Shane Horgan, in field to Dempsey, makes the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! **and** Ireland have the penalty, good work by Ireland's fullback.

Brian Moore: well **they'll** settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet **they** wish **they** could've had the ball, cause there were men on **their** right-hand side for **them** to exploit, (*showing replay*) well he just slips off him, doesn't he? not good first at tackling, once you get to break the game line everything flows from there.

Eddie Butler: Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton when he was with Ireland, just in the years when the game went professional, and Ireland were a very different outfit back then, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson, this little contest within a contest between two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby. (*showing scoreboard*) **and** it's all-square here at Croke Park, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said before the match I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle from start to finish, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, places it more centrally, Paul O'Connell, good catch. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, O'Gara, O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll, that put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was inside, and that was Wilkinson who tackled at centre...

Eddie Butler: **now then** Strettle, with a chance to counter, Peter Stringer, back covering, well read by the scrum-half. Shane Horgan. England plays in front of the kicker, not ten metres.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) Sort of bounced well, not within ten, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack there, inside the outside centre down the centre channel but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell inside him.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara who scored all Ireland's points against France in the last match, including the first-half try... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) Paul O'Connell, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. Rory Best the hooker, just checking the call, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag it down, Easterby and Leany, the back-rowers, break away from the ruck. Stringer, O'Gara,

back behind Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. here's a glimpse of his pace, was he taken late by Horgan?

Brian Moore: no, **he** wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. O'Gara in support, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: well, there was a venture from Strettle there, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, three or four supporting players, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: George Chuter, (*showing Phil Vickery*) there's the captain Phil Vickery, Joël Jutge still having a few problems with his communications, (*showing George Chuter*) this is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well taken by Martin Corry, well played. Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan. a little one, O'Connell goes back, it's bouncing free.

Brian Moore: he's gonna box-kick this.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed his half-back partner Wilkinson who went deliberately down field, the switch between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, Jonny Wilkinson, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: no full-back!

Eddie Butler: **but** Martin Corry is there, well taken on the second attempt. it's out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, Wilkinson to Mike Tindall.

Brian Moore: **and he** gets it off the field! (*showing replay*) well **he** did well the second time, didn't **he**? I think there's a little bit of shepherding there by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: Rory Best of Ulster, Paul O'Connell of Munster, Donacha O'Callaghan at the front, O'Connell, behind him, O'Connell the target, well taken, well read by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, Wilkinson, Andy Farrell! the offload came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. Strettle, had a busy opening period, the follow-up tackle by Horgan, but that's better by Strettle, very good counter-attack, but only as far as Girvan Dempsey, Strettle has to make the tackle.

Brian Moore: **he** did well **there**.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up this blind side for Ireland, O'Driscoll, infield, Horgan just couldn't quite take the pass from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: well, though Andy Farrell offloaded, and Brian O'Driscoll kicked there, he did make ground against D'Arcy. (*showing replay*) well, a bit hopeful, that, wasn't looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline there. (*showing statistics*) England, what's that, about twelve pounds a man heavier, David Wallace in the back row is the lightest, I think I know who the heaviest is, that'll be big John Hayes in the front row. now, England are not going down there, Brian?

Brian Moore: yeah, I think **so**, but the pause has got to be succinct... **that** was better, because **it** was succinct, and **it** was the same timing. that should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery turning in?

Brian Moore: yeah. Vickery bending on the arm, oh, shocking decision. well **his** shoulders aren't gonna be above **his** head, (*showing replay*) look, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and you can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent **him** double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) **and** you see there, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. **and** the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about **that**.

Eddie Butler: he's up and running. Jonny Wilkinson, Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Strettle in from the opposite wing, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. introduction to the international

midfield, England though have it, George Chuter took the pass from Farrell, Farrell goes into the ruck, Ellis, Wilkinson, only Corry outside him, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, a lot of forwards outside Harry Ellis, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up elsewhere. England are still in possession, George Chuter, tackled by David Wallace, lost! oh, the charge down... waste of a turnover, perhaps, (*showing Peter Stringer*) but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap behind England.

Brian Moore: yeah... (*showing replay*) well **it** was really **caused** by the fact that the gang tackled there, and that's the real problem, **he's** driven backwards. interesting watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that earlier on, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke away from the scrum, did well, now, then, Ireland, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see it, they did have men outside D'Arcy for a moment.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like that, if it had gone straight to **him**, **they** would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll short to Dempsey, offload, picked up by Denis Hickie, Stringer, Leamy, runs against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. **now** **they** have numbers **again**, Shane Horgan, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone before that.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well what a waste, you will see, three to one out here, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and managed to get into, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision there, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay outside. if you get caught in the middle, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France a couple of weeks ago, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip here, (*showing replay with animations*), Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities out there, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: interesting on **that last penalty**, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke before that, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you **that one**, but **it** was a clear foot in the Irish scrum, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted **that**!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... Rory Best, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. George Chuter, oh, leave **him** alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle behind that ruck, yeah it is, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented here... well the problem **they're** having is that **the initial surge** is not full enough. **they've** got to get the momentum for **the initial surge**.

Eddie Butler: **and** the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, very solid scrum, Wilkinson, to Farrell. **that's** just outside **their** twenty-two, and Ireland have a penalty. hanging on after the tackle.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well he got the ball round there, but he's got to let go, there... the problem is, if he'd let go straight away... he'd move his body, a double movement, he's always gonna get pain for **that**.

Eddie Butler: Gordon D'Arcy, David Wallace, Denis Leamy, quickly there, (*showing Andy Farrell*), Andy Farrell, the culprit. Ireland with a chance to take the lead.

Brian Moore: well you can say **that**, but there, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were there before any England back row arrived.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those outside him, whether something broke down there, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever **it** was, **it** wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks **his** second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Wilkinson, just easing his forwards pack. **he's** gone quite a central path so far, and **he's** gone down that channel again, oh no, **he's** gone towards the touchline, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. **tackled** by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, O'Gara. huge kick by O'Gara, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. Morgan, keeps it in play, Leamy, Girvan Dempsey. **this time**, the safety of touch, and down there is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous out wide, England trying to attack fairly close into the scrums, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a little bit wider, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball into his hands a little earlier on.

Eddie Butler: Magnus Lund, Danny Grewcock, it's stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, now then was Brian O'Driscoll in front of O'Gara? Holly Morgan waits for it. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, quickly taken, Harry Ellis to Worsley outside him, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut back towards help, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well **that's** good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to here...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing in there?

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) that was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England down towards the Irish twenty-two, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that's good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! **two in a row**, now, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and **they** turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty down there for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: **it's** quite heavy now!

Eddie Butler: **it is, it is**, and it's a slippery pitch, **it's** well known for **its** slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well that's a terrible kick **he's** made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: (*showing crowd*) the rain falls on hill sixteen. **they** won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell **again**, this time off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, **they** would've wanted a quicker ball than that but **they** might have numbers now, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken on the outside, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read it well, but then, just a sign there that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see it coming down here, the crowd are complaining that that was a block, but it wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly there, just for a second...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) there's Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback, (*showing Shane Horgan*) and there's big Shane Horgan, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was in his way, and Horgan simply cleared him out of the way.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) oh, you can't do **that**, **that**'s a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at these days!

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out as O'Connell goes up again, that should be a penalty, they have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but that is too blatant.

Brian Moore: **unsubtle**. (*showing replay*) come on, you know the rules, can't touch a man in the air, dangerous. **said earlier on**, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did he give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, that was an Irish throw won again by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, **yet again**, the Ireland line-out is starting to get into the English line-out, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating **itself**.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster, but there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly, that O'Connell being a front jumper but today he's jumping all over the place, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: **and** in the last ten minutes, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring down here.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson this time goes straight down the field, where David Wallace waits. that's a good tackle by Lund, Stringer, his fractured finger has healed, O'Gara, good kick, quickly taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for it, Olly Morgan knocked it on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, O'Gara, Gordon D'Arcy is in space, oh, well read in the end by Josh Lewsey. well read **indeed**, because there was real danger then.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone towards the tail of the line-out, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, that could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. close, **though**, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, there, (*showing replay*) I just thought for a second that he turned him there, that was Vickery, was that, on the floor?

Eddie Butler: good work here by the England captain, just sort of wrap yourself into a position on the floor... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... **but** Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself down there, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well **not really**, you're not allowed to do **that** anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up down there, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area before the game that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance so far.

Eddie Butler: well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game, and then of course France came with their scrummage challenge as they always present, and Ireland did pretty well there, and they've done well again! O'Gara, D'Arcy, now on the loop from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer waits, O'Gara with a dummy, how well that worked against France... Shane Horgan, Rory Best the hooker, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands in there, Horgan, offloads to

Easterby, Hickie's outside him, he can't, he can, he's on his feet! Lewsey saves England, has he saved them enough? Ireland just short, penalty to Ireland...

Brian Moore: **that** could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... **and** if it's a yellow card that close to the line, is it a case for a penalty try?

Brian Moore: **possibly**, but the ball still had to be passed along the back-line, there were a lot of defenders there, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: don't tell me, don't tell me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it **is**! oh, **he** knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: how much of **that** was dangerous, **he** was cynical! (*showing replay*) crucial things, good backing-up work, shows a lot of pace, here, doesn't he? he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up again.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) well **that**'s not dangerous, is it? so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands now, because I imagine, Brian, drive...

Brian Moore: must do. very important for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: a slight delay. erm, not sure **why**, is **it** the old communication thing again, with Joël Jutge? **actually** it's Olly Morgan who's down the touchline, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking off towards the changing room.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, is it?

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) hamstring, looks like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go on the right wing, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw that close to the goal line. O'Connell is **the target**, **well taken**, on comes the drive, looks pretty good, Ireland through the middle, not quite there yet...

Brian Moore: it's coming back **though**!

Eddie Butler: Stringer goes on his own, it's gone loose, brilliantly offloaded...

Brian Moore: great hands!

Eddie Butler: great try for Ireland, fantastic one, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, sleight of hand, power by the forwards, great combination work against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that **they** might have spoilt **that**, because Springer passed away, I thought **they**'d closed it down, but great hands in the middle, always men outside I was wondering if **they** could get there, (*showing replay*) I just thought that **they** might have closed it all down with that poor pass, but that's lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about this! D'Arcy, O'Driscoll picking it up on the half-volley, good ball from D'Arcy.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better of the last fifteen minutes, they started to get into England's line-out, England have not been able to get themselves out of their own half, now they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: two points added, Ireland sixteen, England three, and suddenly the complexion of the game has changed completely. (*showing replay*) Brian O'Driscoll's pass, and Girvan Dempsey's finish.

Brian Moore: well, there were two pieces of good handling there, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and then O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood?

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed in the last five or ten minutes.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, Wilkinson, held by two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best, Paul O'Connell rips through the outskirts of the ruck and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry tossed over...

Brian Moore: **he** did well to retain that but **he**'s still being driven backwards, slow ball...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle now, Wilkinson, yeah, the change of tactic, get going forward lads, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, held in the air, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is **the guilty party**. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's always a dodgy moment, (*showing replay*) that is a tackle on a player in the air...

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about **that**, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want **you** to do **that**.

Eddie Butler: well **he** didn't do anything! Wilkinson, O'Gara, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna say...

Brian Moore: **that** was perfect!

Eddie Butler: **it was**, **it was**, but actually, **it** went wrong at the end. **still**, it's all going well for Ireland at the moment.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion **as well**, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Magnus Lund*) of course, Magnus Lund, perhaps lucky to be there, England would've been down to six in the pack. **his** brother Eric is captain of Norway. well taken, Louis Deacon, England's chance to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, went for Ronan O'Gara, and now England with numbers, Matthew Tate, Josh Lewsey, Lewsey still going, Callaghan is over there, Ellis, this is better by England, Martin Corry held up, George Chuter goes in, his Leicester team-mate, now it's to deck. o:h, wasn't quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: difficult to see from this far away. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't there quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms around **it** and when they went down they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on that shoulder.

Brian Moore: possibly **came** when **he** went and fell with O'Driscoll, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men outside there!

Eddie Butler: well... it was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. Lewsey, not a thumper, just a delicate one, Denis Leamy takes it, the big, strong Munster number eight does well there, and now then it might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills it behind the white line, Matthew Tate, not much ground made, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge down there, that's a cruel...

Brian Moore: outside?

Eddie Butler: surely **not**. did **he**?

Brian Moore: well, **he** marked it inside, unless it went sideways...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see **that** again!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) I don't understand **that**. is **he** inside the twenty-two when **he** kicks it?

Eddie Butler: did **he** carry it back in?

Brian Moore: I don't think **so**.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: very flat!

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan!

Brian Moore: **he**'s gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, that's a brilliant tackle! fantastic tackle, but Ireland are coming through again, O'Connell's dropped it! **and** Wilkinson kicks it safely over the dead ball line. two great chances for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) you can see what **they're** doing here, angling in first, to fix the back, and then **they** rely on this pace there, Horgan coming back, he's a big man as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well there...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did **the tackle**, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) O'Connell should've held on to that.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well **that's** because **their** primary possession is suffering. in the end, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of **that**, O'Gara, whenever the ball's been loose, whenever he's had the chance he's just pinned England right back to these areas. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been in their respective twenty-twos, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: three and a half minutes to go to half-time, England, five metres from their own line, and oh, Stringer, what a sub-driven... Magnus Lund, was it? Back over the try line.

Brian Moore: well **they're** a man down, and **they're** still going in, now **they're** a man down with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan, you gotta have another man **there!**

Eddie Butler: **they have**, and Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer, has to guard **that blind side**... Horgan, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked **that blind side gap**, that's a try! I think that's David Wallace, they'll go to video replay, and I think that will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: **and** if it **is**, if he confirms **the try**, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in **the previous scrum**. (*showing replay*) I think you can see just see him touch it down here, there, there you are, that's a try. **and** **they're** out of sight at the moment... **I said** Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: try for the greens awarded, Joël Judge raises his arm and Ireland are clear now, and how England have suffered while they've been down to fourteen, Danny Grewcock in the sin bin.

Brian Moore: **yet again**... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) well O'Connell there, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? in the line-outs, **he's** been driving, revving **his** pack up there, I think England will want half-time to come very quickly. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done it again, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't missed.

Brian Moore: well **this** makes Ireland's poor start against France even more expensive in a way, doesn't it?

Eddie Butler: England set off again in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, O'Gara for touch. England with one minute and a few seconds in which to salvage something from this first half. (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ireland, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot of, **I've said it earlier on**, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back, it was nine-three when he went off, it's now twenty-three-three. Louis Deacon, good ball at last. Farrell, takes on O'Driscoll. Ball well presented. Joe Worsley, nothing really up that blind side, but they want to stretch play as far as they can, and here they come the other way, and then Mike Tindall tries to straighten, tackled by David Wallace, what an outstanding six nations Wallace is having! Farrell **again**, this time takes on Simon Easterby... oh, good picking-up job by Martin Corry. Ellis, infield to Perry Freshwater, but it's all gone wrong for England, Josh Lewsey, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you that's a very good follow-up tackle by

Rory Best upon Lewsey! Farrell... Ireland will hoof this off the park, and that will be the break. that's it, Joël Jutge blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, at the midway point.

Brian Moore: well you'd think **they**'d almost won the game, I mean, **they**'ve got a long way to doing that, **they** dominated the last twenty-five minutes, and England, no lack in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, here at Croke Park, it's the first ever international between England and Ireland here, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

Eddie Butler: yep, half-way, and half-time, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on into the back row instead of Magnus Lund, and it's gonna be Ronan O'Gara, immaculate kicking in the first half, to restart play. Tom Rees, oh, he watched it bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well **they**'ve recovered but it's not as tight as you want, from the pressure, o:h!

Eddie Butler: **and** if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, indecision **again**... **that** was never Harry Ellis's ball, (*showing replay*) wow, **that** could've gone anywhere, could **it**, O'Connell he's everywhere, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: **he**'s a sort of carrot-hair rhino, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, **his** last two games, **he**'s been ineffective, but today, **he**'s looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: **he** was better against France, but **he**'s been awesome today, so far. time for England to recover yet. Martin Corry starts with that line-out, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, **that**'s better, **that**'s what we saw in the first game, Marcus Horan, great work by the prop, and Ireland...

Brian Moore: oh, he should've gone...

Eddie Butler: it can still go! Ireland have knocked the ball on here... great opportunity lost, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come in from the centre to have a word with the players inside. a player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know what's disappointing **as well**, from an England point of view, two players that got stuck in...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: well trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win this ball, probably, but look where they are, again!

Eddie Butler: **on their** own twenty-two, and **turned by the Irish scrum**, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, **that**'s **rubbish**!

Eddie Butler: ha ha, did you somehow guess that **this** was coming?

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just popped out of the top! **it** will be interesting to see from the reverse side...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the one picked out, on the far side?

Brian Moore: yes, **he was**, yeah.

Eddie Butler: this is simple for Ronan O'Gara, at the start of the second half...

Brian Moore: **it**'s not what England wanted, is **it**, **it**'s just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: six out of six for Ronan O'Gara, twenty-six points to three.

Brian Moore: well **he**'s been perfect off the floor, but equally impressive has been the way, (*showing replay*) oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of **them**, **that**'s the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, Gordon D'Arcy, good footwork, Tom Rees made the tackle in the end, oops, (*showing Marcus Horan*) that's Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to it. England are gonna bring a change into the front row, Julian White is coming on the field, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going off, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different then.

Brian Moore: well **he** did from tight head **as well**.

Eddie Butler: do you think **he'll** play, will **he** go to loose head?

Brian Moore: I think **he will**. well, Vickery can be **better** at loose head, so you may get Vickery there.

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...

Brian Moore: Easterby has got his hands in there **as well**.

Eddie Butler: just **slows** it up, just slows it up for Tindall, Andy Farrell, oh, that's a good delivery to Mike Tindall, Joe Worsley, let it go for Harry Ellis in the end, that is Julian White, not best known for his running in the loose, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't commit too many forwards, Farrell, behind Shane Horgan, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...

Brian Moore: **and they** need to start doing **this**, and now. (*showing replay*) that's a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they hitherto have been doing, and get the line-out clean, (*showing Paul O'Connell*) with that man I suspect...

Eddie Butler: who's towards the tail, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, they've got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man in here, no it's Simon Easterby who's at scrum-half who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose in the law book?

Brian Moore: if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score from here, from this period of play. **they've** had so little ball in the twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, oh, might just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. Josh Lewsey, heads past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll, great work by Lewsey on the rear foot...

Brian Moore: Rees...

Eddie Butler: England within five metres, Harry Ellis, they keep it short, it's Tom Rees again...

Brian Moore: I think **they're** gonna go blind **this time**, slow, too slow...

Eddie Butler: switch of play by Joe Worsley, no way through there, Rory Best makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: no options, has he?

Eddie Butler: no! there are a lot of forwards out here, Andy Farrell, here's Matthew Tait, Josh Lewsey...

Brian Moore: come on! **he's** in, **he's** in!

Eddie Butler: Dave Strettle on **his** début is going to have to suffer, trial by video. (*showing David Strettle*) **the flying machine**, **he** thinks **he's** got **it**. what a début **it** would be for England's winger! (*showing referee*) Joël Jutge waits. (*showing replay*) TRY!

Brian Moore: I think **it's** a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, that's up, **it's** a try. England desperately needed **that**, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! it was a quick ball...

Eddie Butler: well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get there, Girvan Dempsey... (*showing referee*) **confirmation** by Romain Poite, Strettle on the scoreboard. first game, first try.

Brian Moore: well I don't know why there's booing here, **it** was quite clear!

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson to put England into double figures. brilliant kick, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. (*showing statistics*) fourth highest scorer in Test Rugby with nine-hundred-eleven. **and** Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of **him**, just over the thousand mark.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) good passing, Farrell. **draws his** man, keeps it relatively straight and that creates room outside.

Eddie Butler: Jo Worsley, who was involved...

Brian Moore: there are men left here if the ball comes quickly... **too late**.

Eddie Butler: England backs against Irish forwards there, but they're gone the other way. just may have handed it back to Girvan Dempsey.

Brian Moore: well that was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers out there!

Eddie Butler: good tackle by Phil Vickery on Ireland's fullback. O'Gara, just to settle things down, get back down there. Lewsey with not much space, will he keep it in field?

Brian Moore: no! (*showing statistics*) well the balls won in opponents' twenty-two, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more in the Irish half and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing so far, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts inside Wilkinson. quick ball for Ireland now, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in in one way, and they keep going that way, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: **that** was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static now for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it infield, but in touch. England's throw.

Brian Moore: **but again, the result** is, England are back in their twenty-two, Ireland are well able to attack the lineout...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day at the line-outs, it's alright for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming in the side there, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in from behind the back foot... oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both there...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing there, in midfield. **well spotted** by the referee, it's easy from here we are perched above the ground and sometimes at ground level it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think **that** was relatively easy, **actually**!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, **that's** the problem, **he's** too close, if **he'd** been another five yards away, no problem. **but this** is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points when they're on offer.

Eddie Butler: well, it is half-way, well, of course it's no surprise **he's** gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six-three down in the opening seconds of the first half, twenty-six-thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: (*showing distance to posts*) dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: **and** the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have **such a support** behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is there to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage still being played, Girvan Dempsey still in possession. it's there for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come into the second row, (*showing Brian Ashton*) there's Brian Ashton, Palmer on, Danny Grewcock off.

Brian Moore: just for a second there, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have **another** penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. the first half, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're constantly on the back foot, **this** is what happens, the decisions go your way...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) the simple instruction, going for goal. The all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, (*showing Tom Palmer*) there's Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and meanwhile Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake **this time**, England now have half the number of points Ireland have. (*showing Eddie O'Sullivan*) Eddie O'Sullivan, will **he** be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan, and they're holding up and they're driving backwards, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, no sooner than you got three points, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school when you could do **that**... you can't do **that**, **it's** against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea **either**.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: **never in doubt!**

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged **them** a bit further in front.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson to restart, and England have to restart again. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get underneath it, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands wide...

Eddie Butler: David Wallace in midfield took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's there too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes forward, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll there... turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: **called by** the touch judge I think, (*showing replay*) oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, **he** was in a much better position than I was.

Eddie Butler: well, **not much**, we're slightly off-line.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened two or three times, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: **and that** doesn't happen very often.

Brian Moore: no, **not to Lewsey!**

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. **and that** shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged today, **they**'ve done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose **that** as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, **actually**.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone over from tight to loose head, he's the one nearest us, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush in defence might just have saved England there.

Brian Moore: well **he** saw it, didn't **he**, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: **and that**'s what **they**'ve done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps **too**. Ireland with a chance to come wide, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted across, Hickie though, still in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT?

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it quickly. no time to stop now, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer out of the way. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey now, Strettle, it's gone forward, that one was forward. play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: **they**'re walking, out there!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery from the front row, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go anywhere now, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play till the whistle! to be fair to **them they** were a long way away to the far side, and **they** may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke at half-time about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about **it**. look now, (*showing statistics with animations*) England are playing an outside-to-inside defence, the outside man is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players there, they are all arrowing in, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same thing, which they weren't in the first half, which means Ireland are struggling to get wide. **again**, Mike Tindall does **it**, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, watch Mike Tindall, he shoots out the line, goes for

the intercept, and forces O'Gara back inside. **he's** preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England in the first half.

Brian Moore: Austin, do you think that O'Gara saw **it**? if **he** had just had a little more dexterity, **he** would've thrown behind **him**, they were three on one, you know, **he's** got to see that and take **his**... **he's** gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: yeah, absolutely, but, we saw just there when Andy Farrell made the interception, he tried to do it then, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. **he's** come to a strange position, **he's** gone to a sort of outside centre position, good attacking opportunity on both sides for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, if you've never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, you are doing it now. three to two on their left-hand side!

Eddie Butler: Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now the gap has shut. O'Gara knew **it** was closed, and Julian White has knocked on. just for a moment **it** seemed to open up then, but England closed **it** pretty... **pretty well**.

Brian Moore: well **they** took the wrong options, **they** went the wrong way, then. (*showing replay*) there's **the knock-on**.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis having some sort of breathless passage which went on for two minutes, now then Gerry Flannery has come on, Rory Best has gone off. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well today. Ireland put **him** into tight blind side. Shane Horgan has vacated **it**, but **he's** straight behind the scrum, **he's** now gone into it, but the scrum has wheeled away from its...

Brian Moore: that's a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: **by whom?**

Brian Moore: **number eight**.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. O'Connell, with a little pick-up and drive, now O'Gara goes for the gap, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie, oh, great pick-up by Shane Horgan! **now then**, are we gonna replay, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll at the bottom of that. **so now**...

Brian Moore: I don't know how **he** got from Horgan! I thought **he'd** gone beyond!

Eddie Butler: I was looking at the touchline, yeah! referee knew...

Brian Moore: **he's** not even looking!

Eddie Butler: no, **he** knew the ball was held up. great sleight of hand, **though**, (*showing replay*) let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: good hands for Horgan today... **and** good work there by Tindall, to hold **him** up!

Eddie Butler: it's all Ireland **though**, England had their say at the start of the second half but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go for the wide option, the kick to Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: IT'S A TRY!

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, wonderful work, the six-foot tall Horgan, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.

Brian Moore: well what a touch for Ireland, **they** were under pressure for the first ten minutes, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... (*showing replay*) well judged, and, well Horgan is just a big, tall, athletic man, isn't he, no contest really. that looks very easy, and it's not, actually!

Eddie Butler: **they** always had the width, and Shane Horgan kept that width, he always had the outside line on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go infield because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know where **that** really came from? about two minutes **earlier**, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped on the floor really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara... keeps up his one-hundred percent record, eight out of eight, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys at the back row for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey in, and we saw a great take there from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: (*showing score*) thirty-six-thirteen, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! O'Driscoll...

Brian Moore: good hands.

Eddie Butler: that little tight hamstring, perhaps, to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland in twenty-nine tests, and O'Driscoll is down, that hamstring's gone again, Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell back into the midfield, but there'll be worried looks on Irish bench, cause O'Gara has moved into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated. David Wallace, the attack goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer waits. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't go into this ruck, he'll go straight to the dressing room. it's a turnover for England, stay out of that ruck, Brian! think icepack, in changing room. oh... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) now he's gotta go, he's gotta go, surely. he's going back to his position!

Brian Moore: well from the time you saw that, he just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance here, I think he's gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) it's the contact after passing, your mind sort of switches off. he looks alright there. okay, he says, calm down everybody, he's saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's alright, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage today.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, very conspicuous, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. change at scrum-half for England, Shaun Perry of Crystal is on. Gerry Flannery finds the target of the line-out, nothing wrong with his passing skills, Girvan Dempsey! Dennis Hickie kept the inside line, Ireland come back quickly the other way. O'Gara, Leamy, batters into Louis Deacon and Julian White, there are numbers out here, the rushed defence doesn't work, Hickie, D'Arcy, oh... Hickie still in possession, Stringer, are they going for the high one again? up comes Shane Horgan again, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, Wallace, couldn't get his hands on it, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball out of play. knock-on.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that could've gone anywhere, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, it squirmed away. I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up for a brief moment as he thought it was gonna drop into his hands and he was gonna stroll over the line...

Eddie Butler: change for Ireland in the back row, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... here is David Wallace, Best goes in, first man, to the breakdown. Stringer checks the blind side, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man on the field.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men wide, if they stretch it.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, good footwork by Wallace, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised there if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, well read!

Brian Moore: I thought it was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: (*showing statistics*) there you are, twenty to six, ball won in opponent's twenty-two, not always the definitive statistic, but it's very telling usually, and on this occasion it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson's comeback has had a little, well it's not a wake-up call because it was tough against Italy, but the winning run will come to an end here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: you know the feel you get about the Irish team when they play this way, is that they're well-balanced. **the players** are in the right positions, **they** complement **each other** in units, and when it flows, **they** look very good!

Eddie Butler: a change in the front row, big John Hayes goes off, and Simon Best comes on. Ulster **now**, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation. oh that's well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock it on? Ireland's record win, twenty-eight-twenty-four in two-thousand-and-six, and twenty-two-nil in nineteen-forty-seven, this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record-setting day for Ireland, if **it** stays like this. England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross. Farrell, knock-on, another England attack comes to nothing. **as you were saying**, Brian, just the mixture of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, poor pass!

Eddie Butler: **another change** for England at hooker, George Chuter comes off, and on comes Lee Mears of Bath.

Brian Moore: all the work **he's** supposed to do, **it** ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. fresh legs to run around and make some tackles. There's eight-and-a-half minutes to go.

Brian Moore: totally illegal binding! how can a referee not see **that**!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! the green there, he's supposed to bind on the top of the shirt. the referee's there, where is **he** binding, **he's** on the arm!

Eddie Butler: the top of the arm, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't **it**?

Brian Moore: no, it's **not**, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: Josh Lewsey, he's in a spot of bother now, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry waits, Wilkinson in the pocket clears.

Brian Moore: well, **this** is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting over the half-way, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. **they've** weathered the storms, **they've** scrapped well, **they've** balanced well...

Eddie Butler: **and** Brian O'Driscoll comes off...

Brian Moore: **he** should've gone off earlier...

Eddie Butler: **and** on goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame **him**, though, **he** wants to milk every moment of this reception at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: (*showing Irish supporters*) all hail to the king!

Eddie Butler: Neil Best at the line-out. Gerry Flannery picks up, Jo Worsley makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body all over the place, not his fault...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's off, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us into the corner! **he's** over-kicked it!

Brian Moore: oh! **a rare mistake**.

Eddie Butler: more rugby tonight in Paris, France on course for the Grand Slam against Wales.

Brian Moore: **just mentioning the French**, you know, when the Irish think back at this season, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that they could not, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the Grand Slam should've been theirs this year.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry tackled by Stringer, and England forced backwards yet again, little Lee Mears drives at Ronan O'Gara, Perry, Farrell, possession handed back, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, O'Gara!

Brian Moore: **he** doesn't need to, does **he**!

Eddie Butler: **he** doesn't need to at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect **him**, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: **oh**, **that**'s not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) oh, surely that touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: yes.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, **still** winning line-out ball.

Brian Moore: you see that, Flannery there, he did enough damage to mess that ball up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: **and they** continue to make a mess of the England ruck. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, they need numbers. well picked up, Wilkinson. a sort of up-and-under from within **his** own twenty-two, a chance here for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery in midfield. tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, (*showing Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby*) there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... Philip Matthews. **happy**?

Philip Matthews: yeah, it just strikes me, Brian, I don't know what you think, England's confidence today has not been there, has it. when **they** started the second half brightly, **it** faded very quickly. **they** did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on **it** faded. Brian, what are you saying about the Farrell thing, where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?

Brian Moore : **he**'s too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: yeah, I couldn't agree with you more, **it**'s just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety there, **they**'re gonna have to change **it**.

Brian Moore: **so**, you know, England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games after a long losing streak, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: **that**'s absolutely right, yeah.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, you know, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: well I think **they** struggled upfront and when Ireland got **their** numbers on **their** line-outs in the first half. Paddy Wallace is **also** on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting upfront, Brian, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: **they** haven't been stuffed upfront, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, here is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright Brian, here we go, you have a little decision to make? man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... what hasn't **he** done today, **he**'s flown around in the loose, **he**'s been deadily solid in the line-out, **he**'s been abrasive, combative, **he**'s put a super game. **and** forwards get too little credit anyway. it's **those people** who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to **it**, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly **either**, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, God!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, **it's** the icing! **the icing on a cake** that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. **and it** is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back from defeat against France! (*showing Isaac Boss*) I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for **the try**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well, once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, it's been as simple as that, it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field, and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: **and** I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have **they** got an appetite for me, this is Neil Best, still, the long dark hair, penalty to Ireland. Boss takes **it** quickly...

Brian Moore: kick it off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: that is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. **they** complement **each other**, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but **they** should've been in Grand Slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the Grand Slam, but for the Triple Crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

3.3) Analyse de FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: plenty of time and space. Delaney galloping up there in support, and he gets it. Damien Johnson's there with **him**. now, a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time... towards Hartson, away by Davis. **and** this is Fletcher, Delaney. Maik Taylor, a good handling, man. **brimmed** full with confidence at the moment.

Mark Bright: great take. **as I was just saying**, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting it, it's swirling around, and two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City. **it** was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: **inspired**, just one of those performances and...

Jonathan Pearce: **and then he** was beaten by a horrible **one**!

Mark Bright: it says something when **the goalkeeper**'s the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: cleared away by Fletcher, and towards Hartson. now Ryan Giggs. Damien Johnson was in there. Duff, to Gillespie, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. Murdock, half an error under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has it. Murdock started at Manchester United **as well**! this is Giggs,

teasing cross! **punched away** only as far as Hartson. **now** Fletcher, Ricketts, Welsh club player of the year, took that award the other day, the run blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: **took** that throw-in a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: **looks** to be unhappy with Duff there, momentarily, but Duff gets it away. Ricketts to Fletcher, James Quinn was in there, Partridge couldn't get it back but now it comes to Simon Davies, chance here for Wales! oh, **he** pinged it!

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick **him** up, **he** comes in off the line, and **he's** in a position between the midfield and the forwards. **now** there's no one to close **him** down. **and** it's a free shot at target. (*showing replay from a different angle*) here **he** is, just in the in-between section... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: **he** hasn't scored since **he** found the back of the net for Tottenham away at Charlton, in February two-thousand-and-four. here's Ryan Giggs, Earnshaw through the middle... just thinking back, Mark, to when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy, back in October two-thousand-and-two, you know, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... **and** it happens **as well**, one minute you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and next thing you know, you're a forgotten man, you know, and **he's** had plenty of injury problems... referee there, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, you know, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward there, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. **and** I think that, as we can... what we know here... **that's** something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfield player, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance in that second half against England from **the Villa youngster**... this'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy **again**, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! (*showing Colin Murdock*) **has** scored for **his** country, **it** was a header in October of two-thousand-and-four, against Austria.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well here and as you can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, you can just see, a couple on the edge of the eighteen-yard box, and then a few dropped into the box, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff when they've got the ball...

Mark Bright: yeah, **it's** a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) well I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle as he tries to take it in his way. I think **he** was unlucky not to get a free kick there.

Jonathan Pearce: **His dad** had passed away in the build-up to the game... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get beyond Partridge, and does so, but the cross away behind for the goal kick at the railway end. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) well, **he's** had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years now, (*showing coach*) rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn in the middle making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is there with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) unlucky there, Quinn, you could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it in the path, and it was well anticipated there by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the '86 World Cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. **Aimed** at James Quinn, **denied** in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. **the Belfast boy** clears it away. it's **his** sixth cap for **his** country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. (*showing John Toshack*) a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... **from experienced players** who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... **as Mark was saying**, **he** has mentioned today, **he** needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think **it** was Ricketts, wasn't **it**... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) it was Ricketts there who blocked **him**.

Mark Bright: yeah, **the obstruction** there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised **he** didn't get a yellow card for **that**!

Jonathan Pearce: **now** Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is **there** as well. **aimed** it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back **again**, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... **they**'ll miss the final game in the cup if **they** pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) look at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, look, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but you know, where was Partridge in the original challenge? **he**'s way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up **he** goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. (*showing Irish supporters*) twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... **since last month**!

Mark Bright: who could blame **them**...

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: no! Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if **he**'d been on the half-turn **he** could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. **he** decided to hold **it**, lay **it** back, and **it** broke **the move** down.

Jonathan Pearce: **he** has struggled to rediscover the verve of **his** early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, Mark, to **that**... **his** shin problem...

Mark Bright: well there it goes, and you got people saying, well, **he**'s never been the same since **the injury** and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, you know, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. **but** it's good to see **him** fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's there **again**, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances in the air. Capaldi, to Davis, now Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces today... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but **the foul** was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... **he** sort of pushed **his** hands out to say no, but **he** didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting in the way there... sometimes you might just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. (*showing replay*) **he's** under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! here comes Quinn, there he is with the arms... just **impeded** the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, you know, I'm gonna threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap today, James Quinn, went through **that long barren spell** as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly fourteen-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the Mighty Quinn, some call **him** in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... **one** of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, over the top towards Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing here, Earnshaw's back heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross there... particularly **for the penalty area**, four Welsh players in there... especially after the crosses he'd put in earlier, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver on **that occasion**.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: **he** has to get in front Collins, doesn't **he**? **he's** alert to **the situation**.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner here to Wales. it's **their** first of the game, we've been playing for twenty-four minutes.

Mark Bright: (*showing Irish fans*) The crowd behind that goal are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... **it's** really hard to believe, **it's** incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with **the corner**, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and now this is Healy. **he** needs to hold it up there. **pursued** by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help there, Healy, everyone went past him. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick then, for Northern Ireland. twenty-five minutes gone, no goals. in the air by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. **can't** control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. **Might** have fouled Damien Johnson there... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was very close to it. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, earlier in this qualifying group. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. This is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's in the middle, Hartson in there as well, behind him... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late to the edge of the penalty area, and Wales are ahead after twenty-six minutes, with a fine, fine goal. (*showing Welsh supporters*) time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) **it** was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but **it** all started way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was there for him and then all he had to do was cut it back. here **he** is, no one can get near to **him**, Davies arriving before. **he** had one shot, it's gone over, one had gone wide. **he** just takes **it**, times **it** just nice... **and** Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. **he's** been bothered all week by **his** injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern here, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: yes, definitely. I was lucky, I spent the day over here with Lawrie Sanchez on Wednesday, and err, the whole day from morning till the evening. it was good to be around the boys... **and** what **he** emphasized to me is, **he** doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. **it's** definitely something **he** wanted to build on, and **that** was the fear. **they** started the game really well, but on **that occasion**, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled high, he is troubled in the air, Jones, again, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting off the ground, Paul Jones. **he's** only played the one game, you know, this season, Mark... **it** was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, (*showing players celebrating*) and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal in the John Toshack era. **second era** of course, **he** managed for one game previously. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by **the goal**... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, since Craig Bellamy scored two against Hungary back in February of last year, John Toshack's first game back in charge. **his** previous spell **as I say** lasted just the one match, it was against Norway back in ninety-four. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, hasn't he, nice and tight to the strikers. **he** can get in front, **he** gets in front and wins it, **he's** very strong in the air.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching the half-hour mark. Wales lead. in towards Murdock, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie again. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) here's a long throw... **and** watch everyone getting in each other's way, there, John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football again in England with Rotherham, he was a while in Scotland with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and here's the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well there. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) really **contributed** to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side in Cardiff. **they** were down to nine men but **they** still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, was he being pulled back there?

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, **he** could've appealed there...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought **he** was being pulled, Mark!

Mark Bright: yeah, looked like **it** to me. **he** slightly lost control of the ball, but I think **it** was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of **it**.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's there, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think **that's** a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that today. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back in and the defender push him out of the way, winning and go and head the ball. **same** with James, err, James Collins at the back here, as **well**, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, forward by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, will he run at Sam Ricketts here? **he does so**, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie over the years, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come inside and play, try and take **him** on the outside and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: **that's** Northern Ireland's **fourth** of the game. here's Quinn at the near post, it's beyond him, headed down by James Collins, was it? no, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said **that** was a corner. it definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. (*showing replay*) here **it** is, yeah, Murdock's climbing all over **him**.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer from Cardiff by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal originally, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham this season. suspended today.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance today.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: yeah...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Hartson...

Mark Bright: as he tried to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went out again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: (showing John Hartson) a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that in a while...

Mark Bright: yeah... it just gives you a lift, you know... (showing replay) and here he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes here...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, you know, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, you know, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but, you know, the good point, after an hour or so, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, just that sharpness in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick there, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom last weekend. Wales have this free kick, ten minutes to go in the first half. Partridge looks for Hartson, a broken wrestling match in the penalty area, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side, the Plymouth Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry there, in Wales, or Ireland, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes from Canada and he was actually born in Norway, his dad played there. also played for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now this is David Healy, buzz of anticipation whenever he gets it. Duff, high to James Quinn, James Collins was underneath it.

Mark Bright: unlucky Quinn, it bounced well there for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney, Simon Davies, Capaldi wins it, Collins away, this is Damien Johnson, space here for Gillespie, if he looks to his right-hand side he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria in October nineteen-ninety-four, second appearance for his country.

Mark Bright: amazing, isn't it, one goal, in what, sixty... (showing replay) it's worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit down this way, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap to his right-hand side, maybe if he just waited a little bit... it's always worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, lovely run, beyond Duff and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest, Earnshaw's in the middle, behind him, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! again a midfield runner making a late entry into the penalty box, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs.... two-nil to Wales.

Mark Bright: (showing replay) we've seen this many times over the years, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, a little glance up, he used to be criticized in his earlier part of his career for not delivering but on this occasion, picks out, beautiful run there, you can see Robinson stretching to get into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and here we go. he can pick out of two or three here, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, second midfield player of the day getting in there and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. nineteen places above

Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, isn't there... **he** just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till that ball went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing **he's** been doing all **his** career, really, just going past, attacking people, and it opened up because **he** was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: a morale-bolstering first half, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... **but he's** got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over **his** career **he's** seen it all, hasn't **he**? Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo, **he** just said **he's** been through all this before... **he** said, for where **I** want to get, **I'll** be thick-skinned, **I'll** make the decisions **I'll** have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: **his** fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years. **he** won the title with Real Madrid, don't forget.

Mark Bright: yeah, **his** first season.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder here... **and** Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... was **that** a clear goal-scoring opportunity? **it's** a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess **that's** punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card here, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: no sense in getting mad... (*showing replay*) it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased that back, a poor clearance, and then this is... that there, you don't, you cannot... when you're under pressure like that, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: **the foul, the first foul** was way outside the box. it's gonna be John Hartson, and he's being booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: well, **that's** given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... (*showing replay*) does **he** slip? **and he's** guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: lacked power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. (*showing Irish supporters*) let-off for Northern Ireland. could **it** change the course of the game? Robinson's in there again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: **fantastic**, but it was a mistake that led to **that**, it was a poor clearance from him, there was a little bit of pressure but... (*showing replay*) this is about gauging and guessing right here, and he does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. all credits to **the goalkeeper**. fine save. **and it** was just the lift they needed, **as well**, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, now space for Capaldi to get the cross in, high for James Quinn, comes down to Healy, scrambled away to Davis, offside, was it? no, it's not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, (*showing the referees*) this is the referee, right down there, we can see from where we are, he's right there on the spot...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) **and** James Quinn in the air...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men in an offside position.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Delaney, good first half, Earnshaw, very open and stretched again, Ryan Giggs, aims at Hartson, it was too high... Wales are playing their best football in a long, long while.

Mark Bright: Robinson's in there looking for his second **as well**...

Jonathan Pearce: given away by Davies, this is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, now Elliott, forward by Duff and an offside flag against James Quinn.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say they've lost four straight defeats! **and** obviously Gabbidon's missing **as well**, and Bellamy, really important players...

Jonathan Pearce: Bellamy injured, Savage has quit the scene... has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, Ben Thatcher felt **that**, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he's got Healy in the middle, Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Partridge*) Quinn holds his hand up there, acknowledging the mistake... **it's** one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get in front of the attacker there, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, part of John Toshack's new Wales... **made his** début in a friendly against Hungary, **started** the Toshack reign, this is Earnshaw... **wins** the throw.

Mark Bright: **that's** good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent after the England victory, they could be embarrassed today. on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, **they're** punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it now. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, no Hughes don't forget at the back for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) **and** Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card here, for Delaney, for time-wasting! **it** means that **that's his** second card of the campaign, **he'll** miss the game against Azerbaijan, having just come back into the side. block by Davis, Quinn to his left, Healy making a run through the middle, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first after twenty-six minutes, and Carl Robinson from midfield adding the second on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez mid-week and he just said, you know, he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game, and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half here for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, (*showing replay*) and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead here by two goals to nil.

HALF-TIME

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking from right to left, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. **and** all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing at the moment. an early ball down the right by Duff, headed away by Partridge. **now** Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and Delaney away... **and** Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you in a moment on **that**, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country in exactly eleven years this week.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, (*showing replay*) and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come from midfield, a lovely weighted one-two here, that touch was the killer touch there, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying at half-time, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: first minute of the second half, two-one. the game's been very open, right from the start. given away by Gillespie very nearly there, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted in the air, (*showing James Collins*) and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming here. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... (*showing replay*) and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm at first, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around on the floor, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, on the bench, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, (*showing replay*) burst through, lovely finish.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, from back to front, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away from the defence, that was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, where are you, and slotted it down in the corner.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that after the hard work they've done in the first half, they've gone in there, and Toshack was doing his team talk at half-time, and said, you know, we should be-three up, this should be game, set and match, you come out, and concede a goal straight away, different complex on the game now. the crowd are back, (*showing John Toshack*) he's concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: he is concerned, not too sure whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, they're trying to put something back in place... and here comes Northern Ireland again, Healy and Davis together, it's Healy, cross by Johnson, looking for Quinn, and Wales rocking at the start of the second half, and down temporarily to ten men.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped to the centre-back position, I'm not sure it's enough here, somebody from up front, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping down into the midfield, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's off the pitch.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Irish supporters*) they're buoyant again.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Collins*) he looks in some pain, doesn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: given a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe it? Steven Davis! what a start to the second half! within four and a half minutes, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it at half-time, we heard Ian Downing, you know, I think he felt something could happen here. great throw, challenged again, the ball drops down, he's just the first on to it! he reacts so quickly (*showing replay*), Quinn's causing trouble everywhere, he's in the near post

here, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's picking up, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams it in, this is an unbelievable start... **for Ireland**.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! his first goal for his country, Steven Davis. **and he** fizzed it in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: just seen it so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen **them** on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think, **it** doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. **and** it changes so quickly, and the momentum's now with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: **and** how costly, **the injury** to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and Northern Ireland back in it. **now** Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's there, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say **he** was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been on the field of play, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, ifs, buts and maybes... (*showing James Collins*) **he's** there, now **he's** going off, you know, to me it's like **his** shoulder popped out, **he's** off the pitch, I think it was Robinson who dropped into the centre-back position, you need players to react quickly. **and** it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: Richard Duffy has come on for **him** now. **he's** on a loan at the moment, at Coventry. Portsmouth player, **he's** on a loan for a season. **and** a free kick here for Wales. tumultuous start to the second half. Giggs and Fletcher there, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space in the penalty area. (*showing Robert Earnshaw*) well Earnshaw earned the free kick, driven off the ball, you can just hear the drums are going now, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) **and** buoyant **as well**, Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of **them** today. interesting to hear the boys talking at half-time in the studio, Mark. **and Barry saying**, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that **they** wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing away from home, just that confidence. **and** all of a sudden... back on level terms, back on level terms in a few minutes as well...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing David Healy*) Healy, as he made that run, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone into a centre-half position for Wales after **the substitution**, Duffy coming on at right-back. Delaney of course played **there** many times before.

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play everywhere.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. (*showing David Healy*) a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, David Healy. **from Downpatrick**. **one** of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums at the time, a wonderful goal **he** scored against Austria. Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by (*showing Irish supporters*) Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game in a swirling four minutes. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is in there, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: (*showing Sam Ricketts*) yeah, I've got four men! please help **him**!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts **again** under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop kindly for Giggs, and now John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him there too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing that penalty area. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, out it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah. foot up to the block... the difference there between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped down, in the Welsh defence, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped down there, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball in the box.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight there of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international in his time, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set up these days, Terry Gibson is there as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal in the nineteen-eighty-two World Cup finals against Spain, in Spain.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, John, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine at half-time what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around quickly, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: here's a free kick to Wales. (*showing John Toshack*) John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played in Wales a year ago. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is there to his left, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and through the wall... but not beyond Maik Taylor.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked another seven or eight yards on that, further forward.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie in there again, he's a man possessed at the moment, now Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming in off a wide position. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball at the start of this second half. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... (*showing two players arguing*) more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration there. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it at the edge of the box... just as he gets loose from there, (*showing replay*) he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, every time you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game when they last met, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty that day.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position now... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies just on the right side. it's a good shooting opportunity. good play from Earnshaw there, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running past him, no one coming around to show for a shot... (*showing replay*) ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: again it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights moments ago, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing there as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! on the

hour, the game swings again! **and** it's the Welsh captain who restores their lead. **and** which way is this one gonna turn out?

Mark Bright: well, what a game we've got here! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for **this!** (*showing replay*) **he's** got a wall covering one side of the goal, and that means you're responsible for the other side, and I think **he's** gambling on going left, and then **he** reacts to go right, **he's** got the wall covering one side, now that far side must be **his** responsibility. there's the wall, it's covering **his** left-hand side of the goal, so that means the right-hand side of the goal's **his** responsibility. it doesn't even go in the corner, it's just left of centre. I think **that's** a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan in March two-thousand-and-three. how much did he learn from **the previous free kick** moments ago?

Mark Bright: well, **it** was a little bit further out **as well**, and **as I said**, Ryan Giggs would've liked **this free kick** to be another eight yards forward. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! **and** important **this**, for both countries. the more victories **they** get, the higher up the group **they** can finish, will affect **their** draw for the next World Cup qualifier. **not the European Championship qualifier**, as some people have been saying. it's too late for **that**. **they've** got too much to do to finish above the teams in **their** sort of specific tier of countries. away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it out there, Robinson does just that. just sort of **caught in two minds!**

Mark Bright: I think **he** just saw somebody out of the corner of **his** eye, there, might've been-Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run off him, and this is Davies, and Hartson's in space if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: yeah, **the big fellow** came into the box, took it in **his** stride, then it just wouldn't settle for **him**, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi came across, and robbed **him** of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Quinn back inside his own penalty area **as well**, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy away downfield. sixty-two minutes gone. Giggs's corner, Fletcher couldn't get beyond James Quinn, the Welsh leading by three goals to two. it was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: **he** did well... the referee's played the advantage there **as well**. a foul on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: Duffy in here, Hartson's away through the middle, he was actually standing offside, I think he's offside again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. Ryan Giggs, Simon Davies, lots of space, too much space. it's all Wales at the moment!

Mark Bright: Duffy's come on as a substitute, anticipating that ball on the half-way line, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: a substitution for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be Chris Brunt on, from Sheffield Wednesday, very promising. Elliott will be **the man who departs**. Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, twenty years of age, started off at Middlesbrough, and won the FA Youth Cup with them, and went on loan to Sheffield Wednesday initially. **he** scored a couple of goals at the weekend against Coventry.

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, yeah, so obviously **they're** looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: **he** scored a great goal at under-twenty-one level, against Scotland. Gillespie looking long, a foul against Healy...

Mark Bright: well, tumbling with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. what a come-back now as centre-back in **his** first game since May, at the end of last season.

Mark Bright: doesn't carry any weight, does **he?** **very lean**, and it doesn't matter, you know, you work and work and work, when you come back from injury, it's just the games, **that's what we were talking about**, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw, to Simon Davies, got the shot away, palmed that just behind Earnshaw, Craigan was second to it, this is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous every time they come forward, Earnshaw! offside, wouldn't have counted.

Mark Bright: just end to end, isn't it? you know, you just wouldn't believe at half-time when Wales were two-nil up, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, now they're behind again, and now the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales (*showing replay*) this is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took **it** early, when it came across him, just a great strike there, look at the far side, and when the keeper parries the ball you can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Ian Downing in the studio right now.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Downie.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, got it down but cleared away by Partridge, chance here, Johnson! good block, important save by Jones, and here come Wales, flying on the counter. **this** is terrific stuff. **so open**. Giggs, Hartson way offside. Northern Ireland came out. (*showing replay*) **and** here come the home side **again**, this is Brunt, his first touch as a substitute. good block by Jones, wasn't it? **and** Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: **it was**, yeah... the defence is no... **they** just stood still, he's aiming straight down at the goalkeeper there, he goes across the goal, just like Davies did a few minutes earlier, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi, Robinson, who finds Giggs, Earnshaw offside.

Mark Bright: Giggs and Davies, that was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, in the second half, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball inside as opposed to wide on the wings.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs tracking back, and winning it! **conceded** the foul here.

Mark Bright: I think **he's** saying somebody tell **me**, tell **me** there's a man behind **me**. (*showing replay*) Johnson did well there, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: that's a splendid save **again!**

Mark Bright: that's what I like with the referee's decision, if you want to take it early, you know, without putting a wall up, you know, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for winning the free kick, (*showing replay*) there you go, hand on it, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones out of... **off his** line.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. Brunt's corner kick. just cleared away from Duff's head by Duffy. **and** the pressure swings back on the Welsh goal!

Mark Bright: Gillespie with a corner from this side.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops in the last couple of moments. **and unopposed there**, allowed to make the save.

Mark Bright: disappointed with the pressure there, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it away from the goalkeeper. you know, there's an area, really, between the penalty spot and the six-yard box, it's too far from the keeper to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack before today, and especially in this second half, they've looked dangerous every time they attack.

Mark Bright: well, it's been open, hasn't it? **I mean**, at times, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side on a Friday! end to end! both teams playing deep, lots of work for midfield players to do... it's really enjoyable, you know, not gonna criticise a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, offside.

Mark Bright: well, Healy was coming back, he was in front of the defence and as that ball has come over his head he's coming back onside, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: just under twenty minutes left. Partridge will take it. **he** started off with West Ham, Partridge. this is Capaldi, to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control,

brings Davis into the play, and now Duff, high back to James Quinn, Brunt was behind him, Simon Davies. **caught** in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: good pressure from Johnson there, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: so important for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, this is Brunt, Capaldi, too far for Jones, Healy headed it back across, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get there.

Mark Bright: the curl on the ball, lovely shaped, coming away from the goalkeeper, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddling, you head it, and it hits the guy in front of you.

Jonathan Pearce: **and** the corner for Northern Ireland, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl **it** in. Quinn is in there, so is Murdock. **cleared away** by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard up and down that Northern Ireland right. forward by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it in the air, Murdock in there, away by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt onside, a hanging cross, and away by Duffy under pressure.

Mark Bright: a good defending, really, and good pressure as well, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball in the penalty area. a short **one**.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, and **another corner**. **and** the pressure beginning to mount.

Mark Bright: everybody back now, the Welsh team. the eighteen-yard box, majority in the six, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones making sure he's got room, doesn't want to come through a thicket of players, but has to do just that, he didn't get the punch away, did that hit an arm? Robinson! it was Brunt who had the little stab at the end of it, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson on the arm! slid down **his** arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think **he** thought **he** was gonna get challenged, **his** arm was up, and **his** head was pointing downwards.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, is that a penalty? Healy went over. **and** the Northern Ireland coaching staff are on their feet, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: hand-ball?

Jonathan Pearce: is that a hand-ball by Delaney? Quinn! unbelievable pressure here. back in by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis **again**, Murdock stayed forward, Gillespie's header, and drops it just wide. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing to his hand, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact there. (*Showing Keith Gillespie*) **but** a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd behind the goal. (*showing replay*) this is the in-swinger. this one goes up in the air... that there, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: yes, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, back to goal, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: **but** throughout the game, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it into the six-yard area, Wales have looked uncomfortable. **especially** since James Collins went off.

Mark Bright: yeah, he was dominant in the air in the first half of the game. (*showing John Toshack*) you know, Partridge is comfortable in the air, Delaney's got the height, he's coming there, but it's just one of those situations where it's continually coming back in the box in the air, and it's swirling round, and people don't move out of the way when you want to go and clear it, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack there, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's there, oh, good goalkeeping. Really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Healy*) we saw the frustration on Healy when he turned away, a little bit of anger, (*showing replay*) I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just here. **because** if **he** gets a touch, it's a penalty. there **he**'s frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. **now** Giggs, on beyond Duff, Johnson there, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. **finds** Gillespie, good play. high, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: **and** Delaney... **now** this is forward by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie now. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging the touch line. Healy's there in front of **him**, so who's in the middle? Quinn is in the middle, if they can get it in there. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution here for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go off, and Vaughan is coming on for his fourth cap. **and they'll** just leave John Hartson up front here, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfield player.

Mark Bright: **he** is a midfield player. **he** plays for Crewe, **he's** very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five in the midfield and just leave John Hartson on his own at front.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson back in there, oh it's beyond Murdock and Quinn!

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone to the left-hand side of midfield, and Ryan Giggs has come over to this right at the moment, he's just standing off Davies, but I wonder if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, Mark, in the closing stages?

Mark Bright: well, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, you know, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, you know, they can all take a chance when the time is right.

Jonathan Pearce: here is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets there, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. (*showing Colin Murdock*) thirty-year-old from Ballymena, **started off** at Old Trafford but didn't make the grade there. while **he** was at Old Trafford, I think **he** was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, now Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. **that** is frustrating because I know on Wednesday they were working really hard on getting that ball into the box, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts now, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: **again** it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for now, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure **he** should try and strike that with the outside of **his** foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick in **again**. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight out of play again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up as the game has gone on, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. away by Craigan. energy levels sap, eleven minutes to go. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it in the air, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, away by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got back at him but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence there from Healy. (*Showing David Partridge*) Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. at this time of the game, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: **he'll** miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney. **and** Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. ten minutes to go. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. (*showing Paul Jones*) Jones organising the wall, four men in it, that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players in the wall. **and** Northern Ireland about to make **another substitution**. **another Crewe player** is about to come on, this time it'll be Steve Jones, we'll see him in a minute but it's Giggs meanwhile who gives it away,

Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. **and** Northern Ireland wanna make **the substitution** here, it's gonna be Mike Duff who departs, and Steve Jones who comes on. **comes** from Londonderry, twenty-eight-year-old, this is **his** nineteenth appearance for his country, **another** player who played for England at semi-pro level.

Mark Bright: **he's** a forward, **he's** quick.

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over on that right-hand side, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. **now** Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. **now** Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: **doesn't need** to do **that**. **doesn't need** to do that, giving it away. **even though** Giggs made the run. what **he** does is, **he** takes a defender with **him**, there's a bit more space, come inside, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, you know, he's been unlucky not to get anything in the box so far, you know, he's come to lead in the line, holding it up, bringing people into play, you know, big player, strong, back to goal, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Keith Gillespie*) can Northern Ireland provide **another twist** in the turn of an extraordinary game? Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, at two-two, at the start of the second half, Quinn, Davis again, just too far for Healy.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it **as well**. (*showing replay*) Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just a bit too far. here it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball there, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis at the start of the second half made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal now separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is there with him, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won in the air well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt in space. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised there by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson meanwhile, and he's gone down, and Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and still **they** play on, and **he** looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: everywhere, everywhere, decisions everywhere!

Jonathan Pearce: **and they** get the cross back in... Quinn! **couldn't** get out of the way!

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) oh, the Welsh players, they're furious there. Carl Fletcher was down on the floor, and wanted **them**, I think, to kick the ball out, he soon got up, and back on his feet, complaining to the referee now, that he was down. it's not a head injury, you know, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that **they're** in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, under five minutes to go, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan **again**. as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper, Lawrie Sanchez turned around and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause **he** knows it's so important coming towards the end of the game. you gotta keep that ball away from the goalkeeper.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: **that's** the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. (*showing Damien Johnson*) **he's** fouled him there. **stokes up** that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are gonna make **another substitution**, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on at centre-half, and (*showing Sam Ricketts*) Ricketts is **the man who makes way**, presumably Collins will go straight up there and play on the left side, will he?

Mark Bright: he was a midfield player originally, wasn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he started off as a midfielder.

Mark Bright: yeah, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: winning his second cap, he made his début in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary. woo:h! rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! three minutes to go, just under. World Cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future World Cup qualification. Jones, Johnson, in towards James Quinn, lovely lay-off, Jones was in there but couldn't find his way through and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. well, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, all the way to the end, good clearance there from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous now, arms are flying in the penalty area but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: (showing Ryan Giggs) Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen there, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! well, he struck that!

Mark Bright: well, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! (showing replay) here it comes, we can see the rain coming down now, there, it's just away from everybody, you know, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: into the last minute. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. now a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, now this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club-mate, towards James Quinn, suspicion of a little punch there by Partridge?

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything at this stage.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up now to tell us how much time we'll have added on. four minutes.

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by the fourth official, Kevin Blon. Vaughan, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, this is Robinson, Duffy, good run by Simon Davies, just too far in front of him. terrific entertainment. away by Delaney, Hartson offside.

Mark Bright: the kick's weak. they've gotta get around Quinn. they've just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get around him. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's out here...

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together there, but it was dropped in short Carl Robinson headed it away, now Craigan, one minute of stoppage time played. Brunt's header down, Duffy blocked and clears.

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience there, he had Simon Davies just in front of him, just roll the ball into feet, and then Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: high up towards Murdock, who'll surely stay forward in this stoppage time period, Gillespie hoists it, James Quinn backing on to Fletcher who held his ground, now Giggs! oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, a long way out I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing there, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, has he? I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: (showing replay) knocks it beyond the defender, and he would've had a clear run down that side. two minutes of stoppage time played. and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it **has**, **it's** been really enjoyable, you know, for two different reasons, you know, on the back of that great win against England, if they could back it up here, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, four straight defeats, you know, lots of criticism for the manager, looks like he's answered the critics, for the time being anyway.

Jonathan Pearce: Northern Ireland without a victory here against Wales in thirty years. on to Jones, **they'll** have to wait a minute longer, or will **they?** this is Johnson, Vaughan's across there with him, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone beyond! Murdock's on the far post, Quinn is there too, it's loose, it's come to Healy! goodness me, **he struck** that!

Mark Bright: it looked like a hand-ball...

Jonathan Pearce: it hit Partridge, didn't it?

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: **and now** Wales can break away, in the last minute of stoppage time. Duffy on the overlap, Hartson's in the middle, offside. **and he's** tickled it in, but **he** was always in an offside position. your overall thoughts, Mark?

Mark Bright: well, just a fantastic entertaining game, you know, a great start from Wales, and a great comeback from Ireland obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: seconds to go. hoisted it there **again**, looking for Murdock, and just turned away... **only as far as Davis.** Murdock... oh! **and** surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: well, it's incredible really, it's just one end to the other, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap past Davies a few moments earlier.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! **and** Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park, on sixty-one minutes, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

3.4) Analyse de 400M

Tom Hammond: up next is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back world championship gold medals. Lewis, **you were talking earlier** about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up here in Osaka.

Lewis Johnson: it **has**, in a two-hour surprise, because we have not had a wind issue here at these world championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains in Waco, Texas, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but **again**, the other elements that **he** was looking forward, the fast track which **he** has, the great competition which **he** has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, Ato.

Ato Boldon: **and** I can tell you, Lewis, I can admit to you guys now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the one-hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres in quite some time, and Jeremy Wariner in lane six is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor just **his** insides on lanes five and four.

Tom Hammond: **so** Jeremy Wariner will come into the race as the favourite, there are **as Ato mentioned** three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: **and** an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers all over the world, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the world championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen today.

Ato Boldon: I spoke to Johnson for about an hour about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes

down to close finish at the end, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience this year, he's run forty-four point sixty-two to win in Paris, forty-four point four in Rome, forty-four point three in Monaco, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: **and** I talked to Jeremy Wariner today about this evening and his plan throughout the World Championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him tonight was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, now his personal best's forty-three point fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: (*showing contestants*) lane two, Avarad Moncur of the Bahamas, gold medallist of the two-thousand-and-one world championships, lane three Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record at the two-thousand-and-five, world's bronze medallist in the world championships in Helsinki. lane four, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in the four-hundred metre hurdles. lane five, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four point zero-six at the US championships, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, then the third of the three Americans in a row is Jeremy Wariner, defending Olympic and World Champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four point thirty-four. lane seven, Leslie Djohne from France who lored his French national record, forty-four point forty-six in his semi-final race, he was seventh at the Athens Olympics. in lane eight, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, fourth at the two-thousand-and-five world championships, and in lane nine, Johan Wissman of Sweden, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records in both his races here, first round and semi-finals, in forty-four point fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing Jeremy Wariner*) well I had a talk with Clyde Hart today, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race in his semi-final, around twenty-one seconds at two-hundred, thirty-two seconds at three-hundred, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens in the last hundred metres.

Ato Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, Lewis, he said, don't think for a second that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are right behind him, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate lane six, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: **and** there's the gun! Angelo Taylor lane four, Lashawn Merritt five, Jeremy Wariner in six, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Ato Boldon: look for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all through the rounds, this move down the back stretch from Angelo Taylor, in lane four.

Tom Hammond: **and** Jeremy Wariner is there, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher from Canada, into the turn for home, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's straight away now and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, here is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three point forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: **and** Tom, the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get close enough to **him** at three-hundred, put some pressure on **him**, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. **he** took this race out, **he** could not see them to **his** inside, but **he** stuck to **his** script, and at three-hundred metres **he** was clear, and **he** never looked back, **they** never were able to pull up on **his** side and really challenge **him**.

Tom Hammond: **and** the official time, forty-three point forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: **and** that was the goal, coming out here for this final, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

Ato Boldon: (*showing Angelo Taylor*) tremendous running by Wariner. as we look at a disappointed Angelo Taylor, I thought he put himself out of it, he didn't make the move that we normally see from him down that back stretch and it might have cost him in that final.

Tom Hammond: **but** it is a US sweep led by Jeremy Wariner, the defending champion.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing replay*) Wariner told me that in his phases he wanted to get out hard the first

sixty metres, then keep that pace on the back stretch, then when he'd get on the turn, really pump the arms and make the legs come up, and then off the turn coming up to straight away where he is right now, it's just an all-out kick. and the final thing that Jeremy said he would not do, he would not look over to the clock before he got to the finish line, that he'd run through the tape and then look, and we saw that on the replay, Wariner running through the tape, trying to get the fastest time possible, but without the doubt he has sent the message to everyone around the world that I am unbeatable.

Ato Boldon: alright guys, how scary is this four by four four-hundred metres relay really going to be!

Tom Hammond: oh!

Ato Boldon: Angelo Taylor has to be disappointed with forty-four point thirty-two, he looked so good during the rounds, but it's not about how you run the rounds, it's how much you save for the final, and Angelo Taylor looked like he actually was a little bit tired this evening, coming off of that final turn.

Lewis Johnson: just think about the work that Clyde Hart has done with Jeremy Wariner, physically they are so, so different, and Jeremy Wariner has advanced so much faster than Michael Johnson did, as he creeps ever closer to forty-three point eighteen, the existing world record over this event.

Tom Hammond: and Lashawn Merritt, you know, running a pretty good race here too to take the silver medal, for him, forty-three point ninety-six, breaking forty-four seconds. when we come back, the men's hundred-and-ten metres hurdle final, and we'll hear from Jeremy Wariner, world champion.

3.5) Analyse de CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about at the Joe Louis Arena, here in Survivor Series. here we go... (*showing child in crowd*) boy, all these little hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is in the town, the electricity is going all over the world, hulkmania's gonna be put to rest very, very shortly...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run for quite some time. I've seen what the hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over till it's over.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing Hulk Hogan*) you're looking at the greatest wrestler in the world today, the world wrestling federation world champion Hulk Hogan! (*Showing poster*) hulkmania lives forever!

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker*) he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing on the back of my head, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkmania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person at the concession stand or in the hallway, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. sooner or later it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody **will**, **he will**.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in there! **could** weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty **good idea**, he felt **it** on the back of his head! duck underneath by the Hulk Hogan off the ropes, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and out of there immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...

Bobby Heenan: **the true mark of a coward**.

Robert Marella: **the true mark of a champion!**

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... **but** I don't think Hulk Hogan did **it** as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: **that** certainly is not obvious to me at this point in time, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: **that's** what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands behind the Hulkster, not like being out there with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, on your side.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, **I'm** never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs all over the world are in **there** with **him**. well **he's** gonna need **them** to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for **him** to win tonight... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, **that** could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer's talking from the outside... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about **that guy!**

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence since he entered that ring, has he? **he's** been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at **this!** COME ON! (*showing Bearer*) YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out there, what happened?

Robert Marella: your monitor went out... your brain went out! from the outside it was a blatant attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble right now... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got out of there in a hurry. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of **the big guy**. into the ropes!

Bobby Heenan: **but he** didn't knock **him** down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: **he** couldn't slam **him**. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel **it**, I can see **it!** **couldn't** knock **him** down, **couldn't** slam **him**. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow right between the eyes! you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first into the corner, and back to the other side for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, **he's** really rocking **him** real and now, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down on his feet.

Bobby Heenan: **but he** is **still** standing! **and he** has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan out. **now** throw **him** back into the ring, cause **you** can't beat **him** on the floor.

Robert Marella: OH! Hulkster face first right into the steel steps!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made here! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. come on, ref! number one, **you** should've sent **that guy** back to the dress room before this match even started.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power from that urn, there's something in there that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown here by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has on his arm, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next world wrestling federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, from the outside, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out in a minute...

Bobby Heenan: tension in the air, we could cut it with a knife, here in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City. everyone just sitting there right on the edge of their seats, ready to explode at any moment!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's on the edge of her seat!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane behind her!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down into the mat, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that here!

Robert Marella: well they're both still on their feet!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. can you hear me?

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty-something-thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold right on the forehead of the Hulk...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up by now...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission by now.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning world wrestling federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, baaaah...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength from that urn...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother here...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead ninety percent of this match! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: (showing the Undertaker's face) look at that, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's some place else right now! his body may be in Motown, but his mind is out there some place.

Robert Marella: well that arm dropped twice, had it dropped one more time, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's on his feet, they're both on their feet! Hulk Hogan, Monsoon, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... wow! what a flying first there by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: get the flowers ready, sign in the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: look at that big dent in **the urn**, it's probably where **he** clubbed the Hulkster from behind with it...

Bobby Heenan: **so** what...

Robert Marella: **so** what, yeah...

Bobby Heenan: **it's my** opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: **he's** too cold to sweat! **he'd** have to have blood and pores to sweat...

Robert Marella: I've never seen **him** perspire.

Bobby Heenan: look at the ease!

Robert Marella: **he's** gonna try to ply **him** with a tombstone! OH YES! **no one** has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, look at **that**, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: who's not immortal **now**, Brain?

Bobby Heenan: **he's still** on **his** feet! the Undertaker is **STILL** on **his** feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster **continues** to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: **he's** down to one knee! the first time **he's** been down on one knee...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up, oh watch this! (*Showing Ric Flair entering the Arena*) where is **he** going?

Bobby Heenan: the **real** world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... what business does he have down there?

Bobby Heenan: well you'd better talk to Ric Flair, I don't know... I mean it, I really don't know.

Robert Marella: Hulkster **finally**... oh, **says** what are you doing down there, roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: why would **he** go touch Flair? **he never** touched the ring, **he never** got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: what business does Flair have down there?

Bobby Heenan: I don't know, but **he** doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, from the outside, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. look at **this!** Flair with a chair! **he** got piledrived right into **the steel chair!**

Bobby Heenan: wait a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a **new** world champion! **the new world wrestling federation champion**, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told you **so!**

Robert Marella: **this is horrendous!** **three** guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: Hulkamania is **dead!** **and** is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking down here is the new world wrestling federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

3.6) Analyse de POE

TRUE! – nervous – very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses – not destroyed – not dulled them. Above all was **the sense of hearing** acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily – how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. **He** had never wronged me. **He** had never given me insult. For **his** gold I had no desire. I think it was **his** eye! yes, **it** was **this!** **He** had the eye of a vulture – a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever **it** fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees – very gradually – I made up my mind to take the life of **the old man**, and thus rid myself of **the eye** forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. **But** you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded – with what caution – with what foresight – with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to **the old man** than during the whole week before I killed him. **And** every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of **his door** and opened it – **oh so gently!** **And then**, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust **it** in! I moved **it** slowly – very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb **the old man's sleep**. It took me an hour to place my whole head within **the opening** so far that I could see **him** as **he** lay upon **his bed**. Ha! – would a madman have been so wise as **this?** **And then**, when my head was well in **the room**, I undid the lantern cautiously – oh, so cautiously – cautiously (for the hinges creaked) – I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon **the vulture eye**. **And this** I did for seven long nights – every night just at midnight – but I found **the eye** always closed; and so it was impossible to do **the work**; for it was not **the old man** who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. **And** every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into **the chamber**, and spoke courageously to **him**, calling **him** by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how **he** has passed the night. **So** you see **he** would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon **him** while **he** slept.

Upon **the eighth night** I was more than usually cautious in opening **the door**. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before **that night** had I felt the extent of my own powers – of my sagacity. I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph. To think that there I was, opening **the door**, little by little, and **he** not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled at **the idea**; and perhaps **he** heard me; for **he** moved on **the bed** suddenly, as if startled. **Now** you may think that I drew back – but no. **His room** was as black as pitch with the thick darkness, (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers,) and so I knew that **he** could not see **the opening** of **the door**, and I kept pushing it on steadily, steadily.

I had my head in, and was about to open **the lantern**, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and **the old man** sprang up in bed, crying out – "Who's there?"

I kept quite still and said nothing. For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear **him** lie down. **He** was still sitting up in **the bed** listening; – just as I have done, night after night, hearkening to the death watches in **the wall**.

Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan of mortal terror. **It** was not a groan of pain or of grief – oh, no! – **it** was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe. I knew **the sound** well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, **it** has welled up from my own bosom, deepening, with **its** dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me. **I say** I knew **it** well. I knew what **the old man** felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew that **he** had been lying awake ever since **the first slight noise**, when **he** had turned in **the bed**. **His fears** had been ever since growing upon **him**. **He** had been trying to fancy **them** causeless, but could not. **He** had been saying to **himself** – "**It** is nothing but the wind in the chimney – **it** is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "**It** is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp." Yes, **he** had been trying to comfort

himself with these suppositions: but he had found all in vain. All in vain; because Death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim. And it was the mournful influence of the unperceived shadow that caused him to feel – although he neither saw nor heard – to feel the presence of my head within the room.

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little – a very, very little crevice in the lantern. So I opened it – you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily – until, at length a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye.

It was open – wide, wide open – and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness – all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon the damned spot.

And have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over acuteness of the senses? – now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew that sound well, too. It was the beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meantime the hellish tattoo of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man's terror must have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment! – do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst. And now a new anxiety seized me – the sound would be heard by a neighbor! The old man's hour had come! With a loud yell, I threw open the lantern and leaped into the room. He shrieked once – once only. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the heart beat on with a muffled sound. This, however, did not vex me; it would not be heard through the wall. At length it ceased. The old man was dead. I removed the bed and examined the corpse. Yes, he was stone, stone dead. I placed my hand upon the heart and held it there many minutes. There was no pulsation. He was stone dead. His eye would trouble me no more.

If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs.

I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings. I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye – not even his – could have detected any thing wrong. There was nothing to wash out – no stain of any kind – no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught all – ha! Ha!

When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o'clock – still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart, – for what had I now to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the police. A shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises.

I smiled, – for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search – search well. I led them, at length, to his chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim.

The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still

chatted. **The ringing** became more distinct: – it continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of **the feeling**: but **it** continued and gained definiteness – until, at length, I found that **the noise** was not within my ears.

No doubt I **now** grew very pale; – but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. **Yet the sound** increased – and what could I do? **It** was a low, dull, quick sound – much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath – and yet **the officers** heard **it** not. I talked more quickly – more vehemently; but **the noise** steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but **the noise** steadily increased. Why would **they** not be gone? I paced **the floor** to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of **the men** – but **the noise** steadily increased. Oh God! what could I do? I foamed – I raved – I swore! I swung **the chair** upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon **the boards**, but **the noise** arose over all and continually increased. **It** grew louder – louder – louder! And still **the men** chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible **they** heard not? Almighty God! – no, no! **They** heard! – **they** suspected! – **they** knew! – **they** were making a mockery of my horror! – this I thought, and this I think. **But** anything was better than **this agony**! Anything was more tolerable than **this derision**! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! – and now – again! – hark! louder! louder! louder! Louder! –

“Villains!” I shrieked, “dissemble no more! I admit **the deed**! – tear up **the planks**! – here, here! – **it** is **the beating** of **his hideous heart**!”

3.7) Analyse de NYT

Rudy Santana’s day began recently, as almost all his working days begin, with a name on a screen. **The name** that April morning belonged to a Massachusetts man in his mid-30s. **He** owed money on a credit card and a second mortgage, **the screen** told Santana, and was separated from **his** wife. **He** was behind in paying back \$28,900.97 in debt. **Which** was **why he** was on **Santana’s screen**.

When Santana reached **him** by phone, **the man** quickly began talking about **his** ex-wife. “Listen,” **the man** said. “**I** called **her** about **this debt**, and a guy picked up — a guy **I**’ve never heard before — and when **I** asked for **her**, **he** hung up on **me**. Can **you** believe **that**? **We** used that money to renovate the kitchen! **And now** **she** won’t even talk to **me**! Who the hell was **that guy** who answered the phone?”

“**So you**’ve spoken to **your wife**?” Santana asked, **his** voice soft and gentle. “Were **you** able to have a good talk with **her**? Even when **you**’re angry, it’s important to talk. Did **you** talk about **the debt**?”

“Yeah, **we** talked about **it**,” **the man** replied. **He** paused and released a small sob. “**You** know, **she** told **me we** would be together until **we** died. **I** know **I** have to pay **this**. **But I**’m not going to pay **her** half. **I** won’t damn pay **it**.”

“**I** know,” Santana said. “**This** is difficult, and **I**’ll be honest — **I** think **you**’re doing a great job. **You**’re really strong. **But** the thing is, to the bank, **they** don’t make a distinction between **you** and **your** wife. To **them**, it’s just debt. **They** just want to get paid.

“**I** think **I** can do something for **you**, **though**,” Santana **continued**, glancing at **his** screen. **It** was filled with information about **the man**, including the fact that **he** had recently sold **his** home at a loss. Some of **this information** had been sent by **the man**’s bank to Santana’s employer, Sunrise Credit Services, which collects delinquent debts for companies like Citigroup, Bank of America and HSBC. **Santana’s company** had added notes, **too**, including helpful tips – **he** is easier to reach in the mornings, for example — and new ways to contact **him**.

“Look,” Santana said. “**I** know **you**’re angry at **your** wife. One step to ending **that anger** is putting **this debt** behind **you**. **It** will really help **you** find peace. **You** owe about \$29,000. How much do **you** think **you** can pay?”

“Well, how much are **you** gonna help **me**?” **the man** **shot back**. “**These banks** got all this taxpayer money from the government, and **they**’re **the ones** who ruined the market for **my** house! **I** helped bail

them out. I think the banks should be paying me, instead of trying to suck all the life out of us they can!”

It was the first of numerous blowups that Santana would confront that day. Bill collectors don’t tend to encounter many pleasantries, even in the best of times. And these are nowhere near the best of times, for borrowers or for the banking and credit-card industries that lend to them. After two decades of almost constant expansion and profitability, card companies today are in deep trouble. Monstrous losses — estimated to top \$395 billion over the next five years — are growing as cardholders, brought low by the recession, walk away from their debts. And Congress and President Obama are pushing for legislation that would make it much harder for companies to hike up interest rates and charge many of the sneaky fees that have been an easy source of revenue for years.

So credit-card firms are changing their business plans. Gone are the days of handing out cards willy-nilly and hoping that the cardholders who dutifully pay up will offset the losses from those who default. Today companies are focusing on those customers most likely to honor their debts. And they are looking for ways to convince existing cardholders that if they only have enough money to pay one bill, it’s wiser to pay off their credit card than, say, the phone.

Put another way, credit-card companies are becoming much more interested in understanding their customers’ lives and psyches, because, the theory goes, knowing what makes cardholders tick will help firms determine who is a good bet and who should be shown the door as quickly as possible.

Luckily for the industry, small groups of executives at most of the large firms have spent the last decade studying cardholders from almost every angle, and collection agencies have developed more sophisticated dunning techniques. They have sought to draw psychological and behavioral lessons from the enormous amounts of data the credit-card companies collect every day. They’ve run thousands of tests and crunched the numbers on millions of accounts. One result of all that labor is the conversation between Santana — a former bouncer whose higher education consists solely of corporate-sponsored classes like “the Psychology of Collections” — and the man from Massachusetts. When Santana contacted the man last month, he was armed with detailed information about his life and trained in which psychological approaches were most likely to succeed.

Eventually, the man from Massachusetts called Santana back with a proposal. He had spoken to his ex-wife, he said. They wanted to wipe out their debt by paying just \$10,000 — only 35 percent of what they owed.

Santana had actually already sought permission from the bank to settle for as little as \$10,000. It’s an open secret that if a debtor is willing to wait long enough, he can probably get away with paying almost nothing, as long as he doesn’t mind hurting his credit score. So Santana knew he should jump at the offer. But as an amateur psychologist, Santana was eager to make his own diagnosis — and presumably boost his own commission.

“I don’t think that’s going to work,” Santana told the man. Santana’s classes had focused on Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, a still-popular midcentury theory of human motivation. Santana had initially put this guy on the “love/belonging” level of Maslow’s hierarchy and built his pitch around his relationship with his ex-wife. But Santana was beginning to suspect that the debtor was actually in the “esteem” phase, where respect is a primary driver. So he switched tactics.

“You spent this money,” Santana said. “You made a promise. Now you have to decide what kind of a world you want to live in. Do you want to live around people who break their promises? How are you going to tell your friends or your kids that you can’t honor your word?”

The man mulled it over, and a few days later called back and said he’d pay \$12,000.

“Boom, baby!” Santana shouted as he put down the phone. “It’s all about getting inside their heads and understanding what they need to hear,” he told me later. “It really feels great to know I’m helping people in pain.”

To understand how the credit-card industry got interested in psychology, you have to go way back, to a time when many Americans didn’t have a credit card, when almost every company charged the same interest rate regardless of a cardholder’s riskiness and when people often paid off their entire balance each month. All the way back, that is, to the 1980s.

Just a little more than two decades ago, **the credit-card business** was a quiet, slightly boring industry dominated by banks looking for easy revenue. Card issuers made money by collecting annual dues and interest payments from cardholders as well as fees from merchants each time a customer used a card. **Then** the math whizzes arrived. **They** emphasized that the biggest profits didn't come from people who always paid off **their** bills but rather from less-responsible clients who never paid **their** entire balance, and thus could be milked through silently skyrocketing interest rates, late fees and other penalties. Since 1995, the percentage of **the industry's** income from cardholder fees has more than doubled to 40 percent. In 2005, as the push to sign up cardholders peaked, **the industry** sent out more than 10.2 billion credit-card solicitations, which would cover more than the entire world's population. **Two years later**, card companies collected \$40.7 billion in profits before taxes, according to R. K. Hammer, a credit-card advisory firm. Today Americans carry an average of 5.3 all-purpose cards in **their** wallets, and the average household has \$10,679 in credit-card debt, according to the industry publication *The Nilson Report*.

But giving credit cards to riskier customers posed a problem: how do you know which cardholders will pay something each month, providing fat profits, and which will simply run up a huge tab and then disappear?

The Ph.D.'s arrived at two solutions. **The first** was to create thousands of new kinds of cards with their own credit limits, terms and interest rates. **Such a strategy** theoretically protected companies by limiting how much a cardholder could buy and by charging sufficiently high interest rates to ensure that if a few cardholders walked away, the companies still made plenty of money.

The other solution was learning to predict how different types of customers would behave. Card companies began running tens of thousands of experiments each year, testing the emotions elicited by various card colors and the appeal of different envelope sizes, for instance, or whether new immigrants were more responsible than cardholders born in this country. By understanding customers' psyches, **the companies** hoped, they could tell who was a bad risk and either deny their application or, for those who were already cardholders, start shrinking their available credit and increasing minimum payments to squeeze out as much cash as possible before they defaulted.

The exploration into cardholders' minds hit a breakthrough in 2002, when J. P. Martin, a math-loving executive at Canadian Tire, decided to analyze almost every piece of information his company had collected from credit-card transactions the previous year. Canadian Tire's stores sold electronics, sporting equipment, kitchen supplies and automotive goods and issued a credit card that could be used almost anywhere. Martin could often see precisely what cardholders were purchasing, and he discovered that the brands we buy are the windows into our souls — or at least into our willingness to make good on our debts. **His** data indicated, for instance, that people who bought cheap, generic automotive oil were much more likely to miss a credit-card payment than someone who got the expensive, name-brand stuff. People who bought carbon-monoxide monitors for their homes or those little felt pads that stop chair legs from scratching the floor almost never missed payments. Anyone who purchased a chrome-skull car accessory or a "Mega Thruster Exhaust System" was pretty likely to miss paying his bill eventually.

Martin's measurements were so precise that he could tell you the "riskiest" drinking establishment in Canada — Sharx Pool Bar in Montreal, where 47 percent of the patrons who used their Canadian Tire card missed four payments over 12 months. **He** could also tell you the "safest" products — premium birdseed and a device called a "snow roof rake" that homeowners use to remove high-up snowdrifts so they don't fall on pedestrians.

Testing indicated that **Martin's predictions**, when paired with other commonly used data like cardholders' credit histories and incomes, were often much more precise than what **the industry** traditionally used to forecast cardholder riskiness. By the time **he** publicized **his** findings, a small industry of math fanatics — many of them former credit-card executives — had started consulting for the major banks that issued cards, and they began using **Martin's findings** and other research to build psychological profiles. Why did birdseed and snow-rake buyers pay off their debts? **The answer**, research indicated, was that **those consumers** felt a sense of responsibility toward the world, manifested in **their** spending on birds **they** didn't own and pedestrians **they** might not know. Why were felt-pad buyers so upstanding? Because **they** wanted to protect **their** belongings, be **they** hardwood

floors or credit scores. Why did chrome-skull owners skip out on their debts? “The person who buys a skull for their car, they are like people who go to a bar named Sharx,” Martin told **me**. “Would **you** give **them** a loan?”

Some credit-card companies began using **these** and other discoveries to find new customers and to scrutinize existing cardholders. A few firms began sending offers to people who had registered for baby showers or weddings, for example, since data showed that getting married or having a child — in addition to making people buy lots of new stuff — often also makes them more responsible. **Other companies** started cutting cardholders’ credit lines when charges appeared for pawnshops or marriage therapy because data indicated those were signs of desperation or depression that might lead to job loss.

But on the whole, companies, including Canadian Tire, stuck to **more traditional methods** of managing risk, like raising interest rates when someone was late paying a bill, because they worried that customers would revolt if they found out they were being studied so closely.

“If you show **us** what you buy, **we** can tell you who you are, maybe even better than you know yourself,” said Martin, who now works for Wal-Mart Canada. “**But** everyone was scared that people will resent companies for knowing too much.”

Then last year, the economy blew up. Three things became obvious very quickly. **First**, all those extra charges that theoretically protected credit-card companies from losing money? Well, the worst-case models were way off, and some companies started hemorrhaging cash. **Second**, many of the predictions that card companies built around their understandings of people’s psyches were surprisingly accurate, even during an economic tsunami. **And finally**, when people start losing their jobs and feeling poor, it suddenly becomes very, very important to figure out how to persuade them to pay their credit-card bills.

Data-driven psychologists are now in high demand, and **the industry** is using them not only to screen out risky debtors but also to determine which cardholders need a phone call to persuade them to mail in a check. Most of **the major credit-card companies** have set up systems to comb through cardholders’ data for signs that someone is going to stop making payments. Are cardholders suddenly logging in at 1 in the morning? **It** might signal sleeplessness due to anxiety. Are **they** using **their** cards for groceries? **It** might mean **they** are trying to conserve **their** cash. Have **they** started using **their** cards for therapy sessions? Do **they** call **the card company** in the middle of the day, when **they** should be at work? What do **they** say when a customer-service representative asks how **they**’re feeling? Are **their** sighs long or short? Do **they** respond better to a comforting or bullying tone?

“It’s really hard to get clean insights of a cardholder’s state of mind,” said Andy Jennings, the head of research and development at FICO, one of the biggest and oldest analytic firms. “The more subtle **the insight**, the more cleverness finding **it** requires. If someone pays for a big cable television package each month with their card, are they rich? Or does **it** signal **they** don’t have the sense to avoid products **they** can’t afford? If **they** check **their** balance three times a day, are **they** worried or uptight? **We** may look at 300 different characteristics just to predict **their** delinquency risk.”

If a credit-card company detects unsettling patterns, it might start cutting credit lines, raising interest rates or accelerating repayment schedules. (Companies are expected to withdraw \$2.7 trillion of credit by the end of 2010, according to a March report from the Meredith Whitney Advisory Group, a banking-analyst firm.) **But** the most useful information **the card companies** are deriving from their data are the insights that help them deepen their relationships with customers, particularly when a cardholder is going through a rough time. One of the strongest conclusions of **the psychological studies** is that cardholders are most likely to pay the bills of those companies with which they have an emotional connection.

“Today the goal is for customers to get a warm-and-fuzzy feeling from their credit-card company,” said Carl Pascarella, a former chief executive of Visa USA. “If **we** have a deep relationship with you over a range of products and experiences, if **we** trust each other, **you**’ll listen when **we** give **you** advice.”

It was the first day of training for Bank of America's newest credit-card customer-assistance employees, and some of the 12 new hires sitting around the classroom were a little confused.

At another company, these employees — who earn about \$35,000 a year — might be called “collection agents” or “at-risk account reps.” But at Bank of America, “our whole program is built around assisting the customer,” explained Ric Struthers, president of the credit-card division. “We call it assistance, because we’re here to find a solution.”

To see how one company transforms thousands of low-paid employees into telephone psychiatrists, I attended a day of Bank of America's four-week training program at the company's Delaware offices. (I was allowed to attend on the condition that I neither identify nor interview the trainees during the course.) At the front of the classroom, a poster explained the company's “Customer Delight Model.” The trainees were supposed to “provide a delightful opening,” “employ delightful words,” “acknowledge and empathize” and “personalize with a POWER close.” They spent the morning discussing hypothetical cases, like a cardholder with twins whose husband announced he had fallen in love with another woman. He handed over divorce papers, had a moving truck outside and in short order took over the house and left the cardholder with two kids, only \$400 a week and a ton of credit-card debt.

“I would tell her to castrate the man,” one trainee said to the others in her assigned group. “You know, Mel Gibson is getting a divorce, and what he’s doing to that poor woman, he should get his gut hacked up with a rusty knife. I would tell her to cut the husband where it matters, and then ask the new girlfriend what she thinks of what’s down there now!”

These were not, apparently, the “delightful words” that Bank of America had in mind. A much younger male trainee opined that there might be more delicate ways of handling the conversation.

“What do you know?” the woman retorted. “You’ve never been married! You spent your whole life on vacation! Why don’t you learn something instead of moving your mouth all the time?”

Score one for the power close.

As the class discussed how to talk to someone who has recently lost her husband or her job, a young man raised his hand.

“Uh, when we hear a story like this, how are we going to ask them for money?”

“We’ll get to that later,” the instructor, Sheri Roberts, replied.

Then the trainees listened to a recording of an actual call with a cardholder who was about \$10,000 in debt, divorced and couldn’t pay her bills. The Bank of America representative was chipper and positive and after 10 minutes offered to cut the woman’s minimum monthly payments in half and drop her interest rate to 5 percent.

“Oh, my God,” the cardholder sobbed on the tape. “Oh, that would help so much. I’m not a bad person.”

“No, of course you aren’t,” the representative replied. “We’re going to figure this out together.”

Such conversations, credit-card companies say, happen all the time. Indeed, just days earlier I spoke to Donna Tiff, a 49-year-old Missouri woman. We were introduced through the Center for Responsible Lending, an advocacy organization that Tiff contacted after companies began hounding her about the \$40,000 she owed on multiple cards.

“The phone would ring nonstop,” she told me. “I would get on, crying, and tell them I don’t believe in suicide, but I’m close. That I’m going to file for bankruptcy, and then you’ll get nothing.”

And then Tracey came along. She worked for a company that today is a subsidiary of Bank of America. Tracey had talked to Tiff several times and noticed that there was a mistake on her account — an automatic payment was going to be deducted twice from her checking account. If that happened, Tiff’s other checks would bounce.

“I told her, thank you so much for catching that,” Tiff recalled. “And then we talked for over an hour about my problems and raising kids. She was amazing. She was so similar to me. She gave me her direct number and said that I should call her directly anytime I had any questions or just needed to talk about what was going on.”

Over the next three years, Tiff paid off **the entire \$28,000** she owed Bank of America and spoke regularly with Tracey, she said. **And the \$12,000** she owed on **other cards**? Well, **those companies** didn't have a Tracey. **They** never got fully repaid.

It's a heartwarming story. Unless you've seen how people like Tracey are schooled in the art of bonding. What are the odds that **the random customer assistant who dealt with Tiff** would have **so much** in common with her and manage to strike **such a close bond**? I tried to call Tracey myself, using the information Tiff provided. **But** I was told **she didn't work there** anymore.

One Bank of America executive acknowledged that Tiff — and **the caller** on **the recording in the training course** — probably could have cut her debt in half just by asking. Much of what **they're** paying, **after all**, is fees and interest that Bank of America itself tacked on.

“Some cardholders are not as savvy as others,” said Tony Allen, a company spokesman, who added that the company tries to educate cardholders about their options. “**I'm** sure some people feel like **we** have conflicted interests and that **we'll** only educate as much as it helps **us** get paid. **But we** take **our** responsibility seriously.”

I asked Tiff if she ever asked Tracey to write off **the late fees** and **the interest charges**.

“Oh, no,” **she** told me. “**She** was so kind to **me**. How could **I** ask **her** for something like **that**?”

If you ask credit-card executives about the current financial crisis, they'll admit things aren't good right now. **But** what really has **them** worried is what's going on in Washington.

Just last month, President Obama invited 14 credit-card executives to the Roosevelt Room and told them he planned to ask Congress to outlaw “anytime, any-reason rate boosts and late-fee traps” and to increase scrutiny of the industry. **A week later**, the House passed the “Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights” by a margin of 287 votes. **The legislation** would force companies to give advance notice of interest-rate hikes, ban most retroactive rate increases and stop companies from issuing cards to people under 18 years old. **And** if **that** fails to become law, in 2010 new Federal Reserve Board rules will bar issuers from changing interest rates on existing balances in most cases. **In other words**, once you get a credit card, it will be much harder for the company to suddenly start charging you more.

The industry has **responded** by warning that interest rates will rise for everyone. Already, some issuers, including American Express, Bank of America and Citigroup, have started rejecting more card applications. You're almost sure to get fewer offers in the mail, and the days of interest-free cards for six months (followed by soaring interest rates) are probably gone.

Despite their woes, it's hard to feel sorry for the card companies. A survey conducted last year by Consumer Action, an advocacy group, revealed that the average penalty interest rate for cardholders who had missed a payment was 26.87 percent. **And** for years companies have **also** denied consumers the right to go to court by requiring arbitration, have aggressively marketed to college students and have adopted policies like “universal default,” which allows them to hike your interest rate if you miss a payment on a card issued by a completely different company. Some of **their** innovations, like cash-back rewards for unpaid balances, were designed to get cardholders to stop paying the full amount they owe.

Meanwhile, as they prepare for an uncertain future, the card companies are scurrying to find the next breakthroughs in credit-card psychology. Take, **for instance**, Capital One's Card Lab, a festive Internet site that lets customers design their own cards. I ordered **one** with my son's photo on **it**.

The site is interactive. If I indicate I don't want to pay an annual fee, **for instance**, **the Web site** tells me I must pay a higher interest rate. If I want a low rate, **the site** tells me I can't get any rewards points. In essence, **the Web site** offers a series of choices that determine the relative values I place on different options. Capital One can watch as I navigate **the site**, learning more and more about me. **The industry** doesn't have to drop rats in a maze anymore. We've started going **there** on our own.

“Card Lab is at some level an enormous real-time, ongoing experiment,” says Jack Forestell, senior vice president of marketing and analytics at Capital One. By observing people's choices and then tracking how they use their cards, **the company** has learned who is more willing to pay annual fees and who wants airline miles badly enough to pay higher interest rates. “**We've** learned interesting things, like people are more loyal to cards that have their kids' photos on them,” Forestell says.

What **the card companies** realize — and what legislation most likely won't change — is that no matter how much we say we dislike credit cards, they've become an essential part of our lives. It's really hard to rent a car without a card. **Or shop** online. **Or buy** plane tickets. Often, executives say, we are just looking for an excuse to use our cards, and so companies are becoming experts in figuring out which excuses we each most want to hear. **They**'ve let me transform my card into an expression of love for my son. **They**'ll let you tell yourself that charging a meal gets you closer to a free flight to Tahiti.

Before I left **the Bank of America training session** in Delaware, the instructor gave the class a little pep talk.

“**You**'re going to have some days when **you** help customers, and **you**'re going to walk out and feel really, really good,” **she** told **them**. “It's O.K. to help people know that **we** are all working to make the world a better place. It's O.K. to help **them** believe.”

Then she turned to the young man who had previously inquired about bringing up the indelicate topic of money with someone who had just lost her job, her house or her husband.

“**We** are the ones who let **them** know that there's always a brighter tomorrow,” **she** told **him**. “**That**'s how **we** get paid back.”

Annexe 4 – L'interaction

En vert : marqueurs de discours

En jaune : questions

En bleu : marqueurs de réponse

En rouge : verbes à l'impératif

En rose : le pronom *you*

En gris : interpellations

4.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: (*showing England team*) let's look at the English team... they have a lot of old stagers there, Martin Johnson's thirty-three, Jason Leonard equals the world record, he's thirty-five, Neil Back thirty-four, Dallaglio thirty-one, and Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper. (*showing Wales team*) and the Welsh team... they have stuck to the form players from last weekend. number twelve, Iestyn Harris, the high-priced League signing who'll take on that crucial role, and always we'll be on the number eleven Shane Williams to see if he can reproduce his magic which we saw last weekend. and the two sides observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives at war time. so, **Tim**, **is the Welsh team capable of upset, as we await the anthems?**

Tim Horan: **well**, there's a wonderful atmosphere, here down the sideline, and the Welsh body languages as they ran out... they don't think it's a one-horse race tonight, they wanna repeat their upset performance last weekend against the All Blacks.

Gordon Bray: (*showing referee*) our referee tonight is Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped. he speaks fluent French, he has a French father. Jonny Wilkinson gets the fourth quarter-final under way here, at Suncorp Stadium, and Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, down towards the twenty-two.

Chris Handy: **well**, a good clearance there by Stephen Jones, the first touch there very important at test match, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, didn't get the opportunity for his forwards to get underneath the ball.

Gordon Bray: so, Jones getting his hands on that ball, the big Welsh prop... here's Dawson! Clean break! Cooper from behind... he's made forty metres. Back, quickly to Vickery, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... and now Thompson, this massive England hooker just fifteen metres out!

Tim Horan: great try from the English forwards...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven from behind by Leonard! still, it's only fifteen! here's Robinson, almost stepping through... and it's against the number eight Jonathan Thomas. Seven phases there for England...

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) the break came from absolutely nothing, he telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper here in jersey nine for Wales... and Robinson, that's a huge hit there by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position here at Suncorp. (*showing Jonathan Thomas*) that man, Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail on Tuesday, he's become an overnight hero. no goal, off the woodwork, and well anticipated by Taylor. we saw he missed one from in front against Samoa...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming off the post, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred percent every game, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come off the post.

Gordon Bray: I watched him in his warm-up, he started hitting those balls, started kicking, an hour forty minutes before the kick-off...

Tim Horan: it was quite incredible, the rhythm and... he goes to achieve that, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble initially with their line-out, second one that... and yet in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity here for Wales and England front rows... haven't really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... but taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining on the spot.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, (*showing replay*) well that surely came forward from his hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. he's got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose head, well there was an unmarked man outside, Wales choose to go inside but they still have big numbers on the right, Jones the prop here, Sidoli, yes! **did he lose it?** he did! no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! they had England chopped to bits. (*showing replay*) god almighty, he chose to pelt to the line, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, **take** your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: now England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point here, **Chris**, that there was no awkward movement before you pop your opponents.

Chris Handy: and I think that was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tight head, he was just like a real wedge in the scrum... (*showing replay*) but **look** at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: and that's where the Welsh, that's where they'll get change tonight going wide, attacking on Dan Luger's side, and outside of Will Greenwood, that's where they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again tonight.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... having to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. and well taken there by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is on the outside, here he is, now another chance for Taylor, and Williams! **has he got the speed?**

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that he's got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. (*showing replay*) what another great thrust, no lack of vision here, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going wide.

Gordon Bray: second week in a row, the Welsh are not reading the script! this isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by their back three.

Chris Handy: (*showing Adam Jones*) Adam Jones, the curly head at tight head prop for Wales on the far side...

Gordon Bray: so, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms until the ball is out of the scrum. but you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, as well. they're covering up in desperation at the moment, and here's Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties so far... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just short at the half-way line, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: now you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: this is Charvis, couldn't get away from Martin Johnson, lost a bit of grounds, Jones... and Jason Robinson on his twenty-two, almost sliding through the gap, but Taylor got him on half-way... here's Cohen, trying to get his arm over the defender, Dawson, Thompson, England making steady progress...

Chris Handy: this is when they've got to continue to get in behind the Welsh. Running straight...

Gordon Bray: that's Dan Luger coming in from right wing. Moody's out in his position, Wilkinson, and Ben Kay was manhandled there.

Chris Handy: making their tackles count, the Welsh, they are hitting with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, (*showing Lewis Moody*) and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised in the end. (*showing replay*) have a look at this, first that one, and then the next time they come right, there's Moody coming straight over the top, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: (*showing Clive Woodward*) and the England coach might be worried, the first ten minutes for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding so far.

Chris Handy: and England finding some inroads in around the ruck and mauls, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: but Neil Back was there, assisted by Moody... Wilkinson again... packs himself! Dallaglio, Dawson, Cohen's outside, that's an excellent defence again for Wales.

Chris Handy: ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's still on the ground, number nine for England, had Jason Robinson lurking just on his left side... (*showing replay*) here we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just didn't see Robinson on his left-hand side... good defence from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: score here at Suncorp, nil all after nearly eleven minutes.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them in the last couple of weeks, they had Wally Lewis in the last couple of days, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot tonight.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, also, Tim, spoke to them for ninety minutes, and Robinson inside his twenty-two, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. obstruction against Neil Back, penalty kicking-range. chance for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson there... does anyone know where he's gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: so this is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... (*showing replay*) and the obstruction very clear there, under the referee's nose... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look out there, you'll see just right next to the referee, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of these ideas, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: and another poster, two in a row! similar position, still, no score. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and Wilkinson with a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. this is Jones, on half-way, to Gareth Thomas. William's out on his side with a bit of room here, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. Stephen Jones, mishandle there by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and in behind... Luger, he goes Williams! Williams is still going, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: wonderful opportunity, just here in the middle, Cockbain, from Queensland, Dallaglio...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play over the half-way line here.

Tim Horan: well, once again, we've seen the Welsh going in behind Dan Luger's wing, he's coming off his wing...

Gordon Bray: well, good start there from Brent Cockbain, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog in the middle of the Welsh pack will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog from out back Queensland... there's Cooper there. so the referee ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper now, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away quickly and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it at the moment.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting now, Jason Robinson on the right-hand side, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum here for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage straight ahead, so is Luger, Dawson here, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're in centre field, thirty-five metres out, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, when they've been defending, and tremendous enterprise when they've had the ball. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but in behind his twenty-two he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found then, (*showing replay*) but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap down the middle, must be a metre gap between both teams.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation there, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tight head, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come through, he's been told to stay outside.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was on his feet.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner in the World Cup.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed on his feet...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got over the advantage line...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up here at Suncorp, it's still nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright again... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine,

and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. (*showing Clive Woodward*) and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward with the coach's box...

Chris Handy: yeah, that'll relieve him... but it will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, seventeen-and-a-half minutes before the first point was scored.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: and it's always crucial, after you put points on, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it here.

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just this constant cacophony, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, he was speared into the ground here, Thomas... Gareth Thomas now, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones on the loop, Charvis in good support, thirty metres out...

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can they get a turnover? there it is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England five from half-way...

Chris Handy: and another turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli here on the left wing.

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: accidentally bumped into his man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards out wide, they just pushed them towards the sideline, forcing them to change the angle. (*showing replay*) Thomas did well to be here, but...

Gordon Bray: so that's an accidental offside. Really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh there...

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with that, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. not at test level though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial next five minutes there for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: over Johnson's head, lost, and hit there by Charvis... it's all looking very shaky for England at the moment. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: beautiful scrum to England, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: and there is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, they're looking to find gaps just around the ruck, Brent Cockbain here slamming one of the England players out of the way who was standing in front of him... and this is Vickery! some communication from the referee, just making sure that the tacklers roll away, once the ball carriers go to the ground. Wilkinson, that's Moody, and the twenty-two-metre line just ahead.

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... that quick ball enables them to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going now for England... they're keeping it in close, but they're making headway there. Back, then to Luger, but now the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: there goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: right foot, out to the left.

Chris Handy: we've seen that often, Tindall was wide, no one marking up much on him.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: TEN PHASES!

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? (*showing replay*) great work, forcing him to go to field goal... see that last phase they just had, just before we restart play, the defence hit them and knocked

the English pack out of the advantage line, that's when Wilkinson decided, enough for now, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: and Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, tonight we want to discover how well we can do. and they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery at the moment, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: they're not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks last week. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. they must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: so Tindall, and now Greenwood, full-back in front, didn't have a close support, Tindall again, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says it went backwards. certainly the momentum of that dropped ball suggested it was a knock-on... here's Johnson, still there for England, Greenwood, the play-maker, space for Back, here's Leonard! what a shame he wasn't ten-metre faster... this man is, and he's well caught by Thomas. Dawson again for Cohen... Wales really marking up, that was Adam Jones the tight head prop, now Dallaglio... England pounding the Welsh defence here. Dawson is close, Leonard sealing off...

Chris Handy: nine phases on that occasion. the best thing that can happen here is that they only take the three points... but they run!

Gordon Bray: Back is there... Mark Jones on the far side was ever alert, and he had the height over the smallest forward on the field!

Tim Horan: well, that was an opportunity for England to go six points up, in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute, the Welsh played on quickly with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: Robinson here... straight into Harris, almost the ten-metre line, Wilkinson again, Greenwood, and Tindall! Williams across, put into touch! grand covering, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders there too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have taken England out of their comfort zone. they've had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. and that is not part of the playing for them. (*showing replay*) and then they're forced to come this side... the Welsh have broken them up, in isolating them, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took that kick across to touch, when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. he kicked for touch instead, and then Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because he kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player on the field. so if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: Charvis waiting at the front, just outsmarting England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. rigorous defence from Wales, just on England's side of half-way. now Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive there from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion now, forty-five metres out. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: and this is when they need Jonny Wilkinson, to get their first receiver and start organising their phase play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb in the opening quarter.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... in favour of England. here's Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: and there's Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive there, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger on the short side...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson now, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess at the moment... and a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway before he was hit by Mark Taylor.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just as the ball arrived. (*showing replay*) have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, he had a huge gap there...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England there, just ahead of this Welsh side, at Suncorp. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans here, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of that so far.

Gordon Bray: and a clever little kick by Cooper, here comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. just short of half-way.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson on the ground, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... he was thinking about it.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio there, finally gets it over the half way line. Greenwood, looking for the open territory between the full-back and the left wing... and Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found 20 metres... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. this guy really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can confirm that that was a scheduled change, he was always gonna come of at the thirty minutes mark.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious that time, put his head down. and was happy just to secure the ball. now Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, one-hundred-and-eleven caps today, and Back is driven onto his heels.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it here, one, two tackles and then they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: now Wilkinson, in behinds, clever little kick... Jones slips out of the tackle, Thomas now, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack here for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet him, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... here's Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure at the moment...

Tim Horan: well, you could throw a blanket over the English side at the moment, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: and on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, here, if he can hit around Kay, no problem! off he goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, in the village of Aberystwyth, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off today, and that's why!

Chris Handy: not one of the tries of the tournament, THE try of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering they had Ben Kay, a lock-forward... they got dusted, they got dusted for pace, they got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: (showing replay) well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball back inside as Ben Cohen came across, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... his fourth test try, in his forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: and the consummate skill of the little scrum-half who is playing on the left side, he started it with that horrible kick, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed that try, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... that's the thing that works you so hard. if they can control a bit of peel here, they can keep this up. if they have to keep tackling it'll wear them down.

Gordon Bray: well, they ran out of petrol last week against New Zealand, in the last ten minutes, but if they can go for the eighty here, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw there a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. when it's their restart, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, on that occasion he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw to the line-out, forty metres out.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it. one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby here in Brisbane.

Chris Handy: clever thinking here by England, going to the sider, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... so England setting up play here again, thirty metres out. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, here's Wilkinson, and Robinson... he's beaten two, he didn't release it here... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by Cohen in the eleven jersey here... Cohen did the right thing, he went to ground with the ball knowing that anyone who falls on him will be penalised... he steadied, stayed up and pressured the massive Ben Cohen into a mistake. they're slowing things down...they're gonna take the line-out five metres out, immediate response, Charvis, with the dark hair in the middle of the pack. they work out how they're gonna score, this time through the forwards. will they have a crack at them?

Gordon Bray: and very selective refereeing there by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball on the ground on the other side of half-way.

Tim Horan: and this is what England did to so many teams, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: they're almost there... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium at Suncorp, there's all but the white jerseys up on their feet. England now together, but this man, Charvis, he led them so well last Sunday night... it just seems that like after a midday rest, these guys are on fire! (*showing replay*) what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, Colin Charvis, the captain, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, as he did last week against the All Blacks, as he does again tonight against England, (*showing Colin Charvis*) and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, he's had a special perm in that hairstyle, and that's two tries in the week, against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, they're not maintaining the width that they displayed so far on tour.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. and in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood there as spectators, as Charvis drove over the line. and that's little Williams, here playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here as we close on half time, four minutes before the break, Dallaglio... but underneath there, a brilliant tackle by prop forward Thomas, and Wilkinson makes another mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, (*showing replay*) just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width, there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and here's Jones! Wales on the rampage again! lucky bounce for Wilkinson... and now Luger, it's gone backwards! and that sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself right to the flanks...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, (*showing Clive Woodward*) as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: (*showing Dan Luger*) as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. what price a driving maul from this line-out... they have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli again, and they sack it that time.

Chris Handy: they can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: Jones, loose pass for Harris, that's unfortunate, chance for a turnover, Wales through Jones, and Williams. he was punctured by the England tight forwards... they just can't pick it up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: advantage to England, they can hurt from here.

Gordon Bray: they gotta do something here. here's Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland.

Gordon Bray: but there's nothing on here, for England. they just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: short-side opportunity for Dawson...

Gordon Bray: he hesitated... did he release? he lost it! stolen there by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because they've been taken out of their pattern, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: Thomas up to fullback from Jones, and it was dropped by the referee! knock-on, sir!

Tim Horan: former test scrum-half for Ireland, and he's put down that one... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) Daffyd Jones, good work on his feet, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. they weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: so Stephen Jones again, Taylor, Jones goes in to scrum-half, Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: caught in a bad position there...

Gordon Bray: well, about thirty seconds to go on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, they've gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson again, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close this gap... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's there, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he held on to dear life.

Chris Handy: he's gotta let go cause he's off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, lost ahead by England, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, big one for Wales here! McBryde's there, so too is Jones, and Cohen's across! what an exciting forty minutes of rugby here... (*showing referee*) and it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead here by ten to three.

4.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association. they never thought it would happen but here we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, **Brian**.

Brian Moore: **yes**, even with headphones on, it was ringing in my ears, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: now then there was a Croke park effect when Ireland came here two weeks ago to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, this is on a level higher than that. (*showing Mary McAleese*) the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations, Ireland froze in their blocks but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not there, this for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: **yes**, **well** everyone was saying he's an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played here once, familiarity only comes, **you know**, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to the stadium...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Phil Vickery and Mary McAleese*) Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle there, the twenty-three-year-old in on the wing in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle from Warrington, deep in Rugby League country, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the Rugby League code.

Brian Moore: going down there, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if they are to stand a chance here, they must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: (*showing the referees*) the match officials, Joël Jutge from France will be the man in the middle. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man on the field, the thirty-three-year-old from Munster...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job today, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and then he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go around Farrell.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: **well**, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, **you know**, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it today, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and the president too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: **well** they didn't play for the first twenty, **did they?** very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows there, they'll be crucial for Ireland today, if they can repeat what they've done in the last three occasions to England then Ireland will be on their way... (*showing Irish supporters*) and that lot will be cheering them for every single yard they make.

Eddie Butler: and what comes next may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen at Croke Park. just waiting for the president to return to her seat. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the Six Nations, played two, won two.

(*the orchestra plays God Save the Queen*)

Brian Moore: I thought that was amazing.

Eddie Butler: **what was all the fuss about...**

(*the orchestra plays the Soldier's Song*)

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: I'll tell **you** what, **Eddie**, I got a lump in my throat from that.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff here at Croke Park, the central game of the middle-weekend of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens over the next début minutes. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride there, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. it's not about pride, it's not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, it's about doing the right things at the right time.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the Six Nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit (*showing starting line-ups*) but can this pack of forwards hold themselves together in the early moments? it's their first choice pack, they're all there, and Paul O'Connell the big gun in the middle. Brian O'Driscoll returns to the outside centre spot to the captaincy, again, they're at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and behind the scrum, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him on his first test outing. (*showing the substitutes*) the replacements, experience all around, flair to come, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head here in the RBS six nations, (*showing referee*) and what a job for Joël Jutge of France, it's gonna be feisty out there, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other in the opening moments?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for them not to, they'll be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down very quickly.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just being re-wired there...

Brian Moore: I would've thought today that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball upon Olly Morgan and Strettle earlier on, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested early.

Eddie Butler: (*showing David Strettle*) good all-round footballer, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... he's scored five tries on his début in the England sevens, five tries in one half, that's never been done before, here he is, this is different, this is the Six Nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that he's quick, but it's a whole different level! he would never have experienced anything approaching this. the noise here is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and not for the first time the fields of Atherry goes around Croke Park, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been everywhere, seen everything, this for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get under it, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off in Dublin, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run it, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send it to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, winning his second cap. somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, first moment of hesitation. England with a turnover ball, offside, penalty... and a kicking chance for Wilkinson.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about that kick was that the Irish, although it was in their twenty-two, they had an overlap there, and they could've moved the ball one further, (*showing replay*) bit of barging there, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside in front of him...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) seen this before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: in the second minute of play, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. another penalty from that old left boot of Wilkinson, (*showing scoreboard*) Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, what was I saying, you know, unforced errors, and that was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming from the back, people coming from the side, and therefore they weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: good take by Danny Grewcock, Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby freeing himself there, Denis Hickie, safe catcher...

Brian Moore: extra man!

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... and here's the extra man, Dempsey, Shane Horgan inside him, Josh Lewsey with the tackle, Peter Stringer arrives. O'Gara, O'Driscoll, towards Strettle the newcomer... and that will be good for the nerves of Strettle, ushered it safely over the goal line, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was a good ten fifteen metres away.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, that's a good tackle by Magnus Lund, Stringer to O'Gara, and again they're kicking behind Strettle, that's a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly where they want to be.

Brian Moore: well he does that almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. now this is... but we'll see where the game goes from here, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on the England throw?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: they do, Simon Easterby went up for it, it's safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. this is what they did against Scotland in the first game, early investment work by the heavy forwards. good play by England. Ellis, Shane Horgan, in field to Dempsey, makes the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! and Ireland have the penalty, good work by Ireland's fullback.

Brian Moore: well they'll settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet they wish they could've had the ball, cause there were men on their right-hand side for them to exploit, (*showing replay*) well he just slips off him, doesn't he? not good first at tackling, once you get to break the game line everything flows from there.

Eddie Butler: Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton when he was with Ireland, just in the years when the game went professional, and Ireland were a very different outfit back then, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson, this little contest within a contest between two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby. (*showing scoreboard*) and it's all-square here at Croke Park, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said before the match I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle from start to finish, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, places it more centrally, Paul O'Connell, good catch. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, O'Gara, O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll, that put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was inside, and that was Wilkinson who tackled at centre...

Eddie Butler: now then Strettle, with a chance to counter, Peter Stringer, back covering, well read by the scrum-half. Shane Horgan. England plays in front of the kicker, not ten metres.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) sort of bounced well, not within ten, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack there, inside the outside centre down the centre channel but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell inside him.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara who scored all Ireland's points against France in the last match, including the first-half try... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) Paul O'Connell, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. Rory Best the hooker, just checking the call, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag it down, Easterby and Leany, the back-rowers, break away from the ruck. Stringer, O'Gara, back behind Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. here's a glimpse of his pace, **was he taken late by Horgan?**

Brian Moore: **no**, he wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. O'Gara in support, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: **well**, there was a venture from Strettle there, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, three or four supporting players, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: George Chuter, (*showing Phil Vickery*) there's the captain Phil Vickery, Joël Jutge still having a few problems with his communications, (*showing George Chuter*) this is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well taken by Martin Corry, well played. Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan. a little one, O'Connell goes back, it's bouncing free.

Brian Moore: he's gonna box-kick this.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed his half-back partner Wilkinson who went deliberately down field, the switch between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, Jonny Wilkinson, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: no full-back!

Eddie Butler: but Martin Corry is there, well taken on the second attempt. it's out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, Wilkinson to Mike Tindall.

Brian Moore: and he gets it off the field! (*showing replay*) **well** he did well the second time, **didn't he?** I think there's a little bit of shepherding there by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: Rory Best of Ulster, Paul O'Connell of Munster, Donacha O'Callaghan at the front, O'Connell, behind him, O'Connell the target, well taken, well read by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, Wilkinson, Andy Farrell! the offload came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. Strettle, had a busy opening period, the follow-up tackle by Horgan, but that's better by Strettle, very good counter-attack, but only as far as Girvan Dempsey, Strettle has to make the tackle.

Brian Moore: he did well there.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up this blind side for Ireland, O'Driscoll, infield, Horgan just couldn't quite take the pass from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: **well**, though Andy Farrell offloaded, and Brian O'Driscoll kicked there, he did make ground against D'Arcy. (*showing replay*) **well**, a bit hopeful, that, wasn't looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline there. (*showing statistics*) England, what's that, about twelve pounds a man heavier, David Wallace in the back row is the lightest, I think I know who the heaviest is, that'll be big John Hayes in the front row. now, **England are not going down there**, Brian?

Brian Moore: **yeah**, **I think so**, but the pause has got to be succinct... that was better, because it was succinct, and it was the same timing. that should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: **Phil Vickery turning in?**

Brian Moore: **yeah**. Vickery bending on the arm, oh, shocking decision. **well** his shoulders aren't gonna be above his head, (*showing replay*) **look**, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and **you** can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent him double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) and you see there, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. and the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about that.

Eddie Butler: he's up and running. Jonny Wilkinson, Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Strettle in from the opposite wing, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. introduction to the international midfield, England though have it, George Chuter took the pass from Farrell, Farrell goes into the ruck, Ellis, Wilkinson, only Corry outside him, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, a lot of forwards outside Harry Ellis, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up elsewhere. England are still in possession, George Chuter, tackled by David Wallace, lost! oh, the charge down... waste of a turnover, perhaps, (*showing Peter Stringer*) but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap behind England.

Brian Moore: yeah... (*showing replay*) well it was really caused by the fact that the gang tackled there, and that's the real problem, he's driven backwards. interesting watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that earlier on, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke away from the scrum, did well, now, then, Ireland, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see it, they did have men outside D'Arcy for a moment.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like that, if it had gone straight to him, they would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll short to Dempsey, offload, picked up by Denis Hickie, Stringer, Leamy, runs against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. now they have numbers again, Shane Horgan, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone before that.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well what a waste, you will see, three to one out here, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and managed to get into, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision there, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay outside. if you get caught in the middle, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France a couple of weeks ago, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip here, (*showing replay with animations*), Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities out there, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: interesting on that last penalty, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke before that, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you that one, but it was a clear foot in the Irish scrum, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted that!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... Rory Best, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. George Chuter, oh, leave him alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle behind that ruck, yeah it is, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented here... well the problem they're having is that the initial surge is not full enough. they've got to get the momentum for the initial surge.

Eddie Butler: and the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, very solid scrum, Wilkinson, to Farrell. that's just outside their twenty-two, and Ireland have a penalty. hanging on after the tackle.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well he got the ball round there, but he's got to let go, there... the problem is, if he'd let go straight away... he'd move his body, a double movement, he's always gonna get pain for that.

Eddie Butler: Gordon D'Arcy, David Wallace, Denis Leamy, quickly there, (*showing Farrell*), Andy Farrell, the culprit. Ireland with a chance to take the lead.

Brian Moore: well you can say that, but there, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were there before any England back row arrived.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those outside him, whether something broke down there, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever it was, it wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks his second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Wilkinson, just easing his forwards pack. he's gone quite a central path so far, and he's gone down that channel again, oh no, he's gone towards the touchline, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. tackled by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, O'Gara. huge kick by O'Gara, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. Morgan, keeps it in play, Leamy, Girvan Dempsey. this time, the safety of touch, and down there is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous out wide, England trying to attack fairly close into the scrums, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a little bit wider, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball into his hands a little earlier on.

Eddie Butler: Magnus Lund, Danny Grewcock, it's stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, now then was Brian O'Driscoll in front of O'Gara? Holly Morgan waits for it. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, quickly taken, Harry Ellis to Worsley outside him, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut back towards help, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well that's good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to here...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing in there?

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) that was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England down towards the Irish twenty-two, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that's good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! two in a row, now, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and they turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty down there for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: it's quite heavy now!

Eddie Butler: it is, it is, and it's a slippery pitch, it's well known for its slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well that's a terrible kick he's made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: (*showing crowd*) the rain falls on Hill Sixteen. they won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell again, this time off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, they would've wanted a quicker ball than that but they might have numbers now, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken on

the outside, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read it well, but then, just a sign there that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see it coming down here, the crowd are complaining that that was a block, but it wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly there, just for a second...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) there's Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback, (*showing Shane Horgan*) and there's big Shane Horgan, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was in his way, and Horgan simply cleared him out of the way.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) oh, you can't do that, that's a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at these days!

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out as O'Connell goes up again, that should be a penalty, they have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but that is too blatant.

Brian Moore: unsubtle. (*showing replay*) come on, you know the rules, can't touch a man in the air, dangerous. said earlier on, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did he give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, that was an Irish throw won again by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, yet again, the Ireland line-out is starting to get into the English line-out, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating itself.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster, but there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly, that O'Connell being a front jumper but today he's jumping all over the place, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: and in the last ten minutes, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring down here.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson this time goes straight down the field, where David Wallace waits. that's a good tackle by Lund, Stringer, his fractured finger has healed, O'Gara, good kick, quickly taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for it, Olly Morgan knocked it on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, O'Gara, Gordon D'Arcy is in space, oh, well read in the end by Josh Lewsey. well read indeed, because there was real danger then.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone towards the tail of the line-out, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, that could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. close, though, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, there, (*showing replay*) I just thought for a second that he turned him there, that was Vickery, was that, on the floor?

Eddie Butler: good work here by the England captain, just sort of wrap yourself into a position on the floor... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... but Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself down there, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well not really, you're not allowed to do that anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up down there, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area before the game that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance so far.

Eddie Butler: well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game, and then of course France came with their scrummage challenge as they always present, and

Ireland did pretty well there, and they've done well again! O'Gara, D'Arcy, now on the loop from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer waits, O'Gara with a dummy, how well that worked against France... Shane Horgan, Rory Best the hooker, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands in there, Horgan, offloads to Easterby, Hickie's outside him, he can't, he can, he's on his feet! Lewsey saves England, **has he saved them enough?** Ireland just short, penalty to Ireland...

Brian Moore: that could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... and if it's a yellow card that close to the line, **is it a case for a penalty try?**

Brian Moore: **possibly**, but the ball still had to be passed along the back-line, there were a lot of defenders there, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: **don't tell** me, **don't tell** me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it is! oh, he knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: **how much of that was dangerous**, he was cynical! (*showing replay*) crucial things, good backing-up work, shows a lot of pace, here, **doesn't he?** he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up again.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) **well** that's not dangerous, **is it?** so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands now, because I imagine, **Brian**, drive...

Brian Moore: must do. very important for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: a slight delay. erm, not sure why, **is it the old communication thing again, with Joël Judge?** actually it's Olly Morgan who's down the touchline, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking off towards the changing room.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, **is it?**

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) hamstring, looks like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go on the right wing, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw that close to the goal line. O'Connell is the target, well taken, on comes the drive, looks pretty good, Ireland through the middle, not quite there yet...

Brian Moore: it's coming back though!

Eddie Butler: Stringer goes on his own, it's gone loose, brilliantly offloaded...

Brian Moore: great hands!

Eddie Butler: great try for Ireland, fantastic one, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, sleight of hand, power by the forwards, great combination work against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that they might have spoiled that, because Springer passed away, I thought they'd closed it down, but great hands in the middle, always men outside I was wondering if they could get there, (*showing replay*) I just thought that they might have closed it all down with that poor pass, but that's lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about this! D'Arcy, O'Driscoll picking it up on the half-volley, good ball from D'Arcy.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better of the last fifteen minutes, they started to get into England's line-out, England have not been able to get themselves out of their own half, now they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: two points added, Ireland sixteen, England three, and suddenly the complexion of the game has changed completely. (*showing replay*) Brian O'Driscoll's pass, and Girvan Dempsey's finish.

Brian Moore: **well**, there were two pieces of good handling there, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and then O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: **Keith Wood?**

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed in the last five or ten minutes.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, Wilkinson, held by two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best, Paul O'Connell rips through the outskirts of the ruck and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry tossed over...

Brian Moore: he did well to retain that but he's still being driven backwards, slow ball...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle now, Wilkinson, yeah, the change of tactic, get going forward lads, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, held in the air, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is the guilty party. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's always a dodgy moment, (*showing replay*) that is a tackle on a player in the air....

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about that, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want you to do that.

Eddie Butler: well he didn't do anything! Wilkinson, O'Gara, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna say...

Brian Moore: that was perfect!

Eddie Butler: it was, it was, but actually, it went wrong at the end. still, it's all going well for Ireland at the moment.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion as well, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Magnus Lund*) of course, Magnus Lund, perhaps lucky to be there, England would've been down to six in the pack. his brother Eric is captain of Norway. well taken, Louis Deacon, England's chance to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, went for Ronan O'Gara, and now England with numbers, Matthew Tate, Josh Lewsey, Lewsey still going, Callaghan is over there, Ellis, this is better by England, Martin Corry held up, George Chuter goes in, his Leicester team-mate, now it's to deck. o:h, wasn't quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: difficult to see from this far away. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't there quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms around it and when they went down they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on that shoulder.

Brian Moore: possibly came when he went and fell with O'Driscoll, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men outside there!

Eddie Butler: well... it was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. Lewsey, not a thumper, just a delicate one, Denis Leamy takes it, the big, strong Munster number eight does well there, and now then it might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills it behind the white line, Matthew Tate, not much ground made, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge down there, that's a cruel...

Brian Moore: outside?

Eddie Butler: surely not. did he?

Brian Moore: well, he marked it inside, unless it went sideways...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see that again!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) I don't understand that. is he inside the twenty-two when he kicks it?

Eddie Butler: did he carry it back in?

Brian Moore: I don't think so.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: very flat!

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan!

Brian Moore: he's gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, that's a brilliant tackle! fantastic tackle, but Ireland are coming through again, O'Connell's dropped it! and Wilkinson kicks it safely over the dead ball line. two great chances for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) you can see what they're doing here, angling in first, to fix the back, and then they rely on this pace there, Horgan coming back, he's a big man as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well there...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did the tackle, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) O'Connell should've held on to that.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well that's because their primary possession is suffering. in the end, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of that, O'Gara, whenever the ball's been loose, whenever he's had the chance he's just pinned England right back to these areas. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been in their respective twenty-twos, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: three and a half minutes to go to half-time, England, five metres from their own line, and oh, Stringer, what a sub-driven... Magnus Lund, was it? Back over the try line.

Brian Moore: well they're a man down, and they're still going in, now they're a man down with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan, you gotta have another man there!

Eddie Butler: they have, and Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer, has to guard that blind side... Horgan, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked that blind side gap, that's a try! I think that's David Wallace, they'll go to video replay, and I think that will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: and if it is, if he confirms the try, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in the previous scrum. (*showing replay*) I think you can see just see him touch it down here, there, there you are, that's a try. and they're out of sight at the moment... I said Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: try for the greens awarded, Joël Judge raises his arm and Ireland are clear now, and how England have suffered while they've been down to fourteen, Danny Grewcock in the sin bin.

Brian Moore: yet again... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) well O'Connell there, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? in the line-outs, he's been driving, revving his pack up there, I think England will want half-time to come very quickly. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done it again, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't missed.

Brian Moore: well this makes Ireland's poor start against France even more expensive in a way, doesn't it?

Eddie Butler: England set off again in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, O'Gara for touch. England with one minute and a few seconds in which to salvage something from this first half. (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ireland, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot of, I've said it earlier on, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back, it was nine-three when he went off, it's now twenty-three-three. Louis Deacon, good ball at last. Farrell, takes on O'Driscoll. Ball well presented. Joe Worsley, nothing really up that blind side, but they want to stretch play as far as they can, and here they come the other way, and then Mike Tindall tries to straighten, tackled by David Wallace, what an outstanding Six Nations Wallace he's having! Farrell again, this time takes on Simon Easterby... oh, good picking-up job by Martin Corry. Ellis, infield to Perry Freshwater, but it's all gone wrong for England, Josh Lewsey, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you that's a very good follow-up

tackle by Rory Best upon Lewsey! Farrell... Ireland will hoof this off the park, and that will be the break. that's it, Joël Jutge blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, at the midway point.

Brian Moore: well you'd think they'd almost won the game, I mean, they've got a long way to doing that, they dominated the last twenty-five minutes, and England, no lack in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, here at Croke Park, it's the first ever international between England and Ireland here, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

Eddie Butler: half-way, and half-time, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on into the back row instead of Magnus Lund, and it's going to Ronan O'Gara, immaculate kicking in the first half, to restart play. Tom Rees, oh, he watched it bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well, they've recovered but it's not as tight as you want, from the pressure, ooohh!

Eddie Butler: and if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, indecision again... that was never Harry Ellis's ball, (*showing replay*) wow, that could've gone anywhere, could it, O'Connell he's everywhere, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: he's a sort of carrot-hair rhino, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, his last two games, he's been ineffective, but today, he's looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: he was better against France, but he's been awesome today – so far. time for England to recover yet. Martin Corry starts with that line-out, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, that's better, that's what we saw in the first game, Marcus Horan, great work by the prop, and Ireland...

Brian Moore: oh, he should've gone...

Eddie Butler: it can still go! Ireland have knocked the ball on here... great opportunity lost, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come in from the centre to have a word with the players inside. A player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know, what's disappointing as well, from an England point of view, two players that got stuck in...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: well trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win this ball, probably, but look where they are, again!

Eddie Butler: on their own twenty-two, and turned by the Irish scrummage, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, that's rubbish!

Eddie Butler ha ha, did you somehow guess that this was coming?

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just popped out of the top! it will be interesting to see from the reverse side...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the one picked out, on the far side?

Brian Moore: yes, he was, yeah.

Eddie Butler: this is simple for Ronan O'Gara, at the start of the second half...

Brian Moore: it's not what England wanted, is it, it's just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: six out of six for Ronan O'Gara, twenty-six points to three.

Brian Moore: well he's been perfect off the floor, but equally impressive has been the way, (*showing replay*) oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of them, that's the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, Gordon D'Arcy, good footwork, Tom Rees made the tackle in the end, oops, (*showing Marcus Horan*) that's Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to it. England are gonna bring a change into the front row, Julian White is coming on the field, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going off, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different then.

Brian Moore: well he did from tight head as well.

Eddie Butler: do you think he'll play, will he go to loose head?

Brian Moore: I think he will. well, Vickery can be better at loose head, so you may get Vickery there.

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...

Brian Moore: Easterby has got his hands in there as well.

Eddie Butler: just slows it up, just slows it up for Tindall, Andy Farrell, oh, that's a good delivery to Mike Tindall, Joe Worsley, let it go for Harry Ellis in the end, that is Julian White, not best known for his running in the loose, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't commit too many forwards, Farrell, behind Shane Horgan, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...

Brian Moore: and they need to start doing this, and now. (*showing replay*) that's a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they hitherto have been doing, and get the line-out clean, (*showing Paul O'Connell*) with that man I suspect...

Eddie Butler: who's towards the tail, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, they've got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man in here, no it's Simon Easterby who's at scrum-half who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose in the law book?

Brian Moore: if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score from here, from this period of play. they've had so little ball in the twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, oh, might just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. Josh Lewsey, heads past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll, great work by Lewsey on the rear foot...

Brian Moore: Rees...

Eddie Butler: England within five metres, Harry Ellis, they keep it short, it's Tom Rees again...

Brian Moore: I think they're gonna go blind this time, slow, too slow...

Eddie Butler: switch of play by Joe Worsley, no way through there, Rory Best makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: no options, has he?

Eddie Butler: no! there are a lot of forwards out here, Andy Farrell, here's Matthew Tait, Josh Lewsey...

Brian Moore: come on! he's in, he's in!

Eddie Butler: Dave Strettle on his début is going to have to suffer, trial by video. (*showing David Strettle*) the flying machine, he thinks he's got it. What a début it would be for England's winger! (*showing referee*) Joël Jutge waits. (*showing replay*) TRY!

Brian Moore: I think it's a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, that's up, it's a try. England desperately needed that, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! it was a quick ball...

Eddie Butler: well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get there, Girvan Dempsey... (*showing referee*) confirmation by Romain Poite, Strettle on the scoreboard. first game, first try.

Brian Moore: well I don't know why there's booing here, it was quite clear!

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson to put England into double figures. brilliant kick, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. (*showing statistics*)

fourth highest scorer in Test Rugby with nine-hundred-and-eleven. and Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of him, just over the one-thousand mark.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) good passing, Farrell. Draws his man, keeps it relatively straight and that creates room outside.

Eddie Butler: Jo Worsley, who was involved...

Brian Moore: there are men left here if the ball comes quickly... too late.

Eddie Butler: England backs against Irish forwards there, but they're gone the other way. just may have handed it back to Girvan Dempsey.

Brian Moore: well that was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers out there!

Eddie Butler: good tackle by Phil Vickery on Ireland's full-back. O'Gara, just to settle things down, get back down there. Lewsey with not much space, will he keep it in field?

Brian Moore: no! (*showing statistics*) well the balls won in opponents' twenty-two, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more in the Irish half and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing so far, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts inside Wilkinson. Quick ball for Ireland now, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in in one way, and they keep going that way, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: that was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static now for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it infield, but in touch. England's throw.

Brian Moore: but again, the result is, England are back in their twenty-two, Ireland are well able to attack the line-out...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day at the line-outs, it's all right for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming in the side there, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in from behind the back foot... Oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both there...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing there, in midfield. well spotted by the referee, it's easy from here we are perched above the ground and sometimes at ground level it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think that was relatively easy, actually!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's the problem, he's too close, if he'd been another five yards away, no problem. but this is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points when they're on offer.

Eddie Butler: well, it is half-way, well, of course it's no surprise he's gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six to three down in the opening seconds of the first half, twenty-six to thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: (*showing distance to posts*) dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: and the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have such a support behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is there to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage still being played, Girvan Dempsey still in possession. it's there for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come into the second row, (*showing Brian Ashton*) there's Brian Ashton, Palmer on, Danny Grewcock off.

Brian Moore: just for a second there, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have another penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. the first half, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're constantly on the back foot, this is what happens, the decision's go your way...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) the simple instruction, going for goal. the all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, (*showing Tom Palmer*) there's Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and meanwhile Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake this time, England now have half the number of points Ireland have. (*showing Eddie O'Sullivan*) Eddie O'Sullivan, will he be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan, and they're holding up and they're driving backwards, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, no sooner than you got three points, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school when you could do that... you can't do that, it's against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea either.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: never in doubt!

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged them a bit further in front.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson to restart, and England have to restart again. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get underneath it, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands wide...

Eddie Butler: David Wallace in midfield took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's there too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes forward, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll there... Turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: called by the touch judge I think, (*showing replay*) oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, he was in a much better position than I was.

Eddie Butler: well, not much, we're slightly off-line.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened two or three times, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: and that doesn't happen very often.

Brian Moore: no, not to Lewsey!

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. and that shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged today, they've done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose that as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, actually.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone over from tight to loose head, he's the one nearest us, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush in defence might just have saved England there.

Brian Moore: well he saw it, didn't he, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: and that's what they've done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps too. Ireland with a chance to come wide, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted across, Hickie though, still in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it quickly. no time to stop now, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer out of the way. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey now, Strettle, it's gone forward, that one was forward. Play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: they're walking, out there!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery from the front row, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go anywhere now, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play till the whistle! to be fair to them they were a long way away to the far side, and they may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke at half-time about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about it. look now, England are playing an outside-to-inside defence, the outside man is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players there, they are all arrowing in, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same thing, which they weren't in the first half, which

means Ireland are struggling to get wide. again, Mike Tindall does it, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, **watch** Mike Tindall, he shoots out the line, goes for the intercept, and forces O'Gara back inside. he's preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England in the first half.

Brian Moore: Austin, **do you think that O'Gara saw it?** if he had just had a little more dexterity, he would've thrown behind him, they were three on one, **you know**, he's got to see that and take is... he's gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: **yeah**, **absolutely**, but, we saw just there when Andy Farrell made the interception, he tried to do it then, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. he's come to a strange position, he's gone to a sort of outside centre position, good attacking opportunity on both sides for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell **you** something, if **you**'ve never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, **you** are doing it now. three to two on their left-hand side!

Eddie Butler: Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now the gap has shut. O'Gara knew it was closed, and Julian White has knocked on. just for a moment it seemed to open up then, but England closed it pretty... pretty well.

Brian Moore: **well** they took the wrong options, they went the wrong way, then. (*showing replay*) there's the knock-on.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis having some sort of breathless passage which went on for two minutes, now then Gerry Flannery has come on, Rory Best has gone off. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well today. Ireland put him into tight blind side. Shane Horgan has vacated it, but he's straight behind the scrum, he's now gone into it, but the scrum has wheeled away from its...

Brian Moore: that's a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: **by whom?**

Brian Moore: number eight.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. O'Connell, with a little pick-up and drive, now O'Gara goes for the gap, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie, oh, great pick-up by Shane Horgan! now then, **are we gonna replay**, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll at the bottom of that. so now...

Brian Moore: I don't know how he got from Horgan! I thought he'd gone beyond!

Eddie Butler: I was looking at the touchline, **yeah!** referee knew...

Brian Moore: he's not even looking!

Eddie Butler: **no**, he knew the ball was held up. great sleight of hand, though, (*showing replay*) let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: good hands for Horgan today... and good work there by Tindall, to hold him up!

Eddie Butler: it's all Ireland though, England had their say at the start of the second half but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go for the wide option, the kick to Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: IT'S A TRY!

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, wonderful work, the six-foot tall Horgan, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.

Brian Moore: **well** what a touch for Ireland, they were under pressure for the first ten minutes, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... (*showing replay*) well judged, and, well Horgan is just a big, tall, athletic man, **isn't he**, no contest really. that looks very easy, and it's not, actually!

Eddie Butler: they always had the width, and Shane Horgan kept that width, he always had the outside line on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go infield because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know where that really came from? about two minutes earlier, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped on the floor really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara... keeps up his hundred-percent record, eight out of eight, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys at the back row for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey in, and we saw a great take there from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: (*showing score*) thirty-six-thirteen, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! O'Driscoll...

Brian Moore: good hands.

Eddie Butler: that little tight hamstring, perhaps, to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland in twenty-nine tests, and O'Driscoll is down, that hamstring's gone again, Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell back into the midfield, but they'll be worried looks on Irish bench, cause O'Gara has moved into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated. David Wallace, the attack goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer waits. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't go into this ruck, he'll go straight to the dressing room. it's a turnover for England, stay out of that ruck, Brian! think ice-pack, in changing room. oh... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) now he's gotta go, he's gotta go, surely. he's going back to his position!

Brian Moore: well from the time you saw that, he just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance here, I think he's gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) it's the contact after passing, your mind sort of switches off. he looks all right there. okay, he says, calm down everybody, he's saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's all right, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage today.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, very conspicuous, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. change at scrum-half for England, Shaun Perry of Crystal is on. Gerry Flannery finds the target of the line-out, nothing wrong with his passing skills, Girvan Dempsey! Dennis Hickie kept the inside line, Ireland come back quickly the other way. O'Gara, Leamy, batters into Louis Deacon and Julian White, there are numbers out here, the rushed defence doesn't work, Hickie, D'Arcy, oh... Hickie still in possession, Stringer, are they going for the high one again? up comes Shane Horgan again, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, Wallace, couldn't get his hands on it, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball out of play. knock-on.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that could've gone anywhere, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, it squirmed away. I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up for a brief moment as he thought it was gonna drop into his hands and he was gonna stroll over the line...

Eddie Butler: change for Ireland in the back row, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... here is David Wallace, Best goes in, first man, to the breakdown. Stringer checks the blind side, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man on the field.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men wide, if they stretch it.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, good footwork by Wallace, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised there if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, well read!

Brian Moore: I thought it was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: (*showing statistics*) there you are, twenty to six, ball won in opponent's twenty-two, not always the definitive statistic, but it's very telling usually, and on this occasion it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson's come-back has had a little, well it's not a wake-up call because it was tough against Italy, but the winning run will come to an end here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: you know, the feel you get about the Irish team when they play this way, is that they're well-balanced. the players are in the right positions, they complement each other in units, and when it flows, they look very good!

Eddie Butler: a change in the front row, big John Hayes goes off, and Simon Best comes on. Ulster now, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation. oh that's well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock it on? Ireland's record win, twenty-eight-twenty-four in two-thousand-and-six, and twenty-two-nil in nineteen-forty-seven, this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record setting day for Ireland, if it stays like this. England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross. Farrell, knock-on, another England attack comes to nothing. as you were saying, Brian, just the mixture of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, poor pass!

Eddie Butler: another change for England at hooker, George Chuter comes off, and on comes Lee Mears of Bath.

Brian Moore: all the work he's supposed to do, it ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. fresh legs to run around and make some tackles. there's eight-and-a-half minutes to go.

Brian Moore: totally illegal binding! how can a referee not see that!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! the green there, he's supposed to bind on the top of the shirt. the referee's there, where is he binding, he's on the arm!

Eddie Butler: the top of the arm, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't it?

Brian Moore: no, it's not, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: Josh Lewsey, he's in a spot of bother now, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry waits, Wilkinson in the pocket clears.

Brian Moore: well, this is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting over the half-way, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. they've weathered the storms, they've scrapped well, they've balanced well...

Eddie Butler: and Brian O'Driscoll comes off...

Brian Moore: he should've gone off earlier...

Eddie Butler: and on goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame him, though, he wants to milk every moment of this reception at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: (*showing Irish supporters*) all hail to the king!

Eddie Butler: Neil Best at the line-out. Gerry Flannery picks up, Jo Worsley makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body all over the place, not his fault...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's off, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us into the corner! he's over-kicked it!

Brian Moore: oh! a rare mistake.

Eddie Butler: more rugby tonight in Paris, France on course for the grand slam against Wales.

Brian Moore: just mentioning the French, **you know**, when the Irish think back at this season, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that they could not, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the grand slam should've been theirs this year.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry tackled by Stringer, and England forced backwards yet again, little Lee Mears drives at Ronan O'Gara, Perry, Farrell, possession handed back, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, O'Gara!

Brian Moore: he doesn't need to, **does he?**

Eddie Butler: he doesn't need to at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect him, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: o:h, that's not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) oh, surely that touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: **yes**.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, still winning line-out ball.

Brian Moore: **you** see that, Flannery there, he did enough damage to mess that ball up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: and they continue to make a mess of the England ruck. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, they need numbers. well picked up, Wilkinson. a sort of up-and-under from within his own twenty-two, a chance here for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery in midfield. Tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, (*showing Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby*) there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... **Philip Matthews**, **happy?**

Philip Matthews: **yeah**, it just strikes me, **Brian**, I don't know what **you** think, England's confidence today has not been there, **has it**. when they started the second half brightly, it faded very quickly. they did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on it faded. **Brian**, **what are you saying about the Farrell thing**, **where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?**

Brian Moore : he's too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: **yeah**, I couldn't agree with **you** more, it's just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety there, they're gonna have to change it.

Brian Moore: so, **you know**, England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games after a long losing streak, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: **that's absolutely right**, **yeah**.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, **you know**, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: **well** I think they struggled upfront and when Ireland got their numbers on their line-outs in the first half. Paddy Wallace is also on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting upfront, **Brian**, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: they haven't been stuffed upfront, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, here is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright **Brian**, here we go, **you** have a little decision to make, man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... **what hasn't he done today**, he's flown around in the loose, he's been deadly solid in the line-out, he's been abrasive, combative, he's put a super game. and forwards get too little credit anyway. it's those people who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to it, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly either, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, god!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, it's the icing! the icing on a cake that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. and it is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back from defeat against France! (*showing Isaac Boss*) I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for the try.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well, once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, it's been as simple as that, it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field, and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: and I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have they got an appetite for me, this is Neil Best, still, the long dark hair, penalty to Ireland. Boss takes it quickly...

Brian Moore: kick it off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: that is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. they complement each other, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but they should've been in grand slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the grand slam, but for the triple crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

4.3) Analyse de FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: plenty of time and space. Delaney galloping up there in support, and he gets it. Damien Johnson's there with him. now, a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time... towards Hartson, away by Davis. and this is Fletcher, Delaney. Maik Taylor, a good handling, man. brimmed full with confidence at the moment.

Mark Bright: great take. as I was just saying, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting it, it's swirling around, and two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City. it was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: inspired, just one of those performances and...

Jonathan Pearce: and then he was beaten by a horrible one!

Mark Bright: it says something when the goalkeeper's the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: cleared away by Fletcher, and towards Hartson. now Ryan Giggs. Damien Johnson was in there. Duff, to Gillespie, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. Murdock, half an error under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has it. Murdock started at Manchester United as well! this is Giggs, teasing cross! punched away only as far as Hartson. now Fletcher, Ricketts, Welsh club player of the year, took that award the other day, the run blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: took that throw-in a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: looks to be unhappy with Duff there, momentarily, but Duff gets it away. Ricketts to Fletcher, James Quinn was in there, Partridge couldn't get it back but now it comes to Simon Davies, chance here for Wales! oh, he pinged it!

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick him up, he comes in off the line, and he's in a position between the midfield and the forwards. now there's no one to close him down. and it's a free shot at target. (*Showing replay from a different angle*) here he is, just in the in-between section... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: he hasn't scored since he found the back of the net for Tottenham away at Charlton, in February two-thousand-and-four. here's Ryan Giggs, Earnshaw through the middle... just thinking back, Mark, to when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy, back in October two-thousand-and-two, **you know**, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... and it happens as well, one minute you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and next thing you know, you're a forgotten man, **you know**, and he's had plenty of injury problems... referee there, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, **you know**, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward there, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. and I think that, as we can... what we know here... that's something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfield player, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance in that second half against England from the Villa youngster... this'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy again, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! (*showing Colin Murdock*) has scored for his country, it was a header in October of two-thousand-and-four, against Austria.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well here and as **you** can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, **you** can just see, a couple on the edge of the eighteen-yard box, and then a few dropped into the box, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff when they've got the ball...

Mark Bright: **yeah**, it's a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) **well** I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle as he tries to take it in his way. I think he was unlucky not to get a free kick there.

Jonathan Pearce: his dad had passed away in the build-up to the game... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get beyond Partridge, and does so, but the cross away behind for the goal kick at the railway end. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) **well**, he's had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years now, (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn in the middle making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is there with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) unlucky there, Quinn, **you** could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it in the path, and it was well anticipated there by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the eighty-six world cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. aimed at James Quinn, denied in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. the Belfast boy clears it away. it's his sixth cap for his country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. (*Showing coach*) a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... from experienced players who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... as Mark was saying, he has mentioned today, he needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think it was Ricketts, **wasn't it**... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) it was Ricketts there who blocked him.

Mark Bright: **yeah**, the obstruction there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised he didn't get a yellow card for that!

Jonathan Pearce: now Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is there as well. aimed it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back again, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... they'll miss the final game in the cup if they pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) **look** at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, **look**, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but **you know**, **where was Partridge in the original challenge?** he's way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up he goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. (*showing Irish supporters*) twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... since last month!

Mark Bright: **who could blame them...**

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. the twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: **no!** Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if he'd been on the half-turn he could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. he decided to hold it, lay it back, and it broke the move down.

Jonathan Pearce: he has struggled to rediscover the verve of his early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, **Mark**, to that... his shin problem...

Mark Bright: **well** there it goes, and you got people saying, well, he's never been the same since the injury and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, **you know**, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. but it's good to see him fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's there again, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances in the air. Capaldi, to Davis, now Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces today... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but the foul was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... he sort of pushed his hands out to say no, but he didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting in the way there... sometimes you might just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. (*showing replay*) he's under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! here comes Quinn, there he is with the arms... just impeded the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, **you know**, I'm gonna threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap today, James Quinn, went through that long barren spell as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly fourteen-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the Mighty Quinn, some call him in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... one of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, over the top towards Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing here, Earnshaw's back-heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross there... particularly for the penalty area, four Welsh players in there... especially after the crosses he'd put in earlier, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver on that occasion.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: he has to get in front Collins, **doesn't he?** he's alert to the situation.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner here to Wales. it's their first of the game, we've been playing for twenty-four minutes.

Mark Bright: (*showing Irish fans*) the crowd behind that goal are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... it's really hard to believe, it's incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with the corner, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and now this is Healy. he needs to hold it up there. pursued by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help there, Healy, everyone went past him. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick then, for Northern Ireland. twenty-five minutes gone, no goals. in the air by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. can't control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. might have fouled Damien Johnson there... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was very close to it. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, earlier in this qualifying group. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. this is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's in the middle, Hartson in there as well, behind him... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late to the edge of the penalty area, and Wales are ahead after twenty-six minutes, with a fine, fine goal. (*showing Welsh supporters*) time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but it all started way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was there for him and then all he had to do was cut it back. here he is, no one can get near to him, Davies arriving before. he had one shot, it's gone over, one had gone wide. he just takes it, times it just nice... and Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. he's been bothered all week by his injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern here, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: **yes, definitely.** I was lucky, I spent the day over here with Lawrie Sanchez on Wednesday, and err, the whole day from morning till the evening. it was good to be around the boys...

and what he emphasized to me is, he doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. it's definitely something he wanted to build on, and that was the fear. they started the game really well, but on that occasion, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled high, he is troubled in the air, Jones, again, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting off the ground, Paul Jones. he's only played the one game, **you know**, this season, **Mark**... it was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, (*showing players celebrating*) and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal in the John Toshack era. second era of course, he managed for one game previously. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by the goal... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, since Craig Bellamy scored two against Hungary back in February of last year, John Toshack's first game back in charge. his previous spell as I say lasted just the one match, it was against Norway back in ninety-four. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, **hasn't he**, nice and tight to the strikers. he can get in front, he gets in front and wins it, he's very strong in the air.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching the half-hour mark. Wales lead. in towards Murdock, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie again. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) here's a long throw... and **watch** everyone getting in each other's way, there, John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football again in England with Rotherham, he was a while in Scotland with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and here's the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well there. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) really contributed to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side in Cardiff. they were down to nine men but they still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, **was he being pulled back there?**

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, he could've appealed there...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought he was being pulled, **Mark!**

Mark Bright: **yeah**, looked like it to me. he slightly lost control of the ball, but I think it was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of it.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's there, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think that's a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that today. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back in and the defender push him out of the way, winning and go and head the ball. Same with James, err, James Collins at the back here, as well, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, forward by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, **will he run at Sam Ricketts here?** he does so, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie over the years, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come inside and play, try and take him on on the outside and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Northern Ireland's fourth of the game. here's Quinn at the near post, it's beyond him, headed down by James Collins, **was it?** **no**, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said that was a corner. It definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. (*showing replay*) here it is, **yeah**, Murdock's climbing all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer from Cardiff by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal originally, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham this season. suspended today.

Mark Bright: **yeah**, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance today.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: **yeah**...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Hartson...

Mark Bright: as he tried to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went out again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing John Hartson*) a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that in a while...

Mark Bright: **yeah**... it just gives you a lift, **you know**... (*showing replay*) and here he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes here...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, **you know**, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, **you know**, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but, **you know**, the good point, after an hour or so, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, just that sharpness in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick there, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom last weekend. Wales have this free kick. ten minutes to go in the first half. Partridge looks for Hartson, a broken wrestling match in the penalty area, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side, the Plymouth-Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry there, in Wales, or Ireland, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes from Canada and he was actually born in Norway, his dad played there. also played for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now this is David Healy, buzz of anticipation whenever he gets it. Duff, high to James Quinn, James Collins was underneath it.

Mark Bright: unlucky Quinn, it bounced well there for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney, Simon Davies, Capaldi wins it, Collins away, this is Damien Johnson, space here for Gillespie, if he looks to his right-hand side he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria in October nineteen-ninety-four, second appearance for his country.

Mark Bright: amazing, **isn't it**, one goal, in what, sixty... (*showing replay*) it's worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit down this way, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap to his right-hand side, maybe if he just waited a little bit... it's always worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, lovely run, beyond Duff and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest, Earnshaw's in the middle, behind him, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! again a midfield runner making a late entry into the penalty box, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs.... two-nil to Wales.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) we've seen this many times over the years, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, a little glance up, he used to be criticized in his earlier part of his career for not delivering but on this occasion, picks out, beautiful run there, **you** can see Robinson stretching to get into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and here we go. he can pick out of two or three

here, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, second midfield player of the day getting in there and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. nineteen places above Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, **isn't there?**... he just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till that ball went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing he's been doing all his career, really, just going past, attacking people, and it opened up because he was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: a morale-bolstering first half, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... but he's got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over his career he's seen it all, **hasn't he?** Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo, he just said he's been through all this before... he said for where I want to get, I'll be thick-skinned, I'll make the decisions I'll have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: his fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years. he won the title with Real Madrid, **don't forget.**

Mark Bright: **yeah,** his first season.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder here... and Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... **was that a clear goal scoring opportunity?** it's a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess that's punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card here, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: no sense in getting mad... (*showing replay*) it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased that back, a poor clearance, and then this is... that there, you don't, you cannot... when you're under pressure like that, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: the foul, the first foul was way outside the box. it's gonna be John Hartson, and he's been booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: **well,** that's given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... (*showing replay*) **does he slip?** and he's guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: lacked power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. (*showing Irish supporters*) let-off for Northern Ireland. **could it change the course of the game?** Robinson's in there again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: fantastic, but it was a mistake that led to that, it was a poor clearance from him, there was a little bit of pressure but... (*showing replay*) this is about gauging and guessing right here, and he does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. all credits to the goalkeeper. fine save. and it was just the lift they needed, as well, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, now space for Capaldi to get the cross in, high for James Quinn, comes down to Healy, scrambled away to Davis, offside, **was it?** **no,** it's not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, (*showing the referees*) this is the referee, right down there, we can see from where we are, he's right there on the spot...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) and James Quinn in the air...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men in an offside position.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Delaney, good first half, Earnshaw, very open and stretched again, Ryan Giggs, aims at Hartson, it was too high... Wales are playing their best football in a long, long while.

Mark Bright: Robinson's in there looking for his second as well...

Jonathan Pearce: given away by Davies, this is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, now Elliott, forward by Duff and an offside flag against James Quinn.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say they've lost four straight defeats! and obviously Gabbidon's missing as well, and Bellamy, really important players...

Jonathan Pearce: Bellamy injured, Savage has quit the scene... has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, Ben Thatcher felt that, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he's got Healy in the middle, Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: (showing David Partridge) Quinn holds his hand up there, acknowledging the mistake... it's one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get in front of the attacker there, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, part of John Toshack's new Wales... made his début in a friendly against Hungary, started the Toshack reign, this is Earnshaw... wins the throw.

Mark Bright: that's good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent after the England victory, they could be embarrassed today. on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, they're punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it now. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, no Hughes don't forget at the back for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make. (showing Lawrie Sanchez) and Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card here, for Delaney, for time-wasting! it means that that's his second card of the campaign, he'll miss the game against Azerbaijan, having just come back into the side. block by Davis, Quinn to his left, Healy making a run through the middle, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first after twenty-six minutes, and Carl Robinson from midfield adding the second on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez mid-week and he just said, you know, he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game, and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half here for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, (showing replay) and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead here by two goals to nil.

HALF-TIME

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking from right to left, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. and all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing at the moment. an early ball down the right by Duff, headed away by Partridge. now Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and

Delaney away... and Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you in a moment on that, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country in exactly eleven years this week.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, (*showing replay*) and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come from midfield, a lovely weighted one-two here, that touch was the killer touch there, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying at half-time, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: first minute of the second half, two-one. the game's been very open, right from the start. given away by Gillespie very nearly there, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted in the air, (*showing Collins*) and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming here. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... (*showing replay*) and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm at first, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around on the floor, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility, by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, on the bench, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, (*showing replay*) burst through, lovely finish.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, from back to front, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away from the defence, that was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, where are you, and slotted it down in the corner.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this world cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that after the hard work they've done in the first half, they've gone in there, and Toshack was doing his team talk at half-time, and said, you know, we should be three up, this should be game set and match, you come out, and concede a goal straight away, different complex on the game now. the crowd are back, (*showing John Toshack*) he's concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: he is concerned, not too sure whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, they're trying to put something back in place... and here comes Northern Ireland again, Healy and Davis together, it's Healy, cross by Johnson, looking for Quinn, and Wales rocking at the start of the second half, and down temporarily to ten men.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped to the centre-back position, I'm not sure it's enough here, somebody from up front, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping down into the midfield, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's off the pitch.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Irish supporters*) they're buoyant again.

Mark Bright: (*showing Collins*) he looks in some pain, doesn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: given a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe it? Steven Davis! what a start to the second half! within four and a half minutes, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it at half-time, we heard Ian Downing, you know, I think he felt something could happen here. great throw, challenged again, the ball drops down, he's just the first on to it! he reacts so quickly (*showing replay*), Quinn's causing trouble everywhere, he's in the near post here, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's picking up, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams it in, this is an unbelievable start... for Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! his first goal for his country, Steven Davis. and he fizzed it in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: just seen it so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen them on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think it doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. and it changes so quickly, and the momentum's now with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: and how costly, the injury to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and Northern Ireland back in it. now Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's there, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say he was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been on the field of play, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, ifs, buts and maybes... (*showing James Collins*) he's there, now he's going off, you know, to me it's like his shoulder popped out, he's off the pitch, I think it was Robinson who dropped into the centre-back position, you need players to react quickly. and it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: Richard Duffy has come on for him now. he's on a loan at the moment, at Coventry. Portsmouth player, he's on a loan for a season. and a free kick here for Wales. tumultuous start to the second half. Giggs and Fletcher there, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space in the penalty area. (*showing Robert Earnshaw*) well Earnshaw earned the free kick, driven off the ball, you can just hear the drums are going now, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and buoyant as well, Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of them today. interesting to hear the boys talking at half-time in the studio, Mark. and Barry saying, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that they wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing away from home, just that confidence. and all of a sudden... back on level terms, back on level terms in a few minutes as well...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing David Healy*) Healy, as he made that run, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone into a centre-half position for Wales after the substitution, Duffy coming on at right-back. Delaney of course played there many times before.

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play everywhere.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. (*showing David Healy*) a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, David Healy. from Downpatrick. one of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums at the time, a wonderful goal he scored against Austria. Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by (*showing Irish supporters*) Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game in a swirling four minutes. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is in there, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: (*showing Sam Ricketts*) yeah, I've got four men! please help him!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts again under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop

kindly for Giggs, and now John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him there too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing that penalty area. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, out it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah, foot up to the block... the difference there between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped down, in the Welsh defence, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped down there, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball in the box.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight there of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international in his time, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set-up these days, Terry Gibson is there as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal in the nineteen-eighty-two world cup finals against Spain, in Spain.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, Jon, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine at half-time what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around quickly, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: here's a free kick to Wales. (*showing John Toshack*) John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played in Wales a year ago. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is there to his left, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and through the wall... but not beyond Maik Taylor.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked another seven or eight yards on that, further forward.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie in there again, he's a man possessed at the moment, now Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming in off a wide position. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball at the start of this second half. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... (*showing two players arguing*) more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration there. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it at the edge of the box... just as he gets loose from there, (*showing replay*) he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, every time you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game when they last met, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty that day.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position now... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies just on the right side. it's a good shooting opportunity. Good play from Earnshaw there, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running past him, no one coming

around to show for a shot... (*showing replay*) ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: again it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights moments ago, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing there as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! on the hour, the game swings again! and it's the Welsh captain who restores their lead. **and which way is this one gonna turn out?**

Mark Bright: **well**, what a game we've got here! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for this! (*showing replay*) he's got a wall covering one side of the goal, and that means you're responsible for the other side, and I think he's gambling on going left, and then he reacts to go right, he's got the wall covering one side, now that far side must be his responsibility. there's the wall, it's covering his left-hand side of the goal, so that means the right-hand side of the goal's his responsibility. it doesn't even go in the corner, it's just left of centre. I think that's a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan in March two-thousand-and-three. **how much did he learn from the previous free kick moments ago?**

Mark Bright: **well**, it was a little bit further out as well, and as I said, Ryan Giggs would've liked this free kick to be another eight yards forward. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! and important this, for both countries. the more victories they get, the higher up the group they can finish, will affect their draw for the next world cup qualifier. not the European championship qualifier, as some people have been saying. it's too late for that. they've got too much to do to finish above the teams in their sort of specific tier of countries. away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it out there, Robinson does just that. just sort of caught in two minds!

Mark Bright: I think he just saw somebody out of the corner of his eye, there, might've been Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run off him, and this is Davies, and Hartson's in space if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: **yeah**, the big fellow came into the box, took it in his stride, then it just wouldn't settle for him, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi came across, and robbed him of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Quinn back inside his own penalty area as well, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy away downfield. sixty-two minutes gone. Giggs's corner, Fletcher couldn't get beyond James Quinn, the Welsh leading by three goals to two. it was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: he did well... the referee's played the advantage there as well. a foul on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: Duffy in here, Hartson's away through the middle, he was actually standing offside, I think he's offside again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. Ryan Giggs, Simon Davies, lots of space, too much space. it's all Wales at the moment!

Mark Bright: Duffy's come on as a substitute, anticipating that ball on the halfway line, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: a substitution for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be Chris Brunt on, from Sheffield Wednesday, very promising. Elliott will be the man who departs. Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, twenty years of age, started off at Middlesbrough, and won the FA youth cup with them, and went on loan to Sheffield Wednesday initially. he scored a couple of goals at the weekend against Coventry.

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, **yeah**, so obviously they're looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: he scored a great goal at under twenty-one level, against Scotland. Gillespie looking long, a foul against Healy...

Mark Bright: **well**, tumbling with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. what a come-back now as centre-back in his first game since May, at the end of last season.

Mark Bright: doesn't carry any weight, **does he?** very lean, and it doesn't matter, **you know**, you work and work and work, when you come back from injury, it's just the games, that's what we were talking about, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw, to Simon Davies, got the shot away, palmed that just behind Earnshaw, Craigan was second to it, this is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous every time they come forward, Earnshaw! offside, wouldn't have counted.

Mark Bright: just end to end, **isn't it?** **you know**, you just wouldn't believe at half-time when Wales were two-nil up, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, now they're behind again, and now the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales (*showing replay*) this is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took it early, when it came across him, just a great strike there, look at the far side, and when the keeper parries the ball **you** can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Ian Downing in the studio right now.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Downie.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, got it down but cleared away by Partridge, chance here, Johnson! good block, important save by Jones, and here come Wales, flying on the counter. this is terrific stuff. so open. Giggs, Hartson way offside. Northern Ireland came out. (*showing replay*) and here come the home side again, this is Brunt, his first touch as a substitute. good block by Jones, **wasn't it?** and Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: it was, **yeah**... the defence is no... they just stood still, he's aiming straight down at the goalkeeper there, he goes across the goal, just like Davies did a few minutes earlier, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi, Robinson, who finds Giggs, Earnshaw offside.

Mark Bright: Giggs and Davies, that was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, in the second half, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball inside as opposed to wide on the wings.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs tracking back, and winning it! conceded the foul here.

Mark Bright: I think he's saying somebody tell me, tell me there's a man behind me. (*showing replay*) Johnson did well there, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: that's a splendid save again!

Mark Bright: that's what I like with the referee's decision, if you want to take it early, **you know**, without putting a wall up, **you know**, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for winning the free kick, (*showing replay*) there you go, hand on it, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones out of... off his line.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. Brunt's corner kick. just cleared away from Duff's head by Duffy. and the pressure swings back on the Welsh goal!

Mark Bright: Gillespie with a corner from this side.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops in the last couple of moments. and unopposed there, allowed to make the save.

Mark Bright: disappointed with the pressure there, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it away from the goalkeeper. **you know**, there's an area, really, between the penalty spot and the six-yard box, it's too far from the keeper to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack before today, and especially in this second half, they've looked dangerous every time they attack.

Mark Bright: **well**, it's been open, **hasn't it?** I mean, at times, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side on a Friday! end to end! both teams playing deep, lots of work for midfield players to do... it's really enjoyable, **you know**, not gonna criticise a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, offside.

Mark Bright: **well**, Healy was coming back, he was in front of the defence and as that ball has come over his head he's coming back onside, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: just under twenty minutes left. Partridge will take it. he started off with West Ham, Partridge. this is Capaldi, to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control, brings Davis into the play, and now Duff, high back to James Quinn, Brunt was behind him, Simon Davies. caught in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: good pressure from Johnson there, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: so important for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, this is Brunt, Capaldi, too far for Jones, Healy headed it back across, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get there.

Mark Bright: the curl on the ball, lovely shaped, coming away from the goalkeeper, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddalling, you head it, and it hits the guy in front of you.

Jonathan Pearce: and the corner for Northern Ireland, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl it in. Quinn is in there, so is Murdock. cleared away by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard up and down that Northern Ireland right. forward by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it in the air, Murdock in there, away by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt onside, a hanging cross, and away by Duffy under pressure.

Mark Bright: a good defending, really, and good pressure as well, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball in the penalty area. a short one.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, and another corner. and the pressure beginning to mount.

Mark Bright: everybody back now, the Welsh team. the eighteen-yard box, majority in the six, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones making sure he's got room, doesn't want to come through a thicket of players, but has to do just that, he didn't get the punch away, **did that hit an arm?** Robinson! it was Brunt who had the little stab at the end of it, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson on the arm! slid down his arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think he thought he was gonna get challenged, his arm was up, and his head was pointing downwards.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, **is that a penalty?** Healy went over. and the Northern Ireland coaching staff are on their feet, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: **handball?**

Jonathan Pearce: **is that a handball by Delaney?** Quinn! unbelievable pressure here. back in by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis again, Murdock stayed forward, Gillespie's header, and drops it just wide. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing to his hand, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact there. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) but a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd behind the goal. (*showing replay*) this is the in-swing. this one goes up in the air... that there, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: **yes**, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, back to goal, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: but throughout the game, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it into the six-yard area, Wales have looked uncomfortable. especially since James Collins went off.

Mark Bright: **yeah**, he was dominant in the air in the first half of the game. (*showing John Toshack*) **you know**, Partridge is comfortable in the air, Delaney's got the height, he's coming there, but it's just one of those situations where it's continually coming back in the box in the air, and it's swirling round, and people don't move out of the way when you want to go and clear it, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack there, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's there, oh, good goalkeeping. really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Healy*) we saw the frustration on Healy when he turned away, a little bit of anger, (*showing replay*) I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just here. because if he gets a touch, it's a penalty. there's he's frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. now Giggs, on beyond Duff, Johnson there, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. finds Gillespie, good play. high, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: and Delaney... now this is forward by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie now. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging the touch line. Healy's there in front of him, so **who's in the middle?** Quinn is in the middle, if they can get it in there. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution here for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go off, and Vaughan is coming on for his fourth cap. and they'll just leave John Hartson up front here, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfield player.

Mark Bright: he is a midfield player. he plays for Crewe, he's very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five in the midfield and just leave John Hartson on his own at front.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson back in there, oh it's beyond Murdock and Quinn!

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone to the left-hand side of midfield, and Ryan Giggs has come over to this right at the moment, he's just standing off Davies, but **I wonder** if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, **Mark**, in the closing stages?

Mark Bright: **well**, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, **you know**, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, **you know**, they can all take a chance when the time is right.

Jonathan Pearce: here is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets there, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. (*showing Colin Murdock*) thirty-year-old from Ballymena, started off at Old Trafford but didn't make the grade there. while he was at Old Trafford, I think he was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, now Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. that is frustrating because I know on Wednesday they were working really hard on getting that ball into the box, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts now, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: again it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for now, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure he should try and strike that with the outside of his foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick in again. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight out of play again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up as the game has gone on, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. away by Craigan. energy levels sap, eleven minutes to go. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it in the air, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, away by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got back at him but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence there from Healy. (*showing David Partridge*) Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. at this time of the game, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: he'll miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney. and Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. ten minutes to go. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. (*showing Paul Jones*) Jones organising the wall, four men in it,

that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players in the wall. and Northern Ireland about to make another substitution. another Crewe player is about to come on, this time it'll be Steve Jones, we'll see him in a minute but it's Giggs meanwhile who gives it away, Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. and Northern Ireland wanna make the substitution here, it's gonna be Mike Duff who departs, and Steve Jones who comes on. comes from Londonderry, twenty-eight-year-old, this is his nineteenth appearance for his country, another player who played for England at semi-pro level.

Mark Bright: he's a forward, he's quick.

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over on that right-hand side, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. now Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. now Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: doesn't need to do that. doesn't need to do that, giving it away. even though Giggs made the run. what he does is, he takes a defender with him, there's a bit more space, come inside, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, **you know**, he's been unlucky not to get anything in the box so far, **you know**, he's come to lead in the line, holding it up, bringing people into play, **you know**, big player, strong, back to goal, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Keith Gillespie*) **can Northern Ireland provide another twist in the turn of an extraordinary game?** Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, at two-two, at the start of the second half, Quinn, Davis again, just too far for Healy.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it as well, (*showing replay*) Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just a bit too far. here it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball there, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis at the start of the second half made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal now separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. Draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is there with him, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won in the air well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt in space. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised there by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson meanwhile, and he's gone down, and Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and still they play on, and he looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: everywhere, everywhere, decisions everywhere!

Jonathan Pearce: and they get the cross back in... Quinn! couldn't get out of the way!

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) oh, the Welsh players, they're furious there. Carl Fletcher was down on the floor, and wanted them, I think, to kick the ball out, he soon got up, and back on his feet, complaining to the referee now, that he was down. it's not a head injury, **you know**, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that they're in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, under five minutes to go, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan again. as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper, Lawrie Sanchez turned around and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause he knows it's so important coming towards the end of the game. you gotta keep that ball away from the goalkeeper.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: that's the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. (*showing Damien Johnson*) he's fouled him there. stokes up that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are

gonna make another substitution, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on at centre-half, and (*showing Sam Ricketts*) Ricketts is the man who makes way, presumably Collins will go straight up there and play on the left side, **will he?**

Mark Bright: he was a midfield player originally, **wasn't he?**

Jonathan Pearce: he started off as a midfielder.

Mark Bright: **yeah**, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: winning his second cap, he made his debut in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary. woo:h! rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! three minutes to go, just under. world cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future world cup qualification. Jones, Johnson, in towards James Quinn, lovely lay-off, Jones was in there but couldn't find his way through and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. **well**, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, all the way to the end, good clearance there from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous now, arms are flying in the penalty area but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Ryan Giggs*) Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen there, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! **well**, he struck that!

Mark Bright: **well**, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! (*showing replay*) here it comes, we can see the rain coming down now, there, it's just away from everybody, **you know**, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: into the last minute. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. now a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, now this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club mate, towards James Quinn, **suspicion of a little punch there by Partridge?**

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything at this stage.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up now to tell us how much time we'll have added on. four minutes.

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by the fourth official, Kevin Blon. Vaughan, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, this is Robinson, Duffy, good run by Simon Davies, just too far in front of him. terrific entertainment. away by Delaney, Hartson offside.

Mark Bright: the kick's weak. they've gotta get around Quinn. they just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get around him. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's out here...

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together there, but it was dropped in short Carl Robinson headed it away, now Craigan, one minute of stoppage time played. Brunt's header down, Duffy blocked and clears.

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience there, he had Simon Davies just in front of him, just roll the ball into feet, and then Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: high up towards Murdock, who'll surely stay forward in this stoppage time period, Gillespie hoists it, James Quinn backing on to Fletcher who held his ground, now Giggs! oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, a long way out I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing there, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, **has he?** I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) knocks it beyond the defender, and he would've had a clear run down that side. two minutes of stoppage time played. and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it has, it's been really enjoyable, **you know**, for two different reasons, **you know**, on the back of that great win against England, if they could back it up here, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, four straight defeats, **you know**, lots of criticism for the manager, looks like he's answered the critics, for the time being anyway.

Jonathan Pearce: Northern Ireland without a victory here against Wales in thirty years. on to Jones, they'll have to wait a minute longer, or **will they?** this is Johnson, Vaughan's across there with him, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone beyond! Murdock's on the far post, Quinn is there too, it's loose, it's come to Healy! goodness me, he struck that!

Mark Bright: it looked like a handball...

Jonathan Pearce: it hit Partridge, **didn't it?**

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: and now Wales can break away, in the last minute of stoppage time. Duffy on the overlap, Hartson's in the middle, offside. and he's tickled it in, but he was always in an offside position. **your overall thoughts**, Mark?

Mark Bright: **well**, just a fantastic entertaining game, **you know**, a great start from Wales, and a great comeback from Ireland obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: seconds to go. hoisted it there again, looking for Murdock, and just turned away... only as far as Davis. Murdock... oh! and surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: **well**, it's incredible really, it's just one end to the other, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap past Davies a few moments earlier.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! and Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park, on sixty-one minutes, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

4.4) Analyse de 400M

Tom Hammond: up next is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back world championship gold medals. **Lewis**, **you** were talking earlier about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up here in Osaka.

Lewis Johnson: it has, in a two-hour surprise, because we have not had a wind issue here at these world championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains in Waco, Texas, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but again, the other elements that he was looking forward, the fast track which he has, the great competition which he has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, **Ato**.

Ato Boldon: and I can tell **you**, **Lewis**, I can admit to **you guys** now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the one-hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres in quite some time, and Jeremy Wariner in lane six is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor just his insides on lanes five and four.

Tom Hammond: so Jeremy Wariner will come into the race as in the favourite, there are as **Ato** mentioned three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: and an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers all over the world, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the world championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen today.

Ato Boldon: I spoke to Johnson for about an hour about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes down to close finish at the end, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience this year, he's run forty-four sixty-two to win in Paris, forty-four point four in Rome, forty-four point three in Monaco, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: and I talked to Jeremy Wariner today about this evening and his plan throughout the world championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him tonight was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, now his personal best's forty-three fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: (*showing contestants, one by one*) lane two, Avard Moncur of the Bahamas, gold medallist of the two-thousand-and-one world championships, lane three Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record at the two-thousand-and-five, world's bronze medallist in the world championships in Helsinki. lane four, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal at the Sydney olympics in the four-hundred metre hurdles. lane five, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four zero-six at the US championships, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, then the third of the three Americans in a row is Jeremy Wariner, defending olympic and world champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four thirty-four. lane seven, Leslie Djohne from France who lored his French national record, forty-four forty-six in his semi-final race, he was seventh at the Athens olympics. in lane eight, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, forth at the two-thousand-and-five world championships, and in lane nine, Johan Wissman of Sweden, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records in both his races here, first round and semi-finals, in forty-four fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing Jeremy Wariner*) **well** I had a talk with Clyde Hart today, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race in his semi-final, around twenty-one seconds at two-hundred, thirty-two seconds at three-hundred, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens in the last one-hundred metres.

Ato Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, **Lewis**, he said, **don't think** for a second that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are right behind him, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate lane six, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: and there's the gun! Angelo Taylor lane four, Lashawn Merritt five, Jeremy Wariner in six, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Ato Boldon: **look** for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all through the rounds, this move down the back stretch from Angelo Taylor, in lane four.

Tom Hammond: and Jeremy Wariner is there, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher from Canada, into the turn for home, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's straight away now and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, here is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: and **Tom**, the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get close enough to him at three-hundred, put some pressure on him, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. he took this race out, he could not see them to his inside, but he stuck to his script, and at three-hundred metres he was clear, and he never looked back, they never were able to pull up on his side and really challenge him.

Tom Hammond: and the official time, forty-three forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: and that was the goal, coming out here for this final, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

Ato Boldon: (*showing Angelo Taylor*) tremendous running by Wariner. as we look at a disappointed Angelo Taylor, I thought he put himself out of it, he didn't make the move that we normally see from him down that back stretch and it might have cost him in that final.

Tom Hammond: but it is a US sweep led by Jeremy Wariner, the defending champion.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing replay*) Wariner told me that in his phases he wanted to get out hard the first sixty metres, then keep that pace on the back stretch, then when he'd get on the turn, really pump the arms and make the legs come up, and then off the turn coming up to straight away where he is right now, it's just an all-out kick. and the final thing that Jeremy said he would not do, he would not look over to the clock before he got to the finish line, that he'd run through the tape and then look, and we saw that on the replay, Wariner running through the tape, trying to get the fastest time possible, but without the doubt he has sent the message to everyone around the world that I am unbeatable.

Ato Boldon: alright guys, how scary is this four by four four-hundred metres relay really going to be?

Tom Hammond: oh!

Ato Boldon: Angelo Taylor has to be disappointed with forty-four thirty-two, he looked so good during the rounds, but it's not about how you run the rounds, it's how much you save for the final, and Angelo Taylor looked like he actually was a little bit tired this evening, coming off of that final turn.

Lewis Johnson: just think about the work that Clyde Hart has done with Jeremy Wariner, physically they are so so different, and Jeremy Wariner has advanced so much faster than Michael Johnson did, as he creeps ever closer to forty-three eighteen, the existing world record over this event.

Tom Hammond: and Lashawn Merritt, you know, running a pretty good race here too to take the silver medal, for him, forty-three ninety-six, breaking forty-four seconds. when we come back, the men's hundred-and-ten metres hurdle final, and we'll hear from Jeremy Wariner, world champion.

4.5) Analyse de CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about at the Joe Louis Arena, here in Survivor Series. here we go... (*showing child in crowd*) boy, all these little Hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is in the town, the electricity is going all over the world, Hulkamania's gonna be put to rest very, very shortly...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run for quite some time. I've seen what the Hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over till it's over.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing Hulk Hogan*) you're looking at the greatest wrestler in the world today, the World Wrestling Federation world champion Hulk Hogan! (*showing poster*) hulkamania lives forever!

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker*) he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing on the back of my head, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkamania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person at the concession stand or in the hallway, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. sooner or later it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody will, he will.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in there! could weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty good idea, he felt it on the back of his head! duck underneath by the Hulk Hogan off the ropes, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and out of there immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...

Bobby Heenan: the true mark of a coward.

Robert Marella: the true mark of a champion!

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... but I don't think Hulk Hogan did it as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: that certainly is not obvious to me at this point in time, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: that's what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands behind the Hulkster, not like being out there with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, on your side.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, I'm never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs all over the world are in there with him. well he's gonna need them to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for him to win tonight... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, that could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer's talking from the outside... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about that guy!

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence since he entered that ring, has he? he's been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at this! COME ON! (*showing Paul Bearer*) YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out there, what happened?

Robert Marella: your monitor went out... your brain went out! from the outside it was a blatant attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble right now... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got out of there in a hurry. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of the big guy. into the ropes!

Bobby Heenan: but he didn't knock him down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: he couldn't slam him. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel it, I can see it! couldn't knock him down, couldn't slam him. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow right between the eyes! you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first into the corner, and back to the other side for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, he's really rocking him real and now, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down on his feet.

Bobby Heenan: but he is still standing! and he has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan out. now throw him back into the ring, cause you can't beat him on the floor.

Robert Marella: OH! Hulkster face first right into the steel steps!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made here! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. come on, ref! number one, you should've sent that guy back to the dress room before this match even started.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power from that urn, there's something in there that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown here by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has on his arm, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next World Wrestling Federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, from the outside, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out in a minute...

Bobby Heenan: tension in the air, we could cut it with a knife, here in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City. everyone just sitting there right on the edge of their seats, ready to explode at any moment!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's on the edge of her seat!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane behind her!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down into the mat, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that here!

Robert Marella: well they're both still on their feet!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. can you hear me?

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty-something-thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold right on the forehead of the Hulk...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up by now...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission by now.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning World Wrestling Federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, ba:h...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength from that urn...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother here...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead ninety percent of this match! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at that, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's some place else right now! his body may be in Motown, but his mind is out there some place.

Robert Marella: **well** that arm dropped twice, had it dropped one more time, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's on his feet, they're both on their feet! Hulk Hogan, **Monsoon**, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... **wow!** what a flying first there by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: **get** the flowers ready, **sign in** the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: **look** at that big dent in the urn, it's probably where he clubbed the Hulkster from behind with it...

Bobby Heenan: **so what...**

Robert Marella: **so what, yeah...**

Bobby Heenan: it's my opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) **look** at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: he's too cold to sweat! he'd have to have blood and pores to sweat...

Robert Marella: I've never seen him perspire.

Bobby Heenan: **look** at the ease!

Robert Marella: he's gonna try to ply him with a tombstone! OH YES! no one has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, **look** at that, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: **who's not immortal now**, **Brain?**

Bobby Heenan: he's still on his feet! the Undertaker is STILL on his feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster continues to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: he's down to one knee! the first time he's been down on one knee...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up – oh **watch** this! (*Showing Ric Flair entering the Arena*) **where is he going?**

Bobby Heenan: the real world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... **what business does he have down there?**

Bobby Heenan: **well you'd** better talk to Ric Flair, **I don't know**... I mean it, **I really don't know**.

Robert Marella: Hulkster finally... oh, says what are **you** doing down there, roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: **why would he go touch Flair?** he never touched the ring, he never got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: **what business does Flair have down there?**

Bobby Heenan: **I don't know**, but he doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, from the outside, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. **look** at this! Flair with a chair! he got piledrived right into the steel chair!

Bobby Heenan: **wait** a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a new world champion! the new World Wrestling Federation champion, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told **you** so!

Robert Marella: **this is horrendous!** three guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: Hulkamania is dead! and is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking down here is the new World Wrestling Federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

4.6) Analyse de POE

TRUE! – nervous – very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but **why will you say that I am mad?** The disease had sharpened my senses – not destroyed – not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. **How, then, am I mad?** **Hearken!** and **observe** how healthily – how calmly I can tell **you** the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! **yes**, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture – a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees – very gradually – I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. **You** fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But **you** should have seen me. **You** should have seen how wisely I proceeded – with what caution – with what foresight – with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it – oh so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, **you** would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly – very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha! – **would a madman have been so wise as this?** And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously – oh, so cautiously – cautiously (for the hinges creaked) – I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights – every night just at midnight – but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how he has passed the night. So **you** see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.

Upon the eighth night I was more than usually cautious in opening the door. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before that night had I felt the extent of my own powers – of my sagacity. I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph. To think that there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled at the idea; and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled. Now **you** may think that I drew back – but no. His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness, (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers,) and so I knew that he could not see the opening of the door, and I kept pushing it on steadily, steadily.

I had my head in, and was about to open the lantern, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and the old man sprang up in bed, crying out – **"Who's there?"**

I kept quite still and said nothing. For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down. He was still sitting up in the bed listening; – just as I have done, night after night, hearkening to the death watches in the wall.

Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan of mortal terror. It was not a groan of pain or of grief – oh, no! – it was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe. I knew the sound well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled up from my own bosom, deepening, with its dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me. I say I knew it well. I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew

that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had turned in the bed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him. He had been trying to fancy them causeless, but could not. He had been saying to himself – "It is nothing but the wind in the chimney – it is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "It is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp." Yes, he had been trying to comfort himself with these suppositions: but he had found all in vain. All in vain; because Death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim. And it was the mournful influence of the unperceived shadow that caused him to feel – although he neither saw nor heard – to feel the presence of my head within the room.

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little – a very, very little crevice in the lantern. So I opened it – you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily – until, at length a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye.

It was open – wide, wide open – and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness – all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon the damned spot.

And have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over acuteness of the senses? – now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew that sound well, too. It was the beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meantime the hellish tattoo of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man's terror must have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment! – do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst. And now a new anxiety seized me – the sound would be heard by a neighbor! The old man's hour had come! With a loud yell, I threw open the lantern and leaped into the room. He shrieked once – once only. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the heart beat on with a muffled sound. This, however, did not vex me; it would not be heard through the wall. At length it ceased. The old man was dead. I removed the bed and examined the corpse. Yes, he was stone, stone dead. I placed my hand upon the heart and held it there many minutes. There was no pulsation. He was stone dead. His eye would trouble me no more.

If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs.

I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings. I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye – not even his – could have detected any thing wrong. There was nothing to wash out – no stain of any kind – no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught all – ha! Ha!

When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o'clock – still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart, – for what had I now to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the police. A shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises.

I smiled, – for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search – search well. I led them, at length, to his chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired

them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim.

The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still chatted. The ringing became more distinct: – it continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling: but it continued and gained definiteness – until, at length, I found that the noise was not within my ears.

No doubt I now grew very pale; – but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. Yet the sound increased – and **what could I do?** It was a low, dull, quick sound – much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath – and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly – more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. **Why would they not be gone?** I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men – but the noise steadily increased. Oh God! **what could I do?** I foamed – I raved – I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder – louder – louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. **Was it possible they heard not?** Almighty God! – **no, no!** They heard! – they suspected! – they knew! – they were making a mockery of my horror! – this I thought, and this I think. But nothing was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! – and now – again! – hark! louder! louder! louder! Louder! –

"Villains!" I shrieked, "**dissemble** no more! I admit the deed! – **tear up** the planks! – here, here! – it is the beating of his hideous heart!"

4.7) Analyse de NYT

Rudy Santana's day began recently, as almost all his working days begin, with a name on a screen. The name that April morning belonged to a Massachusetts man in his mid-30s. He owed money on a credit card and a second mortgage, the screen told Santana, and was separated from his wife. He was behind in paying back \$28,900.97 in debt. Which was why he was on Santana's screen.

When Santana reached him by phone, the man quickly began talking about his ex-wife. "**Listen**," the man said. "I called her about this debt, and a guy picked up — a guy I've never heard before — and when I asked for her, he hung up on me. **Can you believe that?** We used that money to renovate the kitchen! And now she won't even talk to me! **Who the hell was that guy who answered the phone?**"

"So **you've spoken to your wife?**" Santana asked, his voice soft and gentle. "**Were you able to have a good talk with her?** Even when **you're angry**, it's important to talk. **Did you talk about the debt?**"

"**Yeah**, we talked about it," the man replied. He paused and released a small sob. "**You know**, she told me we would be together until we died. I know I have to pay this. But I'm not going to pay her half. I won't damn pay it."

"I know," Santana said. "This is difficult, and I'll be honest — I think **you're** doing a great job. **You're** really strong. But the thing is, to the bank, they don't make a distinction between **you** and **your wife**. To them, it's just debt. They just want to get paid.

"I think I can do something for **you**, though," Santana continued, glancing at his screen. It was filled with information about the man, including the fact that he had recently sold his home at a loss. Some of this information had been sent by the man's bank to Santana's employer, Sunrise Credit Services, which collects delinquent debts for companies like Citigroup, Bank of America and HSBC. Santana's company had added notes, too, including helpful tips — he is easier to reach in the mornings, for example — and new ways to contact him.

“Look,” Santana said. “I know you’re angry at your wife. One step to ending that anger is putting this debt behind you. It will really help you find peace. You owe about \$29,000. How much do you think you can pay?”

“Well, how much are you gonna help me?” the man shot back. “These banks got all this taxpayer money from the government, and they’re the ones who ruined the market for my house! I helped bail them out. I think the banks should be paying me, instead of trying to suck all the life out of us they can!”

It was the first of numerous blowups that Santana would confront that day. Bill collectors don’t tend to encounter many pleasantries, even in the best of times. And these are nowhere near the best of times, for borrowers or for the banking and credit-card industries that lend to them. After two decades of almost constant expansion and profitability, card companies today are in deep trouble. Monstrous losses — estimated to top \$395 billion over the next five years — are growing as cardholders, brought low by the recession, walk away from their debts. And Congress and President Obama are pushing for legislation that would make it much harder for companies to hike up interest rates and charge many of the sneaky fees that have been an easy source of revenue for years.

So credit-card firms are changing their business plans. Gone are the days of handing out cards willy-nilly and hoping that the cardholders who dutifully pay up will offset the losses from those who default. Today companies are focusing on those customers most likely to honor their debts. And they are looking for ways to convince existing cardholders that if they only have enough money to pay one bill, it’s wiser to pay off their credit card than, say, the phone.

Put another way, credit-card companies are becoming much more interested in understanding their customers’ lives and psyches, because, the theory goes, knowing what makes cardholders tick will help firms determine who is a good bet and who should be shown the door as quickly as possible.

Luckily for the industry, small groups of executives at most of the large firms have spent the last decade studying cardholders from almost every angle, and collection agencies have developed more sophisticated dunning techniques. They have sought to draw psychological and behavioral lessons from the enormous amounts of data the credit-card companies collect every day. They’ve run thousands of tests and crunched the numbers on millions of accounts. One result of all that labor is the conversation between Santana — a former bouncer whose higher education consists solely of corporate-sponsored classes like “the Psychology of Collections” — and the man from Massachusetts. When Santana contacted the man last month, he was armed with detailed information about his life and trained in which psychological approaches were most likely to succeed.

Eventually, the man from Massachusetts called Santana back with a proposal. He had spoken to his ex-wife, he said. They wanted to wipe out their debt by paying just \$10,000 — only 35 percent of what they owed.

Santana had actually already sought permission from the bank to settle for as little as \$10,000. It’s an open secret that if a debtor is willing to wait long enough, he can probably get away with paying almost nothing, as long as he doesn’t mind hurting his credit score. So Santana knew he should jump at the offer. But as an amateur psychologist, Santana was eager to make his own diagnosis — and presumably boost his own commission.

“I don’t think that’s going to work,” Santana told the man. Santana’s classes had focused on Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, a still-popular midcentury theory of human motivation. Santana had initially put this guy on the “love/belonging” level of Maslow’s hierarchy and built his pitch around his relationship with his ex-wife. But Santana was beginning to suspect that the debtor was actually in the “esteem” phase, where respect is a primary driver. So he switched tactics.

“You spent this money,” Santana said. “You made a promise. Now you have to decide what kind of a world you want to live in. Do you want to live around people who break their promises? How are you going to tell your friends or your kids that you can’t honor your word?”

The man mulled it over, and a few days later called back and said he’d pay \$12,000.

“Boom, baby!” Santana shouted as he put down the phone. “It’s all about getting inside their heads and understanding what they need to hear,” he told me later. “It really feels great to know I’m helping people in pain.”

To understand how the credit-card industry got interested in psychology, you have to go way back, to a time when many Americans didn't have a credit card, when almost every company charged the same interest rate regardless of a cardholder's riskiness and when people often paid off their entire balance each month. All the way back, that is, to the 1980s.

Just a little more than two decades ago, the credit-card business was a quiet, slightly boring industry dominated by banks looking for easy revenue. Card issuers made money by collecting annual dues and interest payments from cardholders as well as fees from merchants each time a customer used a card. Then the math whizzes arrived. They emphasized that the biggest profits didn't come from people who always paid off their bills but rather from less-responsible clients who never paid their entire balance, and thus could be milked through silently skyrocketing interest rates, late fees and other penalties. Since 1995, the percentage of the industry's income from cardholder fees has more than doubled to 40 percent. In 2005, as the push to sign up cardholders peaked, the industry sent out more than 10.2 billion credit-card solicitations, which would cover more than the entire world's population. Two years later, card companies collected \$40.7 billion in profits before taxes, according to R. K. Hammer, a credit-card advisory firm. Today Americans carry an average of 5.3 all-purpose cards in their wallets, and the average household has \$10,679 in credit-card debt, according to the industry publication *The Nilson Report*.

But giving credit cards to riskier customers posed a problem: how do you know which cardholders will pay something each month, providing fat profits, and which will simply run up a huge tab and then disappear?

The Ph.D.'s arrived at two solutions. The first was to create thousands of new kinds of cards with their own credit limits, terms and interest rates. Such a strategy theoretically protected companies by limiting how much a cardholder could buy and by charging sufficiently high interest rates to ensure that if a few cardholders walked away, the companies still made plenty of money.

The other solution was learning to predict how different types of customers would behave. Card companies began running tens of thousands of experiments each year, testing the emotions elicited by various card colors and the appeal of different envelope sizes, for instance, or whether new immigrants were more responsible than cardholders born in this country. By understanding customers' psyches, the companies hoped, they could tell who was a bad risk and either deny their application or, for those who were already cardholders, start shrinking their available credit and increasing minimum payments to squeeze out as much cash as possible before they defaulted.

The exploration into cardholders' minds hit a breakthrough in 2002, when J. P. Martin, a math-loving executive at Canadian Tire, decided to analyze almost every piece of information his company had collected from credit-card transactions the previous year. Canadian Tire's stores sold electronics, sporting equipment, kitchen supplies and automotive goods and issued a credit card that could be used almost anywhere. Martin could often see precisely what cardholders were purchasing, and he discovered that the brands we buy are the windows into our souls — or at least into our willingness to make good on our debts. His data indicated, for instance, that people who bought cheap, generic automotive oil were much more likely to miss a credit-card payment than someone who got the expensive, name-brand stuff. People who bought carbon-monoxide monitors for their homes or those little felt pads that stop chair legs from scratching the floor almost never missed payments. Anyone who purchased a chrome-skull car accessory or a "Mega Thruster Exhaust System" was pretty likely to miss paying his bill eventually.

Martin's measurements were so precise that he could tell you the "riskiest" drinking establishment in Canada — Sharx Pool Bar in Montreal, where 47 percent of the patrons who used their Canadian Tire card missed four payments over 12 months. He could also tell you the "safest" products — premium birdseed and a device called a "snow roof rake" that homeowners use to remove high-up snowdrifts so they don't fall on pedestrians.

Testing indicated that Martin's predictions, when paired with other commonly used data like cardholders' credit histories and incomes, were often much more precise than what the industry traditionally used to forecast cardholder riskiness. By the time he publicized his findings, a small industry of math fanatics — many of them former credit-card executives — had started consulting for the major banks that issued cards, and they began using Martin's findings and other research to build

psychological profiles. Why did birdseed and snow-rake buyers pay off their debts? The answer, research indicated, was that those consumers felt a sense of responsibility toward the world, manifested in their spending on birds they didn't own and pedestrians they might not know. Why were felt-pad buyers so upstanding? Because they wanted to protect their belongings, be they hardwood floors or credit scores. Why did chrome-skull owners skip out on their debts? "The person who buys a skull for their car, they are like people who go to a bar named Sharx," Martin told me. "Would you give them a loan?"

Some credit-card companies began using these and other discoveries to find new customers and to scrutinize existing cardholders. A few firms began sending offers to people who had registered for baby showers or weddings, for example, since data showed that getting married or having a child — in addition to making people buy lots of new stuff — often also makes them more responsible. Other companies started cutting cardholders' credit lines when charges appeared for pawnshops or marriage therapy because data indicated those were signs of desperation or depression that might lead to job loss.

But on the whole, companies, including Canadian Tire, stuck to more traditional methods of managing risk, like raising interest rates when someone was late paying a bill, because they worried that customers would revolt if they found out they were being studied so closely.

"If you show us what you buy, we can tell you who you are, maybe even better than you know yourself," said Martin, who now works for Wal-Mart Canada. "But everyone was scared that people will resent companies for knowing too much."

Then last year, the economy blew up. Three things became obvious very quickly. First, all those extra charges that theoretically protected credit-card companies from losing money? Well, the worst-case models were way off, and some companies started hemorrhaging cash. Second, many of the predictions that card companies built around their understandings of people's psyches were surprisingly accurate, even during an economic tsunami. And finally, when people start losing their jobs and feeling poor, it suddenly becomes very, very important to figure out how to persuade them to pay their credit-card bills.

Data-driven psychologists are now in high demand, and the industry is using them not only to screen out risky debtors but also to determine which cardholders need a phone call to persuade them to mail in a check. Most of the major credit-card companies have set up systems to comb through cardholders' data for signs that someone is going to stop making payments. Are cardholders suddenly logging in at 1 in the morning? It might signal sleeplessness due to anxiety. Are they using their cards for groceries? It might mean they are trying to conserve their cash. Have they started using their cards for therapy sessions? Do they call the card company in the middle of the day, when they should be at work? What do they say when a customer-service representative asks how they're feeling? Are their sighs long or short? Do they respond better to a comforting or bullying tone?

"It's really hard to get clean insights of a cardholder's state of mind," said Andy Jennings, the head of research and development at FICO, one of the biggest and oldest analytic firms. "The more subtle the insight, the more cleverness finding it requires. If someone pays for a big cable television package each month with their card, are they rich? Or does it signal they don't have the sense to avoid products they can't afford? If they check their balance three times a day, are they worried or uptight? We may look at 300 different characteristics just to predict their delinquency risk."

If a credit-card company detects unsettling patterns, it might start cutting credit lines, raising interest rates or accelerating repayment schedules. (Companies are expected to withdraw \$2.7 trillion of credit by the end of 2010, according to a March report from the Meredith Whitney Advisory Group, a banking-analyst firm.) But the most useful information the card companies are deriving from their data are the insights that help them deepen their relationships with customers, particularly when a cardholder is going through a rough time. One of the strongest conclusions of the psychological studies is that cardholders are most likely to pay the bills of those companies with which they have an emotional connection.

"Today the goal is for customers to get a warm-and-fuzzy feeling from their credit-card company," said Carl Pascarella, a former chief executive of Visa USA. "If we have a deep relationship with you

over a range of products and experiences, if we trust each other, you'll listen when we give you advice.”

Annexe 5 – Les temps verbaux

5.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

temps	occurrences	pourcentage
présent simple	267	44,2%
prétérit simple	159	26,32%
<i>present perfect</i>	55	9,1%
présent progressif	43	7,11%
<i>can</i> + base verbale	19	3,14%
<i>will</i> + base verbale	19	3,14%
impératif	14	2,31%
prétérit progressif	7	1,15%
<i>must</i> + base verbale	5	0,82%
<i>would</i> + <i>have+en</i>	4	0,66%
<i>past perfect</i>	3	0,49%
<i>present perfect</i> progressif	2	0,33%
<i>would</i> + base verbale	2	0,33%
<i>could</i> + base verbale	2	0,33%
<i>would</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	1	0,16%
<i>might</i> + base verbale	1	0,16%
<i>should</i> + base verbale	1	0,16%

5.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

temps	occurrences	pourcentage
présent simple	777	48,5%
prétérit simple	334	20,84%
<i>present perfect</i>	158	9,86%
présent progressif	93	5,8%
<i>will</i> + base verbale	53	3,3%
impératif	34	2,12%
<i>can</i> + base verbale	31	1,93%
prétérit progressif	23	1,43%
<i>could</i> + base verbale	18	1,12%
<i>would</i> + base verbale	12	0,74%
<i>past perfect</i>	9	0,56%
<i>must</i> + base verbale	7	0,43%
<i>should</i> + base verbale	7	0,43%
<i>should</i> + <i>have+en</i>	7	0,43%
<i>would</i> + <i>have+en</i>	6	0,37%
<i>might</i> + base verbale	6	0,37%
<i>present perfect</i> progressif	5	0,31%
<i>could</i> + <i>have+en</i>	5	0,31%
<i>may</i> + base verbale	4	0,24%
<i>might</i> + <i>have+en</i>	4	0,24%
<i>will</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	3	0,18%
<i>would</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	1	0,06%
<i>could</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	1	0,06%
<i>must</i> + <i>have+en</i>	1	0,06%
<i>may</i> + <i>have+en</i>	1	0,06%
<i>shall</i> + base verbale	1	0,06%
<i>ought</i> + base verbale	1	0,06%

5.3) Analyse de FOOT

temps	occurrences	pourcentage
présent simple	676	45,73%
prétérit simple	394	26,6%
<i>present perfect</i>	123	8,32%
présent progressif	68	4,6%
<i>will</i> + base verbale	43	2,9%
<i>can</i> + base verbale	36	2,43%
impératif	28	1,89%
prétérit progressif	28	1,89%
<i>could</i> + base verbale	18	1,21%
<i>past perfect</i>	12	0,8%
<i>would</i> + base verbale	12	0,8%
<i>would</i> + <i>have+en</i>	9	0,6%
<i>should</i> + base verbale	7	0,47%
<i>could</i> + <i>have+en</i>	6	0,4%
<i>present perfect</i> progressif	3	0,2%
<i>must</i> + base verbale	3	0,2%
<i>will</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	2	0,13%
<i>might</i> + base verbale	2	0,13%
<i>might</i> + <i>have+en</i>	2	0,13%
<i>should</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	2	0,13%
<i>should</i> + <i>have+en</i>	2	0,13%
<i>would</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	1	0,06%
<i>might</i> + <i>perfect</i> progressif	1	0,06%

5.4) Analyse de 400M

temps	occurrences	pourcentage
présent simple	58	41,13%
prétérit	42	29,78%
<i>present perfect</i>	16	11,34%
impératif	5	3,54%
<i>will</i> + base verbale	5	3,54%
<i>would</i> + base verbale	4	2,83%
présent progressif	2	1,41%
<i>can</i> + base verbale	2	1,41%
prétérit progressif	2	1,41%
<i>present perfect</i> progressif	1	0,7%
<i>could</i> + base verbale	1	0,7%
<i>may</i> + base verbale	1	0,7%
<i>might</i> + <i>have+en</i>	1	0,7%
<i>would</i> + <i>have+en</i>	1	0,7%

5.5) Analyse de CATCH

temps	occurrences	pourcentage
présent simple	102	42,85%
prétérit simple	30	12,60%
présent progressif	24	10,08%
impératif	22	9,24%
<i>can</i> + base verbale	16	6,72%
<i>present perfect</i>	12	5,04%
<i>will</i> + base verbale	11	4,62%
<i>could</i> + base verbale	7	2,94%
<i>would</i> + base verbale	4	1,68%
<i>would</i> + <i>have+en</i>	3	1,26%
<i>might</i> + base verbale	2	0,84%
<i>present perfect</i> progressif	1	0,42%
<i>past perfect</i>	1	0,42%
<i>may</i> + base verbale	1	0,42%
<i>may</i> + <i>be+ing</i>	1	0,42%
<i>should</i> + <i>have+en</i>	1	0,42%

Annexe 6 – La localisation spatio-temporelle

En bleu : localisation spatiale

En jaune : localisation temporelle

6.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: (*showing England team*) let's look at the English team... they have a lot of old stagers **there**, Martin Johnson's thirty-three, Jason Leonard equals the world record, he's thirty-five, Neil Back thirty-four, Dallaglio thirty-one, and Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper. (*showing Wales team*) and the Welsh team... they have stuck to the form players **from last weekend**. number twelve, Iestyn Harris, the high-priced League signing who'll take on that crucial role, and **always** we'll be on the number eleven Shane Williams to see if he can reproduce his magic which we saw **last weekend**. and the two sides observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives **at war time**. so, Tim, is the Welsh team capable of upset, **as we await the anthems?**

Tim Horan: well, there's a wonderful atmosphere, **here down the sideline**, and the Welsh body languages **as they ran out**... they don't think it's a one-horse race **tonight**, they wanna repeat their upset performance **last weekend** against the All Blacks.

Gordon Bray: (*showing referee*) our referee **tonight** is Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped. he speaks fluent French, he has a French father. Jonny Wilkinson gets the fourth quarter-final under way **here**, **at Suncorp Stadium**, and Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, **down towards the twenty-two**.

Chris Handy: well, a good clearance **there** by Stephen Jones, the first touch there very important at test match, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, didn't get the opportunity for his forwards to get **underneath the ball**.

Gordon Bray: so, Jones getting his hands on that ball, the big Welsh prop... **here's** Dawson! clean break! Cooper **from behind**... he's made **forty metres**. Back, **quickly** to Vickery, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... and **now** Thompson, this massive England hooker **just fifteen metres out!**

Tim Horan: great try from the English forwards...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven **from behind** by Leonard! still, it's **only fifteen!** **here's** Robinson, almost stepping **through**... and it's against the number eight Jonathan Thomas. seven phases **there** for England...

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) the break came from absolutely nothing, he telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper **here** in jersey nine for Wales... and Robinson, that's a **huge hit there** by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position **here at Suncorp**. (*showing Jonathan Thomas*) that man, Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail **on Tuesday**, he's become an overnight hero. no goal, off the woodwork, and well anticipated by Taylor. we saw he missed one from in front against Samoa...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming **off the post**, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred percent **every game**, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come **off the post**.

Gordon Bray: I watched him in his warm-up, he started hitting those balls, started kicking, **an hour forty minutes before the kick-off**...

Tim Horan: it was quite incredible, the rhythm and... he goes to achieve that, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble **initially** with their line-out, second one that... and yet in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity **here** for Wales and England front rows... haven't really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... but taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining **on the spot**.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, (*showing replay*) well that surely came forward from his hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. he's got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose head, well there was an unmarked man **outside**, Wales choose to go **inside** but they **still** have big numbers **on the right**, Jones the prop **here**, Sidoli, yes! did he lose it? he did! no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! they had England chopped to bits. (*showing replay*) God almighty, he chose to pelt **to the line**, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, take your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: now England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point **here**, Chris, that there was no awkward movement **before you pop your opponents**.

Chris Handy: and I think that was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tighthead, he was just like a real wedge **in the scrum**... (*showing replay*) but look at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: and **that's where** the Welsh, **that's where** they'll get change **tonight** going **wide**, attacking on **Dan Luger's side**, and **outside of Will Greenwood**, **that's where** they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again **tonight**.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... having to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. and well taken **there** by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is **on the outside**, **here** he is, **now** another chance for Taylor, and Williams! has he got the speed?

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that he's got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. (*showing replay*) what another great thrust, no lack of vision **here**, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going **wide**.

Gordon Bray: **second week in a row**, the Welsh are not reading the script! this isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by their back three.

Chris Handy: (*showing Adam Jones*) Adam Jones, the curly head at tighthead prop for Wales **on the far side**...

Gordon Bray: so, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms **until the ball is out of the scrum**, but you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, as well. they're covering up in desperation **at the moment**, and **here's** Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties **so far**... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just **short at the halfway line**, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: **now** you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: this is Charvis, couldn't get away from Martin Johnson, lost a bit of grounds, Jones... and Jason Robinson **on his twenty-two**, almost sliding **through the gap**, but Taylor got him **on halfway**... **here's** Cohen, trying to get his arm **over the defender**, Dawson, Thompson, England making steady progress...

Chris Handy: this is when they've got to continue to get **in behind the Welsh**, running straight...

Gordon Bray: that's Dan Luger coming **in from right wing**. Moody's **out in his position**, Wilkinson, and Ben Kay was manhandled **there**.

Chris Handy: making their tackles count, the Welsh, they are hitting with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, (*showing Lewis Moody*) and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised **in the end**. (*showing replay*) have a look at this, **first** that one, and **then** the next time they come **right**, there's Moody coming straight **over the top**, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: (*showing Clive Woodward*) and the England coach might be worried, **the first ten minutes** for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding **so far**.

Chris Handy: and England finding some inroads **in around the ruck and mauls**, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: but Neil Back was **there**, assisted by Moody... Wilkinson **again**... packs himself! Dallaglio, Dawson, Cohen's **outside**, that's an excellent defence **again** for Wales.

Chris Handy: Ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's **still on the ground**, number nine for England, had Jason Robinson lurking just **on his left side**... (*showing replay*) **here** we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just didn't see Robinson **on his left-hand side**... good defence from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: score **here at Suncorp**, nil all **after nearly eleven minutes**.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them **in the last couple of weeks**, they had Wally Lewis **in the last couple of days**, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot **tonight**.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, also, Tim, spoke to them **for ninety minutes**, and Robinson **inside his twenty-two**, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. obstruction against Neil Back, penalty **kicking-range**. chance for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson **there**... does anyone know where he's gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: so this is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... (*showing replay*) and the obstruction very clear **there, under the referee's nose**... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look **out there**, you'll see just **right next to the referee**, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of these ideas, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: and another poster, two in a row! similar position, still, no score. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and Wilkinson with a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. this is Jones, **on half-way**, to Gareth Thomas. William's **out on his side with a bit of room here**, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. Stephen Jones, mishandle **there** by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and **in behind**... Luger, **here** goes Williams! Williams is **still** going, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: wonderful opportunity, just **here in the middle**, Cockbain, **from Queensland**, Dallaglio...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play **over the halfway line here**.

Tim Horan: well, **once again**, we've seen the Welsh going **in behind Dan Luger's wing**, he's coming **off his wing**...

Gordon Bray: well, good start **there** from Brent Cockbain, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog **in the middle of the Welsh pack** will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog **from out back Queensland**... there's Cooper **there**. so the referee ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper **now**, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away **quickly** and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it **at the moment**.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting **now**, Jason Robinson **on the right-hand side**, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum **here** for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage **straight ahead**, so is Luger, Dawson **here**, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're **in centre field, thirty-five metres out**, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, **when they've been defending**, and tremendous enterprise **when they've had the ball**. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but **in behind his twenty-two** he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found **then**, (*showing replay*) but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap **down the middle**, must be a metre gap **between both teams**.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation **there**, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tighthead, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come **through**, he's been told to stay **outside**.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was **on his feet**.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner **in the World Cup**.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed **on his feet**...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got **over the advantage line**...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up **here at Suncorp**, it's **still** nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright **again**... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine, and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. (*showing Clive Woodward*) and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward **within the coach's box**...

Chris Handy: yeah, that'll relieve him... but it will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, **seventeen and a half minutes before the first point was scored.**

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: and it's always crucial, **after you put points on**, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it **here.**

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just this constant cacophony, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, he was speared **into the ground here**, Thomas... Gareth Thomas **now**, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones **on the loop**, Charvis in good support, **thirty metres out...**

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can they get a turnover? **there** it is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England **five from half-way...**

Chris Handy: and another turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli **here on the left wing.**

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: accidentally bumped into his man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards **out wide**, they just pushed them **towards the sideline**, forcing them to change the angle. (*showing replay*) Thomas did well to be **here**, but...

Gordon Bray: so that's an accidental offside. really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh **there...**

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with that, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. not at test level though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial **next five minutes there** for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: **over Johnson's head**, lost, and hit **there** by Charvis... it's all looking very shaky for England **at the moment**. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: beautiful scrum to England, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: and **there** is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, they're looking to find gaps just **around the ruck**, Brent Cockbain **here** slamming one of the England players **out of the way who was standing in front of him...** and this is Vickery! some communication from the referee, just making sure that the tacklers roll away, **once the ball carriers go to the ground**. Wilkinson, that's Moody, and **the twenty-two-metre line just ahead.**

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... that quick ball enables them to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going **now** for England... they're keeping it **in close**, but they're making headway **there**. Back, then to Luger, but **now** the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: **there** goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: right foot, **out to the left.**

Chris Handy: we've seen that **often**, Tindall was **wide**, no one marking up much on him.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: TEN PHASES!

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? (*showing replay*) great work, forcing him to go to field goal... see that last phase they just had, just **before we restart play**, the defence hit them and knocked the English pack **out of the advantage line**, that's **when Wilkinson decided**, enough **for now**, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: and Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, **tonight** we want to discover how well we can do. and they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery **at the moment**, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: they're not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks **last week**. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. they must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: so Tindall, and **now** Greenwood, fullback **in front**, didn't have a close support, Tindall **again**, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says it went backwards. certainly the momentum of that dropped ball suggested it was a knock-on... **here's** Johnson, **still there** for England, Greenwood, the play-maker, space for Back, **here's** Leonard! what a shame he wasn't ten-metre faster... this man is, and he's well caught by Thomas. Dawson **again** for Cohen... Wales really marking up, that was Adam Jones the tighthead prop, **now** Dallaglio... England pounding the Welsh defence **here**. Dawson is **close**, Leonard sealing off...

Chris Handy: nine phases **on that occasion**. the best thing that can happen **here** is that they only take the three points... but they run!

Gordon Bray: Back is **there**... Mark Jones **on the far side** was ever alert, and he had the height over the smallest forward **on the field**!

Tim Horan: well, that was an opportunity for England to go six points up, **in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute**, the Welsh played on **quickly** with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: Robinson **here**... straight into Harris, **almost the ten-metre line**, Wilkinson **again**, Greenwood, and Tindall! Williams **across**, put **into touch**! grand covering, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders **there** too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have taken England out of their comfort zone. they've had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. and that is not part of the playing for them. (*showing replay*) and **then** they're forced to come **this side**... the Welsh have broken them up, in isolating them, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took that kick **across to touch**, **when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago**, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. he kicked **for touch** instead, and **then** Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because he kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player **on the field**. so if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: Charvis waiting **at the front**, just outsmarting England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. rigorous defence from Wales, just **on England's side of halfway**. **now** Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive **there** from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion **now**, **forty-five metres out**. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: and this is when they need Jonny Wilkinson, to get their first receiver and start organising their phase-play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb **in the opening quarter**.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... in favour of England. **here's** Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: and **there's** Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive **there**, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger **on the short side**...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson **now**, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess **at the moment**... and a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway **before he was hit by Mark Taylor**.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just **as the ball arrived**. (*showing replay*) have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, he had a huge gap **there**...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England **there**, just **ahead of this Welsh side**, **at Suncorp**. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans **here**, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of that **so far**.

Gordon Bray: and a clever little kick by Cooper, **here** comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. **just short of half-way**.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson **on the ground**, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... he was thinking about it.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio **there**, finally gets it **over the halfway line**. Greenwood, looking for the open territory **between the full-back and the left wing**... and Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found **twenty metres**... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. this guy really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can confirm that that was a scheduled change, he was always gonna come off **at the thirty minutes mark**.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious **that time**, put his head down. and was happy just to secure the ball. **now** Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, a hundred-and-eleven caps **today**, and Back is driven **onto his heels**.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it **here**, one, two tackles and **then** they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: **now** Wilkinson, **in behinds**, clever little kick... Jones slips **out of the tackle**, Thomas **now**, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack **here** for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet him, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... **here's** Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure **at the moment**...

Tim Horan: well you could throw a blanket over the English side **at the moment**, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: and on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, **here**, if he can hit **around Kay**, no problem! off he goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, **in the village of Aberystwyth**, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off **today**, and that's why!

Chris Handy: not one of the tries of the tournament, THE try of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering they had Ben Kay, a lock forward... they got dusted, they got dusted for pace, they got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: (*showing replay*) well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball **back inside** **as Ben Cohen came across**, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... his fourth test try, in his forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: and the consummate skill of the little scrum-half who is playing **on the left side**, he started it with that horrible kick, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed that try, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... that's the thing that works you so hard. if they can control a bit of peel **here**, they can keep this up. if they have to keep tackling it'll wear them down.

Gordon Bray: well they ran out of petrol **last week** against New Zealand, **in the last ten minutes**, but if they can go for the eighty **here**, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw **there** a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. **when it's their restart**, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, **on that occasion** he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw **to the line-out**, **forty metres out**.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it: one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby **here in Brisbane**.

Chris Handy: clever thinking **here** by England, going to the sider, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... so England setting up play **here** again, **thirty metres out**. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, **here's** Wilkinson, and Robinson... he's beaten two, he didn't release it **here**... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by Cohen in the eleven jersey **here**... Cohen did the right thing, he went **to ground** with the ball knowing that anyone who falls **on him** will be penalised... he steadied, stayed up and pressured the massive Ben Cohen into a mistake. they're slowing things down... they're gonna take the line-out **five metres out**, immediate response, Charvis, with the dark hair **in the middle of the pack**. they work out how they're gonna score, this time through the forwards. will they have a crack at them?

Gordon Bray: and very selective refereeing **there** by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball **on the ground on the other side of half-way**.

Tim Horan: and this is what England did to so many teams, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: they're almost **there**... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium **at Suncorp**, there's all but the white jerseys up **on their feet**. England **now** together, but this man, Charvis, he led them so well **last Sunday night**... it just seems that like **after a midday rest**, these guys are on fire! (*showing replay*) what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, Colin Charvis, the captain, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, as he did **last week** against the All Blacks, as he does **again tonight** against England, (*showing Colin Charvis*) and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, he's had a special perm in that hairstyle, and that's two tries **in the week**, against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, they're not maintaining the width that they displayed **so far** on tour.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. and in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood **there** as spectators, as Charvis drove **over the line**. and that's little Williams, **here** playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here **as we close on half time**, **four minutes before the break**, Dallaglio... but underneath **there**, a brilliant tackle by prop forward Thomas, and Wilkinson makes another mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, (*showing replay*) just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width, there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat **on the bottom of the screen**, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and **here's** Jones! Wales on the rampage **again!** lucky bounce for Wilkinson... and **now** Luger, it's gone backwards! and that sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself **right to the flanks**...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, (*showing Clive Woodward*) as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: (*showing Dan Luger*) as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. what price a driving maul from this line-out... they have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli again, and they sack it that time.

Chris Handy: they can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: Jones, loose pass for Harris, that's unfortunate, chance for a turnover, Wales through Jones, and Williams. he was punctured by the England tight forwards... they just can't pick it up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: advantage to England, they can hurt from here.

Gordon Bray: they gotta do something here. here's Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland.

Gordon Bray: but there's nothing on here, for England. they just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: short-side opportunity for Dawson...

Gordon Bray: he hesitated... did he release? he lost it! stolen there by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because they've been taken out of their pattern, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: Thomas up to full-back from Jones, and it was dropped by the referee! knock-on, sir!

Tim Horan: former test scrum-half for Ireland, and he's put down that one... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) Daffyd Jones, good work on his feet, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. they weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: so Stephen Jones again, Taylor, Jones goes in to scrum-half, Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: caught in a bad position there...

Gordon Bray: well, about thirty seconds to go on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, they've gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson again, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close this gap... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's there, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he held on to dear life.

Chris Handy: he's gotta let go cause he's off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, lost ahead by England, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, big one for Wales here! McBryde's there, so too is Jones, and Cohen's across! what an exciting forty minutes of rugby here... (*showing referee blowing the whistle*) and it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead here by ten to three.

6.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: thank you John, good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association, they never thought it would happen but here we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, Brian.

Brian Moore: yes, even with headphones on, it was ringing **in my ears**, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: **now then** there was a Croke park effect **when Ireland came here two weeks ago** to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, this is on a level higher than that. (*showing Mary McAleese*) the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. **two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations**, Ireland froze **in their blocks** but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not **there**, this for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: yes, well everyone was saying he's an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played **here** once, familiarity only comes, you know, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to the stadium...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Phil Vickery and Mary McAleese*) Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle **there**, the twenty-three-year-old **in on the wing** in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle **from Warrington, deep in rugby league country**, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the rugby league code.

Brian Moore: going **down there**, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if they are to stand a chance **here**, they must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: (*showing the referees*) the match officials, Joël Jutge **from France** will be the man **in the middle**. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man **on the field**, the thirty-three-year-old **from Munster**...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job **today**, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and **then** he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go **around Farrell**.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: well, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, you know, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it **today**, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and the president too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: well they didn't play **for the first twenty**, did they? very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows **there**, they'll be crucial for Ireland **today**, if they can repeat what they've done **in the last three occasions** to England then Ireland will be on their way... (*showing Irish supporters*) and that lot will be cheering them for every single yard they make.

Eddie Butler: and what comes **next** may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen **at Croke Park**. just waiting for the president to return **to her seat**. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the Six Nations, played two, won two.

(The orchestra plays God Save the Queen)

Brian Moore: I thought that was amazing.

Eddie Butler: what was all the fuss about...

(The orchestra plays The Soldier's Song)

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out **at Croke Park**.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you what, Eddie, I got a lump **in my throat** from that.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff **here at Croke Park**, the central game **of the middle-weekend** of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens **over the next début minutes**. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride **there**, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. it's not about pride, it's not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, it's about doing the right things **at the right time**.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the six nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit (*showing starting line-ups*) but can this pack of forwards hold themselves together **in the early moments**? it's their first choice pack, they're all **there**, and Paul O'Connell the big gun **in the middle**. Brian O'Driscoll returns **to the outside centre spot** to the captaincy, **again**, they're at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and **behind the scrum**, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him **on his first test outing**. (*showing substitutes*) the replacements, experience all around, flair to come, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head here in the RBS six nations, (*showing referee*) and what a job for Joël Jutge **of France**, it's gonna be feisty **out there**, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other **in the opening moments**?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for them not to, they'll be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down **very quickly**.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just being re-wired **there**...

Brian Moore: I would've thought **today** that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball **upon Olly Morgan and Strettle**, **earlier on**, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested **early**.

Eddie Butler: (*showing David Strettle*) good all-round footballer, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... he's scored five tries **on his début** in the England sevens, five tries **in one half**, that's never been done before, **here** he is, this is different, this is the Six Nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that he's quick, but it's a whole different level! he would never have experienced anything approaching this. the noise **here** is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and **not for the first time** the fields of Athery goes **around Croke Park**, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been **everywhere**, seen everything, this for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get **under it**, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off **in Dublin**, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run it, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send it to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, winning his second cap. somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, first moment of hesitation. England with a turnover ball, offside, penalty... and a kicking chance for Wilkinson.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about that kick was that the Irish, although it was **in their twenty-two**, they had an overlap **there**, and they could've moved the ball **one further**, (*showing replay*) bit of barging **there**, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside **in front of him**...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) seen this before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: **in the second minute of play**, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. another penalty from that old left boot of Wilkinson, (*showing scoreboard*) Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, what was I saying, you know, unforced errors, and that was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming **from the back**, people coming **from the side**, and therefore they weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: good take by Danny Grewcock... Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby freeing himself **there**, Denis Hickie, safe catcher...

Brian Moore: extra man!

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... and **here's** the extra man, Dempsey, Shane Horgan **inside him**, Josh Lewsey with the tackle, Peter Stringer arrives. O'Gara, O'Driscoll, towards Strettle the newcomer... and that will be good for the nerves of Strettle, ushered it safely **over the goal line**, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was **a good ten fifteen metres away**.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, that's a good tackle by Magnus Lund, Stringer to O'Gara, and again they're kicking **behind Strettle**, that's a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly **where they want to be**.

Brian Moore: well he does that almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. **now** this is... but we'll see where the game goes **from here**, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on the England throw?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: they do, Simon Easterby went up for it, it's safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. this is what they did against Scotland **in the first game**, early investment work by the heavy forwards. good play by England. Ellis, Shane Horgan, **in field to Dempsey**, makes the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! and Ireland have the penalty, good work by Ireland's fullback.

Brian Moore: well they'll settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet they wish they could've had the ball, cause there were men **on their right-hand side** for them to exploit, (*showing replay*) well he just slips off him, doesn't he? not good first at tackling, once you get to break the game line everything flows from **there**.

Eddie Butler: Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton **when he was with Ireland**, just **in the years when the game went professional**, and Ireland were a very different outfit **back then**, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson, this little contest within a contest between two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby. (*showing scoreboard*) and it's all-square **here at Croke Park**, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said **before the match** I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle **from start to finish**, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, places it **more centrally**, Paul O'Connell, good catch. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, O'Gara, O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll, that put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was **inside**, and that was Wilkinson who tackled **at centre**...

Eddie Butler: **now then** Strettle, with a chance to counter, Peter Stringer, back covering, well read by the scrum-half. Shane Horgan. England plays **in front of the kicker**, **not ten metres**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) sort of bounced well, **not within ten**, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack **there, inside the outside centre down the centre channel** but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell **inside him**.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara who scored all Ireland's points against France **in the last match**, including the first-half try... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) Paul O'Connell, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. Rory Best the hooker, just checking the call, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag it down, Easterby and Leamy, the back-rowers, break **away from the ruck**. Stringer, O'Gara,

back behind Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. here's a glimpse of his pace, was he taken late by Horgan?

Brian Moore: no, he wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. O'Gara in support, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: well, there was a venture from Strettle there, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, three or four supporting players, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: George Chuter, (*showing Phil Vickery*) there's the captain Phil Vickery, Joël Jutge still having a few problems with his communications, (*showing George Chuter*) this is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well taken by Martin Corry, well played. Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan. a little one, O'Connell goes back, it's bouncing free.

Brian Moore: he's gonna box-kick this.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed his half-back partner Wilkinson who went deliberately down field, the switch between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, Jonny Wilkinson, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: no full-back!

Eddie Butler: but Martin Corry is there, well taken on the second attempt. it's out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, Wilkinson to Mike Tindall.

Brian Moore: and he gets it off the field! (*showing replay*) well he did well the second time, didn't he? I think there's a little bit of shepherding there by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: Rory Best of Ulster, Paul O'Connell of Munster, Donacha O'Callaghan at the front, O'Connell, behind him, O'Connell the target, well taken, well read by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, Wilkinson, Andy Farrell! the offload came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. Strettle, had a busy opening period, the follow-up tackle by Horgan, but that's better by Strettle, very good counter-attack, but only as far as Girvan Dempsey, Strettle has to make the tackle.

Brian Moore: he did well there.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up this blind side for Ireland, O'Driscoll, infield, Horgan just couldn't quite take the pass from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: well, though Andy Farrell offloaded, and Brian O'Driscoll kicked there, he did make ground against D'Arcy. (*showing replay*) well, a bit hopeful, that, wasn't looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline there. (*showing statistics*) England, what's that, about twelve pounds a man heavier, David Wallace in the back row is the lightest, I think I know who the heaviest is, that'll be big John Hayes in the front row. now, England are not going down there, Brian?

Brian Moore: yeah, I think so, but the pause has got to be succinct... that was better, because it was succinct, and it was the same timing. that should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery turning in?

Brian Moore: yeah. Vickery bending on the arm, oh, shocking decision. well his shoulders aren't gonna be above his head, (*showing replay*) look, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and you can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent him double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) and you see there, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. and the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about that.

Eddie Butler: he's up and running. Jonny Wilkinson, Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Strettle in from the opposite wing, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. introduction to the international

midfield, England though have it, George Chuter took the pass from Farrell, Farrell goes **into the ruck**, Ellis, Wilkinson, only Corry **outside him**, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, a lot of forwards **outside Harry Ellis**, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up **elsewhere**. England are still in possession, George Chuter, tackled by David Wallace, lost! oh, the charge down... waste of a turnover, perhaps, (*showing Peter Stringer*) but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap **behind England**.

Brian Moore: yeah... (*showing replay*) well it was really caused by the fact that the gang tackled **there**, and that's the real problem, he's driven backwards. interesting watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that **earlier on**, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke **away from the scrum**, did well, **now**, **then**, Ireland, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see it, they did have men **outside D'Arcy for a moment**.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like that, if it had gone straight to him, they would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll short to Dempsey, offload, picked up by Denis Hickie, Stringer, Leamy, runs against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. **now** they have numbers **again**, Shane Horgan, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone **before that**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well what a waste, you will see, three to one **out here**, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and managed to get into, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision **there**, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay **outside**. if you get caught **in the middle**, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France **a couple of weeks ago**, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip **here**, (*showing replay with animations*), Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually **twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him** we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities **out there**, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: interesting on that last penalty, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke **before that**, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you that one, but it was a clear foot **in the Irish scrum**, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted that!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... Rory Best, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. George Chuter, oh, leave him alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle **behind that ruck**, yeah it is, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented **here**... well the problem they're having is that the initial surge is not full enough. they've got to get the momentum for the initial surge.

Eddie Butler: and the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, very solid scrum, Wilkinson, to Farrell. that's just **outside their twenty-two**, and Ireland have a penalty. hanging on **after the tackle**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well he got the ball round **there**, but he's got to let go, **there**... the problem is, if he'd let go **straight away**... he'd move his body, a double movement, he's always gonna get pain for that.

Eddie Butler: Gordon D'Arcy, David Wallace, Denis Leamy, **quickly there**, (*showing Andy Farrell*), Andy Farrell, the culprit. Ireland with a chance to take the lead.

Brian Moore: well you can say that, but **there**, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were **there before any England back row arrived**.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those **outside him**, whether something broke **down there**, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever it was, it wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks his second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Wilkinson, just easing his forwards pack. he's gone quite a **central path so far**, and he's gone **down that channel again**, oh no, he's gone **towards the touchline**, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. tackled by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, O'Gara. huge kick by O'Gara, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. Morgan, keeps it in play, Leamy, Girvan Dempsey. this time, the safety of touch, and down there is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous **out wide**, England trying to attack fairly **close into the scrums**, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a **little bit wider**, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball **into his hands a little earlier on**.

Eddie Butler: Magnus Lund, Danny Grewcock, it's stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, **now then** was Brian O'Driscoll **in front of O'Gara**? Olly Morgan waits for it. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, **quickly** taken, Harry Ellis to Worsley **outside him**, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut **back towards help**, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well that's good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to **here**...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing **in there**?

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) that was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England **down towards the Irish twenty-two**, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that's good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! two in a row, **now**, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and they turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty **down there** for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: it's quite heavy **now**!

Eddie Butler: it is, it is, and it's a slippery pitch, it's well known for its slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well that's a terrible kick he's made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: (*showing crowd*) the rain falls **on Hill Sixteen**. they won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell **again, this time** off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, they would've wanted a quicker ball than that but they might have numbers **now**, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken **on the outside**, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read it well, but **then**, just a sign **there** that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see it coming **down here**, the crowd are complaining that that was a block, but it wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly **there**, just **for a second**...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) **there's** Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback, (*showing Shane Horgan*) and there's big Shane Horgan, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was **in his way**, and Horgan simply cleared him **out of the way**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) oh, you can't do that, that's a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at **these days!**

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out **as O'Connell goes up again**, that should be a penalty, they have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but that is too blatant.

Brian Moore: unsubtle. (*showing replay*) come on, you know the rules, can't touch a man **in the air**, dangerous. said **earlier on**, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did he give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, that was an Irish throw won **again** by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, **yet again**, the Ireland line-out is starting to get **into the English line-out**, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating itself.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster, but there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly, that O'Connell being a front jumper but **today** he's jumping **all over the place**, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: and **in the last ten minutes**, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring **down here**.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson **this time** goes straight **down the field**, **where David Wallace waits**. that's a good tackle by Lund, Stringer, his fractured finger has healed, O'Gara, good kick, **quickly** taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for it, Olly Morgan knocked it on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, O'Gara, Gordon D'Arcy is **in space**, oh, well read **in the end** by Josh Lewsey. well read indeed, because there was real danger **then**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone **towards the tail of the line-out**, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, that could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. close, though, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, **there**, (*showing replay*) I just thought **for a second** that he turned him **there**, that was Vickery, was that, **on the floor?**

Eddie Butler: good work **here** by the England captain, just sort of wrap yourself into a position **on the floor**... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... but Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself **down there**, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well not really, you're not allowed to do that anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up **down there**, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area **before the game** that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance **so far**.

Eddie Butler: well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game, and then of course France came with their scrummage challenge as they **always** present, and Ireland did pretty well **there**, and they've done well **again!** O'Gara, D'Arcy, **now** **on the loop** from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer waits, O'Gara with a dummy, how well that worked against France... Shane Horgan, Rory Best the hooker, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands **in there**, Horgan, offloads to

Easterby, Hickie's **outside him**, he can't, he can, he's **on his feet**! Lewsey saves England, has he saved them enough? Ireland just short, penalty to Ireland...

Brian Moore: that could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... and if it's a yellow card **that close to the line**, is it a case for a penalty try?

Brian Moore: possibly, but the ball still had to be passed **along the back-line**, there were a lot of defenders **there**, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: don't tell me, don't tell me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it is! oh, he knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: how much of that was dangerous, he was cynical! (*showing replay*) crucial things, good backing-up work, shows a lot of pace, **here**, doesn't he? he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up **again**.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) well that's not dangerous, is it? so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands **now**, because I imagine, Brian, drive...

Brian Moore: must do. very important for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: a slight delay. erm, not sure why, is it the old communication thing **again**, with Joël Jutge? actually it's Olly Morgan who's **down the touchline**, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking **off towards the changing room**.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, is it?

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) hamstring, looks like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go **on the right wing**, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw **that close to the goal line**. O'Connell is the target, well taken, on comes the drive, looks pretty good, Ireland **through the middle**, not quite there **yet**...

Brian Moore: it's coming back though!

Eddie Butler: Stringer goes on his own, it's gone loose, brilliantly offloaded...

Brian Moore: great hands!

Eddie Butler: great try for Ireland, fantastic one, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, sleight of hand, power by the forwards, great combination work against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that they might have spoilt that, because Stringer passed away, I thought they'd closed it down, but great hands **in the middle**, **always** men **outside** I was wondering if they could get **there**, (*showing replay*) I just thought that they might have closed it all down with that poor pass, but that's lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about this! D'Arcy, O'Driscoll picking it up on the half-volley, good ball from D'Arcy.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better **of the last fifteen minutes**, they started to get **into England's line-out**, England have not been able to get themselves **out of their own half**, **now** they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: two points added, Ireland sixteen, England three, and **suddenly** the complexion of the game has changed completely. (*showing replay*) Brian O'Driscoll's pass, and Girvan Dempsey's finish.

Brian Moore: well, there were two pieces of good handling **there**, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and **then** O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood?

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed **in the last five or ten minutes**.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, Wilkinson, held by two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best, Paul O'Connell rips **through the outskirts of the ruck** and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry tossed over...

Brian Moore: he did well to retain that but he's still being driven backwards, slow ball...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle **now**, Wilkinson, yeah, the change of tactic, get going forward lads, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, held **in the air**, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is the guilty party. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's **always** a dodgy moment, (*showing replay*) that is a tackle on a player **in the air**....

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about that, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want you to do that.

Eddie Butler: well he didn't do anything! Wilkinson, O'Gara, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna say...

Brian Moore: that was perfect!

Eddie Butler: it was, it was, but actually, it went wrong **at the end**. still, it's all going well for Ireland **at the moment**.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion as well, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Magnus Lund*) of course, Magnus Lund, perhaps lucky to be **there**, England would've been down to six **in the pack**. his brother Eric is captain of Norway. well taken, Louis Deacon, England's chance to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, went for Ronan O'Gara, and now England with numbers, Matthew Tate, Josh Lewsey, Lewsey still going, Callaghan is **over there**, Ellis, this is better by England, Martin Corry held up, George Chuter goes in, his Leicester team-mate, now it's to deck. o:h, wasn't quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: difficult to see **from this far away**. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't there quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms **around it** and **when they went down** they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on that shoulder.

Brian Moore: possibly came **when he went and fell with O'Driscoll**, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men **outside there!**

Eddie Butler: well... it was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. Lewsey, not a thumper, just a delicate one, Denis Leamy takes it, the big, strong Munster number eight does well **there**, and **now then** it might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills it **behind the white line**, Matthew Tate, not much ground made, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge **down there**, that's a cruel...

Brian Moore: **outside?**

Eddie Butler: surely not. did he?

Brian Moore: well, he marked it **inside**, unless it went **sideways**...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see that **again!**

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) I don't understand that. is he **inside the twenty-two** **when he kicks it?**

Eddie Butler: did he carry it **back in?**

Brian Moore: I don't think so.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: very flat!

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan!

Brian Moore: he's gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, that's a brilliant tackle! fantastic tackle, but Ireland are coming through **again**, O'Connell's dropped it! and Wilkinson kicks it safely **over the dead ball line**. two great chances for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) you can see what they're doing **here**, angling in **first**, to fix the back, and **then** they rely on this pace **there**, Horgan coming back, he's a big man as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well **there**...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did the tackle, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) O'Connell should've held on to that.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well that's because their primary possession is suffering. **in the end**, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of that, O'Gara, **whenever the ball's been loose**, **whenever he's had the chance** he's just pinned England **right back to these areas**. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been **in their respective twenty-twos**, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: **three and a half minutes to go to half-time**, England, **five metres from their own line**, and oh, Stringer, what a sub-driven... Magnus Lund, was it? **Back over the try line**.

Brian Moore: well they're a man down, and they're **still** going in, **now** they're a man down **with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan**, you gotta have another man **there**!

Eddie Butler: they have, and Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer, has to guard **that blind side**... Horgan, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked **that blind side gap**, that's a try! I think that's David Wallace, they'll go to video replay, and I think that will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: and if it is, if he confirms the try, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in the previous scrum. (*showing replay*) I think you can see just see him touch it **down here**, **there**, **there** you are, that's a try. and they're out of sight **at the moment**... I said Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: try for the greens awarded, Joël Judge raises his arm and Ireland are clear **now**, and how England have suffered **while they've been down to fourteen**, Danny Grewcock **in the sin bin**.

Brian Moore: yet again... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) well O'Connell **there**, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? **in the line-outs**, he's been driving, revving his pack **up there**, I think England will want half-time to come **very quickly**. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done it **again**, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't missed.

Brian Moore: well this makes Ireland's poor start against France even more expensive in a way, doesn't it?

Eddie Butler: England set off **again** in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, O'Gara for touch. England **with one minute and a few seconds** in which to salvage something from this first half. (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ireland, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot of, I've said it **earlier on**, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back, it was nine-three **when he went off**, it's **now** twenty-three-three. Louis Deacon, good ball **at last**. Farrell, takes on O'Driscoll. Ball well presented. Joe Worsley, nothing really **up that blind side**, but they want to stretch play **as far as they can**, and **here** they come **the other way**, and **then** Mike Tindall tries to straighten, tackled by David Wallace, what an outstanding Six Nations Wallace he's having! Farrell **again**, **this time** takes on Simon Easterby... oh, good picking-up job by Martin Corry. Ellis, **infield** to Perry Freshwater, but it's all gone wrong for England, Josh Lewsey, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you that's a very good follow-up tackle by Rory Best upon Lewsey! Ferrell... Ireland will hoof this **off the park**, and that will be the

break. that's it, Joël Jutge blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, **at the midway point**.

Brian Moore: well you'd think they'd almost won the game, I mean, they've got a long way to doing that, they dominated **the last twenty-five minutes**, and England, no lack in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, **here at Croke Park**, it's the first ever international between England and Ireland **here**, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

SECOND HALF

Eddie Butler: yep, **half-way**, and **half-time**, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on **into the back row** instead of Magnus Lund, and it's gonna be Ronan O'Gara, immaculate kicking **in the first half**, to restart play. Tom Rees, oh, he watched it bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well they've recovered but it's not as tight as you want, from the pressure, **o:h!**

Eddie Butler: and if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, indecision **again**... that was never Harry Ellis's ball, (*showing replay*) wow, that could've gone **anywhere**, could it, O'Connell he's **everywhere**, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: he's a sort of carrot-hair rhino, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, **his last two games**, he's been ineffective, but **today**, he's looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: he was better **against France**, but he's been awesome **today, so far**. time for England to recover **yet**. Martin Corry starts with that line-out, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, that's better, that's what we saw **in the first game**, Marcus Horan, great work by the prop, and Ireland...

Brian Moore: oh, he should've gone...

Eddie Butler: it can still go! Ireland have knocked the ball on **here**... great opportunity lost, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come **in from the centre** to have a word with the players **inside**. a player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know what's disappointing as well, from an England point of view, two players that got stuck in...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: well trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win this ball, probably, but look **where they are, again!**

Eddie Butler: **on their own twenty-two**, and turned by the Irish scrummage, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, that's **rubbish!**

Eddie Butler: ha ha, did you somehow guess that this was coming?

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just popped **out of the top!** it will be interesting to see **from the reverse side**...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the one picked out, **on the far side?**

Brian Moore: yes, he was, yeah.

Eddie Butler: this is simple for Ronan O'Gara, **at the start of the second half**...

Brian Moore: it's not what England wanted, is it, it's just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: six out of six for Ronan O'Gara, twenty-six points to three.

Brian Moore: well he's been perfect **off the floor**, but equally impressive has been the way, (*showing replay*) oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of them, that's the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, Gordon D'Arcy, good footwork, Tom Rees made the tackle **in the end**, oops, (*showing Marcus Horan*) that's Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to it. England are gonna bring a change **into the front row**, Julian White is coming **on the field**, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going **off**, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different **then**.

Brian Moore: well he did from tight head as well.

Eddie Butler: do you think he'll play, will he go to loose head?

Brian Moore: I think he will. well, Vickery can be better at loose head, so you may get Vickery **there**.

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...

Brian Moore: Easterby has got his hands in **there** as well.

Eddie Butler: just slows it up, just slows it up for Tindall, Andy Farrell, oh, that's a good delivery to Mike Tindall, Joe Worsley, let it go for Harry Ellis **in the end**, that is Julian White, not best known for his running **in the loose**, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't commit too many forwards, Farrell, **behind Shane Horgan**, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...

Brian Moore: and they need to start doing this, and **now**. (*showing replay*) that's a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they **hitherto** have been doing, and get the line-out clean, (*showing Paul O'Connell*) with that man I suspect...

Eddie Butler: who's **towards the tail**, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, they've got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man **in here**, no it's Simon Easterby who's **at scrum-half** who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose **in the law book**?

Brian Moore: if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score **from here**, from this period of play. they've had so little ball **in the twenty-two**.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, oh, might just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. Josh Lewsey, heads **past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll**, great work by Lewsey on the rear foot...

Brian Moore: Rees...

Eddie Butler: England **within five metres**, Harry Ellis, they keep it short, it's Tom Rees **again**...

Brian Moore: I think they're gonna go **blind this time**, slow, too slow...

Eddie Butler: switch of play by Joe Worsley, no way **through there**, Rory Best makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: no options, has he?

Eddie Butler: no! there are a lot of forwards **out here**, Andy Farrell, **here's** Matthew Tait, Josh Lewsey...

Brian Moore: come on! he's in, he's in!

Eddie Butler: Dave Strettle on his début is going to have to suffer, trial by video. (*showing David Strettle*) the flying machine, he thinks he's got it. what a début it would be for England's winger! (*showing referee*) Joël Jutge waits. (*showing replay*) TRY!

Brian Moore: I think it's a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, that's up, it's a try. England desperately needed that, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! it was a quick ball...

Eddie Butler: well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get **there**, Girvan Dempsey... (*showing referee*) confirmation by Romain Poite, Strettle on the scoreboard. first game, first try.

Brian Moore: well I don't know why there's booing **here**, it was quite clear!

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson to put England into double figures. brilliant kick, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. (*showing statistics*)

fourth highest scorer in test rugby with nine-hundred-eleven. and Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of him, just over the thousand mark.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) good passing, Farrell. draws his man, keeps it relatively straight and that creates room **outside**.

Eddie Butler: Jo Worsley, who was involved...

Brian Moore: there are men **left here** if the ball comes **quickly**... too late.

Eddie Butler: England backs against Irish forwards **there**, but they're gone **the other way**. just may have handed it back to Girvan Dempsey.

Brian Moore: well that was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers **out there**!

Eddie Butler: good tackle by Phil Vickery on Ireland's fullback. O'Gara, just to settle things down, get back **down there**. Lewsey with not much space, will he keep it **in field**?

Brian Moore: no! (*showing statistics*) well the balls won **in opponents' twenty-two**, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more **in the Irish half** and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing **so far**, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts **inside Wilkinson**. quick ball for Ireland **now**, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in **in one way**, and they keep going **that way**, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: that was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static **now** for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it **infield**, but **in touch**. England's throw.

Brian Moore: but **again**, the result is, England are **back in their twenty-two**, Ireland are well able to attack the lineout...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day **at the line-outs**, it's alright for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming **in the side there**, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in **from behind the back foot**... oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both **there**...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing **there**, **in midfield**. well spotted by the referee, it's easy from **here** we are perched **above the ground** and sometimes **at ground level** it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think that was relatively easy, actually!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's the problem, he's **too close**, if he'd been another **five yards away**, no problem. but this is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points **when they're on offer**.

Eddie Butler: well, **it is half-way**, well, of course it's no surprise he's gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six-three down **in the opening seconds of the first half**, twenty-six-thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: (*showing distance to posts*) dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: and the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have such a support behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man **out here!**

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is **there** to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage **still** being played, Girvan Dempsey **still** in possession. it's **there** for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come **into the second row**, (*showing Brian Ashton*) **there's** Brian Ashton, Palmer **on**, Danny Grewcock **off**.

Brian Moore: just **for a second there**, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson **on the loop**, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have another penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. **the first half**, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're **constantly on the back foot**, this is what happens, the decisions go your way...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) the simple instruction, going for goal. The all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, (*showing Tom Palmer*) there's Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and **meanwhile** Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake **this time**, England **now** have half the number of points Ireland have. (*showing Eddie O'Sullivan*) Eddie O'Sullivan, will he be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan, and they're holding up and they're driving **backwards**, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, **no sooner than you got three points**, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school **when you could do that...** you can't do that, it's against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea either.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: never in doubt!

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged them **a bit further in front**.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson to restart, and England have to restart **again**. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get **underneath it**, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands **wide...**

Eddie Butler: David Wallace **in midfield** took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's **there** too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes **forward**, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll **there...** turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: called by the touch judge I think, (*showing replay*) oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, he was **in a much better position than I was**.

Eddie Butler: well, not much, we're **slightly off-line**.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened **two or three times**, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: and that doesn't happen **very often**.

Brian Moore: no, not to Lewsey!

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. and that shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged **today**, they've done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose that as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, actually.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone **over from tight to loose head**, he's the one **nearest us**, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush **in defence** might just have saved England **there**.

Brian Moore: well he saw it, didn't he, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: and that's what they've done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps too. Ireland with a chance to come **wide**, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted **across**, Hickie though, **still** in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT?

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it **quickly**. no time to stop **now**, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer **out of the way**. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men **out here**!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey **now**, Strettle, it's gone **forward**, that one was **forward**. play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: they're walking, **out there**!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery **from the front row**, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go **anywhere now**, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play **till the whistle**! to be fair to them they were a long way **away to the far side**, and they may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke **at half-time** about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about it. look **now**, (*showing statistics*) England are playing an **outside-to-inside defence**, the **outside man** is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players **there**, they are all arrowing **in**, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same thing, which they weren't **in the**

first half, which means Ireland are struggling to get **wide**. again, Mike Tindall does it, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, watch Mike Tindall, he shoots **out the line**, goes for the intercept, and forces O'Gara **back inside**. he's preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England **in the first half**.

Brian Moore: Austin, do you think that O'Gara saw it? if he had just had a little more dexterity, he would've thrown **behind him**, they were three on one, you know, he's got to see that and take his... he's gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: yeah, absolutely, but, we saw just **there** **when Andy Farrell made the interception**, he tried to do it **then**, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. he's come to a **strange position**, he's gone to a sort of **outside centre position**, good attacking opportunity **on both sides** for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, if you've never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, you are doing it **now**. three to two **on their left-hand side**!

Eddie Butler: Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now the gap has shut. O'Gara knew it was closed, and Julian White has knocked on. **just for a moment** it seemed to open up **then**, but England closed it pretty... pretty well.

Brian Moore: well they took the wrong options, they went **the wrong way**, **then**. (*showing replay*) **there's** the knock-on.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis having some sort of breathless passage which went on **for two minutes**, **now then** Gerry Flannery has come **on**, Rory Best has gone **off**. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well **today**. Ireland put him **into tight blind side**. Shane Horgan has vacated it, but he's **straight behind the scrum**, he's **now** gone **into it**, but the scrum has wheeled away from its...

Brian Moore: that's a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: by whom?

Brian Moore: number eight.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. O'Connell, with a little pick-up and drive, **now** O'Gara goes **for the gap**, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie, oh, great pick-up by Shane Horgan! **now then**, are we gonna replay, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll **at the bottom of that**. so **now**...

Brian Moore: I don't know how he got from Horgan! I thought he'd gone **beyond**!

Eddie Butler: I was looking **at the touchline**, yeah! referee knew...

Brian Moore: he's not even looking!

Eddie Butler: no, he knew the ball was held **up**. great sleight of hand, though, (*showing replay*) let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: good hands for Horgan **today**... and good work **there** by Tindall, to hold him **up**!

Eddie Butler: it's all Ireland though, England had their say **at the start of the second half** but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go **for the wide option**, the kick to Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: IT'S A TRY!

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, wonderful work, the six-foot tall Horgan, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.

Brian Moore: well what a touch for Ireland, they were under pressure **for the first ten minutes**, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... (*showing replay*) well judged, and, well Horgan is just a big, tall, athletic man, isn't he, no contest really. that looks very easy, and it's not, actually!

Eddie Butler: they **always** had the width, and Shane Horgan kept that width, he **always** had **the outside line** on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go **infield** because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know **where that really came from?** about **two minutes earlier**, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped **on the floor** really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara... keeps up his one-hundred percent record, eight out of eight, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys **at the back row** for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey in, and we saw a great take **there** from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: (*showing score*) thirty-six-thirteen, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! O'Driscoll...

Brian Moore: good hands.

Eddie Butler: that little tight hamstring, perhaps, to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland **in twenty-nine tests**, and O'Driscoll is down, that hamstring's gone **again**, Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell **back into the midfield**, but there'll be worried looks **on Irish bench**, cause O'Gara has moved **into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated**. David Wallace, the attack goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer waits. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't go **into this ruck**, he'll go straight **to the dressing room**. it's a turnover for England, stay **out of that ruck**, Brian! think icepack, **in changing room**. o:h... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) now he's gotta go, he's gotta go, surely. he's going **back to his position!**

Brian Moore: well **from the time you saw that**, he just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance **here**, I think he's gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) it's the contact **after passing**, your mind sort of switches off. he looks alright **there**. okay, he says, calm down everybody, he's saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's alright, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage **today**.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, very conspicuous, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. change **at scrum-half** for England, Shaun Perry of Bristol is **on**. Gerry Flannery finds **the target of the line-out**, nothing wrong with his passing skills, Girvan Dempsey! Dennis Hickie kept **the inside line**, Ireland come back quickly **the other way**. O'Gara, Leamy, batters **into Louis Deacon and Julian White**, there are numbers **out here**, the rushed defence doesn't work, Hickie, D'Arcy, oh... Hickie **still** in possession, Stringer, are they going for the high one **again?** up comes Shane Horgan **again**, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, Wallace, couldn't get his hands on it, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball **out of play**. knock-on.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that could've gone **anywhere**, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, it squirmed away... I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up **for a brief moment** as he thought it was gonna drop **into his hands** and he was gonna stroll **over the line**, but...

Eddie Butler: change for Ireland **in the back row**, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... **here** is David Wallace, Best goes **in**, first man, **to the breakdown**. Stringer checks **the blind side**, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man **on the field**.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men **wide**, if they stretch it.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, good footwork by Wallace, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised **there** if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, well read!

Brian Moore: I thought it was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: (*showing statistics*) **there** you are, twenty to six, ball won **in opponent's twenty-two**, not **always** the definitive statistic, but it's very telling **usually**, and **on this occasion** it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson's comeback has had a little, well it's not a wake-up call because it was tough against Italy, but the winning run will come to an end **here at Croke Park**.

Brian Moore: you know the feel you get about the Irish team **when they play this way**, is that they're well balanced. the players are **in the right positions**, they complement each other in units, and **when it flows**, they look very good!

Eddie Butler: a change **in the front row**, big John Hayes goes **off**, and Simon Best comes **on**. Ulster **now**, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation. oh that's well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock it on? Ireland's record win, twenty-eight-twenty-four **in two-thousand-and-six**, and twenty-two-nil **in nineteen-forty-seven**, this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record-setting day for Ireland, if it stays like this. England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross. Farrell, knock-on, another England attack comes to nothing. as you were saying, Brian, just the mixture of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, poor pass!

Eddie Butler: another change for England at hooker, George Chuter comes **off**, and **on** comes Lee Mears **of Bath**.

Brian Moore: all the work he's supposed to do, it ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. fresh legs to run around and make some tackles. **There's eight-and-a-half minutes to go**.

Brian Moore: totally illegal binding! how can a referee not see that!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! the green **there**, he's supposed to bind **on the top of the shirt**. the referee's **there**, **where** is he binding, he's **on the arm**!

Eddie Butler: **the top of the arm**, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't it?

Brian Moore: no, it's not, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: Josh Lewsey, he's in a spot of bother **now**, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry waits, Wilkinson **in the pocket** clears.

Brian Moore: well, this is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting **over the half-way**, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. they've weathered the storms, they've scrapped well, they've balanced well...

Eddie Butler: and Brian O'Driscoll comes **off**...

Brian Moore: he should've gone **off earlier**...

Eddie Butler: and **on** goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame him, though, he wants to milk every moment of this reception **at Croke Park**.

Brian Moore: (*showing Irish supporters*) all hail to the king!

Eddie Butler: Neil Best at the line-out. Gerry Flannery picks up, Jo Worsley makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body **all over the place**, not his fault...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's **off**, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us **into the corner**! he's over-kicked it!

Brian Moore: oh! a rare mistake.

Eddie Butler: more rugby **tonight in Paris**, France on course for the Grand Slam against Wales.

Brian Moore: just mentioning the French, you know, when the Irish think **back at this season**, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that they could not, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the Grand Slam should've been theirs **this year**.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry tackled by Stringer, and England forced **backwards yet again**, little Lee Mears drives **at Ronan O'Gara**, Perry, Farrell, possession handed back, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, O'Gara!

Brian Moore: he doesn't need to, does he!

Eddie Butler: he doesn't need to at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect him, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: o:h, that's not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) oh, surely that touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: yes.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, **still** winning line-out ball.

Brian Moore: you see that, Flannery **there**, he did enough damage to mess that ball up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: and they continue to make a mess of the England ruck. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, they need numbers. well picked up, Wilkinson. a sort of up-and-under from **within his own twenty-two**, a chance **here** for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery **in midfield**. tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, (*showing Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby*) there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... Philip Matthews. happy?

Philip Matthews: yeah, it just strikes me, Brian, I don't know what you think, England's confidence **today** has not been **there**, has it? **when they started the second half brightly**, it faded very quickly. they did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on it faded. Brian, what are you saying about the Farrell thing, where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?

Brian Moore: he's too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: yeah, I couldn't agree with you more, it's just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety **there**, they're gonna have to change it.

Brian Moore: so, you know, England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games **after a long losing streak**, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: that's absolutely right, yeah.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, you know, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: well I think they struggled **upfront** and **when Ireland got their numbers on their line-outs in the first half**. Paddy Wallace is also on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting **upfront**, Brian, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: they haven't been stuffed **upfront**, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, **here** is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright Brian, **here** we go, you have a little decision to make? man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... what hasn't he done **today**, he's flown around **in the loose**, he's been deadly solid **in the line-out**, he's been abrasive, combative, he's put a super game and forwards get too little credit anyway. it's those people who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to it, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly either, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, God!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, it's the icing! the icing on a cake that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. and it is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back from defeat against France in the last round! (*showing Isaac Boss*) I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for the try.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well... once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, as simple as that, it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field, and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: and I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have they got an appetite for me, this is Neil Best, still, the long dark hair, penalty to Ireland. Boss takes it quickly...

Brian Moore: kick it off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: that is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. they complement each other, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but they should've been in Grand Slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the Grand Slam, but for the Triple Crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

6.3) Analyse de FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: plenty of time and space. Delaney galloping up there in support, and he gets it. Damien Johnson's there with him. now, a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time... towards Hartson, away by Davis. and this is Fletcher, Delaney. Maik Taylor, a good handling, man. brimmed full with confidence at the moment.

Mark Bright: great take. as I was just saying, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting it, it's swirling around, and two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City. it was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: inspired, just one of those performances and...

Jonathan Pearce: and then he was beaten by a horrible one!

Mark Bright: it says something when the goalkeeper's the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: cleared away by Fletcher, and towards Hartson. **now** Ryan Giggs. Damien Johnson was **in there**. Duff, to Gillespie, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. Murdock, half an error under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has it. Murdock started at Manchester United as well! this is Giggs, teasing cross! punched away only **as far as Hartson**. **now** Fletcher, Ricketts, Welsh club player of the year, took that award **the other day**, the run blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: took that throw-in a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: looks to be unhappy with Duff **there**, **momentarily**, but Duff gets it away. Ricketts to Fletcher, James Quinn was **in there**, Partridge couldn't get it back but **now** it comes to Simon Davies, chance **here** for Wales! oh, he pinged it!

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick him up, he comes in **off the line**, and he's **in a position between the midfield and the forwards**. **now** there's no one to close him down. and it's a free shot at target. (*showing replay from a different angle*) **here** he is, just **in the in-between section**... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: he hasn't scored **since he found the back of the net for Tottenham** away **at Charlton**, **in February two-thousand-and-four**. **here's** Ryan Giggs, Earnshaw **through the middle**... just thinking back, Mark, to **when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy**, back **in October two-thousand-and-two**, you know, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... and it happens as well, **one minute** you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and **next thing you know**, you're a forgotten man, you know, and he's had plenty of injury problems... referee **there**, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, you know, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward **there**, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. and I think that, as we can... what we know **here**... that's something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfielder player, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance **in that second half against England from the Villa youngster**... This'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy again, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! (*showing Colin Murdock*) has scored for his country, it was a header **in October of two-thousand-and-four**, against Austria.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well **here** and as you can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, you can just see, a couple **on the edge of the eighteen-yard box**, and **then** a few dropped **into the box**, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff **when they've got the ball**...

Mark Bright: yeah, it's a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) well I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle **as he tries to take it in his way**. I think he was unlucky not to get a free kick **there**.

Jonathan Pearce: His dad had passed away **in the build-up to the game**... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get **beyond Partridge**, and does so, but the cross away **behind** for the goal kick **at the railway end**. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) well, he's had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years **now**, (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn **in the middle** making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is **there** with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) unlucky **there**, Quinn, you could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it **in the path**, and it was well anticipated **there** by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the eighty-six World Cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. aimed at James Quinn, denied in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. the Belfast boy clears it away. it's his sixth cap for his country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. (showing John Toshack) a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... from experienced players who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... as Mark was saying, he has mentioned today, he needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think it was Ricketts, wasn't it... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: (showing replay) it was Ricketts there who blocked him.

Mark Bright: yeah, the obstruction there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised he didn't get a yellow card for that!

Jonathan Pearce: now Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is there as well. aimed it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back again, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... they'll miss the final game in the cup if they pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: (showing replay) look at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, look, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but you know, where was Partridge in the original challenge? he's way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up he goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. (showing Irish supporters) twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... since last month!

Mark Bright: who could blame them...

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. the twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: no! Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if he'd been on the half-turn he could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. he decided to hold it, lay it back, and it broke the move down.

Jonathan Pearce: he has struggled to rediscover the verve of his early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, Mark, to that... his shin problem...

Mark Bright: well there it goes, and you got people saying, well, he's never been the same since the injury and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, you know, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. but it's good to see him fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's **there again**, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances **in the air**. Capaldi, to Davis, **now** Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces **today**... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but the foul was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... he sort of pushed his hands out to say no, but he didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting **in the way there**... **sometimes** you might-just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. (*showing replay*) he's under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! **here** comes Quinn, **there** he is with the arms... just impeded the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, you know, I'm gonna-threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap **today**, James Quinn, went through that long barren spell as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... **October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four**, nearly a thousand-four-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the mighty Quinn, some call him **in these parts**, one of the songs we heard **last night**... one of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, **over the top towards**. Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing **here**, Earnshaw's back-heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross **there**... particularly for **the penalty area**, four Welsh players **in there**... especially **after the crosses he'd put in earlier**, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver **on that occasion**.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: he has to get **in front Collins**, doesn't he? he's alert to the situation.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner **here** to Wales. it's their first of the game, we've been playing **for twenty-four minutes**.

Mark Bright: (*showing Irish fans*) the crowd **behind that goal** are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... it's really hard to believe, it's incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with the corner, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and **now** this is Healy. he needs to hold it up **there**. pursued by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help **there**, Healy, everyone went **past him**. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick **then**, for Northern Ireland. **twenty-five minutes gone**, no goals. **in the air** by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. can't control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. might have fouled Damien Johnson **there**... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was **very close to it**. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, **earlier in this qualifying group**. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. this is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's **in the middle**, Hartson **in there** as well, **behind him**... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late **to the edge of the penalty area**, and Wales are ahead **after twenty-six minutes**, with a fine, fine goal. (*showing Welsh supporters*) time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, **after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence**.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but it all started **way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned** and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was **there** for him and **then** all he had to do was cut it back. **here** he is, no one can get **near to him**, Davies arriving **before**. he had one shot, it's gone **over**, one had gone **wide**. he just takes it, times it just nice... and Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. he's been bothered **all week** by his injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern **here**, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: yes, definitely. I was lucky, I spent **the day over here** with Lawrie Sanchez **on Wednesday**, and err, **the whole day from morning till the evening**. it was good to be around the boys... and what he emphasized to me is, he doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. it's definitely something he wanted to build on, and that was the fear. they started the game really well, but **on that occasion**, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled **high**, he is troubled **in the air**, Jones, **again**, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting **off the ground**, Paul Jones. he's only played the one game, you know, this season, Mark... it was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, (*showing players celebrating*) and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal **in the John Toshack era**. second era of course, he managed for one game **previously**. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by the goal... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, **since Craig Bellamy scored two** against Hungary **back in February of last year**, John Toshack's first game back in charge. his previous spell as I say lasted just the one match, it was against Norway **back in ninety-four**. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, hasn't he, nice and tight to the strikers. he can get **in front**, he gets **in front** and wins it, he's very strong **in the air**.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching **the half-hour mark**. Wales lead. **in towards Murdock**, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie **again**. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) **here**'s a long throw... and watch everyone getting **in each other's way**, **there**. John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football **again in England** with Rotherham, he was **a while in Scotland** with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and **here**'s the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well **there**. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) really contributed to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side **in Cardiff**. they were down to nine men but they still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, was he being pulled back **there**?

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, he could've appealed **there**...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought he was being pulled, Mark!

Mark Bright: yeah, looked like it to me. he slightly lost control of the ball, but I think it was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of it.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's **there**, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think that's a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that **today**. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back **in** and the defender push him **out of the way**, winning and go and head the ball. same with James, err, James Collins **at the back here**, as well, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, **forward** by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, will he run **at Sam Ricketts here**? he does so, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie **over the years**, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come **inside** and play, try and take him on **on the outside** and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Northern Ireland's fourth of the game. **here**'s Quinn **at the near post**, it's **beyond him**, headed **down** by James Collins, was it? no, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said that was a corner. it definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. (*showing replay*) **here** it is, yeah, Murdock's climbing **all over him**.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer **from Cardiff** by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal **originally**, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham **this season**. suspended **today**.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance **today**.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: yeah...

Jonathan Pearce: **here**'s Hartson...

Mark Bright: **as he tried** to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went **out** again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing John Hartson*) a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that **in a while**...

Mark Bright: yeah... it just gives you a lift, you know... (*showing replay*) and **here** he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes **here**...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, you know, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, you know, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but, you know, the good point, **after an hour or so**, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, just that sharpness in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick **there**, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom **last weekend**. Wales have this free kick. **ten minutes to go in the first half**. Partridge looks for Hartson, a broken wrestling match **in the penalty area**, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side, the Plymouth Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry **there, in Wales, or Ireland**, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes **from Canada** and he was actually born **in Norway**, his dad played **there**. also played for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now this is David Healy, buzz of anticipation **whenever he gets it**. Duff, **high** to James Quinn, James Collins **was underneath it**.

Mark Bright: unlucky Quinn, it bounced well **there** for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney, Simon Davies, Capaldi wins it, Collins away, this is Damien Johnson, space **here** for Gillespie, if he looks **to his right-hand side** he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria **in October nineteen-ninety-four**, second appearance for his country.

Mark Bright: amazing, isn't it, one goal, in what, sixty... (*showing replay*) it's worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit **down this way**, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap **to his right-hand side**, maybe if he just waited a little bit... it's **always** worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, lovely run, **beyond Duff** and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest, Earnshaw's **in the middle, behind him**, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! **again** a midfield runner making a late entry **into the penalty box**, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs.... two-nil to Wales.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) we've seen this many times **over the years**, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, a little glance up, he used to be criticized **in his earlier part of his career** for not delivering but **on this occasion**, picks out, beautiful run **there**, you can see Robinson stretching to get **into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and here** we go. he can pick out of two or three

here, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, second midfield player of the day getting in there and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. nineteen places above Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, isn't there... he just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till that ball went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing he's been doing all his career, really, just going past, attacking people, and it opened up because he was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: a morale-bolstering first half, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... but he's got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over his career he's seen it all, hasn't he? Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo, he just said he's been through all this before... he said, for where I want to get, I'll be thick-skinned, I'll make the decisions I'll have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: his fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years. he won the title with Real Madrid, don't forget.

Mark Bright: yeah, his first season.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder here... and Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... was that a clear goal scoring opportunity? it's a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess that's punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card here, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: no sense in getting mad... (*showing replay*) it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased that back, a poor clearance, and then this is... that there, you don't, you cannot... when you're under pressure like that, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: the foul, the first foul was way outside the box. it's gonna be John Hartson, and he's being booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: well, that's given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... (*showing replay*) does he slip? and he's guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: lacked power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. (*showing Irish supporters*) let-off for Northern Ireland. could it change the course of the game? Robinson's in there again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: fantastic, but it was a mistake that led to that, it was a poor clearance from him, there was a little bit of pressure but... (*showing replay*) this is about gauging and guessing right here, and he does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. all credits to the goalkeeper. fine save. and it was just the lift they needed, as well, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, now space for Capaldi to get the cross in, high for James Quinn, comes down to Healy, scrambled away to Davis, offside, was it? no, it's not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, (*showing referees*) this is the referee, right down there, we can see from where we are, he's right there on the spot...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) and James Quinn in the air...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men **in an offside position**.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Delaney, good first half, Earnshaw, very open and stretched again, Ryan Giggs, aims at Hartson, it was too high... Wales are playing their best football **in a long, long while**.

Mark Bright: Robinson's **in there** looking for his second as well...

Jonathan Pearce: given away by Davies, this is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, **now** Elliott, forward by Duff and an offside flag against James Quinn.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say they've lost four straight defeats! and obviously Gabbidon's missing as well, and Bellamy, really important players...

Jonathan Pearce: Bellamy injured, Savage has quit the scene... has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, Ben Thatcher felt that, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he's got Healy **in the middle**, Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Partridge*) Quinn holds his hand up **there**, acknowledging the mistake... it's one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get **in front of the attacker there**, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, part of John Toshack's new Wales... made his début in a friendly against Hungary, started the Toshack reign, this is Earnshaw... wins the throw.

Mark Bright: that's good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent **after the England victory**, they could be embarrassed **today**. on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, they're punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it **now**. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, no Hughes don't forget **at the back** for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card **here**, for Delaney, for time-wasting! It means that that's his second card of the campaign, he'll miss the game against Azerbaijan, having just come back into the side. block by Davis, Quinn to his left, Healy making a run **through the middle**, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first **after twenty-six minutes**, and Carl Robinson **from midfield** adding the second **on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs**.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez **mid-week** and he just said, you know, he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game, and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half **here** for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, (*showing replay*) and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead **here** by two goals to nil.

Half-time

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking **from right to left**, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. And all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing **at the moment**. an early ball **down the right** by Duff, headed away by Partridge. **now** Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and

Delaney away... and Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you **in a moment** on that, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country **in exactly eleven years this week**.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, (*showing replay*) and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come **from midfield**, a lovely weighted one-two **here**, that touch was the killer touch **there**, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying **at half-time**, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: **first minute of the second half**, two-one. the game's been very open, right **from the start**. given away by Gillespie very nearly **there**, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted **in the air**, (*showing James Collins*) and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming **here**. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... (*showing replay*) and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm **at first**, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around **on the floor**, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, **on the bench**, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, (*showing replay*) burst through, lovely finish.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, **from back to front**, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away **from the defence**, that was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, **where** are you, and slotted it **down in the corner**.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that **after the hard work they've done in the first half**, they've gone **in there**, and Toshack was doing his team talk **at half-time**, and said, you know, we should be three up, this should be game, set and match, you come out, and concede a goal **straight away**, different complex on the game **now**. the crowd are back, (*showing John Toshack*) he's concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: he is concerned, not too sure whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, they're trying to put something back in place... and **here** comes Northern Ireland again, Healy and Davis together, it's Healy, cross by Johnson, looking for Quinn, and Wales rocking **at the start of the second half**, and down **temporarily** to ten men.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped **to the centre-back position**, I'm not sure it's enough **here**, somebody **from up front**, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping **down into the midfield**, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's **off the pitch**.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Irish supporters*) they're buoyant again.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Collins*) he looks in some pain, doesn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: given a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe it? Steven Davis! what a start to the second half! **within four and a half minutes**, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it **at half-time**, we heard Ian Downing, you know, I think he felt something could happen **here**. great throw, challenged again, the ball drops down, he's just the first on to it! he reacts so quickly (*showing replay*), Quinn's causing trouble **everywhere**, he's **in the near post here**, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's picking up, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams it in, this is an unbelievable start... for Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! his first goal for his country, Steven Davis. and he fizzed it in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: just seen it so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen them on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think, it doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. and it changes **so quickly**, and the momentum's **now** with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: and how costly, the injury to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and Northern Ireland back in it. **now** Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's **there**, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say he was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been **on the field of play**, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, ifs, buts and maybes... (*showing James Collins*) he's **there**, now he's going **off**, you know, to me it's like his shoulder popped out, he's **off the pitch**, I think it was Robinson who dropped **into the centre-back position**, you need players to react quickly. and it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: Richard Duffy has come on for him **now**. he's on a loan **at the moment**, **at Coventry**. Portsmouth player, he's on a loan **for a season**. and a free kick **here** for Wales. tumultuous start to the second half. Giggs and Fletcher **there**, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space **in the penalty area**. (*showing Robert Earnshaw*) well Earnshaw earned the free kick, driven off the ball, you can just hear the drums are going **now**, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and buoyant as well, Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...

Jonathan Pearce: **here**'s Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of them today. interesting to hear the boys talking **at half-time in the studio**, Mark. and Barry saying, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that they wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing **away from home**, just that confidence. and **all of a sudden**... back on level terms, back on level terms **in a few minutes** as well...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing David Healy*) Healy, **as he made that run**, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone **into a centre-half position** for Wales **after the substitution**, Duffy coming on **at right-back**. Delaney of course played **there many times before**.

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play **everywhere**.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. (*showing David Healy*) a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, David Healy. **from Downpatrick**. one of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums **at the time**, a wonderful goal he scored against Austria. Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by (*showing Irish supporters*) Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game **in a swirling four minutes**. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is **in there**, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: (*showing Sam Ricketts*) yeah, I've got four men! please help him!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts **again** under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop

kindly for Giggs, and **now** John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him **there** too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing **that penalty area**. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, **out** it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah. foot up to the block... the difference **there** between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped **down**, **in the Welsh defence**, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped **down there**, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball **in the box**.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight **there** of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international **in his time**, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set up **these days**, Terry Gibson is **there** as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal **in the nineteen-eighty-two World Cup finals** against Spain, **in Spain**.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, John, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine **at half-time** what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around **quickly**, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: **here**'s a free kick to Wales. (*showing John Toshack*) John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played **in Wales a year ago**. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is **there to his left**, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and **through the wall**... but **not beyond Maik Taylor**.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked **another seven or eight yards on that**, **further forward**.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie **in there** again, he's a man possessed **at the moment**, **now** Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming **in off a wide position**. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball **at the start of this second half**. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... (*showing two players arguing*) more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration **there**. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it **at the edge of the box**... just as he gets loose **from there**, (*showing replay*) he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, **every time** you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game **when they last met**, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty **that day**.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position **now**... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies **just on the right side**. it's a good shooting opportunity. good play from Earnshaw **there**, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running **past him**, no one coming

around to show for a shot... (*showing replay*) ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was **all over him**.

Jonathan Pearce: **again** it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights **moments ago**, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing **there** as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! **on the hour**, the game swings again! and it's the Welsh captain who restores their lead. and which way is this one gonna turn out?

Mark Bright: well, what a game we've got **here**! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for this! (*showing replay*) he's got a wall covering **one side of the goal**, and that means you're responsible **for the other side**, and I think he's gambling on going **left**, and **then** he reacts to go **right**, he's got the wall covering **one side**, now **that far side** must be his responsibility. **there's** the wall, it's covering **his left-hand side of the goal**, so that means **the right-hand side of the goal's** his responsibility. it doesn't even go **in the corner**, it's just **left of centre**. I think that's a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan **in March two-thousand-and-three**. how much did he learn from the previous free kick moments ago?

Mark Bright: well, it was **a little bit further out** as well, and as I said, Ryan Giggs would've liked this free kick to be **another eight yards forward**. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! and important this, for both countries. the more victories they get, the higher up the group they can finish, will affect their draw for the next World Cup qualifier. not the European Championship qualifier, as some people have been saying. it's too late for that. they've got too much to do to finish above the teams in their sort of specific tier of countries. away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it **out there**, Robinson does just that. just sort of caught in two minds!

Mark Bright: I think he just saw somebody out of the corner of his eye, **there**, might've been-Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run **off him**, and this is Davies, and Hartson's **in space** if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: yeah, the big fellow came **into the box**, took it **in his stride**, then it just wouldn't settle for him, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi came **across**, and robbed him of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Quinn **back inside his own penalty area** as well, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy **away downfield**. **sixty-two minutes gone**. Giggs's corner, Fletcher couldn't get **beyond James Quinn**, the Welsh leading by three goals to two. it was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: he did well... the referee's played the advantage **there** as well. a foul on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: Duffy **in here**, Hartson's away **through the middle**, he was actually standing **offside**, I think he's **offside** again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. Ryan Giggs, Simon Davies, lots of space, too much space. it's all Wales **at the moment**!

Mark Bright: Duffy's come on as a substitute, anticipating that ball **on the half-way line**, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: a substitution for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be Chris Brunt on, **from Sheffield Wednesday**, very promising. Elliott will be the man who departs. Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, twenty years of age, started off **at Middlesbrough**, and won the FA Youth Cup with them, and went on loan **to Sheffield Wednesday** **initially**. he scored a couple of goals **at the weekend** against Coventry.

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, yeah, so obviously they're looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: he scored a great goal at under-twenty-one level, against Scotland. Gillespie looking long, a foul against Healy...

Mark Bright: well, tumbling with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. what a come-back now as centre-back in his first game since May, **at the end of last season**.

Mark Bright: doesn't carry any weight, does he? very lean, and it doesn't matter, you know, you work and work and work, **when you come back from injury**, it's just the games, that's what we were talking about, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw, to Simon Davies, got the shot away, palmed that **just behind Earnshaw**, Craigan was second to it, this is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous **every time they come forward**, Earnshaw! **offside**, wouldn't have counted.

Mark Bright: just **end to end**, isn't it? you know, you just wouldn't believe **at half-time when Wales were two-nil up**, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, **now** they're behind again, and **now** the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales (*showing replay*) this is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took it early, when it came **across him**, just a great strike **there**, look at **the far side**, and **when the keeper parries the ball** you can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Ian Downing **in the studio right now**.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Downie.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, got it down but cleared away by Partridge, chance **here**, Johnson! good block, important save by Jones, and **here** come Wales, flying on the counter. this is terrific stuff. so open. Giggs, Hartson **way offside**. Northern Ireland came **out**. (*showing replay*) and **here** come the home side again, this is Brunt, his first touch as a substitute. good block by Jones, wasn't it? and Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: it was, yeah... the defence is no... they just stood still, he's aiming **straight down at the goalkeeper there**, he goes **across the goal**, just like Davies did **a few minutes earlier**, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi, Robinson, who finds Giggs, Earnshaw **offside**.

Mark Bright: Giggs and Davies, that was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, **in the second half**, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball **inside as opposed to wide on the wings**.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs tracking back, and winning it! conceded the foul **here**.

Mark Bright: I think he's saying somebody tell me, tell me there's a man **behind me**. (*showing replay*) Johnson did well **there**, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: that's a splendid save again!

Mark Bright: that's what I like with the referee's decision, if you want to take it early, you know, without putting a wall up, you know, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for winning the free kick, (*showing replay*) there you go, hand on it, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones **out of... off his line**.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. Brunt's corner kick. just cleared **away from Duff's head** by Duffy. and the pressure swings back **on the Welsh goal!**

Mark Bright: Gillespie with a corner **from this side**.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops **in the last couple of moments**. and unopposed **there**, allowed to make the save.

Mark Bright: disappointed with the pressure **there**, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it **away from the goalkeeper**. you know, there's **an area**, really, **between the penalty spot and the six-yard box**, it's **too far from the keeper** to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack **before today**, and especially **in this second half**, they've looked dangerous **every time they attack**.

Mark Bright: well, it's been open, hasn't it? I mean, **at times**, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side **on a Friday! end to end!** both teams playing deep, lots of work for midfield players to do... it's really enjoyable, you know, not gonna criticise a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, offside.

Mark Bright: well, Healy was coming **back**, he was **in front of the defence** and **as that ball has come over his head** he's coming **back outside**, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: just **under twenty minutes left**. Partridge will take it. he started off with West Ham, Partridge. this is Capaldi, to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control, brings Davis into the play, and **now** Duff, **high** back to James Quinn, Brunt was **behind him**, Simon Davies. caught in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: good pressure from Johnson **there**, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: so important for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, this is Brunt, Capaldi, **too far** for Jones, Healy headed it **back across**, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get **there**.

Mark Bright: the curl on the ball, lovely shaped, coming **away from the goalkeeper**, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddling, you head it, and it hits the guy **in front of you**.

Jonathan Pearce: and the corner for Northern Ireland, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl it in. Quinn is **in there**, so is Murdock. cleared away by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard **up and down that Northern Ireland right**. **forward** by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it **in the air**, Murdock **in there**, **away** by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt **onside**, a hanging cross, and **away** by Duffy under pressure.

Mark Bright: a good defending, really, and good pressure as well, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball **in the penalty area**. a short one.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, and another corner. and the pressure beginning to mount.

Mark Bright: everybody **back now**, the Welsh team. **the eighteen-yard box**, majority **in the six**, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones making sure he's got room, doesn't want to come **through a thicket of players**, but has to do just that, he didn't get the punch away, did that hit an arm? Robinson! it was Brunt who had the little stab **at the end of it**, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson **on the arm!** slid down his arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think he thought he was gonna get challenged, his arm was **up**, and his head was pointing **downwards**.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, is that a penalty? Healy went over. and the Northern Ireland coaching staff are **on their feet**, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: handball?

Jonathan Pearce: is that a handball by Delaney? Quinn! unbelievable pressure **here**. **back in** by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis again, Murdock stayed **forward**, Gillespie's header, and drops it **just wide**. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing **to his hand**, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact **there**. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) but a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd **behind the goal**. (*showing replay*) this is the in-swinger. this one goes **up in the air**... that **there**, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: yes, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, **back to goal**, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: but **throughout the game**, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it **into the six-yard area**, Wales have looked uncomfortable. especially **since James Collins went off**.

Mark Bright: yeah, he was dominant **in the air** **in the first half of the game**. (*showing John Toshack*) you know, Partridge is comfortable **in the air**, Delaney's got the height, he's coming **there**, but it's just one of those situations where it's **continually** coming **back in the box** **in the air**, and it's swirling round, and people don't move **out of the way** **when you want to go and clear it**, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack **there**, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's **there**, oh, good goalkeeping. Really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Healy*) we saw the frustration on Healy **when he turned away**, a little bit of anger, (*showing replay*) I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just **here**. because if he gets a touch, it's a penalty. **there** he's frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. **now** Giggs, on **beyond Duff**, Johnson **there**, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. finds Gillespie, good play. **high**, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: and Delaney... **now** this is **forward** by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie **now**. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging **the touch line**. Healy's **there in front of him**, so who's **in the middle**? Quinn is **in the middle**, if they can-get it **in there**. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution **here** for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go **off**, and Vaughan is coming **on** for his fourth cap. and they'll just leave John Hartson **up front here**, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfielder player.

Mark Bright: he is a midfield player. he plays for Crewe, he's very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five **in the midfield** and just leave John Hartson on his own **at front**.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson **back in there**, oh it's **beyond Murdock and Quinn!**

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone **to the left-hand side of midfield**, and Ryan Giggs has come **over to this right at the moment**, he's just standing **off Davies**, but I wonder if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, Mark, **in the closing stages**?

Mark Bright: well, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, you know, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, you know, they can all take a chance **when the time is right**.

Jonathan Pearce: **here** is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets **there**, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. (*showing Colin Murdock*) thirty-year-old **from Ballymena**, started off **at Old Trafford** but didn't make the grade **there**. **while he was at Old Trafford**, I think he was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, **now** Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. that is frustrating because I know **on Wednesday** they were working really hard on getting that ball **into the box**, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts **now**, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: **again** it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for **now**, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure he should try and strike that with the outside of his foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick **in** again. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight **out of play** again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up **as the game has gone on**, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. **away** by Craigan. energy levels sap, **eleven minutes to go**. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it **in the air**, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, **away** by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got **back at him** but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence **there** from Healy. (*showing David Partridge*) Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. **at this time of the game**, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: he'll miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney. and Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. **ten minutes to go**. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. (*showing Paul Jones*) Jones organising the wall, four men in it,

that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players **in the wall**, and Northern Ireland about to make another substitution. another Crewe player is about to come **on**, this time it'll be Steve Jones, we'll see him **in a minute** but it's Giggs **meanwhile** who gives it away, Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. and Northern Ireland wanna make the substitution **here**, it's gonna be Mike Duff who **departs**, and Steve Jones who comes **on**. comes **from Londonderry**, twenty-eight-year-old, this is his nineteenth appearance for his country, another player who played for England at semi-pro level.

Mark Bright: he's a forward, he's quick.

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over **on that right-hand side**, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. **now** Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. **now** Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: doesn't need to do that. doesn't need to do that, giving it away. even though Giggs made the run. what he does is, he takes a defender with him, there's a bit more space, come **inside**, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, you know, he's been unlucky not to get anything **in the box so far**, you know, he's come to lead **in the line**, holding it up, bringing people into play, you know, big player, strong, **back to goal**, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Keith Gillespie*) can Northern Ireland provide another twist **in the turn of an extraordinary game?** Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, **at two-two**, **at the start of the second half**, Quinn, Davis again, just **too far for Healy**.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it as well, (*showing replay*) Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just **a bit too far**. **here** it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball **there**, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis **at the start of the second half** made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal **now** separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is **there with him**, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won **in the air** well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt **in space**. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised **there** by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson **meanwhile**, and he's gone down, and Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and **still** they play on, and he looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: **everywhere**, **everywhere**, decisions **everywhere!**

Jonathan Pearce: and they get the cross **back in...** Quinn! couldn't get out **of the way!**

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) oh, the Welsh players, they're furious **there**. Carl Fletcher was down **on the floor**, and wanted them, I think, to kick the ball **out**, he **soon** got up, and back **on his feet**, complaining to the referee **now**, that he was down. it's not a head injury, you know, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that they're in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, **under five minutes to go**, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan again. **as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper**, Lawrie Sanchez turned **around** and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause he knows it's so important **coming towards the end of the game**. you gotta keep that ball **away from the goalkeeper**.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: that's the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. (*showing Damien Johnson*) he's fouled him **there**. stokes up that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are

gonna make another substitution, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on **at centre-half**, and (*showing Sam Ricketts*) Ricketts is the man who makes way, presumably Collins will go straight **up there** and play **on the left side**, will he?

Mark Bright: he was a midfield player originally, wasn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he started off as a midfielder.

Mark Bright: yeah, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: winning his second cap, he made his *début* in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary. *woo:h!* rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! **three minutes to go, just under**. World Cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future World Cup qualification. Jones, Johnson, **in towards James Quinn**, lovely lay-off, Jones was **in there** but couldn't find **his way through** and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. well, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, **all the way to the end**, good clearance **there** from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous **now**, arms are flying **in the penalty area** but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Ryan Giggs*) Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen **there**, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! well, he **struck** that!

Mark Bright: well, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! (*showing replay*) **here** it comes, we can see the rain coming down **now, there**, it's just **away from everybody**, you know, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: **into the last minute**. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. **now** a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, **now** this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club-mate, **towards James Quinn**, suspicion of a little punch **there** by Partridge?

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything **at this stage**.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up **now** to tell us how much time we'll have added on. **four minutes**.

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by the fourth official, Kevin Blon. Vaughan, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, this is Robinson, Duffy, good run by Simon Davies, just **too far in front of him**. terrific entertainment. away by Delaney, Hartson offside.

Mark Bright: the kick's weak. they've gotta get **around Quinn**. they've just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get **around him**. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's **out here**...

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together **there**, but it was dropped in short. Carl Robinson headed it away, **now** Craigan, **one minute of stoppage time played**. Brunt's header down, Duffy blocked and clears.

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience **there**, he had Simon Davies **just in front of him**, just roll the ball into feet, and **then** Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: **high up towards Murdock**, who'll surely stay **forward in this stoppage time period**, Gillespie hoists it, James Quinn backing **on to Fletcher** who held his ground, **now** Giggs! oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, **a long way out** I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing **there**, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, has he? I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) knocks it **beyond the defender**, and he would've had a clear run **down that side**. **two minutes of stoppage time played**. and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it has, it's been really enjoyable, you know, for two different reasons, you know, **on the back of that great win against England**, if they could back it up **here**, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, four straight defeats, you know, lots of criticism for the manager, looks like he's answered the critics, **for the time being anyway**.

Jonathan Pearce: Northern Ireland without a victory **here** against Wales **in thirty years**. on to Jones, they'll have to wait **a minute longer**, or will they? this is Johnson, Vaughan's **across there with him**, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone **beyond!** Murdock's **on the far post**, Quinn is **there** too, it's loose, it's come to Healy! goodness me, he **struck** that!

Mark Bright: it looked like a handball...

Jonathan Pearce: it hit Partridge, didn't it?

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: and **now** Wales can break away, **in the last minute of stoppage time**. Duffy on the overlap, Hartson's **in the middle**, offside. and he's tickled it in, but he was always **in an offside position**. your overall thoughts, Mark?

Mark Bright: well, just a fantastic entertaining game, you know, a great start from Wales, and a great comeback from Ireland obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: **seconds to go**. hoisted it **there** again, looking for Murdock, and just turned away... **only as far as Davis**. Murdock... oh! and surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: well, it's incredible really, it's just **one end to the other**, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap **past Davies** **a few moments earlier**.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! and Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, **as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park**, **on sixty-one minutes**, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

6.4) Analyse de 400M

Tom Hammond: up **next** is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back world championship gold medals. Lewis, you were talking **earlier** about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up **here in Osaka**.

Lewis Johnson: it has, **in a two-hour surprise**, because we have not had a wind issue **here** at these world championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains **in Waco, Texas**, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but again, the other elements that he was looking forward, the fast track which he has, the great competition which he has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, Ato.

Ato Boldon: and I can tell you, Lewis, I can admit to you guys now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the one-hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres **in quite some time**, and Jeremy Wariner **in lane six** is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor **just his insides on lanes five and four**.

Tom Hammond: so Jeremy Wariner will come **into the race** as in the favourite, there are as Ato mentioned three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: and an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers **all over the world**, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the world championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen **today**.

Ato Boldon: I spoke to Johnson **for about an hour** about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes down to close finish **at the end**, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience **this year**, he's run forty-four point sixty-two to win **in Paris**, forty-four point four **in Rome**, forty-four point three **in Monaco**, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: and I talked to Jeremy Wariner **today** about this evening and his plan throughout the World Championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him **tonight** was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, **now** his personal best's forty-three point fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: (*showing contestants*) **lane two**, Avarad Moncur **of the Bahamas**, gold medallist **of the two-thousand-and-one world championships**, **lane three** Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record **at the two-thousand-and-five**, world's bronze medallist **in the world championships in Helsinki**. **lane four**, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal **at the Sydney Olympics** in the four-hundred metre hurdles. **lane five**, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four point zero-six **at the US championships**, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, **then** the third of the three Americans **in a row** is Jeremy Wariner, defending Olympic and World Champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four point thirty-four. **lane seven**, Leslie Djohne **from France** who lored his French national record, forty-four point forty-six **in his semi-final race**, he was seventh **at the Athens Olympics**. **in lane eight**, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, fourth **at the two-thousand-and-five world championships**, and **in lane nine**, Johan Wissman **of Sweden**, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records **in both his races here**, **first round and semi-finals**, in forty-four point fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing Jeremy Wariner*) well I had a talk with Clyde Hart **today**, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race **in his semi-final**, around twenty-one seconds **at two-hundred**, thirty-two seconds **at three-hundred**, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens **in the last hundred metres**.

Ato Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, Lewis, he said, don't think **for a second** that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are **right behind him**, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate **lane six**, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: and **there's** the gun! Angelo Taylor **lane four**, Lashawn Merritt **five**, Jeremy Wariner **in six**, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Ato Boldon: look for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all **through the rounds**, this move **down the back stretch** from Angelo Taylor, **in lane four**.

Tom Hammond: and Jeremy Wariner is **there**, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher **from Canada**, **into the turn for home**, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's **straight away now** and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, **here** is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three point forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: and Tom, the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get **close enough to him at three-hundred**, put some pressure on him, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. he took this race out, he could not see them **to his inside**, but he stuck to his script, and **at three-hundred metres** he was clear, and he never looked back, they never were able to pull up **on his side** and really challenge him.

Tom Hammond: and the official time, forty-three point forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: and that was the goal, coming out **here for this final**, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

Ato Boldon: (*showing Angelo Taylor*) tremendous running by Wariner. as we look at a disappointed Angelo Taylor, I thought he put himself out of it, he didn't make the move that we normally see from him **down that back stretch** and it might have cost him in that final.

Tom Hammond: but it is a US sweep led by Jeremy Wariner, the defending champion.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing replay*) Wariner told me that in his phases he wanted to get out hard **the first sixty metres**, **then** keep that pace **on the back stretch**, **then when he'd get on the turn**, really pump the arms and make the legs come up, and **then off the turn coming up to straight away where he is right now**, it's just an all-out kick. and the final thing that Jeremy said he would not do, he would not look over to the clock **before he got to the finish line**, that he'd run **through the tape** and **then** look, and we saw that **on the replay**, Wariner running **through the tape**, trying to get the fastest time possible, but without the doubt he has sent the message to everyone around the world that I am unbeatable.

Ato Boldon: alright guys, how scary is this four by four four-hundred metres relay really going to be!

Tom Hammond: oh!

Ato Boldon: Angelo Taylor has to be disappointed with forty-four point thirty-two, he looked so good **during the rounds**, but it's not about how you run the rounds, it's how much you save **for the final**, and Angelo Taylor looked like he actually was a little bit tired **this evening**, coming off of **that final turn**.

Lewis Johnson: just think about the work that Clyde Hart has done with Jeremy Wariner, physically they are so, so different, and Jeremy Wariner has advanced **so much faster than Michael Johnson did, as he creeps ever closer to forty-three point eighteen**, the existing world record over this event.

Tom Hammond: and Lashawn Merritt, you know, running a pretty good race **here** too to take the silver medal, for him, forty-three point ninety-six, breaking forty-four seconds. **when we come back**, the men's hundred-and-ten metres hurdle final, and we'll hear from Jeremy Wariner, world champion.

6.5) Analyse de CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about **at the Joe Louis Arena**, **here** in Survivor Series. **here** we go... (*showing child in crowd*) boy, all these little Hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is **in the town**, the electricity is going **all over the world**, Hulkamania's gonna be put to rest **very, very shortly**...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run **for quite some time**. I've seen what the Hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over **till it's over**.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing Hulk Hogan*) you're looking at the greatest wrestler **in the world today**, the World Wrestling Federation world champion Hulk Hogan! (*showing poster*) hulkamania lives **forever!**

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker*) he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing **on the back of my head**, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkamania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person **at the concession stand or in the hallway**, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. **sooner or later** it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody will, **he** will.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in **there!** could weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty good idea, he felt it **on the back of his head!** duck **underneath** by the Hulk Hogan **off the ropes**, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and **out of there** **immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...**

Bobby Heenan: the true mark of a coward.

Robert Marella: the true mark of a champion!

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... but I don't think Hulk Hogan did it as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: that certainly is not obvious to me **at this point in time**, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: that's what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands **behind the Hulkster**, not like being out **there** with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, **on your side**.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, I'm never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs **all over the world** are **in there** with him. well he's gonna need them to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for him to win **tonight**... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, that could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer's talking **from the outside**... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about **that** guy!

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence **since he entered that ring**, has he? he's been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at **this!** COME ON! (*showing Paul Bearer*) YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out **there**, **what happened?**

Robert Marella: your **monitor** went out... your **brain** went out! **from the outside** it was a **blatant** attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble **right now**... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got **out of there** **in a hurry**. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of the big guy. **into the ropes!**

Bobby Heenan: but he didn't knock him down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: he couldn't slam him. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel it, I can see it! couldn't knock him down, couldn't slam him. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow **right between the eyes!** you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first **into the corner**, and **back to the other side** for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, he's really rocking him real and **now**, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down **on his feet**.

Bobby Heenan: but he is still standing! and he has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan **out**. **now** throw him **back into the ring**, cause you can't beat him **on the floor**.

Robert Marella: OH! Hulkster face first right **into the steel steps**!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made **here**! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. **come on, ref!** number one, you should've sent that guy **back to the dress room** **before this match even started**.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power **from that urn**, there's something **in there** that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown **here** by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has **on his arm**, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next World Wrestling Federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, **from the outside**, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out **in a minute**...

Bobby Heenan: tension **in the air**, we could cut it with a knife, **here** **in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City**. everyone just sitting **there** **right on the edge of their seats**, ready to explode **at any moment**!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's **on the edge of her seat**!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane **behind her**!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down **into the mat**, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that **here**!

Robert Marella: well they're both still **on their feet**!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. **can you hear me?**

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty-something-thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold **right on the forehead of the Hulk**...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up **by now**...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission **by now**.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning World Wrestling Federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, ba:h...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength **from that urn**...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother **here**...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead **ninety percent of this match**! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at **that**, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's **some place else right now!** his body may be **in Motown**, but his mind is **out there some place**.

Robert Marella: well that arm dropped **twice**, had it dropped **one more time**, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's **on his feet**, they're both **on their feet!** Hulk Hogan, Monsoon, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... **wow!** what a flying first **there** by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: get the flowers ready, sign in the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: look at that big dent **in the urn**, it's probably where he clubbed the Hulkster **from behind** with it...

Bobby Heenan: so what...

Robert Marella: so what, yeah...

Bobby Heenan: it's my opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: he's too cold to sweat! he'd have to have blood and pores to sweat...

Robert Marella: I've never seen him perspire.

Bobby Heenan: look at the ease!

Robert Marella: he's gonna try to ply him with a tombstone! OH YES! no one has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, look at that, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: who's not immortal **now**, Brain?

Bobby Heenan: he's still **on his feet!** the Undertaker is STILL on his feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster continues to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: he's **down to one knee!** **the first time** he's been **down on one knee**...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up – oh watch this! (*Showing Ric Flair entering the Arena*) where is he going?

Bobby Heenan: the real world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... what business does he have **down there?**

Bobby Heenan: well you'd better talk to Ric Flair, I don't know... I mean it, I really don't know.

Robert Marella: Hulkster finally... oh, says what are you doing **down there**, roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: why would he go touch Flair? he never touched the ring, he never got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: what business does Flair have **down there?**

Bobby Heenan: I don't know, but he doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, **from the outside**, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. look at this! Flair with a chair! he got piledrived **right into the steel chair!**

Bobby Heenan: wait a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a new world champion! the new World Wrestling Federation champion, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told you so!

Robert Marella: this is horrendous! three guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: Hulkamania is dead! and is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking **down here** is the new World Wrestling Federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

Annexe 7 – Les types d'information

En bleu : informations instantanées

En jaune : informations marginales

7.1) Analyse de RUGBY1

Gordon Bray: (*showing England team*) let's look at the English team... they have a lot of old stagers there, **Martin Johnson's thirty-three**, **Jason Leonard equals the world record**, **he's thirty-five**, **Neil Back thirty-four**, **Dallaglio thirty-one**, and **Jonny Wilkinson his fiftieth international in the white jumper**. (*showing Wales team*) and the Welsh team... **they have stuck to the form players from last weekend**. **number twelve**, **Iestyn Harris**, the **high-priced League signing** who'll take on that crucial role, and always we'll be on the **number eleven Shane Williams** to see if he can **reproduce his magic which we saw last weekend**. and the two sides observe a minute's silence, remembering those who lost their lives at war time. so, Tim, is the Welsh team capable of upset, as we await the anthems?

Tim Horan: well, there's a wonderful atmosphere, here down the sideline, and the Welsh body languages as they ran out... **they don't think it's a one-horse race tonight**, **they wanna repeat their upset performance last weekend against the All Blacks**.

Gordon Bray: (*showing referee*) our referee tonight is **Alain Rolland, a former Irish scrum-half, four times capped**. **he speaks fluent French**, **he has a French father**. Jonny Wilkinson gets the **fourth quarter-final** under way here, **at Suncorp Stadium**, and Sidoli not taking the ball clearly... Stephen Jones, getting the first kick on the ball for the Welsh side, and he'll be happy with that one, down towards the twenty-two.

Chris Handy: well, a good clearance there by Stephen Jones, the first touch there very important at test match, and Jonny Wilkinson wouldn't be too happy with his first kick-off, didn't get the opportunity for his forwards to get underneath the ball.

Gordon Bray: so, Jones getting his hands on that ball, the **big Welsh prop**... here's Dawson! clean break! Cooper from behind... he's made forty metres. Back, quickly to Vickery, this is Tindall, Jones was cleaned out, so was Charvis... and now Thompson, this **massive England hooker** just fifteen metres out!

Tim Horan: great try from the English forwards...

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio, he's driven from behind by Leonard! still, it's only fifteen! here's Robinson, almost stepping through... and it's against the **number eight Jonathan Thomas**. seven phases there for England...

Chris Handy: (*showing replay*) the break came from absolutely nothing, he telegraphed that he was going to run, thank goodness there's Gareth Cooper here in **jersey nine for Wales**... and Robinson, that's a **huge** hit there by Mark Jones on Robinson!

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson to have an early shot at goal, very handy position here at Suncorp. (*showing Jonathan Thomas*) that man, **Jonathan Thomas, made the front page of the Western Mail on Tuesday, he's become an overnight hero**. no goal, off the woodwork, and well anticipated by Taylor. **we saw he missed one from in front against Samoa**...

Chris Handy: well, the ball coming off the post, there wasn't too many England players coming through, they expect Jonny Wilkinson to get a hundred percent every game, there wasn't too many chasing through expecting it to come off the post.

Gordon Bray: I watched him in his warm-up, he started hitting those balls, started kicking, an hour forty minutes before the kick-off...

Tim Horan: it was quite incredible, the rhythm and... he goes to achieve that, and it still hit the post...

Chris Handy: having trouble initially with their line-out, second one that... and yet in the warm-up, and we saw it, Jonny Wilkinson warms up, the team warmed up, but when it comes to game conditions, it's a whole different story. first scrum, it's a good opportunity here for Wales and England front rows... haven't really been tested.

Gordon Bray: Cooper, England putting pressure on... but taken away by Thomas. Stephen Jones, and there's another fine kick, but... not the touch! there's Robinson, lot of distance on that ball, just going for a little too much, and Neil Back to scrum-half... Ben Cohen is the first receiver, forward pass there to Luger, referee joining on the spot.

Chris Handy: two wingers combining with a little bit of anxiety, overrunning the ball, (*showing replay*) well that surely came forward from his hands...

Gordon Bray: Luger rushed in...

Chris Handy: this English front row has been improved by the addition of Jason Leonard. he's got one job to do, and that is scrum.

Gordon Bray: let's see if Williams can get an early touch... this is Taylor, now Jones, Thomas... this is Iestyn Thomas, the loose head, well there was an unmarked man outside, Wales choose to go inside but they still have big numbers on the right, Jones the prop here, Sidoli, yes! did he lose it? he did! no try!

Chris Handy: oh, heartbreak! for every Welshman around the world, the moment was there to be taken! they had England chopped to bits. (*showing replay*) God almighty, he chose to pelt to the line, and it broke lose in the tackle...

Tim Horan: Wilkinson and Luger in jersey six, take your hat off, they scrambled wonderfully.

Chris Handy: now England will try and just steady this a little bit, they've been strangled, Vickery, Leonard, as somebody had just blown on their face...

Gordon Bray: England scrum...

Chris Handy: great scrum from Vickery...

Gordon Bray: it's against the Welsh front row, for popping their opposites... this referee, Alain Rolland, has a good understanding of the scrummaging, being an ex-scrum-half, and he made the point here, Chris, that there was no awkward movement before you pop your opponents.

Chris Handy: and I think that was because of the good work of Phil Vickery in tighthead, he was just like a real wedge in the scrum... (*showing replay*) but look at the width and the penetration that the Welsh are getting, nobody's told them that they are not good enough to beat England.

Tim Horan: and that's where the Welsh, that's where they'll get change tonight going wide, attacking on Dan Luger's side, and outside of Will Greenwood, that's where they got space against the All Blacks and I'm sure they'll try again tonight.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, looking for some decent territory, he gains about twenty metres only, and England... having to do the early defending.

Chris Handy: how extraordinary, we come to the third line-out throw by England, both the first they've struggled with.

Gordon Bray: Daffyd Jones is number six jersey, third man from the back for Wales. and well taken there by Ben Kay. Dawson, to Wilkinson on his right boot. this is Jones, Gareth Thomas is on the outside, here he is, now another chance for Taylor, and Williams! has he got the speed?

Chris Handy: I don't think there's any doubt that he's got the speed, it's just the ball that was quicker. (*showing replay*) what another great thrust, no lack of vision here, no lack of support, just an arm in the face and they keep going wide.

Gordon Bray: second week in a row, the Welsh are not reading the script! this isn't how it's supposed to happen... great counter-attack by their back three.

Chris Handy: (*showing Adam Jones*) Adam Jones, the curly head at tighthead prop for Wales on the far side...

Gordon Bray: so, not staying bound on the scrum, against the youngster Jonathan Thomas, the number eight, you must stay bound with both arms until the ball is out of the scrum. but you gotta add this to scrambling defence of England, as well. they're covering up in desperation at the moment, and here's Shane Williams! the Welsh have conceded three penalties so far... Thomas, and Williams, didn't get round Moody... we're just short at the halfway line, Stephen Jones, this is Daffyd Jones...

Tim Horan: now you're gonna get the chance to see the England defensive line come up as one.

Gordon Bray: this is Charvis, couldn't get away from Martin Johnson, lost a bit of grounds, Jones... and Jason Robinson on his twenty-two, almost sliding through the gap, but Taylor got him on halfway... here's Cohen, trying to get his arm over the defender, Dawson, Thompson, England making steady progress...

Chris Handy: this is when they've got to continue to get in behind the Welsh. running straight...

Gordon Bray: that's Dan Luger coming in from right wing. Moody's out in his position, Wilkinson, and Ben Kay was manhandled there.

Chris Handy: making their tackles count, the Welsh, they are hitting with the shoulders, they're offering ample resistance, (*showing Lewis Moody*) and that's why Lewis Moody, the blond-haired player in jersey six for England, he's the one who's penalised in the end. (*showing replay*) have a look at this, first that one, and then the next time they come right, there's Moody coming straight over the top, stealing the ball, not allowing Wales to have a fair chance at it.

Tim Horan: (*showing Clive Woodward*) and the England coach might be worried, the first ten minutes for the defence of the Welsh has been outstanding so far.

Chris Handy: and England finding some inroads in around the ruck and mauls, like New Zealand did against Wales...

Gordon Bray: but Neil Back was there, assisted by Moody... Wilkinson again... packs himself! Dallaglio, Dawson, Cohen's outside, that's an excellent defence again for Wales.

Chris Handy: Ball's gone forward...

Tim Horan: oh, Matt Dawson, he knows, he's still on the ground, number nine for England, had Jason Robinson lurking just on his left side... (*showing replay*) here we see Dawson running with the ball in two hands, just didn't see Robinson on his left-hand side... good defence from the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: score here at Suncorp, nil all after nearly eleven minutes.

Tim Horan: well, the Welsh have had some pretty famous people talk to them in the last couple of weeks, they had Wally Lewis in the last couple of days, and I'm sure that he's given them a lot tonight.

Gordon Bray: Glenn McGrath, also, Tim, spoke to them for ninety minutes, and Robinson inside his twenty-two, didn't call for the mark, cause he wants to have a go himself. obstruction against Neil Back, penalty kicking-range. chance for Wales to hit the lead.

Chris Handy: you'd have to blame Robinson there... does anyone know where he's gonna run, not even Robinson, I don't think sometimes...

Gordon Bray: so this is an undeniable chance for Stephen Jones, who is the preferred goal kicker... (*showing replay*) and the obstruction very clear there, under the referee's nose... it's nil all.

Chris Handy: have a look out there, you'll see just right next to the referee, Scott Johnson, the former Australian, he's the one who's come out with a lot of these ideas, he's the one who got Glenn McGrath in.

Gordon Bray: and another poster, two in a row! similar position, still, no score. Neil Back has come in to assist Dawson, and Wilkinson with a hurried clearance, and he doesn't get the touch. this is Jones, on half-way, to Gareth Thomas. William's out on his side with a bit of room here, Gareth Thomas arrived, and there's good support from the Welsh to maintain possession. Stephen Jones, mishandle there by Iestyn Thomas, it went backwards...

Chris Handy: it's the incredible width that the Welsh are playing with, trying those longs balls, that's creating opportunities, Jones will go long.

Gordon Bray: and in behind... Luger, here goes Williams! Williams is still going, knocked on by Dawson, advantage for Wales.

Chris Handy: wonderful opportunity, just here in the middle, Cockbain, from Queensland, Dallaglio...

Gordon Bray: well, just a rush of blood, really, absolutely no need! Brent Cockbain, who was the pride and toast of Flying Fish Point, he has been penalised... and England to take play over the halfway line here.

Tim Horan: well, once again, we've seen the Welsh going in behind Dan Luger's wing, he's coming off his wing...

Gordon Bray: well, good start there from Brent Cockbain, just letting the English know what it's all about.

Chris Handy: in reality that will unsettle the English, knowing that someone, a mongrel dog in the middle of the Welsh pack will have a crack back at them.

Gordon Bray: the mongrel dog from out back Queensland... there's Cooper there. so the referee ruling, the line-out hadn't finished and Jones goes! Harris was coming through, Cooper now, Taylor, and it's been lost in hand.

Chris Handy: showed an enterprising restart, they got away quickly and they're unsettling England, but they got to keep the momentum going. seems like the Cockbain stand-up and that handling error are stifling it at the moment.

Tim Horan: this will be interesting now, Jason Robinson on the right-hand side, one on one.

Gordon Bray: Harris stands his bounds, good momentum here for England, back to Johnson, Dallaglio cleans out, and Dawson, looking for a clear passage straight ahead, so is Luger, Dawson here, Wilkinson, Vickery... and good tackle by McBryde. we're in centre field, thirty-five metres out, England looking for something but...

Chris Handy: turnover!

Gordon Bray: here's another turnover! stoic resistance from the Welsh side, when they've been defending, and tremendous enterprise when they've had the ball. their kicking game has been very good as well.

Chris Handy: that's clever, Tim Horan, because Wales don't want to put it into touch, they wanna force England to.

Tim Horan: well that's right, they're making Jason Robinson kick, it's not his forte, he's an unbelievable counter-attacker, but in behind his twenty-two he knows that he has to put the ball out. great touch found then, (*showing replay*) but another turnover by the Welsh...

Chris Handy: opportunity for Wales... the gap down the middle, must be a metre gap between both teams.

Gordon Bray: it's a young and enthusiastic Welsh side... look at the desperation there, of the half-back Cooper... he was more hungry for the ball. number three Jones, the tighthead, to his fellow front-rower McBryde...

Chris Handy: interesting choice as a first receiver...

Gordon Bray: and a scrum-half! Kay's come through, he's been told to stay outside.

Chris Handy: he stepped over though, he was on his feet.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli! he's been a very destructive ball-runner in the World Cup.

Tim Horan: well done, Neil Back! stayed on his feet...

Chris Handy: well, Sidoli did the right thing, number five for Wales, he got over the advantage line...

Gordon Bray: Jonny Wilkinson, lining up here at Suncorp, it's still nil all. and what are the odds of the goal kicker finding an upright again... three in a row... this to break the deadlock. distance is fine, and so is the accuracy. England, three-nil. (*showing Clive Woodward*) and a slightly more relaxed Clive Woodward within the coach's box...

Chris Handy: yeah, that'll relieve him... but it will also put a little bit of doubt on the Welsh, they need to straight away put the poison back in their defence, that's what's been stinging the English, seventeen and a half minutes before the first point was scored.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio calls for it, so does Dawson, and they both stuff it up!

Chris Handy: communication breakdown...

Gordon Bray: two of the most experienced players, the captain Matt Dawson, and Dallaglio, the former national skipper.

Tim Horan: and it's always crucial, after you put points on, you must control the next phases of play, England didn't do it here.

Gordon Bray: one of the problems for the players is the... just this constant cacophony, very hard to hear calls, and communication. oh, he was speared into the ground here, Thomas... Gareth Thomas now, Dallaglio, Stephen Jones, Iestyn Harris, Jones on the loop, Charvis in good support, thirty metres out...

Tim Horan: stolen by Will Greenwood, can they get a turnover? there it is.

Gordon Bray: this is Dawson, cheeky as you like, to Cohen. England five from half-way...

Chris Handy: and another turnover from the knock-forward!

Gordon Bray: McBryde, good hands from Thomas, but it was Sidoli here on the left wing.

Chris Handy: tragic...

Gordon Bray: accidentally bumped into his man...

Chris Handy: good defence from England, they knew they had two forwards out wide, they just pushed them towards the sideline, forcing them to change the angle. (*showing replay*) Thomas did well to be here, but...

Gordon Bray: so that's an accidental offside. really, the penalty ruling is quite harsh there...

Tim Horan: in backyards school, in backyards rugby, you would've gone away with that, your arms are up, no worries at all.

Chris Handy: absolutely. not at test level though...

Tim Horan: well, crucial next five minutes there for the Welsh side, they must fight back.

Gordon Bray: over Johnson's head, lost, and hit there by Charvis... it's all looking very shaky for England at the moment. Wales has only won one of its eleven test matches against England.

Chris Handy: beautiful scrum to England, they've got control in that phase...

Gordon Bray: and there is Luger, he went in to scrum-half, they're looking to find gaps just around the ruck, Brent Cockbain here slamming one of the England players out of the way who was standing in front of him... and this is Vickery! some communication from the referee, just making sure that the tacklers roll away, once the ball carriers go to the ground. Wilkinson, that's Moody, and the twenty-two-metre line just ahead.

Chris Handy: England's clean-out is just superb... that quick ball enables them to keep the momentum on.

Gordon Bray: rhythm's going now for England... they're keeping it in close, but they're making headway there. Back, then to Luger, but now the Welsh come back.

Tim Horan: there goes Wilkinson, field goal...

Gordon Bray: right foot, out to the left.

Chris Handy: we've seen that often, Tindall was wide, no one marking up much on him.

Chris Handy and Gordon Bray: TEN PHASES!

Chris Handy: that's good defence, isn't it? (*showing replay*) great work, forcing him to go to field goal... see that last phase they just had, just before we restart play, the defence hit them and knocked the English pack out of the advantage line, that's when Wilkinson decided, enough for now, we should get some points...

Gordon Bray: and Colin Charvis, the captain, has said, tonight we want to discover how well we can do. and they're certainly on a very successfully journey of discovery at the moment, this Welsh team.

Chris Handy: they're not going according to the script, as we saw with the All Blacks last week. the challenge for Wales is to get their faces together. they must continue to recycle ball...

Gordon Bray: so Tindall, and now Greenwood, fullback in front, didn't have a close support, Tindall again, Wilkinson was watching the defence, referee says it went backwards. certainly the momentum of that dropped ball suggested it was a knock-on... here's Johnson, still there for England, Greenwood, the play-maker, space for Back, here's Leonard! what a shame he wasn't ten-metre faster... this man is, and he's well caught by Thomas. Dawson again for Cohen... Wales really marking up, that was Adam Jones the tighthead prop, now Dallaglio... England pounding the Welsh defence here. Dawson is close, Leonard sealing off...

Chris Handy: nine phases on that occasion. the best thing that can happen here is that they only take the three points... but they run!

Gordon Bray: Back is there... Mark Jones on the far side was ever alert, and he had the height over the smallest forward on the field!

Tim Horan: well, that was an opportunity for England to go six points up, in the coming of the twenty-fifth minute, the Welsh played on quickly with a long twenty-two.

Gordon Bray: Robinson here... straight into Harris, almost the ten-metre line, Wilkinson again, Greenwood, and Tindall! Williams across, put into touch! grand covering, and there was plenty of Welsh defenders there too.

Chris Handy: you have to say that the Welsh have taken England out of their comfort zone. they've had a couple of periods of long possession, and not been able to turn them into points. and that is not part of the playing for them. (*showing replay*) and then they're forced to come this side... the Welsh have broken them up, in isolating them, and this is how they will succeed.

Gordon Bray: it was Lawrence Dallaglio who took that kick across to touch, when he was the England captain at Wembley four years ago, he declined a kick goal that would have given England the Grand Slam. he kicked for touch instead, and then Wales scored a try.

Chris Handy: a ridiculous cross-kick, because he kicked it to Neil Back, the shortest player on the field. so if you're gonna kick, kick it to someone tall...

Gordon Bray: Charvis waiting at the front, just outsmarting England. Cooper wanted to kick the ball in, and Luger's looking very shaky. rigorous defence from Wales, just on England's side of halfway. now Cohen, he's got away from Taylor and also Harris who came again... good drive there from Charvis. this is Vickery, almost gone to slow motion now, forty-five metres out. Steve Thompson...

Tim Horan: and this is when they need Jonny Wilkinson, to get their first receiver and start organising their phase play.

Gordon Bray: well, this Welsh defence has been quite superb in the opening quarter.

Chris Handy: it's hard work... in favour of England. here's Wilkinson...

Gordon Bray: and there's Ben Kay, fluked the pass up to his captain Johnson, they're keeping the ball alive there, this is Vickery.

Chris Handy: danger on the short side...

Gordon Bray: this is Luger...

Chris Handy: ninth phase...

Gordon Bray: Thompson now, it's opening up for him! how much longer can Wales hold these gaps? England playing a game of chess at the moment... and a huge tackle on Will Greenwood, who dropped it anyway before he was hit by Mark Taylor.

Chris Handy: Mark Taylor has hammered Will Greenwood just as the ball arrived. (*showing replay*) have a look at this for a bit of shoulder action, he had a huge gap there...

Tim Horan: Greenwood, he knew what was coming, Mark Taylor lined him up and went bang.

Gordon Bray: England there, just ahead of this Welsh side, at Suncorp. well, there are certainly a few skeletons in the cupboard for the England team...

Chris Handy: the crowd is ninety percent English fans here, they are being made to shut up, the crowd has been taken out of the game as a factor. the Welsh have made sure of that so far.

Gordon Bray: and a clever little kick by Cooper, here comes Jones, and Jonny Wilkinson, happy to do a baseball slide. just short of half-way.

Chris Handy: Jones did well, not interfering with Wilkinson on the ground, had he done that, it would have been an immediate penalty... he was thinking about it.

Gordon Bray: Dallaglio there, finally gets it over the halfway line. Greenwood, looking for the open territory between the full-back and the left wing... and Gareth Thomas looking for a reply with interests.

Tim Horan: well, Gareth Thomas would've liked a little more, only found twenty metres... as we see a substitute will come on, Gethin Jenkins looking to come on for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: Adam Jones has done a terrific job. this guy really gets involved in all facets of play for a forward.

Chris Handy: I can confirm that that was a scheduled change, he was always gonna come of at the thirty minutes mark.

Gordon Bray: Wilkinson, Greenwood, just a little more cautious that time, put his head down. and was happy just to secure the ball. now Jason Leonard, who equals that world record, the most decorated prop forward in world rugby, Jason Leonard, a hundred-and-eleven caps today, and Back is driven onto his heels.

Tim Horan: you can see that the Welsh defence is not getting committed at the ruck, you watch it here, one, two tackles and then they stand up and get their defensive line up.

Gordon Bray: now Wilkinson, in behinds, clever little kick... Jones slips out of the tackle, Thomas now, again wanting to keep the ball in play, but there's a bit of a counter-attack here for Robinson. two Welsh chases to greet him, and they really tried to clear out that breakdown... here's Luger... certainly that England team has lost its structure at the moment...

Tim Horan: well you could throw a blanket over the English side at the moment, looks like they're playing rugby league, they're that close together.

Chris Handy: and on this touch Ben Kay...

Gordon Bray: oh, Williams's gonna have a go, here, if he can hit around Kay, no problem! off he goes, this is Cooper, Jones, Thomas, has to be a try, if he holds on, and there it is for Jones! one of the tries of the tournament! well, in the village of Aberystwyth, where Stephen Jones hails from, all the junior rugby was called off today, and that's why!

Chris Handy: not one of the tries of the tournament, THE try of the tournament! a ridiculous kick considering they had Ben Kay, a lock forward... they got dusted, they got dusted for pace, they got dusted for skill, and the support continued to come. you good thing Wales...

Tim Horan: (*showing replay*) well, Williams, he juggled in the air his second touch and flicked the ball back inside as Ben Cohen came across, and Stephen Jones, look at him, he can see the try line... his fourth test try, in his forty-fourth test appearance for the Welsh.

Gordon Bray: and the consummate skill of the little scrum-half who is playing on the left side, he started it with that horrible kick, and almost finished it for this man, Stephen Jones... Suncorp is buzzing, five-three.

Chris Handy: well, the Welsh have peeled the English raw, jersey change are plenty for the English, as they're being exposed... the Welsh desperately needed that try, they made ninety tackles, to only thirty-five by the English... that's the thing that works you so hard. if they can control a bit of peel here, they can keep this up. if they have to keep tackling it'll wear them down.

Gordon Bray: well they ran out of petrol last week against New Zealand, in the last ten minutes, but if they can go for the eighty here, this will be one of the all-time upsets.

Tim Horan: you just saw there a sign of the English being under pressure, very rarely do they kick long. when it's their restart, Jonny Wilkinson usually always tries to get height on the ball, on that occasion he went long for the Welsh to kick out so that the English side can have a throw to the line-out, forty metres out.

Gordon Bray: England enjoying the possession, sixty-seven percent, the territory, sixty-three percent, but they've got very little to show for it: one solitary penalty goal for Wilkinson, it has been the Welsh who played the inventive rugby here in Brisbane.

Chris Handy: clever thinking here by England, going to the sider, the driving maul, so he got a good position from...

Gordon Bray: Will Greenwood... so England setting up play here again, thirty metres out. Cohen, his jersey's ripped, here's Wilkinson, and Robinson... he's beaten two, he didn't release it here... a Welsh player handled it up for Williams! Cohen has the front running, so Williams... England have not released it!

Chris Handy: great defensive break from Wales, the kick chase was superb! Williams not suckered in even by **Cohen in the eleven jersey** here... Cohen did the right thing, he went to ground with the ball knowing that anyone who falls on him will be penalised... he steadied, stayed up and pressured **the massive Ben Cohen** into a mistake. they're slowing things down... they're gonna take the line-out five metres out, immediate response, **Charvis, with the dark hair in the middle of the pack**. they work out how they're gonna score, this time through the forwards. will they have a crack at them?

Gordon Bray: and very selective refereeing there by Alain Rolland, allowing the Welsh to play the ball on the ground on the other side of half-way.

Tim Horan: and **this is what England did to so many teams**, can the Welsh do it back to them?

Gordon Bray: they're almost there... Charvis, yes! second try for Wales!

Chris Handy: pandemonium at Suncorp, there's all but the white jerseys up on their feet. England now together, but this man, **Charvis, he led them so well last Sunday night**... it just seems that like after a midday rest, these guys are on fire! (*showing replay*) what a wonderful driving forward try.

Tim Horan: well, it was his call, **Colin Charvis, the captain**, to go for the line-out, not for the three points, **as he did last week against the All Blacks**, as he does again tonight against England, (*showing Colin Charvis*) and he fixes that little do-up...

Gordon Bray: well, **he's had a special perm in that hairstyle**, and **that's two tries in the week**, **against the two best teams, allegedly, in this world cup**, New Zealand and England. he just stroked that one, so Wales ten, England three.

Chris Handy: England making the Welsh job much easier, they're hunching up, **they're not maintaining the width that they displayed so far on tour**.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli takes it comfortably. and in that last driving maul, Martin Johnson and Ben Kay just stood there as spectators, as Charvis drove over the line. and that's **little Williams**, here playing as scrum-half, but it was Dawson who held it down. England needs to hit back here as we close on half time, four minutes before the break, Dallaglio... but underneath there, a brilliant tackle by **prop forward Thomas**, and Wilkinson makes another mistake!

Chris Handy: shaky! the Welsh defence are having the midfield runners of England for breakfast. doesn't matter who it is, does it Tim?

Tim Horan: well, yeah, **Jonny Wilkinson, he doesn't make too many mistakes**, but it's the pressure of the Welsh coming up, (*showing replay*) just having a quick look, wasn't a great pass, he recovered, but Wilkinson needs to take control for the English, he needs to start getting their patterns of play in, and get some width, there are too many one-off runners, and they're getting picked up by the Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: (*showing statistics*) did you just read that stat on the bottom of the screen, Wilkinson has passed fifteen times, showing the amount of ball he's had, **Stephen Jones, his number ten counterpart for Wales**, only four!

Gordon Bray: but it's Jones who's the one who's varied his play beautifully, as Cooper has caused real problems with his pace and here's Jones! Wales on the rampage again! lucky bounce for Wilkinson... and now Luger, it's gone backwards! and that sums up England's night.

Chris Handy: oh, he is shaky, Luger, it's transferring itself right to the flanks...

Tim Horan: well, one of Dan Luger's best mates, (showing Clive Woodward) as Clive Woodward looks on in frustration, Dan Luger's best mate Damian Smith, has only seen one worse kicker in Wales, it went thirty metres behind him, and that was Dan Luger.

Chris Handy: (showing Dan Luger) as we're looking at Dan Luger, look at the Welsh pack, they had their power well, they're now coming, and gonna talk to Robin McBryde. what price a driving maul from this line-out... they have England on the rack.

Gordon Bray: Sidoli again, and they sack it that time.

Chris Handy: they can't pick this ball back up off the ground. it's now a ruck.

Gordon Bray: Jones, loose pass for Harris, that's unfortunate, chance for a turnover, Wales through Jones, and Williams. he was punstered by the England tight forwards... they just can't pick it up at the moment, England can now!

Chris Handy: advantage to England, they can hurt from here.

Gordon Bray: they gotta do something here. here's Greenwood and Luger, who hasn't looked comfortable tonight. Wales have covered up, and been able to slow the ball down.

Chris Handy: good advantage refereeing from Alain Rolland.

Gordon Bray: but there's nothing on here, for England. they just seem clueless here at the moment, in the face of the ferocious Welsh defence.

Chris Handy: short-side opportunity for Dawson...

Gordon Bray: he hesitated... did he release? he lost it! stolen there by Daffyd Jones!

Chris Handy: because they've been taken out of their pattern, nobody's able to support Dawson, who's left on his own.

Gordon Bray: Thomas up to full-back from Jones, and it was dropped by the referee! knock-on, sir!

Tim Horan: former test scrum-half for Ireland, and he's put down that one... of course when you become a ref you don't think you're gonna have to catch too many balls.

Chris Handy: (showing replay) Daffyd Jones, good work on his feet, that's what you gotta be able to do, in the modern game. they weren't able to make the most of it.

Gordon Bray: so Stephen Jones again, Taylor, Jones goes in to scrum-half, Stephen Jones from that great Llanelli flyhalf factory that has produced Phil Bennett and Barry John.

Chris Handy: caught in a bad position there...

Gordon Bray: well, about thirty seconds to go on the clock before half-time...

Tim Horan: well, what Clive Woodward would be saying at half-time...

Chris Handy: there's no time for a line-out, sorry to jump in, mate, they've gotta run.

Gordon Bray: here's Dawson again, and England's gotta be careful here they don't make a mistake in their desperation to close this gap... it's a good kick! Wilkinson's there, but so was Jones, his opposite number, and he held on to dear life.

Chris Handy: he's gotta let go cause he's off the ground.

Gordon Bray: here's Tindall, pulled back to meet Greenwood, lost ahead by England, here's Charvis. let's go! Charvis looks for Thomas, Robinson fells him fifteen from half-way, big one for Wales here! McBryde's there, so too is Jones, and Cohen's across! what an exciting forty minutes of rugby here... (showing referee blowing the whistle) and it's the Welsh who have shocked the rugby world, as they lead here by ten to three.

7.2) Analyse de RUGBY2

Eddie Butler: thank you John, good afternoon from Croke Park. Ireland against England, at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association. they never thought it would happen but here we are and Ireland has laid on a welcome that is ear-splitting, Brian.

Brian Moore: yes, even with headphones on, it was ringing in my ears, but I thought it was quite a special moment for the crowd to give the England team a standing ovation.

Eddie Butler: now then there was a Croke park effect when Ireland came here two weeks ago to play against France, they were awash in the emotion and the passion of that occasion, this is on a level higher than that. (showing Mary McAleese) the teams will be presented to the Irish president Mary McAleese. two weeks ago, after all the pageantry and all the presentations, Ireland froze in their blocks but Brian O'Driscoll, the Irish captain, was not there, this for him is a novel experience.

Brian Moore: yes, well everyone was saying he's an Irish home gear, but of course everyone only played here once, familiarity only comes, you know, with playing games and so therefore they've got to get used to the stadium...

Eddie Butler: (showing Phil Vickery and Mary McAleese) Phil Vickery, the England captain, presents his team, Dave Strettle there, the twenty-three-year-old in on the wing in the place of Jason Robinson, Strettle from Warrington, deep in rugby league country, replaces Jason Robinson, of course one of the greats of the rugby league code.

Brian Moore: going down there, the England forwards, that is where the crucial battle is, England's last three defeats in succession to Ireland have been principally because they have not been able to secure their own line-out ball, and therefore not been able to set any partner at play. if they are to stand a chance here, they must compete with the Irish forwards.

Eddie Butler: (showing the referees) the match officials, Joël Jutge from France will be the man in the middle. (showing Brian O'Driscoll) Brian O'Driscoll, John Hayes, the prop, the heaviest man on the field, the thirty-three-year-old from Munster...

Brian Moore: O'Driscoll's got a big job today, because he's got to get the balance right, he's got to get enough passion in, but not go over the top, he's got to get involved but not in things and not in battles which he ought not to, and then he's got to direct well, I think the prime attack must go around Farrell.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Farrell, Darcy, Tindall, Wilkinson, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: well, it just wets your lips, but Austin was quite right, you know, Andy Farrell, he's played less than fifteen games, and it's make or break, but if he does it today, it will be a remarkable testament to him as a rugby player.

Eddie Butler: I think it's noticeable that Ireland are going out of their way, and the president too, to be relaxed, to take the pressure off themselves.

Brian Moore: well they didn't play for the first twenty, did they? very flat performance from the forwards but the two second rows there, they'll be crucial for Ireland today, if they can repeat what they've done in the last three occasions to England then Ireland will be on their way... (showing Irish supporters) and that lot will be cheering them for every single yard they make.

Eddie Butler: and what comes next may be, perhaps, the most historic moment of them all, the playing of God Save the Queen at Croke Park. just waiting for the president to return to her seat. (showing Jonny Wilkinson) Jonny Wilkinson back for England, how important for the rebirth of their fortunes, they are unbeaten in the Six Nations, played two, won two.

(The orchestra plays God Save the Queen)

Brian Moore: I thought that was amazing.

Eddie Butler: what was all the fuss about...

(The orchestra plays The Soldier's Song)

Eddie Butler: that's a response for an anthem, the Soldier's Song belted out at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you what, Eddie, I got a lump in my throat from that.

Eddie Butler: oh, it's great stuff here at Croke Park, the central game of the middle-weekend of the Six Nations, and everything could hinge and turn on what happens over the next début minutes. Ireland against England, couldn't be better.

Brian Moore: well we've had the pride there, but what separates teams at this level is ability to think under pressure and do the right thing. it's not about pride, it's not about how you wear your shirt, or whatever, it's about doing the right things at the right time.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have been working on how to start a game in the six nations, it wasn't just against France that they started sluggishly, it's become almost a habit (*showing starting line-ups*) but can this pack of forwards hold themselves together in the early moments? it's their first choice pack, they're all there, and Paul O'Connell the big gun in the middle. Brian O'Driscoll returns to the outside centre spot to the captaincy, again, they're at full strength. England, so much rests on what the response will be from that team, Danny Grewcock against Donnacha O'Callaghan, that's a head-to-head to watch out for, and behind the scrum, David Strettle comes in at number eleven to replace Jason Robinson, what a test for him on his first test outing. (*showing substitutes*) the replacements, experience all around, flair to come, we'll see who is needed, when, but for the moment it's the starting line-ups that will go head-to-head here in the RBS six nations, (*showing referee*) and what a job for Joël Jutge of France, it's gonna be feisty out there, do you think, Brian, anybody will dare do anything other than thunder into each other in the opening moments?

Brian Moore: I don't think it's possible for them not to, they'll be so hyped up, but the important thing is, they must keep, both sides, must keep their discipline because if you get two or three exuberant penalties away, and you've got kickers like O'Gara and Wilkinson, you're gonna find yourself points down very quickly.

Eddie Butler: Joël Jutge, just being re-wired there...

Brian Moore: I would've thought today that although they can and have been playing an expensive game, O'Gara must take the opportunity to put the ball upon Olly Morgan and Strettle earlier on, newcomer and relative newcomer, Scotland failed to put any pressure on them, and I would think they'd get tested early.

Eddie Butler: (*showing David Strettle*) good all-round footballer, Dave Strettle, not just a rugby union player, rugby league was his passion, and he was on the football books of Manchester City, Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra... he's scored five tries on his début in the England sevens, five tries in one half, that's never been done before, here he is, this is different, this is the Six Nations.

Brian Moore: well there's no doubt that he's quick, but it's a whole different level! he would never have experienced anything approaching this. the noise here is utterly deafening!

Eddie Butler: the noise of eighty-two-thousand-five-hundred, and not for the first time the fields of Athenry goes around Croke Park, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and what an experience for Jonny Wilkinson, he's been everywhere, seen everything, this for him is a novel experience!

Brian Moore: it may be a bit banal to say this, but we've seen how restarts affect games, and this is the first one, if England can get under it, they'll feel they'll get up, if Ireland can secure it and drive, their midfield will bed it in.

Eddie Butler: we're off in Dublin, Ireland takes Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off, Dennis Leamy lays the ball back sweetly for Peter Stringer, it's worth reminding ourselves of course that Stringer is back. Ireland, look to run it, and then through the boot of Brian O'Driscoll, send it to England's fullback, Olly Morgan, winning his second cap. somebody's gotta go for it from the Irish side, first moment of hesitation. England with a turnover ball, offside, penalty... and a kicking chance for Wilkinson.

Brian Moore: what I didn't understand about that kick was that the Irish, although it was in their twenty-two, they had an overlap there, and they could've moved the ball one further, (*showing replay*) bit of barging there, but somebody's gotta put a name on that.

Eddie Butler: the knock-on by Donnacha O'Callaghan, Simon Easterby offside in front of him...

Brian Moore: this is just what England wanted and Ireland didn't want, Wilkinson's straight penalty, well within his range...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) seen this before?

Brian Moore: yeah.

Eddie Butler: in the second minute of play, Jonny Wilkinson puts England into the lead. another penalty from that old left boot of Wilkinson, (*showing scoreboard*) Ireland nil, England three, and Ireland have not made the start they wanted.

Brian Moore: well, what was I saying, you know, unforced errors, and that was really a gift to England from Ireland. I think one of the problems was that there was no man coming from the back, people coming from the side, and therefore they weren't really sure whose ball it was.

Eddie Butler: good take by Danny Grewcock... Harry Ellis waits for his first touch of the ball, Simon Easterby freeing himself there, Denis Hickie, safe catcher...

Brian Moore: extra man!

Eddie Butler: O'Gara... and here's the extra man, Dempsey, Shane Horgan inside him, Josh Lewsey with the tackle, Peter Stringer arrives. O'Gara, O'Driscoll, towards **Strettle the newcomer**... and that will be good for the nerves of Strettle, ushered it safely over the goal line, it will be a twenty-two for England.

Brian Moore: if they're gonna attack Strettle, they've gotta get men on the ball. okay, the ball didn't go their way, but the nearest chasing player was a good ten fifteen metres away.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, Paul O'Connell goes for the catch, that's a good tackle by Magnus Lund, Stringer to O'Gara, and again they're kicking behind Strettle, that's a more precise one by Ronan O'Gara, Ireland are exactly where they want to be.

Brian Moore: well he does that almost, well I think as well as anyone in world rugby really. now this is... but we'll see where the game goes from here, shall we, because, we keep saying crucial but the early exchanges do set the pattern.

Eddie Butler: will Ireland challenge on the England throw?

Brian Moore: well it's pointless touch-kicking if you don't challenge for the ball!

Eddie Butler: they do, Simon Easterby went up for it, it's safely taken by England, and their response is to rumble against the Irish eight. **this is what they did against Scotland in the first game**, early investment work by the heavy forwards. good play by England. Ellis, Shane Horgan, in field to Dempsey, makes the break, through Jonny Wilkinson of all people! and Ireland have the penalty, good work by Ireland's fullback.

Brian Moore: well they'll settle for a right and straightforward penalty, but I bet they wish they could've had the ball, cause there were men on their right-hand side for them to exploit, (*showing replay*) well he just slips off him, doesn't he? not good first at tackling, once you get to break the game line everything flows from there.

Eddie Butler: **Denis Hickie is the only survivor of the coaching regime of Brian Ashton when he was with Ireland, just in the years when the game went professional, and Ireland were a very different outfit back then, and Brian Ashton was a very different coach! one a piece for O'Gara and Wilkinson,** this little contest within a contest between **two of the outstanding outside halves in world rugby.** (*showing scoreboard*) and it's all-square here at Croke Park, Ireland three, England three.

Brian Moore: well I said before the match I didn't think it would necessarily be a classic in the true, purest sense, but I think it's gonna be a battle from start to finish, with huge atmosphere.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson, places it more centrally, Paul O'Connell, good catch. Donacha O'Callaghan has to be careful, he can't manhandle Phil Vickery, especially not around his throat, O'Gara, O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll, that put David Wallace in a spot of bother, but...

Brian Moore: Farrell was inside, and that was Wilkinson who tackled at centre...

Eddie Butler: now then Strettle, with a chance to counter, **Peter Stringer**, back covering, well read by **the scrum-half**. Shane Horgan. England plays in front of the kicker, not ten metres.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) sort of bounced well, not within ten, but the more important thing, I think, was the way which Ireland sought to attack there, inside the outside centre down the centre channel but they found, England had swapped the defence over, to give Wilkinson, who's got a bit more pace, the responsibility of taking O'Driscoll, and Farrell inside him.

Eddie Butler: **Ronan O'Gara who scored all Ireland's points against France in the last match, including the first-half try... (showing Paul O'Connell) Paul O'Connell, the heart of the Irish forwards, wearing five. Rory Best the hooker, just checking the call, up goes O'Connell. England have done well to drag it down, Easterby and Leamy, the back-rowers,** break away from the ruck. Stringer, O'Gara,

back behind Strettle, with Shane Horgan chasing, Strettle should have time. here's a glimpse of his pace, was he taken late by Horgan?

Brian Moore: no, he wasn't.

Eddie Butler: play on, Girvan Dempsey. O'Gara in support, looking for that old touchline, beautifully played, beautifully played by Ronan O'Gara.

Brian Moore: well, there was a venture from Strettle there, but ultimately the kick was poor and exposed England to a counter-attack, three or four supporting players, and O'Gara made the decision, well we're keeping England back in their twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: George Chuter, (*showing Phil Vickery*) there's **the captain Phil Vickery**, Joël Jutge still having a few problems with his communications, (*showing George Chuter*) this is a test for George Chuter's communication skills, England have cut the line-out to four, now it's five as Louis Deacon comes in, well taken by Martin Corry, well played. Vickery in possession driven back by O'Callaghan. a little one, O'Connell goes back, it's bouncing free.

Brian Moore: he's gonna box-kick this.

Eddie Butler: down goes Danny Grewcock. Harry Ellis, outstanding against Scotland, wants Phil Vickery out of his way so he can feed **his half-back partner Wilkinson** who went deliberately down field, the switch between Dempsey and Hickie. Denis Hickie finds only Martin Corry, Jonny Wilkinson, to O'Gara.

Brian Moore: no full-back!

Eddie Butler: but Martin Corry is there, well taken on the second attempt. it's out, Harry Ellis was just looking at options beyond the breakdown area, he's had to bury himself in the ruck, Wilkinson to Mike Tindall.

Brian Moore: and he gets it off the field! (*showing replay*) well he did well the second time, didn't he? I think there's a little bit of shepherding there by Harry Ellis, but he got away with it, so...

Eddie Butler: **Rory Best of Ulster**, **Paul O'Connell of Munster**, Donacha O'Callaghan at the front, O'Connell, behind him, O'Connell the target, well taken, well read by Martin Corry, charging through one poorly deflected Irish ball, Danny Grewcock tries to raise his knees, Wilkinson, Andy Farrell! the offload came late, O'Driscoll got a boot in. Strettle, had a busy opening period, the follow-up tackle by Horgan, but that's better by Strettle, very good counter-attack, but only as far as Girvan Dempsey, Strettle has to make the tackle.

Brian Moore: he did well there.

Eddie Butler: there might be something up this blind side for Ireland, O'Driscoll, infield, Horgan just couldn't quite take the pass from Marcus Horan the prop.

Brian Moore: well, though Andy Farrell offloaded, and Brian O'Driscoll kicked there, he did make ground against D'Arcy. (*showing replay*) well, a bit hopeful, that, wasn't looking...

Eddie Butler: I think Shane Horgan was just conscious of the touchline there. (*showing statistics*) England, what's that, about twelve pounds a man heavier, **David Wallace in the back row is the lightest**, I think I know who **the heaviest is**, that'll be **big John Hayes in the front row**. now, England are not going down there, Brian?

Brian Moore: yeah, I think so, but the pause has got to be succinct... that was better, because it was succinct, and it was the same timing. that should be a penalty to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery turning in?

Brian Moore: yeah. Vickery bending on the arm, oh, shocking decision. well his shoulders aren't gonna be above his head, (*showing replay*) look, Phil Vickery's not allowed to bind on his arms, and you can see he's stuffed his head up, well, politely, he's bent him double.

Eddie Butler: the upside is that England are in a good attacking position.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) and you see there, the prop's binding has got to be on the shirt, not the arm. and the ball wasn't in straight, but never mind... I think we forgot about that.

Eddie Butler: he's up and running. Jonny Wilkinson, Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Strettle in from the opposite wing, tackled by O'Driscoll and held up in the air. introduction to the international

midfield, England though have it, George Chuter took the pass from Farrell, Farrell goes into the ruck, Ellis, Wilkinson, only Corry outside him, Dennis Leamy, or Simon Easterby rather, makes the tackle on Wilkinson. Ellis, oops, a lot of forwards outside Harry Ellis, and it wasn't clear who was going to get the ball, because Jonny Wilkinson was tied up elsewhere. England are still in possession, George Chuter, tackled by David Wallace, lost! oh, the charge down... waste of a turnover, perhaps, (*showing Peter Stringer*) but Peter Stringer knew there was a huge gap behind England.

Brian Moore: yeah... (*showing replay*) well it was really caused by the fact that the gang tackled there, and that's the real problem, he's driven backwards. interesting watching England, they were doing a very, very complex move, I can't help thinking that earlier on, why didn't they just let Farrell run?

Eddie Butler: Denis Leamy broke away from the scrum, did well, now, then, Ireland, this could be interesting, oh, Gordon D'Arcy didn't see it, they did have men outside D'Arcy for a moment.

Brian Moore: yeah, you're right, but, I mean, if you've got a bouncing ball it's like that, if it had gone straight to him, they would have exploited it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll short to Dempsey, offload, picked up by Denis Hickie, Stringer, Leamy, runs against Louis Deacon, who flips him round. now they have numbers again, Shane Horgan, Joe Worsley tries to shadow him, Easterby couldn't get the pass away. Strettle had a chance, but the whistle had gone before that.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well what a waste, you will see, three to one out here, Strettle using his arms and leaving the outside man, and managed to get into, well, good play by him, you've got to make a decision there, you've got to hit the man with the ball or you've gotta stay outside. if you get caught in the middle, it's worst of both worlds.

Eddie Butler: penalty against England, for kicking the ball in the scrum. Austin?

Austin Healy: yeah, Eddie, well against France a couple of weeks ago, Ireland were very tight in defence, have a little look at this little clip here, (*showing replay with animations*), Shane Horgan is the last defender, he's actually twenty metres away from where Jonny Wilkinson receives the ball, outside him we've got three attacking players. England are very good at their cross-field kick, but instead Jonny Wilkinson elects to kick a high ball, there's a lot of opportunities out there, he's the last defender and hopefully will spot that and be able to use it.

Brian Moore: interesting on that last penalty, it was a penalty for Ellis kicking the ball out, however, the Irish flanker broke before that, so...

Eddie Butler: right Brian, okay...

Brian Moore: I just like to be accurate!

Eddie Butler: well I'll give you that one, but it was a clear foot in the Irish scrum, which is more blatant...

Brian Moore: I admitted that!

Eddie Butler: alright, alright... Rory Best, O'Connell has been the principal target of the Irish line-out. George Chuter, oh, leave him alone, once he's been spotted by the referee, on comes the Ireland surge. there's a real huddle behind that ruck, yeah it is, Ireland repositioned intriguingly.

Brian Moore: well Ireland got fragmented here... well the problem they're having is that the initial surge is not full enough. they've got to get the momentum for the initial surge.

Eddie Butler: and the defensive work by England was good enough...

Brian Moore: yes, I agree.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, very solid scrum, Wilkinson, to Farrell. that's just outside their twenty-two, and Ireland have a penalty. hanging on after the tackle.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well he got the ball round there, but he's got to let go, there... the problem is, if he'd let go straight away... he'd move his body, a double movement, he's always gonna get pain for that.

Eddie Butler: Gordon D'Arcy, David Wallace, Denis Leamy, quickly there, (*showing Andy Farrell*), Andy Farrell, the culprit. Ireland with a chance to take the lead.

Brian Moore: well you can say that, but there, it's interesting to see that two of the Irish back-row were there before any England back row arrived.

Eddie Butler: well I just think the way Farrell got up and spoke to those outside him, whether something broke down there, or whether the back row was heading for something different...

Brian Moore: I don't know, maybe, whatever it was, it wasn't good.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are in the lead, Ronan O'Gara kicks his second penalty. Ireland six, England three.

Brian Moore: the referee just had a word with Phil Vickery, saying have a look at the binding, you're not good enough.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Wilkinson, just easing his forwards pack. he's gone quite a central path so far, and he's gone down that channel again, oh no, he's gone towards the touchline, where it's caught by Denis Leamy. tackled by Mike Tindall, the chaser of the kick, O'Gara. huge kick by O'Gara, Josh Lewsey takes it quickly to Holly Morgan. Morgan, keeps it in play, Leamy, Girvan Dempsey. this time, the safety of touch, and down there is Philip Matthews.

Philip Matthews: yes Eddie, just an early observation, Ireland really willing to put the ball through their hands, and looking pretty dangerous out wide, England trying to attack fairly close into the scrums, that's enabling David Wallace to come in and get that turnover, England need to get the ball a little bit wider, Strettle looks dangerous, and they could do well to get the ball into his hands a little earlier on.

Eddie Butler: Magnus Lund, Danny Grewcock, it's stolen though, down goes Simon Easterby. any turn of the ball is good ball, now then was Brian O'Driscoll in front of O'Gara? Olly Morgan waits for it. good catch, good tackle by Gordon D'Arcy but mark was made, and Joël Jutge has awarded the free kick, quickly taken, Harry Ellis to Worsley outside him, sorry that was Andy Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson slightly on his own did well to cut back towards help, and England get the penalty.

Brian Moore: well that's good thinking by Harry Ellis, and there's someone who's gonna be spoken to here...

Eddie Butler: Andy Farrell, Marcus Horan?

Brian Moore: what's a winger doing in there?

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) that was the Marcus Horan bash on Jonny Wilkinson that upset Andy Farrell. Jonny Wilkinson fit enough to put England down towards the Irish twenty-two, and George Chuter will have the throw-in. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) his place was supposedly in doubt with a tight hamstring, but he looks alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that's good work by Olly Morgan, never took his eyes off the ball, he must've known that O'Driscoll was coming, but Ireland have stolen another ball! two in a row, now, that's a good drive.

Eddie Butler: and they turned a loose turnover ball into a driving maul, and into a penalty situation, so that the damage done by Paul O'Connell's high tackle has been converted into this, a penalty down there for Ronan O'Gara and the rain...

Brian Moore: it's quite heavy now!

Eddie Butler: it is, it is, and it's a slippery pitch, it's well known for its slipperiness, O'Gara not being too greedy...

Brian Moore: well that's a terrible kick he's made, seven yards!

Eddie Butler: (*showing crowd*) the rain falls on Hill Sixteen. they won't mind a bit, as long as Ireland remain in front. O'Connell again, this time off the top to Stringer, O'Gara, they would've wanted a quicker ball than that but they might have numbers now, Shane Horgan, Louis Deacon, who's taken on the outside, but Olly Morgan, oh, he read it well, but then, just a sign there that the ball is getting wet and slippery.

Brian Moore: you can see it coming down here, the crowd are complaining that that was a block, but it wasn't, Morgan just looked up slightly there, just for a second...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) there's **Olly Morgan, the Gloucester fullback**, (*showing Shane Horgan*) and there's **big Shane Horgan**, and the damage by Horgan was done to Strettle who was in his way, and Horgan simply cleared him out of the way.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) oh, you can't do that, that's a cheap shot, another cheap shot. I don't know what the linesmen look at these days!

Eddie Butler: great view of the line-out as O'Connell goes up again, that should be a penalty, they have to be careful, O'Connell is ruling the line-out, and England have decided to do something but that is too blatant.

Brian Moore: unobvious. (*showing replay*) come on, you know the rules, **can't touch a man in the air, dangerous**. said earlier on, didn't I, about keeping your head, etcetera, did he give another three points to Ireland?

Eddie Butler: don't you think, that was an Irish throw won again by O'Connell, but the pressure on England comes from the two they just lost...

Brian Moore: absolutely, yet again, the Ireland line-out is starting to get into the English line-out, and the dividends are being reaped. history repeating itself.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the **second row combination of Paul O'Connell and Donacha Callaghan, which obviously works for Munster**, but **there was a feeling that, you know, perhaps, Paul O'Connell worked better with Malcolm O'Kelly**, that **O'Connell being a front jumper** but today he's jumping all over the place, and jumping well. Croke Park tells you everything. Ireland's lead grows to nine points to three.

Brian Moore: and in the last ten minutes, the balance of the game in terms of, just the feeling that one team is doing better than the other, is definitely being in Ireland's favour. it is absolutely pouring down here.

Eddie Butler: Wilkinson this time goes straight down the field, where David Wallace waits. that's a good tackle by Lund, **Stringer, his fractured finger has healed**, O'Gara, good kick, quickly taken by Olly Morgan. Girvan Dempsey went up for it, Olly Morgan knocked it on, O'Gara picks up the scraps, on goes Simon Easterby, O'Gara, Gordon D'Arcy is in space, oh, well read in the end by Josh Lewsey. well read indeed, because there was real danger then.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) both sides are making mistakes, balls are being spilled, but Ireland are clearly playing better than England.

Eddie Butler: O'Connell has gone towards the tail of the line-out, which increases the attacking options, should it go to him, but they go short instead. it's David Wallace...

Brian Moore : oh, that could be a turnover!

Eddie Butler: Ireland have the put-in. close, though, wasn't it?

Brian Moore: good work, there, (*showing replay*) I just thought for a second that he turned him there, that was Vickery, was that, on the floor?

Eddie Butler: good work here by **the England captain**, just sort of wrap yourself into a position on the floor... just listen to Joël Jutge, having a word with David Wallace... but Phil Vickery, if you curl yourself down there, you know there's a bit of pain coming your way.

Brian Moore: yeah, well not really, you're not allowed to do that anymore, you're not allowed to stamp on people anymore.

Eddie Butler: well you're not allowed to curl up down there, but it goes on!

Brian Moore: this was an area before the game that England should've targeted, but they've got no chance so far.

Eddie Butler: **well the Irish scrum has held up certainly in Cardiff, where they ended up dominating the game**, and then of course **France came with their scrummage challenge as they always present, and Ireland did pretty well there**, and they've done well again! O'Gara, D'Arcy, now on the loop from O'Driscoll, Tindall got back just to check D'Arcy's run, D'Arcy with the quick feet, Stringer waits, O'Gara with a dummy, how well that worked against France... Shane Horgan, **Rory Best the hooker**, twisting and turning, England have to be careful not to put hands in there, Horgan, offloads to

Easterby, Hickie's outside him, he can't, he can, he's on his feet! Lewsey saves England, has he saved them enough? Ireland just short, penalty to Ireland...

Brian Moore: that could be a yellow card!

Eddie Butler: it's gonna be a yellow card, it is... and if it's a yellow card that close to the line, is it a case for a penalty try?

Brian Moore: possibly, but the ball still had to be passed along the back-line, there were a lot of defenders there, it was more the fact that it was slowed down.

Eddie Butler: don't tell me, don't tell me it's Danny Grewcock. ha ha ha, it is! oh, he knows this path alright!

Brian Moore: how much of that was dangerous, he was cynical! (*showing replay*) crucial things, good backing-up work, shows a lot of pace, here, doesn't he? he realises he's not tackled and therefore he can get up again.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) well that's not dangerous, is it? so, England face a line-out without one of their principal line jumpers. poor old Louis Deacon and Martin Corry, they have a major job on their hands now, because I imagine, Brian, drive...

Brian Moore: must do. very important for Ireland to extend their lead when they've got this advantage and they've got the pitch advantage...

Eddie Butler: a slight delay. erm, not sure why, is it the old communication thing again, with Joël Jutge? actually it's Olly Morgan who's down the touchline, Olly Morgan is injured and in fact Olly Morgan is already walking off towards the changing room.

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate is coming on, is it?

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) hamstring, looks like...

Brian Moore: Matthew Tate will go on the right wing, and Lewsey will go fullback.

Eddie Butler: the sad sight of Olly Morgan going off, Matthew Tate comes on, and Ireland have this throw that close to the goal line. O'Connell is the target, well taken, on comes the drive, looks pretty good, Ireland through the middle, not quite there yet...

Brian Moore: it's coming back though!

Eddie Butler: Stringer goes on his own, it's gone loose, brilliantly offloaded...

Brian Moore: great hands!

Eddie Butler: great try for Ireland, fantastic one, Girvan Dempsey finishes it, sleight of hand, power by the forwards, great combination work against a fourteen-man England.

Brian Moore: I thought just for a second that they might have spoilt that, because Stringer passed away, I thought they'd closed it down, but great hands in the middle, always men outside I was wondering if they could get there, (*showing replay*) I just thought that they might have closed it all down with that poor pass, but that's lovely sleight of hand.

Eddie Butler: it was a simple finish by Girvan Dempsey, but what about this! D'Arcy, O'Driscoll picking it up on the half-volley, good ball from D'Arcy.

Brian Moore: I think Ireland will feel quite comfortable now, they've had the better of the last fifteen minutes, they started to get into England's line-out, England have not been able to get themselves out of their own half, now they're a man down, O'Gara is kicking well, the first try's gone to Ireland, they should be very happy.

Eddie Butler: two points added, Ireland sixteen, England three, and suddenly the complexion of the game has changed completely. (*showing replay*) Brian O'Driscoll's pass, and Girvan Dempsey's finish.

Brian Moore: well, there were two pieces of good handling there, D'Arcy was the one that picked the half-volley off Springer, and then O'Driscoll picked up the half-volley off D'Arcy.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood?

Keith Wood: it seems to have changed totally on the back of Paul O'Connell, his whole attitude in this game is one of abrasive, he's holding up the whole team, and they've totally changed in the last five or ten minutes.

Eddie Butler: England have a knock-on advantage, Wilkinson, held by **two front row players, John Hayes and Rory Best**, Paul O'Connell rips through the outskirts of the ruck and grabs Harry Ellis and chucks him down, Martin Corry tossed over...

Brian Moore: he did well to retain that but he's still being driven backwards, slow ball...

Eddie Butler: there's a real aggression about Ireland, England need to settle now, Wilkinson, yeah, the change of tactic, get going forward lads, Girvan Dempsey rises high, oh, held in the air, that could be yellow... Magnus Lund is the guilty party. Brian Moore is reaching for his law book, it's always a dodgy moment, (*showing replay*) that is a tackle on a player in the air....

Brian Moore: oh there's no doubt about that, it's just about the retaliation.

Eddie Butler: what retaliation?

Brian Moore: well, the referee, that's what he said, I don't want you to do that.

Eddie Butler: well he didn't do anything! Wilkinson, O'Gara, O'Gara steps around Wilkinson, oh... I was just gonna say...

Brian Moore: that was perfect!

Eddie Butler: it was, it was, but actually, it went wrong at the end. still, it's all going well for Ireland at the moment.

Brian Moore: it's quite a big cushion as well, thirteen points...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Magnus Lund*) of course, Magnus Lund, perhaps lucky to be there, England would've been down to six in the pack. **his brother Eric is captain of Norway**. well taken, Louis Deacon, England's chance to launch an attack through Mike Tindall, went for Ronan O'Gara, and now England with numbers, Matthew Tate, Josh Lewsey, Lewsey still going, Callaghan is over there, Ellis, this is better by England, Martin Corry held up, George Chuter goes in, **his Leicester team-mate**, now it's to deck. o:h, wasn't quite to deck, because Ireland have stolen a turnover put-in.

Brian Moore: difficult to see from this far away. the problem was, although Corry was solid on the ball, the support wasn't there quick enough. Ireland have managed to get a lot of arms around it and when they went down they kept the ball up.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Olly Morgan*) well it's not a hamstring injury for Olly Morgan, there's a lot of ice on that shoulder.

Brian Moore: possibly came when he went and fell with O'Driscoll, I think.

Eddie Butler: Leamy...

Brian Moore: oh, men outside there!

Eddie Butler: well... it was a slightly turned scrum, I think they went cagey. Lewsey, not a thumper, just a delicate one, **Denis Leamy** takes it, **the big, strong Munster number eight** does well there, and now then it might be on for Ireland instead, Stringer drills it behind the white line, Matthew Tate, not much ground made, oh, in fact, hardly anything at all by the touch judge down there, that's a cruel...

Brian Moore: outside?

Eddie Butler: surely not. did he?

Brian Moore: well, he marked it inside, unless it went sideways...

Eddie Butler: I'd love to see that again!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) I don't understand that. is he inside the twenty-two when he kicks it?

Eddie Butler: did he carry it back in?

Brian Moore: I don't think so.

Eddie Butler: Ireland's line-out works well...

Brian Moore: very flat!

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan!

Brian Moore: he's gonna score!

Eddie Butler: oh, that's a brilliant tackle! fantastic tackle, but Ireland are coming through again, O'Connell's dropped it! and Wilkinson kicks it safely over the dead ball line. two great chances for Ireland, both come to naught!

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) you can see what they're doing here, angling in first, to fix the back, and then they rely on this pace there, Horgan coming back, he's a **big man** as well, you're not going to pull him down but Matthew Tate did well there...

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tate did the tackle, and George Chuter made the second.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) O'Connell should've held on to that.

Eddie Butler: how this game has changed, Brian, from a bright start by England, they're on the ropes?

Brian Moore: well that's because their primary possession is suffering. in the end, it's quite a simple game, you don't get a good first ball, you can do very little else! on top of that, O'Gara, whenever the ball's been loose, whenever he's had the chance he's just pinned England right back to these areas. I'd like to see the twenty-two statistics, how many times they've been in their respective twenty-twos, I bet it's a huge margin to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: three and a half minutes to go to half-time, England, five metres from their own line, and oh, Stringer, what a sub-driven... Magnus Lund, was it? Back over the try line.

Brian Moore: well they're a man down, and they're still going in, now they're a man down with a blind side which is big enough for someone like Horgan, you gotta have another man there!

Eddie Butler: they have, and **Strettle, the fresh-face newcomer**, has to guard that blind side... Horgan, tackled by Wilkinson. Wilkinson blocked that blind side gap, that's a try! I think that's David Wallace, they'll go to video replay, and I think that will be revealed as a try.

Brian Moore: and if it is, if he confirms the try, that's solely down to the powerful work done by the Irish forwards in the previous scrum. (*showing replay*) I think you can see just see him touch it down here, there, there you are, that's a try. and they're out of sight at the moment... I said Ireland had to take full advantage of being a man up, and they have done that.

Eddie Butler: try for the greens awarded, Joël Jutge raises his arm and Ireland are clear now, and how England have suffered while they've been down to fourteen, Danny Grewcock in the sin bin.

Brian Moore: yet again... (*showing Paul O'Connell*) well O'Connell there, he's been a beacon, hasn't he? in the line-outs, he's been driving, revving his pack up there, I think England will want half-time to come very quickly. I've just looked at the stats for balls won in opponents' twenty-two, and it's nine-one to Ireland.

Eddie Butler: what a setting for a kicker on form, he's done it again, Ronan O'Gara drives home another nail, it's twenty-three points to three, and Ronan O'Gara hasn't missed.

Brian Moore: well this makes **Ireland's poor start against France** even more expensive in a way, doesn't it?

Eddie Butler: England set off again in pursuit of a ball well taken by the Irish forwards, oh, it's been half-pinched by England and then stolen back by Ireland, O'Gara for touch. England with one minute and a few seconds in which to salvage something from this first half. (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ireland, with Ronan O'Gara pushing them forward, growing in stature.

Brian Moore: well you can't fault the effort and the work rate of the England forward, but it's very difficult to hold a good pack, and one that's starting to perform more powerfully, they got a lot of, I've said it earlier on, the line-outs would be so crucial, they'd be giving them so much confidence from the stealing ball, you know, giving them bad ball...

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock is back, it was nine-three when he went off, it's now twenty-three-three. Louis Deacon, good ball at last. Farrell, takes on O'Driscoll. Ball well presented. Joe Worsley, nothing really up that blind side, but they want to stretch play as far as they can, and here they come the other way, and then Mike Tindall tries to straighten, tackled by **David Wallace, what an outstanding Six Nations Wallace he's having!** Farrell again, this time takes on Simon Easterby... oh, good picking-up job by Martin Corry. Ellis, infield to Perry Freshwater, but it's all gone wrong for England, Josh Lewsey, who's been as good as ever in defence, mind you that's a very good follow-up tackle by Rory Best upon Lewsey! Farrell... Ireland will hoof this off the park, and that will be the

break. that's it, Joël Jutge blows his whistle for half-time, and well, listen to this for Ireland, at the midway point.

Brian Moore: well you'd think they'd almost won the game, I mean, they've got a long way to doing that, they dominated the last twenty-five minutes, and England, no lack in effort, but they've been dispatched.

Eddie Butler: England are struggling, here at Croke Park, **it's the first ever international between England and Ireland here**, and Ireland are in the driving seat, twenty-three-three they lead.

SECOND HALF

Eddie Butler: yep, half-way, and half-time, and Ireland in control. England have made a substitution, Tom Rees has come on into the back row instead of Magnus Lund, and it's gonna be Ronan O'Gara, immaculate kicking in the first half, to restart play. Tom Rees, oh, he watched it bounce, and put Harry Ellis in a spot of bother, oh, Ellis did well, very well, because Paul O'Connell was arriving with the velocity of a charging rhino.

Brian Moore: well they've recovered but it's not as tight as you want, from the pressure, o:h!

Eddie Butler: and if England needed to settle themselves down, they have done the complete opposite.

Brian Moore: well, indecision again... that was never Harry Ellis's ball, (*showing replay*) wow, that could've gone anywhere, could it, O'Connell he's everywhere, isn't he?

Eddie Butler: he's a sort of **carrot-hair rhino**, which is strange, but...

Brian Moore: you know, **his last two games, he's been ineffective**, but today, he's looked sparky.

Eddie Butler: **he was better against France**, but he's been awesome today, so far. time for England to recover yet. Martin Corry starts with that line-out, Harry Ellis ducks away from Simon Easterby, that's better, that's what we saw in the first game, Marcus Horan, great work by **the prop**, and Ireland...

Brian Moore: oh, he should've gone...

Eddie Butler: it can still go! Ireland have knocked the ball on here... great opportunity lost, and I suspect Brian O'Driscoll might come in from the centre to have a word with the players inside. a player's down injured.

Brian Moore: you know what's disappointing as well, from an England point of view, two players that got stuck in...

Eddie Butler: I trust you were on the case, just to keep an eye on things?

Brian Moore: well trouble starts, you've all gotta be in! the problem for England is, they're gonna win this ball, probably, but look where they are, again!

Eddie Butler: on their own twenty-two, and turned by the Irish scrummage, Joël Jutge orders a reset because of the front rowers going up. Ireland have a penalty...

Brian Moore: oh, that's rubbish!

Eddie Butler: ha ha, did you somehow guess that this was coming?

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well I thought the first offence was standing up, look! just popped out of the top! it will be interesting to see from the reverse side...

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery, the one picked out, on the far side?

Brian Moore: yes, he was, yeah.

Eddie Butler: this is simple for Ronan O'Gara, at the start of the second half...

Brian Moore: it's not what England wanted, is it, it's just what Ireland wanted.

Eddie Butler: six out of six for Ronan O'Gara, twenty-six points to three.

Brian Moore: well he's been perfect off the floor, but equally impressive has been the way, (*showing replay*) oh, I apologize.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian!

Brian Moore: there was an offence on both sides, I have to say, but the referee caught one of them, that's the way it goes.

Eddie Butler: Ireland sort out the restart, Gordon D'Arcy, good footwork, Tom Rees made the tackle in the end, oops, (*showing Marcus Horan*) that's Marcus Horan the prop, just putting his boot to it. England are gonna bring a change into the front row, Julian White is coming on the field, and it's Perry Freshwater who's going off, now Julian White did a real number for Leicester on the Munster scrum, but it was entirely different then.

Brian Moore: well he did from tight head as well.

Eddie Butler: do you think he'll play, will he go to loose head?

Brian Moore: I think he will. well, Vickery can be better at loose head, so you may get Vickery there.

Eddie Butler: Danny Grewcock sorts out the tap-down from Martin Corry who was challenged by O'Connell...

Brian Moore: Easterby has got his hands in there as well.

Eddie Butler: just slows it up, just slows it up for Tindall, Andy Farrell, oh, that's a good delivery to Mike Tindall, Joe Worsley, let it go for Harry Ellis in the end, that is Julian White, not best known for his running in the loose, but he's done it, to set up Josh Lewsey, Ireland don't commit too many forwards, Farrell, behind Shane Horgan, at least England will have a chance to attack the Irish throw...

Brian Moore: and they need to start doing this, and now. (*showing replay*) that's a decent kick from Farrell, but it won't mean anything if the Irish are able to do what they hitherto have been doing, and get the line-out clean, (*showing Paul O'Connell*) with that man I suspect...

Eddie Butler: who's towards the tail, which puts a certain pressure on Rory Best, they've got four jumpers, and then Denis Leamy will drop a man in here, no it's Simon Easterby who's at scrum-half who goes in. England have won themselves a turnover for the set piece, that'll do, for starters... why have you got your nose in the law book?

Brian Moore: if England have any chance of getting back in this game, they've gotta score from here, from this period of play. they've had so little ball in the twenty-two.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis, oh, might just open up for him, oh, then he delivers a shocker. Josh Lewsey, heads past Gordon D'Arcy and Brian O'Driscoll, great work by Lewsey on the rear foot...

Brian Moore: Rees...

Eddie Butler: England within five metres, Harry Ellis, they keep it short, it's Tom Rees again...

Brian Moore: I think they're gonna go blind this time, slow, too slow...

Eddie Butler: switch of play by Joe Worsley, no way through there, Rory Best makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: no options, has he?

Eddie Butler: no! there are a lot of forwards out here, Andy Farrell, here's Matthew Tait, Josh Lewsey...

Brian Moore: come on! he's in, he's in!

Eddie Butler: Dave Strettle on his début is going to have to suffer, trial by video. (*showing David Strettle*) the flying machine, he thinks he's got it. what a début it would be for England's winger! (*showing referee*) Joël Jutge waits. (*showing replay*) TRY!

Brian Moore: I think it's a try, yeah. is anything touching? no, that's up, it's a try. England desperately needed that, Ireland were just starting to pull out of sight! it was a quick ball...

Eddie Butler: well I was going to say, so much for our slow ball theory! he did finish well, didn't he, David Strettle, well there was an overlap but he still had everything to do. Gordon D'Arcy couldn't get there, Girvan Dempsey... (*showing referee*) confirmation by Romain Poite, Strettle on the scoreboard. first game, first try.

Brian Moore: well I don't know why there's booing here, it was quite clear!

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson to put England into double figures. brilliant kick, and the conversion confirms that England are back in this game. (*showing statistics*)

fourth highest scorer in test rugby with nine-hundred-eleven. and Neil Jenkins isn't that far ahead of him, just over the thousand mark.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) good passing, Farrell. draws his man, keeps it relatively straight and that creates room outside.

Eddie Butler: Jo Worsley, who was involved...

Brian Moore: there are men left here if the ball comes quickly... too late.

Eddie Butler: England backs against Irish forwards there, but they're gone the other way. just may have handed it back to Girvan Dempsey.

Brian Moore: well that was a pointless kick, because you had two front-rowers out there!

Eddie Butler: good tackle by Phil Vickery on Ireland's fullback. O'Gara, just to settle things down, get back down there. Lewsey with not much space, will he keep it in field?

Brian Moore: no! (*showing statistics*) well the balls won in opponents' twenty-two, have gone up ten to six, it shows England have put a little bit more pressure, they've managed to play again more in the Irish half and I would imagine, well that was an attempt by O'Gara just to resettle, re-establish a territorial dominance from which Ireland have done very well.

Eddie Butler: Rory Best, immaculate throwing so far, and again it's well directed from Simon Easterby. Gordon D'Arcy, cuts inside Wilkinson. quick ball for Ireland now, O'Connell takes on Farrell, Wilkinson had to go in, Jo Worsley got a bump on the head. Ireland stretching in in one way, and they keep going that way, through Paul O'Connell.

Brian Moore: that was one too far.

Eddie Butler: it's static now for Ireland, O'Gara, the hanging cross-field kick, Dennis Hickie, taps it infield, but in touch. England's throw.

Brian Moore: but again, the result is, England are back in their twenty-two, Ireland are well able to attack the lineout...

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, he's had a good day at the line-outs, it's alright for England, they've won themselves a penalty, against Easterby.

Brian Moore: coming in the side there, not going through the pillars is what we say, you gotta bind, come in from behind the back foot... oops!

Eddie Butler: oh dear... Girvan Dempsey, pass to Dennis Hickie, Shane Horgan, that's terrific from Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: Tindall and Farrell were both there...

Eddie Butler: O'Gara, Hickie...

Brian Moore: crossing!

Eddie Butler: crossing there, in midfield. well spotted by the referee, it's easy from here we are perched above the ground and sometimes at ground level it's not easy to spot.

Brian Moore: I think that was relatively easy, actually!

Eddie Butler: yeah yeah... alright.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's the problem, he's too close, if he'd been another five yards away, no problem. but this is how, if Wilkinson is kicking, this is how England is keeping in touch, because he's so good at taking the points when they're on offer.

Eddie Butler: well, it is half-way, well, of course it's no surprise he's gonna go for it, and from going twenty-six-three down in the opening seconds of the first half, twenty-six-thirteen well that's some recovery by England, of course it's only half-way there, but it means the game still has a lot of life in it.

Brian Moore: (*showing distance to posts*) dead on. well you wouldn't expect any reasonable team to just die, the least... they'll be expecting some fight back.

Eddie Butler: it was short, didn't quite have the length. a rare miss.

Brian Moore: and the crowd are trying to pick Ireland up, they realise they've just had a bit of a fallow period, and they're trying to play for the team. it must be great to have such a support behind you.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, tackled by O'Connell. England with a lot of possession.

Brian Moore: man out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Tindall, Josh Lewsey... oh, Matthew Tait can't take it, counter-attack possibility for Ireland, David Wallace is there to help Girvan Dempsey, advantage still being played, Girvan Dempsey still in possession. it's there for Stringer, slightly off the side of O'Gara's boot, but it's ground made, and England prepare to make another substitution, Tom Palmer will come into the second row, (*showing Brian Ashton*) there's Brian Ashton, Palmer on, Danny Grewcock off.

Brian Moore: just for a second there, there was the possibility for a breakaway, and I think Tait should've taken that ball...

Eddie Butler: Louis Deacon with the line-out, Andy Farrell, Wilkinson on the loop, Mike Tindall, Matthew Tait, oh, it's a crunching tackle by... Gordon D'Arcy. England have another penalty.

Brian Moore: well, this is the way it goes, you go forward, you get the penalties. the first half, the Irish put a lot of pressure on, but it doesn't matter if you're constantly on the back foot, this is what happens, the decisions go your way...

Eddie Butler: (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) the simple instruction, going for goal. The all-familiar routine, England team-mates watch on, (*showing Tom Palmer*) there's **Tom Palmer fresh on, eighteen**, sorting out the line-outs with Jo Worsley, (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) and meanwhile Jonny Wilkinson lines up the ball against the posts. no mistake this time, England now have half the number of points Ireland have. (*showing Eddie O'Sullivan*) Eddie O'Sullivan, will he be starting to feel a little anxious? Ireland have let England back into this game, or England have worked their way back into this game, twenty-six-thirteen. Martin Corry, safe hands, runs into **the Munster second row pairing of O'Connell and O'Callaghan**, and they're holding up and they're driving backwards, oh! it's Julian White who's been penalised.

Brian Moore: well, no sooner than you got three points, you give them back!

Eddie Butler: Julian White, stamping.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, well... I'm sorry, I'm from the old school when you could do that... you can't do that, it's against the rules, the referee is right.

Eddie Butler: yeah, I think going back for seconds wasn't the best idea either.

Brian Moore: no.

Eddie Butler: never in doubt!

Brian Moore: that's an important penalty, as well, because Ireland just seemed to rock a little bit, but they've settled their moves down again. just pegged them a bit further in front.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara, seven out of seven, and it's back to **his opposite number Jonny Wilkinson** to restart, and England have to restart again. that's perfectly placed, England may be able to get underneath it, John Hayes, though, picks up the crumbs.

Brian Moore: hands wide...

Eddie Butler: David Wallace in midfield took the short ball from D'Arcy. O'Gara, caught an English hand, Brian O'Driscoll sets off in pursuit, Stringer's there too, Josh Lewsey picks up and comes forward, Dennis Leamy and O'Driscoll have held him up, the strength of O'Driscoll there... turnover for Ireland, Shane Horgan, Matthew Tait covers, good work by Tait!

Brian Moore: forward pass, forward pass!

Eddie Butler: forward pass, the whistle's gone...

Brian Moore: called by the touch judge I think, (*showing replay*) oh I don't think that was forward... mind you, he was in a much better position than I was.

Eddie Butler: well, not much, we're slightly off-line.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) yeah, that's been a problem, that's happened two or three times, England players have been held up, and then stripped.

Eddie Butler: and that doesn't happen very often.

Brian Moore: no, not to Lewsey!

Eddie Butler: no, exactly. and that shows the strength of Brian O'Driscoll, how much work he does in defence.

Brian Moore: well the back row, Wallace, Leamy and Easterby, you know, have been dogged today, they've done a lot of hard work.

Eddie Butler: England's scrum doesn't look comfortable, Brian... I pose that as a question, by the way.

Brian Moore: I think it was just a bad hit, actually.

Eddie Butler: Phil Vickery has gone over from tight to loose head, he's the one nearest us, and the result of that squeeze is that England have been stunned for not feeding correctly. Dennis Leamy tries to have a charge at the half-backs...

Brian Moore: man over!

Eddie Butler: oh, Mike Tindall's rush in defence might just have saved England there.

Brian Moore: well he saw it, didn't he, didn't chance it.

Eddie Butler: O'Driscoll, oh, well sorted out by Marcus Horan.

Brian Moore: and that's what they've done well.

Eddie Butler: Simon Easterby helps too. Ireland with a chance to come wide, if they can, yeah, Dennis Hickie against Martin Corry, Leamy, Corry did well, Corry stayed up and drifted across, Hickie though, still in possession, oh, beautiful footwork, terrific! O'Gara, Shane Horgan, Tom Palmer has to go down. Ireland back in the groove, though, the flip from O'Driscoll. Ireland have to pause, it's slow for Stringer, and...

Brian Moore: what was THAT!

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait with a mark.

Brian Moore: what on earth was THAT?

Eddie Butler: Matthew Tait takes it quickly. no time to stop now, oh, Tait barges Peter Stringer out of the way. Ellis, trademark break, oh, Stringer, just caught him by the shoelaces. the game is loosening up, opening up.

Brian Moore: that's a penalty!

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee, George Chuter plays scrum-half.

Brian Moore: there are still men out here!

Eddie Butler: Farrell, Wilkinson, Lewsey now, Strettle, it's gone forward, that one was forward. play on, there's advantage for Dennis Hickie! advantage being played, there's a real chance for Ireland!

Brian Moore: they're walking, out there!

Eddie Butler: England have stopped, Hickie on his own, gets the offload to Gordon D'Arcy, O'Driscoll, Donacha O'Callaghan, O'Callaghan with Rory Best on his shoulder, Stringer, O'Gara...

Brian Moore: big gap!

Eddie Butler: interception! oh, it's all happening, Andy Farrell, Phil Vickery from the front row, loose and open, the game has suddenly become... advantage being played and we finally stop for a breath... oh, this game could go anywhere now, we're heading for a big score...

Brian Moore: it was bizarre, really, play till the whistle! to be fair to them they were a long way away to the far side, and they may not have...

Eddie Butler: Austin!

Austin Healy: yeah, we spoke at half-time about England's defence not having any pattern to it, Mike Fall's obviously had a word about it. look now, (*showing statistics*) England are playing an outside-to-inside defence, the outside man is rushing up, we've circled all the defensive players there, they are all arrowing in, trying to force Ronan O'Gara either to kick or block it off his width. if we play it on, we'll see the guys really pick up their line speed, they're all doing the same thing, which they weren't in the

first half, which means Ireland are struggling to get wide. again, Mike Tindall does it, Ronan O'Gara's looking for width, watch Mike Tindall, he shoots out the line, goes for the intercept, and forces O'Gara back inside. he's preventing Ireland from playing the wide game that was really stretching England in the first half.

Brian Moore: Austin, do you think that O'Gara saw it? if he had just had a little more dexterity, he would've thrown behind him, they were three on one, you know, he's got to see that and take his... he's gotta boss up that bit.

Austin Healy: yeah, absolutely, but, we saw just there when Andy Farrell made the interception, he tried to do it then, it's a very risky pass, it's where most interceptions come from, and to be fair I think when you're this far ahead, there's no point taking those risks.

Eddie Butler: (*showing Ronan O'Gara*) Ronan O'Gara looks up to see the scrum going down. he's come to a strange position, he's gone to a sort of outside centre position, good attacking opportunity on both sides for Ireland.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, if you've never heard Athenry sung by seventy-thousand people, you are doing it now. three to two on their left-hand side!

Eddie Butler: Stringer, Shane Horgan, took on Wilkinson, Wilkinson and Worsley made the tackle, now the gap has shut. O'Gara knew it was closed, and Julian White has knocked on. just for a moment it seemed to open up then, but England closed it pretty... pretty well.

Brian Moore: well they took the wrong options, they went the wrong way, then. (*showing replay*) there's the knock-on.

Eddie Butler: Harry Ellis having some sort of breathless passage which went on for two minutes, now then Gerry Flannery has come on, Rory Best has gone off. for the Irish line-out, with Best the thrower, it's gone well today. Ireland put him into tight blind side. Shane Horgan has vacated it, but he's straight behind the scrum, he's now gone into it, but the scrum has wheeled away from its...

Brian Moore: that's a penalty, for obstruction!

Eddie Butler: by whom?

Brian Moore: number eight.

Eddie Butler: play on, says the referee. O'Connell, with a little pick-up and drive, now O'Gara goes for the gap, it closed on him. O'Connell plays scrum-half, O'Driscoll, to Dempsey, to Hickie, oh, great pick-up by Shane Horgan! now then, are we gonna replay, I think it's Brian O'Driscoll at the bottom of that. so now...

Brian Moore: I don't know how he got from Horgan! I thought he'd gone beyond!

Eddie Butler: I was looking at the touchline, yeah! referee knew...

Brian Moore: he's not even looking!

Eddie Butler: no, he knew the ball was held up. great sleight of hand, though, (*showing replay*) let's just see what happens.

Brian Moore: good hands for Horgan today... and good work there by Tindall, to hold him up!

Eddie Butler: it's all Ireland though, England had their say at the start of the second half but it's been all Ireland, Dennis Leamy crouches into Andy Farrell, Ireland have numbers, they go for the wide option, the kick to Shane Horgan...

Brian Moore: IT'S A TRY!

Eddie Butler: BRILLIANT! oh, wonderful work, **the six-foot tall Horgan**, against Josh Lewsey, the accuracy of the kick, no contest. Ireland, further ahead, the game, settled.

Brian Moore: well what a touch for Ireland, they were under pressure for the first ten minutes, England fought back, but they've put the counter-fight, if that indeed is a word, I don't know if it is... (*showing replay*) well judged, and, well Horgan is just **a big, tall, athletic man**, isn't he, no contest really. that looks very easy, and it's not, actually!

Eddie Butler: they always had the width, and Shane Horgan kept that width, he always had the outside line on Josh Lewsey, Lewsey to be fair had to go infield because of the numbers.

Brian Moore: you know where that really came from? about two minutes earlier, the Irish back row got two quick balls, and they scrapped on the floor really, really well, the back row.

Eddie Butler: Ronan O'Gara... keeps up his one-hundred percent record, eight out of eight, and Ireland are flying. Austin!

Austin Healy: so painful was the scrum! if you look at the scrum, the guys at the back row for England couldn't get off to make the tackle, Andy Farrell had to make the tackle, we lost our width in defence and poor Josh Lewsey in, and we saw a great take there from Shane to the try!

Eddie Butler: (*showing score*) thirty-six-thirteen, that's one big total for Ireland, oh! O'Driscoll...

Brian Moore: good hands.

Eddie Butler: that little tight hamstring, perhaps, to Gordon D'Arcy. Gordon D'Arcy, amazingly, he's only scored three tries for Ireland in twenty-nine tests, and O'Driscoll is down, that hamstring's gone again, Shane Horgan, Paul O'Connell back into the midfield, but there'll be worried looks on Irish bench, cause O'Gara has moved into the position that O'Driscoll has vacated. David Wallace, the attack goes on, but O'Driscoll is down. Peter Stringer waits. if Brian O'Driscoll has any sense, he won't go into this ruck, he'll go straight to the dressing room. it's a turnover for England, stay out of that ruck, Brian! think icepack, in changing room. o:h... Josh Lewsey took his time, and it nearly led to a charge-down. (*showing Brian O'Driscoll*) now he's gotta go, he's gotta go, surely. he's going back to his position!

Brian Moore: well from the time you saw that, he just hobbled around, no point in taking a chance here, I think he's gonna win the game!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) it's the contact after passing, your mind sort of switches off. he looks alright there. okay, he says, calm down everybody, he's saying, I'm okay. who is down injured, is it Denis Leamy? Denis Leamy's down injured, he's alright, he's a tough old nut.

Brian Moore: I'll tell you something, he's had a great game.

Eddie Butler: Keith Wood said, watch out for Denis Leamy and he's right, he's an ox!

Brian Moore: his upper-body strength has done a lot of damage today.

Eddie Butler: and it's a good blend, as well, David Wallace does all the open work, very conspicuous, and Simon Easterby does a lot of the unseen things. change at scrum-half for England, Shaun Perry of Bristol is on. Gerry Flannery finds the target of the line-out, nothing wrong with his passing skills, Girvan Dempsey! Dennis Hickie kept the inside line, Ireland come back quickly the other way. O'Gara, Leamy, batters into Louis Deacon and Julian White, there are numbers out here, the rushed defence doesn't work, Hickie, D'Arcy, oh... Hickie still in possession, Stringer, are they going for the high one again? up comes Shane Horgan again, against Strettle, it's gonna be a try, is it, Wallace, couldn't get his hands on it, and Andy Farrell just gets over and puts the ball out of play. knock-on.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) that could've gone anywhere, couldn't it, off this rebound, fortunately for England, it squirmed away... I bet that David Wallace, I bet his eyes opened up for a brief moment as he thought it was gonna drop into his hands and he was gonna stroll over the line, but...

Eddie Butler: change for Ireland in the back row, Simon Easterby, one of the real dogs of that Irish back row, of the Irish pack, gives way to Neil Best, and if you think the physical challenge is gonna be decreased by Best's presence, think again, because Best puts himself about... here is David Wallace, Best goes in, first man, to the breakdown. Stringer checks the blind side, Flannery, big John Hayes against Strettle. Strettle does well to pull the heaviest man on the field.

Brian Moore: Ireland have got men wide, if they stretch it.

Eddie Butler: they have, it's David Wallace, good footwork by Wallace, he's on his own...

Brian Moore: he's gonna get penalised there if he's not careful.

Eddie Butler: well done, Brian, well read!

Brian Moore: I thought it was easy, I mean he's on his own, and...

Eddie Butler: oh, take the credit.

Brian Moore: (*showing statistics*) there you are, twenty to six, ball won in opponent's twenty-two, not always the definitive statistic, but it's very telling usually, and on this occasion it is, it accurately reflects the way the game has gone.

Eddie Butler: Ireland thirty-six, England thirteen. (*showing Jonny Wilkinson*) Jonny Wilkinson's comeback has had a little, well it's not a wake-up call because **it was tough against Italy**, but the winning run will come to an end here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: you know the feel you get about the Irish team when they play this way, is that they're well balanced. the players are in the right positions, they complement each other in units, and when it flows, they look very good!

Eddie Butler: a change in the front row, big John Hayes goes off, and Simon Best comes on. **Ulster now, with Simon Best, and Neil Best, no relation.** oh that's well picked up by Gerry Flannery, did he knock it on? **Ireland's record win, twenty-eight-twenty-four in two-thousand-and-six, and twenty-two-nil in nineteen-forty-seven,** this margin is twenty-three points. it's a record-setting day for Ireland, if it stays like this. England through Shaun Perry, Andy Farrell, Josh Lewsey, O'Driscoll shadowed the cross. Farrell, knock-on, another England attack comes to nothing. as you were saying, Brian, just the mixture of ferocity and yet discipline by the Irish pack.

Brian Moore: yeah, we had a series a good handling manoeuvres, but it just came to end with a dropped ball, poor pass!

Eddie Butler: another change for England at hooker, George Chuter comes off, and on comes **Lee Mears of Bath.**

Brian Moore: all the work he's supposed to do, it ain't enough...

Eddie Butler: I suppose, limit the damage. fresh legs to run around and make some tackles. There's eight-and-a-half minutes to go.

Brian Moore: totally illegal binding! how can a referee not see that!

Eddie Butler: well, cause I can't see it, explain what's going on.

Brian Moore: look! the green there, he's supposed to bind on the top of the shirt. the referee's there, where is he binding, he's on the arm!

Eddie Butler: the top of the arm, it's still difficult for the ref to see! isn't it?

Brian Moore: no, it's not, oh dear...

Eddie Butler: Josh Lewsey, he's in a spot of bother now, and he has the strength to get himself out of it, Gordon D'Arcy puts him down, Shaun Perry waits, Wilkinson in the pocket clears.

Brian Moore: well, this is the extent to which Ireland have dominated. the vast majority of this game, England are having to scrap for the ball, and when they are clearing it, it's just from positions of weakness, only just getting, well, not even getting over the half-way, and Ireland, it's been impressive in this sense. they've weathered the storms, they've scrapped well, they've balanced well...

Eddie Butler: and Brian O'Driscoll comes off...

Brian Moore: he should've gone off earlier...

Eddie Butler: and on goes Andrew Trimble, you can't blame him, though, he wants to milk every moment of this reception at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: (*showing Irish supporters*) all hail to the king!

Eddie Butler: Neil Best at the line-out. Gerry Flannery picks up, Jo Worsley makes the tackle.

Brian Moore: Worsley's done a lot of work for England, you might not have seen it, a lot of people haven't seen it, but he has put his body all over the place, not his fault...

Eddie Butler: Ireland just check what to do, the captain's off, and Ronan O'Gara gets the advice, get us into the corner! he's over-kicked it!

Brian Moore: oh! a rare mistake.

Eddie Butler: **more rugby tonight in Paris, France on course for the Grand Slam against Wales.**

Brian Moore: just mentioning the French, you know, when the Irish think back at this season, having played two games really well, they should really be sick about the fact that they could not, even if they got themselves into a leading position, the Grand Slam should've been theirs this year.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry tackled by Stringer, and England forced backwards yet again, **little Lee Mears** drives at Ronan O'Gara, Perry, Farrell, possession handed back, Shane Horgan arose well, there could be numbers for Ireland, oh, O'Gara!

Brian Moore: he doesn't need to, does he!

Eddie Butler: he doesn't need to at all, with a twenty-three-point cushion to protect him, and Ireland get the throw!

Brian Moore: o:h, that's not a popular decision!

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) oh, surely that touched Matthew Tait.

Brian Moore: yes.

Eddie Butler: Martin Corry, still winning line-out ball.

Brian Moore: you see that, Flannery there, he did enough damage to mess that ball up and make it scrappy.

Eddie Butler: and they continue to make a mess of the England ruck. Jonny Wilkinson calls players out, he doesn't want a mass pile-up of white shirts, they need numbers. well picked up, Wilkinson. a sort of up-and-under from within his own twenty-two, a chance here for Gordon D'Arcy, forward pass. advantage being played. Strettle does well to offload to Matthew Tait. Jo Worsley, flicks it to Farrell, Phil Vickery in midfield. tackle by Gerry Flannery. Strettle is down injured, Lewsey, Tom Palmer, knock-on by Paul O'Connell. Ireland are going to put on some new legs, (*showing Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby*) there's two who have gone off, Brian O'Driscoll and Simon Easterby... Philip Matthews. happy?

Philip Matthews: yeah, it just strikes me, Brian, I don't know what you think, England's confidence today has not been there, has it? when they started the second half brightly, it faded very quickly. they did start causing some problems for Ireland, but as soon as Ireland got that score on it faded. Brian, what are you saying about the Farrell thing, where do you sit on that, is it working or is it time for Brian Ashton to ditch that experiment?

Brian Moore: he's too slow to be an international centre.

Philip Matthews: yeah, I couldn't agree with you more, it's just not working, you need a little bit more penetration, a little bit more variety there, they're gonna have to change it.

Brian Moore: so, you know, **England's confidence was paper-thin, because they've had two games after a long losing streak**, and the Irish should've exposed that for what it was.

Philip Matthews: that's absolutely right, yeah.

Eddie Butler: Ireland have a new scrum-half, in Isaac Boss.

Brian Moore: I don't think that England have actually played particularly badly, you know, Ireland were just a better team.

Eddie Butler: well I think they struggled upfront and when Ireland got their numbers on their line-outs in the first half. Paddy Wallace is also on, so half-back combination for Ireland, Isaac Boss and Paddy Wallace. adjusting upfront, Brian, England have been collectively unstitched...

Brian Moore: they haven't been stuffed upfront, but what Ireland have done is edge each bit, and cumulatively, that's made a huge difference.

Eddie Butler: quickly taken penalty for England, here is Farrell, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall, Strettle... alright Brian, here we go, you have a little decision to make? man of the match!

Brian Moore: RBS six nations man of the match for me, Paul O'Connell, he's done... what hasn't he done today, he's flown around in the loose, he's been deadly solid in the line-out, he's been abrasive, combative, he's put a super game and forwards get too little credit anyway. it's those people who do the real work.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, Paddy Wallace, oh, the break was on, but he dropped the ball. Wilkinson maybe just got a hand to it, and Jonny Wilkinson walks back slowly to his position.

Brian Moore: I don't think Jonny Wilkinson's played badly either, he did not have much ball, the score just reflects the difference in the teams, it's just as simple as that! Ireland have done the job.

Eddie Butler: Shaun Perry...

Brian Moore: oh, God!

Eddie Butler: oh, has Best got the legs to score, yes he has! oh, it's the icing! the icing on a cake that, oh, will have a bitter bitter taste for the English team, I mean that will push Ireland over forty and this is now a horrible defeat for England. and it is a truly glorious win for Ireland, how they have bounced back **from defeat against France in the last round!** (*showing Isaac Boss*) I beg everybody pardon, it's Isaac Boss who's run away for the try.

Brian Moore: (*showing replay*) well... once you go all that way, you can't just suddenly turn, you gotta make your mind up.

Eddie Butler: Isaac Boss, as simple as that, **it's been an afternoon and an evening of interception tries at Murray Field,** and now here at Croke Park.

Brian Moore: it's party time here.

Eddie Butler: (*showing replay*) how simple is that for Isaac Boss, and England, it's a thirty-point deficit, that means records have been shattered.

Brian Moore: and I had a feeling, sneakingly, that England might do it, just what do I know...

Eddie Butler: have they got an appetite for me, this is **Neil Best, still, the long dark hair,** penalty to Ireland. Boss takes it quickly...

Brian Moore: kick it off the field, it's over.

Eddie Butler: we're into the red zone, Ireland have a penalty. Paddy Wallace says that will do. kick it towards the changing room, and follow it there. Croke Park rises to Ireland's first victory here, and it's the one that counts, especially at Croke Park. Ireland have given England a thumping, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

Brian Moore: that is a huge ovation, standing ovation in the end of a bit of a stuffing, really, but quite simply Ireland were a better team, and today they played in the way we know they can play. they complement each other, abrasive upfront, good backs, I'm sorry to go on about this in a moment of triumph for Irish fans, but they should've been in Grand Slam pole position now.

Eddie Butler: Ireland are back on track, not for the Grand Slam, but for the Triple Crown, and maybe the championship, they have beaten England and England have been derailed, Ireland forty-three, England thirteen.

7.3) Analyse de FOOT

Jonathan Pearce: plenty of time and space. Delaney galloping up there in support, and he gets it. Damien Johnson's there with him. now, **a clash again for Birmingham City and Aston Villa in a few days' time...** towards Hartson, away by Davis. and this is Fletcher, Delaney. Maik Taylor, a good handling, man. brimmed full with confidence at the moment.

Mark Bright: great take. as I was just saying, you can't appreciate it on the TV just how the wind's affecting it, it's swirling around, and two good deliveries from Delaney down the right-hand side, but he dealt well with that second one, Taylor.

Jonathan Pearce: **Arsène Wenger was telling me the other day that after the game at Highbury it was the best performance he'd ever seen by an away goalkeeper there, Maik Taylor's for Birmingham City.** it was fantastic, save after save!

Mark Bright: inspired, just one of those performances and...

Jonathan Pearce: and then he was beaten by a horrible one!

Mark Bright: it says something when the goalkeeper's the best player!

Jonathan Pearce: cleared away by Fletcher, and towards Hartson. now Ryan Giggs. Damien Johnson was in there. Duff, to Gillespie, who knows Ryan Giggs well of course from Manchester United days. there's a smattering of Manchester United connection in this game. Murdock, half an error under the pressure of Robert Earnshaw who has it. Murdock started at Manchester United as well! this is Giggs, teasing cross! punched away only as far as Hartson. now Fletcher, Ricketts, Welsh club player of the year, took that award the other day, the run blocked by Gillespie.

Mark Bright: took that throw-in a little bit too quickly for Ryan Giggs...

Jonathan Pearce: looks to be unhappy with Duff there, momentarily, but Duff gets it away. Ricketts to Fletcher, James Quinn was in there, Partridge couldn't get it back but now it comes to Simon Davies, chance here for Wales! oh, he pinged it!

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it's one of those situations where it's hard to pick him up, he comes in off the line, and he's in a position between the midfield and the forwards. now there's no one to close him down. and it's a free shot at target. (*showing replay from a different angle*) here he is, just in the in-between section... it's worth a go!

Jonathan Pearce: he hasn't scored since he found the back of the net for Tottenham away at Charlton, in February two-thousand-and-four. here's Ryan Giggs, Earnshaw through the middle... just thinking back, Mark, to when Simon Davies got that goal against Italy, back in October two-thousand-and-two, you know, things seemed to be going so fantastically for Wales, and it's all crumbled.

Mark Bright: injuries... and it happens as well, one minute you're just bubbling along, and it's all going well for you, and next thing you know, you're a forgotten man, you know, and he's had plenty of injury problems... referee there, Wales are far too deep, far too deep, you know, you shouldn't be climbing over the top of the forward there, as a defender it will be easier making the forwards back-pedal to try and jump and head the ball. and I think that, as we can... what we know here... that's something to do with the wind. a bit unsure about it.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, towards Murdock, James Collins has lost it in the sunshine, Delaney, Steven Davis, and back to him, such a promising youngster, the Aston Villa midfielder, Elliott making that run to open up a space, Simon Davies gets the challenge in. terrific performance in that second half against England from the Villa youngster... This'll be a long throw-in by Tony Capaldi, of Plymouth-Argyle, it's flicked on and it nearly comes to Healy, Ricketts gets it away. Davies, Healy again, Davis curling it in, and Murdock had stayed forward! (*showing Colin Murdock*) has scored for his country, it was a header in October of two-thousand-and-four, against Austria.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) they kept the ball well, they kept the ball well here and as you can see, the defence's a little bit deep, and that allows you just to attack that ball. never really got out as a line, Wales, you can just see, a couple on the edge of the eighteen-yard box, and then a few dropped into the box, it's discipline.

Jonathan Pearce: foul on Robinson, he takes the free kick, for Ryan Giggs who does get it, in towards Earnshaw, no free kick given! Murdock relieved, Earnshaw fumes! Robinson, over the top to Ryan Giggs, caught the wind and dropped to him! the Welsh are playing some good stuff when they've got the ball...

Mark Bright: yeah, it's a lot better, a lot better. the game's quite open...

Jonathan Pearce: Davis, Delaney will get it back...

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) well I thought that was a penalty chance, good through ball from Ryan Giggs, well, I think Murdock just catches him, just catches the ankle as he tries to take it in his way. I think he was unlucky not to get a free kick there.

Jonathan Pearce: His dad had passed away in the build-up to the game... this is Healy, to Gillespie, jinking to try and get beyond Partridge, and does so, but the cross away behind for the goal kick at the railway end. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) well, he's had a long time in the side, has Keith Gillespie, eleven years now, (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) rejuvenated under Lawrie Sanchez. this is James Quinn, Davis, Elliott, a run at Delaney, James Quinn in the middle making a run, couldn't get away from Partridge, well he'll have another chance, Quinn is there with him, Collins got the block in and clears.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) unlucky there, Quinn, you could just see what he wanted to do, to lay it in the path, and it was well anticipated there by Collins.

Jonathan Pearce: twenty years ago, Jimmy Quinn, who's here today working for Irish television, scored a famous goal away in Romania, that virtually guaranteed a Northern Ireland passage for the eighty-six World Cup finals, they needed a draw, in England they got a nil-nil draw. Capaldi with the throw. aimed at James Quinn, denied in the air.

Mark Bright: I can't believe that... I can't believe that, that's obviously a set piece that they've worked on, and Quinn obviously is the man they're looking for but there's got to be some runners-off in, runners round the back, midfield players taking a chance, anticipating that he's gonna win that ball.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, Robinson, well played Wales, it'll come to Earnshaw, no, Steven Davis got the challenge in, this is Robinson, now Ricketts, it's a good flick-on by Hartson to Simon Davies, couldn't find Robert Earnshaw, Craigan away, Davis loses out, to Fletcher who finds Hartson, a direct run by John Hartson, dispossessed by Michael Duff. the Belfast boy clears it away. it's his sixth cap for his country. Ricketts actually played for England in semi-pro level, Sam Ricketts, it was while he was at Telford. (showing John Toshack) a concerned man, John Toshack, and err, he's getting flak from all quarters... from experienced players who have departed international scene, retired, and from fans as well... as Mark was saying, he has mentioned today, he needs to be thick-skinned at the moment. Elliott, now Healy, slight suspicion of a push. Gillespie, James Quinn making a run through the middle, he looks for the long ball to him... a free kick here has been given for an off-the-ball incident, Elliott was blocked.

Mark Bright: I think it was Ricketts, wasn't it... just down below us. Ryan Giggs asking what for, I think the referee saw that...

Jonathan Pearce: (showing replay) it was Ricketts there who blocked him.

Mark Bright: yeah, the obstruction there... not so much an obstruction as a foul, I'm surprised he didn't get a yellow card for that!

Jonathan Pearce: now Gillespie will take it, Murdock has gone forward, Quinn is there as well. aimed it towards Murdock, Simon Davies clears. this is Robert Earnshaw. Damien Johnson has it back again, Taylor, there must be four or five players on the yellow card by the way... they'll miss the final game in the cup if they pick up a booking here. this is Gillespie, blocked and cleared away by Partridge.

Mark Bright: (showing replay) look at the space! the Welsh defence there was incredible! just along clearance, look, Healy! Ricketts comes round, but you know, where was Partridge in the original challenge? he's way out of position.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie with it. Robinson guarding the near post, there is Partridge, behind James Quinn. Healy's at the far post, Murdock's in there, headed away by Delaney. always reminds me, to look at Delaney, of Gary Stevens, the former Tottenham and England defender. up he goes again. pressure here from Northern Ireland, it's their third corner of the game. Elliott in the middle, Quinn on the far post, Simon Davies guarding the back for Wales. already early in the game Paul Jones was troubled by Duff, and Duff is here again on the edge of the six-yard area. that's Gillespie's corner kick, but it's been swung too long. (showing Irish supporters) twenty minutes gone, nil-nil, and they haven't stopped singing... since last month!

Mark Bright: who could blame them...

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, to Robinson, Simon Davies on. the twenty-ninth of March two-thousand-and-three was when Wales last won a competitive game against Azerbaijan... this is Gillespie, Earnshaw, long ball by Fletcher, Simon Davies out there...

Mark Bright: no! Robert Earnshaw there was in a position where he could've helped that ball on as Davies was going past him. if he'd been on the half-turn he could've just helped that ball round the corner and Davies would've been in. he decided to hold it, lay it back, and it broke the move down.

Jonathan Pearce: he has struggled to rediscover the verve of his early Tottenham days, Simon Davies. I think the injuries have contributed, Mark, to that... his shin problem...

Mark Bright: well there it goes, and you got people saying, well, he's never been the same since the injury and all that sort of thing, people keep repeating, and then the player hears it himself and starts to wonder, you know, I wonder if I'll ever get back to how I was. but it's good to see him fit and playing.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with a long throw for Northern Ireland. Murdock's there again, good claim by James Quinn, he's winning his fair share of clearances in the air. Capaldi, to Davis, now Johnson holding deep. isn't the widest pitch at international level, Windsor Park, but plenty of open spaces today... oh, he was under pressure, there was a foul by James Quinn! the header was by Murdock but the foul was by Quinn.

Mark Bright: we saw Murdock's reaction... he sort of pushed his hands out to say no, but he didn't see what the referee saw... Quinn just getting in the way there... sometimes you might-just take a chance and not foul the goalkeeper. (*showing replay*) he's under pressure, didn't even jump, Jones! here comes Quinn, there he is with the arms... just impeded the goalkeeper, this is just one of those times where you have to gamble, and say, you know, I'm gonna-threaten to challenge him, don't jump, and see what he does.

Jonathan Pearce: his thirty-first cap today, James Quinn, went through that long barren spell as Northern Ireland did without a goal. that's a goal kick, Quinn protests, thought that Northern Ireland should've had a corner kick... October two-thousand-and-one to March two-thousand-and-four, nearly a thousand-four-hundred minutes of international football without a goal, Northern Ireland. (*showing James Quinn*) the mighty Quinn, some call him in these parts, one of the songs we heard last night... one of many. this is Delaney, Simon Davies to Delaney, no he keeps it, over the top towards Earnshaw, Northern Ireland are chasing here, Earnshaw's back-heel, Delaney, away by Damien Johnson.

Mark Bright: needed a cross there... particularly for the penalty area, four Welsh players in there... especially after the crosses he'd put in earlier, Delaney, you'd expect him to deliver on that occasion.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Fletcher, cleared away though, free kick conceded by Quinn, who's turned James Collins away off the ball...

Mark Bright: he has to get in front Collins, doesn't he? he's alert to the situation.

Jonathan Pearce: experienced referee, Ruud Bossen, thirty FIFA games he's conducted, and he's given a corner here to Wales. it's their first of the game, we've been playing for twenty-four minutes.

Mark Bright: (*showing Irish fans*) the crowd behind that goal are just jumping up and down like they're winning four or five-nil... it's really hard to believe, it's incredible...

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs with the corner, Simon Davies, too much space, Steven Davis eventually saw the danger, got the block in, and now this is Healy. he needs to hold it up there. pursued by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: needed a bit of help there, Healy, everyone went past him. you need someone just to stand up, lay it off and clear it.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, and fouled by Simon Davies. Capaldi with the free kick then, for Northern Ireland. twenty-five minutes gone, no goals. in the air by Partridge. Fletcher finds Hartson. can't control a high, awkward, bouncing ball. might have fouled Damien Johnson there... the referee, Ruud Bossen, was very close to it. he's tasted the Windsor Park atmosphere before, the referee, he was fourth official in the Northern Ireland-Poland game, earlier in this qualifying group. Northern Ireland aiming to finish third. this is Fletcher, who finds Ricketts, Earnshaw's in the middle, Hartson in there as well, behind him... oh, what a good goal! terrific strike by Davies, coming through late to the edge of the penalty area, and Wales are ahead after twenty-six minutes, with a fine, fine goal. (*showing Welsh supporters*) time for the Welsh fans to celebrate, after the first time in a month Windsor Park's stunned into silence.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) it was a great move, the ball's cut back, obviously Davis arrived a little bit late, but it all started way earlier when Ryan Giggs turned and laid the ball inside, and then Ricketts made the overlap, the space was there for him and then all he had to do was cut it back. here he is, no one can get near to him, Davies arriving before. he had one shot, it's gone over, one had gone wide. he just takes it, times it just nice... and Taylor doesn't stand a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: fifth goal for his country, Simon Davies. he's been bothered all week by his injury. a lovely crisp strike. it was a concern here, amongst the Northern Ireland coaching party, that it could be something of an after the Lord Mayor's show sort of a day.

Mark Bright: yes, definitely. I was lucky, I spent the day over here with Lawrie Sanchez on Wednesday, and err, the whole day from morning till the evening. it was good to be around the boys... and what he emphasized to me is, he doesn't want this to be one of those things that's just one great night and that's it. it's definitely something he wanted to build on, and that was the fear. they started the game really well, but on that occasion, bad defending.

Jonathan Pearce: cross in by Duff, angled high, he is troubled in the air, Jones, again, he was fouled. but he looks rusty getting off the ground, Paul Jones. he's only played the one game, you know, this season, Mark... it was a League cup tie for Millwall.

Mark Bright: with the goalkeeper situation, (*showing players celebrating*) and that's the celebration... Simon Davies, come on, get involved!

Jonathan Pearce: first competitive goal in the John Toshack era. second era of course, he managed for one game previously. this is Giggs, Davies charging down, he was buoyed by the goal... Wales' first goal, that, in five internationals, six internationals I should say, since Craig Bellamy scored two against Hungary back in February of last year, John Toshack's first game back in charge. his previous spell as I say lasted just the one match, it was against Norway back in ninety-four. James Collins away.

Mark Bright: he's been sharp, Collins, hasn't he, nice and tight to the strikers. he can get in front, he gets in front and wins it, he's very strong in the air.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi with the throw for Northern Ireland, approaching the half-hour mark. Wales lead. in towards Murdock, Hartson half-cleared, strike by Gillespie, block by Ricketts. Johnson, Gillespie again. Johnson got the cross in. that's a good claim by the keeper.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) here's a long throw... and watch everyone getting in each other's way, there, John Hartson's got his arms over Murdock, nice strike by Gillespie, well closed down, though, by Partridge.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher to Giggs, Murdock with the touch on, he's playing football again in England with Rotherham, he was a while in Scotland with Hibs, Murdock. Delaney's throw. Giggs, Johnson steals it off him. Wales leading, with the best move of the game. and here's the goal scorer, Davies, to run at Capaldi, did well there. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) really contributed to giving an attacking force for the away game for Lawrie Sanchez's side in Cardiff. they were down to nine men but they still got a point. Robinson looks for Ryan Giggs, was he being pulled back there?

Mark Bright: oh oh oh, he could've appealed there...

Jonathan Pearce: I thought he was being pulled, Mark!

Mark Bright: yeah, looked like it to me. he slightly lost control of the ball, but I think it was... definite contact.

Jonathan Pearce: the referee seemed to have a clear view of it.

Mark Bright: the referee's allowing a lot of contact to go on.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney to Earnshaw, slightly overstruck the return ball. Capaldi's there, and it's a Northern Ireland goal kick.

Mark Bright: I think that's a feature of European football, the referee doesn't allow the strikers and the centre-halves to have the traditional battles, we call it, the strikers backing in, but he's allowing a lot of that today. we've seen Earnshaw trying to get back in and the defender push him out of the way, winning and go and head the ball. same with James, err, James Collins at the back here, as well, he's quite physical.

Jonathan Pearce: Hartson, forward by Fletcher, to Earnshaw, away by Craigan, Delaney, Davies, but he's dispossessed by Capaldi, Davis, to Gillespie, will he run at Sam Ricketts here? he does so, Ricketts got back, and that's a corner.

Mark Bright: that's one of those things we've seen with Gillespie over the years, and that's what I like with wingers, when they get the ball and take the full-back on. go for it. anyone can come inside and play, try and take him on on the outside and force a corner.

Jonathan Pearce: that's Northern Ireland's fourth of the game. here's Quinn at the near post, it's beyond him, headed down by James Collins, was it? no, it came off Murdock.

Mark Bright: I'd've said that was a corner. it definitely came off Collins' head, I think he was under a little bit of pressure, maybe the referee's given a foul, he's complaining of having his shirt held. (*showing replay*) here it is, yeah, Murdock's climbing all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: signed in the summer from Cardiff by West Ham, he was the player West Ham really wanted, Danny Gabbidon was sort of a make-weight in the deal originally, but he's come through and really starred for West Ham this season. suspended today.

Mark Bright: yeah, I've seen Gabbidon, he's reacted to the Premiership really well, and by the looks of things Collins can do the same, on his performance today.

Jonathan Pearce: Gabbidon Welsh player of the year, Gabbidon, err, James Collins, young player of the year, for the second year running.

Mark Bright: yeah...

Jonathan Pearce: here's Hartson...

Mark Bright: as he tried to play that off the defender it hit his shin and went out again. having a bit of a laugh with the assistant referee.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing John Hartson*) a smile back on the face of Welsh football, haven't seen that in a while...

Mark Bright: yeah... it just gives you a lift, you know... (*showing replay*) and here he is battling away, surrounded by a couple of players, and it just hits him on the shins! he's trying it on with the assistant!

Jonathan Pearce: some feat of Delaney, last the ninety minutes here...

Mark Bright: you can play as many reserve team games as you like, you know, this is his first competitive game of the season, I'm sure, you know, David O'Leary's holding his breath as well. but, you know, the good point, after an hour or so, I should imagine, no matter how fit you are, just that sharpness in the first team. your legs start to feel the tiredness.

Jonathan Pearce: Robert Earnshaw wins the free kick there, he'll be sharp, he didn't feature for West Brom last weekend. Wales have this free kick. ten minutes to go in the first half. Partridge looks for Hartson, a broken wrestling match in the penalty area, Capaldi feeling the effects of it... one of eight players from the English lower leagues in the Northern Ireland side, the Plymouth Argyle left-back.

Mark Bright: that's encouraging for a lot of players in the lower leagues, they might have some ancestry there, in Wales, or Ireland, and dig them out... get in touch!

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi qualifies through... his grandma comes from Canada and he was actually born in Norway, his dad played there. also played for Aston Villa reserves, I seem to remember. now this is David Healy, buzz of anticipation whenever he gets it. Duff, high to James Quinn, James Collins was underneath it.

Mark Bright: unlucky Quinn, it bounced well there for Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney, Simon Davies, Capaldi wins it, Collins away, this is Damien Johnson, space here for Gillespie, if he looks to his right-hand side he'll see Duff arriving, but he doesn't use him. his last goal came against Austria in October nineteen-ninety-four, second appearance for his country.

Mark Bright: amazing, isn't it, one goal, in what, sixty... (*showing replay*) it's worth a go, because as we were saying the wind's swirling a little bit down this way, what he couldn't see is Duff making an overlap to his right-hand side, maybe if he just waited a little bit... it's always worth a shot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs, lovely run, beyond Duff and still going, Ryan Giggs in his finest, Earnshaw's in the middle, behind him, oh! what a great goal, Robinson! again a midfield runner making a late entry into the penalty box, a low cross found him and it was a super strike but what a run by Ryan Giggs.... two-nil to Wales.

Mark Bright: (*showing replay*) we've seen this many times over the years, a wonderful nutmeg, and then he just had pure pace, a little glance up, he used to be criticized in his earlier part of his career for not delivering but on this occasion, picks out, beautiful run there, you can see Robinson stretching to get into the box, on the wrong side of his man-marker, and here we go. he can pick out of two or three

here, Hartson's holding back for the cutback, it's a beautifully timed run, second midfield player of the day getting in there and finishing.

Jonathan Pearce: first goal for Wales for Carl Robinson, lovely finish. he played three games for Sunderland this season... beautiful run by Giggs, and Wales lead two-nil. nineteen places above Northern Ireland in the FIFA world rankings. Lawrie Sanchez was saying, I know, because of the England victory, a lot of people will make Northern Ireland favourites, but realistically the Welsh, with their extra Premiership players in the squad, should be favourites for the game.

Mark Bright: I'm not surprised, there's seven, isn't there... he just looked at the forward line, Hartson, Earnshaw and Giggs... there didn't look anything on till that ball went to Ryan Giggs, but it's just that Premiership class, and the thing he's been doing all his career, really, just going past, attacking people, and it opened up because he was prepared to run at somebody.

Jonathan Pearce: a morale-bolstering first half, this for Wales, they've been so heavily criticized by former squad members. John Toshack has been blasted for his man-management tactics, too confrontational some say... but he's got Ryan Giggs playing again for Wales on a regular basis and playing well...

Mark Bright: over his career he's seen it all, hasn't he? Sociedad, Real Madrid, biggest club in the world, Zaragoza, Deportivo, he just said he's been through all this before... he said, for where I want to get, I'll be thick-skinned, I'll make the decisions I'll have to make.

Jonathan Pearce: his fourteenth coaching job in twenty-seven years. he won the title with Real Madrid, don't forget.

Mark Bright: yeah, his first season.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw. Wales have stolen Northern Ireland's thunder here... and Capaldi's been caught in possession, he's pulled back Davies... was that a clear goal scoring opportunity? it's a penalty!

Mark Bright: I guess that's punishment enough.

Jonathan Pearce: he's pulling for a card here, the Dutch referee, and it's only a yellow. I think Northern Ireland believed the first foul was outside the box, but they've been punished with a penalty.

Mark Bright: no sense in getting mad... (*showing replay*) it was pressure from Earnshaw, just chased that back, a poor clearance, and then this is... that there, you don't, you cannot... when you're under pressure like that, you cannot take a chance of taking a couple of touches.

Jonathan Pearce: the foul, the first foul was way outside the box. it's gonna be John Hartson, and he's being booed mercilessly because of his Celtic connections of course. Maik Taylor saved a spot kick the other day at Highbury, Hartson, and Taylor saves it again!

Mark Bright: well, that's given the crowd something to cheer about, he appeared to slip to me, John Hartson, similar to Beckham in Euro two-thousand-and-four... (*showing replay*) does he slip? and he's guessed well.

Jonathan Pearce: lacked power, the shot, but it's the second international penalty save of the season for Maik Taylor, he also saved one against Malta in a friendly. (*showing Irish supporters*) let-off for Northern Ireland. could it change the course of the game? Robinson's in there again. it's been a splendid eight days.

Mark Bright: fantastic, but it was a mistake that led to that, it was a poor clearance from him, there was a little bit of pressure but... (*showing replay*) this is about gauging and guessing right here, and he does exactly, Hartson slipped, but it was after he'd kicked it. all credits to the goalkeeper. fine save. and it was just the lift they needed, as well, the crowd are back on their feet again.

Jonathan Pearce: Elliott, now space for Capaldi to get the cross in, high for James Quinn, comes down to Healy, scrambled away to Davis, offside, was it? no, it's not counted, Elliott it was, but he was standing in an offside position.

Mark Bright: I think a couple of them were in there, I think Damien Johnson was in there as well, (*showing referees*) this is the referee, right down there, we can see from where we are, he's right there on the spot...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) and James Quinn in the air...

Mark Bright: look at the Welsh defence, they're moving out, they're moving, and there was definitely two men in an offside position.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Delaney, good first half, Earnshaw, very open and stretched again, Ryan Giggs, aims at Hartson, it was too high... Wales are playing their best football in a long, long while.

Mark Bright: Robinson's in there looking for his second as well...

Jonathan Pearce: given away by Davies, this is Davis of Northern Ireland to Healy, now Elliott, forward by Duff and an offside flag against James Quinn.

Mark Bright: it's disappointing, disappointing... look at Wales, and the way they move the ball about, they're playing with a confidence that doesn't say **they've lost four straight defeats!** and obviously **Gabardon's missing as well, and Bellamy, really important players...**

Jonathan Pearce: **Bellamy injured, Savage has quit the scene...** has he been too controversial, or too confrontational in his management, John Toshack?

Mark Bright: what can we say, I mean, **Ben Thatcher felt that, John Toshack phoned him, and he didn't like what he said on the phone, he questioned his commitment to the cause, and was it Poland against Wales, or Italy, where somebody got sent off, and...**

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he's got Healy in the middle, Partridge gives cover, and got a vital deflection on the cross too.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Partridge*) Quinn holds his hand up there, acknowledging the mistake... it's one of those occasions where you're two-nil up, you're coming up to half-time, why do you need to get in front of the attacker there, just stay behind, defend, protect what you've got.

Jonathan Pearce: **Partridge, part of John Toshack's new Wales... made his début in a friendly against Hungary, started the Toshack reign, this is Earnshaw... wins the throw.**

Mark Bright: that's good play from Earnshaw.

Jonathan Pearce: **Lawrie Sanchez said Northern Ireland couldn't be complacent, if they were complacent after the England victory, they could be embarrassed today.** on the end of a drubbing, you couldn't say they were complacent, Mark?

Mark Bright: no, they're punished for a couple of mistakes.

Jonathan Pearce: one minute of stoppage time to be played. just entered it now. Delaney, Robinson, Murdock, **no Hughes don't forget at the back for Northern Ireland, no Baird, two changes they had to make.** (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and **Hughes makes such a difference for Lawrie Sanchez, his captain... yellow card here, for Delaney, for time-wasting!** It means that **that's his second card of the campaign, he'll miss the game against Azerbaijan,** having just come back into the side. block by Davis, Quinn to his left, Healy making a run through the middle, away by Paul Jones. the half-time whistle blows, and Wales two in the good, Simon Davies getting the first after twenty-six minutes, and **Carl Robinson from midfield** adding the second on thirty-eight after good work from Ryan Giggs.

Mark Bright: I was speaking to Lawrie Sanchez mid-week and he just said, you know, **he wanted to build on it, and he said this game will be tougher than the England game,** and I don't think there's any doubt about that, they weren't about to catch Wales flat-footed and it took the wind out of their sails for the fans, but plenty more in the second half, I'm sure we'll have a lot to say.

Jonathan Pearce: terrific first half here for Wales, Davies netting the first with a crisp low drive, (*showing replay*) and a lovely run by Ryan Giggs, looks up, sees Robinson arriving, he belts it into the back of the net, and that's why at half-time in Windsor Park, although John Hartson had a chance to make it three, and saw the penalty saved by Maik Taylor, it's Wales who lead here by two goals to nil.

Half-time

Jonathan Pearce: thanks very much, Ray, Northern Ireland to kick off the second half, kicking from right to left, no changes, neither team making a half-time substitution. And all the hard work Northern Ireland put in against England, and indeed against Azerbaijan, means nothing at the moment. an early ball down the right by Duff, headed away by Partridge. now Johnson, Quinn, in for Davis, and

Delaney away... and Ryan Giggs on the counter, looking for one of those runs by Robert Earnshaw that Barry was talking about. this is James Quinn. Mark, do you see a Northern Ireland startling second half come-back? I'll come to you in a moment on that, this is Gillespie through...

Mark Bright: yes!

Jonathan Pearce: and there's the come-back! it's his first goal for his country in exactly eleven years this week.

Mark Bright: we talked about it in the first half, it's incredible he's only scored one goal, but it was the second threat! it was just into Quinn, and everybody looked to feed off him, (*showing replay*) and he does really well, he was under pressure, he holds it up really well, the runners come from midfield, a lovely weighted one-two here, that touch was the killer touch there, it gave him the chance to look up and have a shot against the keeper. great play from Gillespie, really good play, and as we were saying at half-time, if they get a goal back it'd be a different atmosphere. I wonder if the John Hartson penalty was gonna be the catalyst for the come-back. and a great start to the half by Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: first minute of the second half, two-one. the game's been very open, right from the start. given away by Gillespie very nearly there, forward by Duff. James Collins away, first Welshman to hold caps at every level, but he's been buffeted in the air, (*showing James Collins*) and took a painful one in the shoulder. and Wales are fuming here. but the challenge on him, it was Elliott, wasn't it, Mark?

Mark Bright: it was Elliott, yeah, the referee has pulled him over, and I don't think he's pulled him over for nothing. third booking of the game.

Jonathan Pearce: he's played well, Collins...

Mark Bright: yes he has... (*showing replay*) and from that angle, it doesn't look like there's anything wrong. he comes in slightly late. I thought it was an arm at first, that had done the damage, well... I think he was just buoyed by that goal, and a little bit excited. arrived late, and it was dangerous. and the way Elliott was wriggling around... Collins, sorry, was wriggling around on the floor, he's in some pain.

Jonathan Pearce: they have another centre-half possibility by the name of Collins available, Danny Collins, on the bench, of Sunderland, what a start to the second half for Northern Ireland and Keith Gillespie, (*showing replay*) burst through, lovely finish.

Mark Bright: you've gotta say, it was football of the highest quality, you know, from back to front, beautifully weighted, no one's tight on Healy, he's come away from the defence, that was the touch, it just gave him the time to have a little look at the goalkeeper, where are you, and slotted it down in the corner.

Jonathan Pearce: it means that Wales have yet to keep a clean sheet in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

Mark Bright: well you feel that after the hard work they've done in the first half, they've gone in there, and Toshack was doing his team talk at half-time, and said, you know, we should be three up, this should be game, set and match, you come out, and concede a goal straight away, different complex on the game now. the crowd are back, (*showing John Toshack*) he's concerned.

Jonathan Pearce: he is concerned, not too sure whether James Collins' shoulder has popped out, they're trying to put something back in place... and here comes Northern Ireland again, Healy and Davis together, it's Healy, cross by Johnson, looking for Quinn, and Wales rocking at the start of the second half, and down temporarily to ten men.

Mark Bright: Fletcher has dropped to the centre-back position, I'm not sure it's enough here, somebody from up front, maybe Earnshaw, should be dropping down into the midfield, just leaving, just playing four-four-one, while he's off the pitch.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Irish supporters*) they're buoyant again.

Mark Bright: (*showing James Collins*) he looks in some pain, doesn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: given a signal to the substitute... oh yes! would you believe it? Steven Davis! what a start to the second half! within four and a half minutes, Northern Ireland from two-nil down are back level.

Mark Bright: well, we talked about it at half-time, we heard Iain Dowie, you know, I think he felt something could happen here. great throw, challenged again, the ball drops down, he's just the first on to it! he reacts so quickly (*showing replay*), Quinn's causing trouble everywhere, he's in the near post here, just looking to get a touch on it, and nobody's picking up, no one reacts from the Welsh defence at all, and Davis slams it in, this is an unbelievable start... for Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: the magical story continues in Northern Ireland! **his first goal for his country, Steven Davis**. and he fizzed it in. when you think that Wales, with the John Hartson penalty, could've been home and dry.

Mark Bright: just seen it so many times, I've been involved in games like this, and you know, I've seen them on the TV, where you know, it's not so easy for you, you get opportunities and you score, and you miss a chance and you think, it doesn't matter, we've got a couple anyway, with two up, and it changes. and it changes so quickly, and the momentum's now with Ireland.

Jonathan Pearce: and how costly, the injury to Collins, Wales haven't reorganized, and Northern Ireland back in it. now Earnshaw gives chase, Murdock's there, and flattened him.

Mark Bright: some would say he was the last man!

Jonathan Pearce: had Collins been on the field of play, would Northern Ireland have scored?

Mark Bright: well, ifs, buts and maybes... (*showing James Collins*) he's there, now he's going off, you know, to me it's like his shoulder popped out, he's off the pitch, I think it was Robinson who dropped into the centre-back position, you need players to react quickly. and it's just one of those things, nobody reacted from the throw-in though...

Jonathan Pearce: **Richard Duffy** has come on for him now. **he's on a loan at the moment, at Coventry. Portsmouth player, he's on a loan for a season.** and a free kick here for Wales. tumultuous start to the second half. Giggs and Fletcher there, it's Giggs's delivery, looking for Hartson...

Mark Bright: you don't want to be giving John Hartson that kind of space in the penalty area. (*showing Robert Earnshaw*) well Earnshaw earned the free kick, driven off the ball, you can just hear the drums are going now, everybody's buoyant, it was the same atmosphere against England, we captured it. (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) and buoyant as well, **Lawrie Sanchez, you know, he definitely didn't want this to be one of those games, after the Lord Mayor's show...**

Jonathan Pearce: here's Earnshaw, chasing down another poor clearance. there's been a few of them today. interesting to hear the boys talking at half-time in the studio, Mark. and Barry saying, if Wales let this one slip away, it would be catastrophic for confidence.

Mark Bright: a position of real threat, really, you know, two goals up, missing a penalty, everything that they wanted, a clean sheet, goals, playing away from home, just that confidence. and all of a sudden... back on level terms, back on level terms in a few minutes as well...

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing David Healy*) Healy, as he made that run, was trapped by Delaney, Delaney's gone into a centre-half position for Wales after the substitution, Duffy coming on at right-back. **Delaney of course played there many times before.**

Mark Bright: yeah, utility can play everywhere.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, pursued by Healy, he got the touch. (*showing David Healy*) a willing worker as well as a goal scoring threat, **David Healy. from Downpatrick.** one of the features of Northern Ireland's campaign, even though they were in the doldrums at the time, **a wonderful goal he scored against Austria.** Johnson, Craigan forward, looking for James Quinn, Delaney away, Davies, Gillespie couldn't get it cleanly, he was fouled. Robinson, Carl Robinson aggrieved by (*showing Irish supporters*) Welsh frustration mounting, and Northern Ireland jubilation growing! a whole game in a swirling four minutes. Gillespie with the delivery, Murdock is in there, and Delaney a firm header away under pressure. Steven Davis first man to it. this is Johnson, holding off Earnshaw, looking for Quinn, on by Murdock, and swept away by Ricketts.

Mark Bright: (*showing Sam Ricketts*) yeah, I've got four men! please help him!

Jonathan Pearce: Duff with the long throw, looking for Quinn, Ricketts again under pressure did well. Giggs, only as far as Gillespie, his old Old Trafford teammate. Duffy clears, Craigan, this'll drop

kindly for Giggs, and now John Hartson, and Wales can counter, Craigan back with Hartson, and Gillespie trapped him there too and got the final touch.

Mark Bright: good play from Gillespie, great tracking back, seeing the danger and helping out.

Jonathan Pearce: doing well for Sheffield United as well, his career revitalized, Keith Gillespie, Wales's third corner of the game, Maik Taylor organizing that penalty area. Capaldi's tight on Robert Earnshaw, out it swings, Elliott touches it, oh Johnson... and a free kick given against Fletcher, I presume for high-kicking, Mark.

Mark Bright: yeah. foot up to the block... the difference there between, you know, the Irish boys and the Welsh boys, when that ball dropped down, in the Welsh defence, they were on to it straight away, they were first to react. when that ball dropped down there, the Welsh... there's nobody to put pressure on to try and keep the ball in the box.

Jonathan Pearce: just saw a sight there of Dave Beasant, the Northern Ireland goalkeeping coach and international in his time, he's part of the old crazy gang the Northern Ireland set up these days, Terry Gibson is there as well, with Lawrie Sanchez and Gerry Armstrong, of course who scored that wonderful famous Northern Ireland goal in the nineteen-eighty-two World Cup finals against Spain, in Spain.

Mark Bright: well, the thing about all the back-room staff, John, this is really important, they've all been involved in major upsets in football, so you can imagine at half-time what they'd be saying, you know, listen, things turn around quickly, the crazy boys, as in beating Liverpool, Gerry scoring the goal against Spain.

Jonathan Pearce: here's a free kick to Wales. (*showing John Toshack*) John Toshack, if he's done his recent Welsh history, will know this is a complete reversal of the game played in Wales a year ago. Northern Ireland were bossing the game and Wales came back. this is Giggs with the free kick, Fletcher is there to his left, I think it will be Ryan Giggs who strikes it, it's Giggs, and through the wall... but not beyond Maik Taylor.

Mark Bright: I think he would've liked another seven or eight yards on that, further forward.

Jonathan Pearce: Fletcher's touch, Gillespie in there again, he's a man possessed at the moment, now Quinn, Johnson, prodding a pass to Healy, and he was looking for the return, Delaney got a touch, Gillespie coming in off a wide position. oh, looking for Elliott and finding him... Duffy clears. Simon Davies, who's not seen much of the ball at the start of this second half. terrific game. Elliott got back but it comes to Hartson, Craigan fell... (*showing two players arguing*) more rivalry from the Scottish Premier football.

Mark Bright: frustration, frustration there. the ball ran through to John Hartson, didn't really get hold of it at the edge of the box... just as he gets loose from there, (*showing replay*) he's trying to win it back, I think he's just trying to win it back, and he concedes a free kick. it's just one of those things, you know, every time you touch the ball the crowd are on to you, you've missed a penalty, and the frustration just builds a little bit.

Jonathan Pearce: amazing game when they last met, Craigan and Hartson, four-four, Celtic and Motherwell.

Mark Bright: he scored a hat-trick, didn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he did! and I think he got a penalty that day.

Mark Bright: there's nothing worse, you know, I've missed a penalty myself, and you're desperate for another chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs's dummy, this is Earnshaw, very nearly crept through, Fletcher looks for Robinson, Davies, Wales haven't been able to string together the passing football that was a feature of the first half. Northern Ireland have been up and at them, as they were against England. Giggs to Earnshaw, he was pushed, that's clumsy defending.

Mark Bright: this is a pretty interesting free kick position now... John Hartson's looking to take that quick to Simon Davies just on the right side. it's a good shooting opportunity. good play from Earnshaw there, just backing into him, and no support at all, nobody running past him, no one coming

around to show for a shot... (*showing replay*) ball into him, now, he's got no help, I think he's playing for the free kick a little bit as well, although Murdock really was all over him.

Jonathan Pearce: again it'll be Giggs, and he set his sights moments ago, with a free kick that was easily saved. Robert Earnshaw's standing there as well... it's Ryan Giggs, and he SCORES! on the hour, the game swings again! and it's **the Welsh captain** who restores their lead. and which way is this one gonna turn out?

Mark Bright: well, what a game we've got here! I slightly feel Maik Taylor's at fault for this! (*showing replay*) he's got a wall covering one side of the goal, and that means you're responsible for the other side, and I think he's gambling on going left, and then he reacts to go right, he's got the wall covering one side, now that far side must be his responsibility. there's the wall, it's covering his left-hand side of the goal, so that means the right-hand side of the goal's his responsibility. it doesn't even go in the corner, it's just left of centre. I think that's a goalkeeping error.

Jonathan Pearce: **his last goal for Wales came in their last competitive victory against Azerbaijan in March two-thousand-and-three.** how much did he learn from the previous free kick moments ago?

Mark Bright: well, it was a little bit further out as well, and as I said, Ryan Giggs would've liked this free kick to be another eight yards forward. just a better opportunity.

Jonathan Pearce: three-two, what a second half! and **important this, for both countries. the more victories they get, the higher up the group they can finish, will affect their draw for the next World Cup qualifier. not the European Championship qualifier, as some people have been saying. it's too late for that. they've got too much to do to finish above the teams in their sort of specific tier of countries.** away by Duffy, Hartson, under pressure, and Davies. Giggs to Davies, there's space for Ricketts if they can get it out there, Robinson does just that. just sort of caught in two minds!

Mark Bright: I think he just saw somebody out of the corner of his eye, there, might've been-Duff, he just backed off.

Jonathan Pearce: Earnshaw, oh he's done well, Giggs is making the run off him, and this is Davies, and Hartson's in space if he can slide him in. John Hartson, first touch wasn't the best, it's a Welsh corner, could've been better.

Mark Bright: yeah, the big fellow came into the box, took it in his stride, then it just wouldn't settle for him, it just wouldn't settle. Capaldi came across, and robbed him of a chance.

Jonathan Pearce: Quinn back inside his own penalty area as well, Northern Ireland have left just David Healy away downfield. sixty-two minutes gone. Giggs's corner, Fletcher couldn't get beyond James Quinn, the Welsh leading by three goals to two. it was a sloppy throw-in, but Gillespie made the best of it.

Mark Bright: he did well... the referee's played the advantage there as well. a foul on Gillespie by Davies.

Jonathan Pearce: Duffy in here, Hartson's away through the middle, he was actually standing offside, I think he's offside again, that's why he's had to play with Simon Davies. Ryan Giggs, Simon Davies, lots of space, too much space. it's all Wales at the moment!

Mark Bright: Duffy's come on as a substitute, anticipating that ball on the half-way line, and just turning defence into attack.

Jonathan Pearce: a substitution for Northern Ireland, it's gonna be **Chris Brunt on, from Sheffield Wednesday, very promising.** Elliott will be the man who departs. **Chris Brunt is a Belfast lad, twenty years of age, started off at Middlesbrough, and won the FA Youth Cup with them, and went on loan to Sheffield Wednesday initially. he scored a couple of goals at the weekend against Coventry.**

Mark Bright: Sheffield Wednesday, yeah, so obviously they're looking for another goal.

Jonathan Pearce: **he scored a great goal at under-twenty-one level, against Scotland.** Gillespie looking long, a foul against Healy...

Mark Bright: well, tumbling with Delaney.

Jonathan Pearce: Delaney's done so well. what a come-back now as centre-back **in his first game since May, at the end of last season.**

Mark Bright: doesn't carry any weight, does he? very lean, and it doesn't matter, you know, you work and work and work, when you come back from injury, it's just the games, that's what we were talking about, it's the match fitness, it's one of those chicken-and-egg things.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Earnshaw, to Simon Davies, got the shot away, palmed that just behind Earnshaw, Craigan was second to it, this is Giggs, and Wales look dangerous every time they come forward, Earnshaw! offside, wouldn't have counted.

Mark Bright: just end to end, isn't it? you know, you just wouldn't believe at half-time when Wales were two-nil up, they'd come out, they'd get the two goals back to put themselves back in the game, now they're behind again, and now the momentum's swung all the way round, it's with Wales (*showing replay*) this is just a fantastic strike. fantastic. I thought he should've took it early, when it came across him, just a great strike there, look at the far side, and when the keeper parries the ball you can see Earnshaw and Hartson waiting for the bits.

Jonathan Pearce: I'd love to see Barry Horn and Iain Dowie in the studio right now.

Mark Bright: the arms will be out from Dowie.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, got it down but cleared away by Partridge, chance here, Johnson! good block, important save by Jones, and here come Wales, flying on the counter. this is terrific stuff. so open. Giggs, Hartson way offside. Northern Ireland came out. (*showing replay*) and here come the home side again, this is Brunt, his first touch as a substitute. good block by Jones, wasn't it? and Partridge swept it away.

Mark Bright: it was, yeah... the defence is no... they just stood still, he's aiming straight down at the goalkeeper there, he goes across the goal, just like Davies did a few minutes earlier, I think it's Gillespie who might've been creeping up, looking for the knock-down.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi, Robinson, who finds Giggs, Earnshaw offside.

Mark Bright: Giggs and Davies, that was offside from Earnshaw, they're taking up more of a narrow role, in the second half, they've both come in a little bit, and they're affecting the game by picking up the ball inside as opposed to wide on the wings.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs tracking back, and winning it! conceded the foul here.

Mark Bright: I think he's saying somebody tell me, tell me there's a man behind me. (*showing replay*) Johnson did well there, he was the man.

Jonathan Pearce: that's a splendid save again!

Mark Bright: that's what I like with the referee's decision, if you want to take it early, you know, without putting a wall up, you know, you don't penalise the team for conceding the free kick, for winning the free kick, (*showing replay*) there you go, hand on it, take it early, and he nearly caught Jones out of... off his line.

Jonathan Pearce: curling in by Healy it was. Brunt's corner kick. just cleared away from Duff's head by Duffy. and the pressure swings back on the Welsh goal!

Mark Bright: Gillespie with a corner from this side.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones has made two important stops in the last couple of moments. and unopposed there, allowed to make the save.

Mark Bright: disappointed with the pressure there, the crowd, buoyant, just keep it away from the goalkeeper. you know, there's an area, really, between the penalty spot and the six-yard box, it's too far from the keeper to come, and if you put an in-swinger as well, you can come and attack it.

Jonathan Pearce: the Welsh hadn't scored a competitive goal under John Toshack before today, and especially in this second half, they've looked dangerous every time they attack.

Mark Bright: well, it's been open, hasn't it? I mean, at times, it's a North versus South in a five-a-side on a Friday! end to end! both teams playing deep, lots of work for midfield players to do... it's really enjoyable, you know, not gonna criticise a lot of the defending.

Jonathan Pearce: Partridge, offside.

Mark Bright: well, Healy was coming back, he was in front of the defence and as that ball has come over his head he's coming back onside, I don't know why the flags would go up.

Jonathan Pearce: just under twenty minutes left. Partridge will take it. he started off with West Ham, Partridge. this is Capaldi, to James Quinn, Delaney watching him carefully, Quinn, tight control, brings Davis into the play, and now Duff, high back to James Quinn, Brunt was behind him, Simon Davies. caught in possession by Johnson.

Mark Bright: good pressure from Johnson there, not giving it up.

Jonathan Pearce: so important for Northern Ireland, Damien Johnson, this is Brunt, Capaldi, too far for Jones, Healy headed it back across, and the goalkeeper thought about it, he hesitated, and couldn't get there.

Mark Bright: the curl on the ball, lovely shaped, coming away from the goalkeeper, Healy headed it, but it's one of those things, you're back-peddling, you head it, and it hits the guy in front of you.

Jonathan Pearce: and the corner for Northern Ireland, seventh of the game. Brunt will curl it in. Quinn is in there, so is Murdock. cleared away by Fletcher. Gillespie's worked so hard up and down that Northern Ireland right. forward by Capaldi, launches it to Quinn, wins it in the air, Murdock in there, away by Delaney, Quinn did well, Brunt onside, a hanging cross, and away by Duffy under pressure.

Mark Bright: a good defending, really, and good pressure as well, Northern Ireland just keeping the ball in the penalty area. a short one.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Gillespie, and another corner. and the pressure beginning to mount.

Mark Bright: everybody back now, the Welsh team. the eighteen-yard box, majority in the six, defending that lead.

Jonathan Pearce: Jones making sure he's got room, doesn't want to come through a thicket of players, but has to do just that, he didn't get the punch away, did that hit an arm? Robinson! it was Brunt who had the little stab at the end of it, but it seemed it hit Carl Robinson on the arm! slid down his arm for me.

Mark Bright: I think he thought he was gonna get challenged, his arm was up, and his head was pointing downwards.

Jonathan Pearce: Gillespie's corner, keeper under pressure, drops it, fumbles, is that a penalty? Healy went over. and the Northern Ireland coaching staff are on their feet, and braying at the assistant referee. Murdock's header, Healy! great ball!

Mark Bright: handball?

Jonathan Pearce: is that a handball by Delaney? Quinn! unbelievable pressure here. back in by Davis. Brunt first one to it. Davis again, Murdock stayed forward, Gillespie's header, and drops it just wide. it's a terrific game!

Mark Bright: Murdock's just had a quick word with the referee, pointing to his hand, I think the first one was Carl Robinson, definitely a bit of contact there. (*showing Keith Gillespie*) but a great spell of pressure from the home team, and buoyed by the crowd behind the goal. (*showing replay*) this is the in-swing. this one goes up in the air... that there, he looks like he bundled him over...

Jonathan Pearce: Healy.

Mark Bright: yes, he looks like he bundled him over, he could see Healy was gonna get it, back to goal, though, I'm not sure what he could do with it. good chance, Paul Jones.

Jonathan Pearce: but throughout the game, when Northern Ireland have hoisted it into the six-yard area, Wales have looked uncomfortable. especially since James Collins went off.

Mark Bright: yeah, he was dominant in the air in the first half of the game. (*showing John Toshack*) you know, Partridge is comfortable in the air, Delaney's got the height, he's coming there, but it's just one of those situations where it's continually coming back in the box in the air, and it's swirling round, and people don't move out of the way when you want to go and clear it, they make it difficult for you.

Jonathan Pearce: John Toshack there, talking to Crewe's David Vaughan. Craigan has time, looking for Quinn, Delaney drops it short, Healy's there, oh, good goalkeeping. Really positive, came to claim and did it.

Mark Bright: (*showing David Healy*) we saw the frustration on Healy when he turned away, a little bit of anger, (*showing replay*) I think if he just gets a touch on this it's all over. just here. because if he gets a touch, it's a penalty. there he's frustrated.

Jonathan Pearce: clawed at it, and kept it, Paul Jones. now Giggs, on beyond Duff, Johnson there, tireless effort from the Birmingham City midfielder. finds Gillespie, good play. high, looking for Brunt, but wavered in the wind. Duffy. off Capaldi.

Mark Bright: (*showing Lawrie Sanchez*) definitely looks like Gary Stevens.

Jonathan Pearce: and Delaney... now this is forward by Fletcher, Hartson gets a touch, Gillespie now. Lawrie Sanchez looks pensive. Gillespie. Capaldi to Brunt, hugging the touch line. Healy's there in front of him, so who's in the middle? Quinn is in the middle, if they can-get it in there. Richard Duffy gets the challenge in. a substitution here for Wales, Robert Earnshaw is the man who'll go off, and Vaughan is coming on for his fourth cap. and they'll just leave John Hartson up front here, play Vaughan, Vaughan's a midfield player.

Mark Bright: he is a midfield player. he plays for Crewe, he's very tidy, comfortable on the ball, possibly go to five in the midfield and just leave John Hartson on his own at front.

Jonathan Pearce: Capaldi's long throw, Jones half away, Johnson back in there, oh it's beyond Murdock and Quinn!

Mark Bright: Delaney saying, get some height on that header!

Jonathan Pearce: Vaughan's gone to the left-hand side of midfield, and Ryan Giggs has come over to this right at the moment, he's just standing off Davies, but I wonder if he'll get a freer role in support of Hartson, Mark, in the closing stages?

Mark Bright: well, I'm sure that Davies and Giggs, you know, and Robinson can take it in turns and run off John Hartson, you know, they can all take a chance when the time is right.

Jonathan Pearce: here is Giggs, looking for Davies. Murdock gets there, but only just, and looked tired with the clearance away, he was fouled. (*showing Colin Murdock*) thirty-year-old from Ballymena, started off at Old Trafford but didn't make the grade there. while he was at Old Trafford, I think he was studying for a law degree. this is James Quinn, Johnson looks for Steven Davis, now Brunt. should be Jones's ball, and is.

Mark Bright: frustrating. that is frustrating because I know on Wednesday they were working really hard on getting that ball into the box, and crossing, doing it in practice and that's one of those occasions where it counts now, it really counts. Chris Brunt's got a nice left foot, just put a little more care on that delivery.

Jonathan Pearce: again it was a weary-looking challenge by Murdock on Hartson.

Mark Bright: this is exactly what John Hartson will be looking for now, backing in, getting some free kicks, slowing the game down.

Jonathan Pearce: oh, free kick by Giggs, this is Simon Davies, just blocked off, and it's the turn of the Welsh supporters to appeal for a hand ball, against Capaldi.

Mark Bright: Simon Davies unselfishly looking to cross that to John Hartson, I'm not sure he should try and strike that with the outside of his foot.

Jonathan Pearce: Giggs was quick in again. that's a waste of a throw-in, straight out of play again, and it gives Wales the initiative. the wind has picked up as the game has gone on, glowering grey clouds have scudded in. away by Craigan. energy levels sap, eleven minutes to go. played back by Vaughan, too much weight on the return pass. Taylor in a hurry, they all missed it in the air, rain beginning to slant in. Giggs on, Davies challenged Murdock, away by Capaldi, a little poked clearance, Duff looks for Quinn, it comes to Healy, Partridge got back at him but it's David Healy who was bundled over! that's a yellow card.

Mark Bright: good persistence there from Healy. (*showing David Partridge*) Partridge knowing that he was beaten, really. at this time of the game, not taking any chances.

Jonathan Pearce: he'll miss the final game against Azerbaijan, as will Delaney, and Capaldi's first-half booking for Northern Ireland rules him out of their final game against Austria. ten minutes to go. Wales with this fragile three-two lead. (*showing Paul Jones*) Jones organising the wall, four men in it,

that's Brunt who strikes it, it deflected very slightly, off the heel of one of those Welsh players in the wall. and Northern Ireland about to make another substitution. **another Crewe player is about to come on**, this time it'll be **Steve Jones**, we'll see him in a minute but it's Giggs meanwhile who gives it away, Davis, back to him and Giggs slid in. and Northern Ireland wanna make the substitution here, it's gonna be Mike Duff who departs, and Steve Jones who comes on. **comes from Londonderry, twenty-eight-year-old, this is his nineteenth appearance for his country, another player who played for England at semi-pro level.**

Mark Bright: **he's a forward, he's quick.**

Jonathan Pearce: Johnson over on that right-hand side, that's high by Gillespie, Davies clears. now Capaldi, leaves it for Johnson, he's had a busy second half. Simon Davies. Hartson, back to Giggs, away from the on-rushing Johnson. now Vaughan. Giggs looking for the return.

Mark Bright: doesn't need to do that. doesn't need to do that, giving it away. even though Giggs made the run. what he does is, he takes a defender with him, there's a bit more space, come inside, and play with someone like Hartson.

Jonathan Pearce: James Quinn fouled by Partridge.

Mark Bright: he's had a decent game, James Quinn, you know, he's been unlucky not to get anything in the box so far, you know, he's come to lead in the line, holding it up, bringing people into play, you know, big player, strong, back to goal, had a good game.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Keith Gillespie*) can Northern Ireland provide another twist in the turn of an extraordinary game? Gillespie's over it, Brunt too, this is Gillespie with the delivery, away by Duffy, Davis, pulled Northern Ireland back into it, at two-two, at the start of the second half, Quinn, Davis again, just too far for Healy.

Mark Bright: a bit too much pace on it as well, (*showing replay*) Quinn did ever so well really... a nice little lay-off, but that ball's just a bit too far. here it goes, Quinn just kills this, and sets it up, now that ball there, there's too much pace on it for anybody.

Jonathan Pearce: Wales led two-nil, Davies and Robinson, John Hartson had a chance to make it three but the penalty was saved, and then Gillespie and Steven Davis at the start of the second half made it two-two, and Ryan Giggs's goal now separates the two countries. Jones for Northern Ireland, to Healy. draws it back for Davis, Simon Davies is there with him, this is Ryan Giggs, pursued by a pack of three Northern Ireland players. Capaldi finds Gillespie, towards Steven Davis, won in the air well by Duffy but Johnson finds Brunt in space. looking for James Quinn, Damien Johnson, I'm sure a foot was raised there by Fletcher, he was caught by Johnson meanwhile, and he's gone down, and Northern Ireland playing on. Gillespie, to Capaldi, and still they play on, and he looks for James Quinn!

Mark Bright: everywhere, everywhere, decisions everywhere!

Jonathan Pearce: and they get the cross back in... Quinn! couldn't get out of the way!

Mark Bright: (*showing James Quinn*) oh, the Welsh players, they're furious there. Carl Fletcher was down on the floor, and wanted them, I think, to kick the ball out, he soon got up, and back on his feet, complaining to the referee now, that he was down. it's not a head injury, you know, the ref can't blow up for everything, I think he's well aware that they're in the lead, maybe looking to kill time, he's played on, they both went in with their feet high!

Jonathan Pearce: Craigan with a long throw, under five minutes to go, aimed at Murdock, away by Robinson, now Gillespie, oh, stumbled, changed his mind and nearly lost possession. high by Craigan again. as that ball sailed forth up to the goalkeeper, Lawrie Sanchez turned around and shook his head...

Mark Bright: agonizing, really, cause he knows it's so important coming towards the end of the game. you gotta keep that ball away from the goalkeeper.

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn...

Mark Bright: that's the man to hit with it...

Jonathan Pearce: **Johnson**, strong running second-half performance by Damien Johnson. (*showing Damien Johnson*) he's fouled him there. stokes up that Northern Ireland central midfield, Wales are

gonna make another substitution, Daniel Collins of Sunderland is gonna come on at centre-half, and (*showing Sam Ricketts*) Ricketts is the man who makes way, presumably Collins will go straight up there and play on the left side, will he?

Mark Bright: he was a **midfield player** originally, wasn't he?

Jonathan Pearce: he **started off as a midfielder**.

Mark Bright: yeah, he'll bring a little more height as well.

Jonathan Pearce: **winning his second cap, he made his début in John Toshack's first game in charge against Hungary.** woo:h! rain absolutely sheeting down. I think it's turned to hail! three minutes to go, just under. **World Cup qualifier, neither side with a hope of finishing top two of course. every result as we said before on the programme, can be so important for the future World Cup qualification.** Jones, Johnson, in towards James Quinn, lovely lay-off, Jones was in there but couldn't find his way through and Duffy cleared it away. Gillespie, strong Northern Ireland pressure. Johnson with a cross, looking for Quinn, Delaney did well. Gillespie again, fouled by Vaughan.

Mark Bright: foot up. well, there were questions whether Delaney would last the distance or not, but he's been strong, he's had to change position, all the way to the end, good clearance there from a header. conceded the free kick, dangerous now, arms are flying in the penalty area but the referee's seen it.

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing Ryan Giggs*) Ryan Giggs the official man of the match, we've just seen there, Brunt with the free kick, oh it's in! well, he **struck** that!

Mark Bright: well, there wasn't much chance of anybody getting their head on to THAT! would've took their head off! (*showing replay*) here it comes, we can see the rain coming down now, there, it's just away from everybody, you know, we don't see anybody running or anybody jumping, one thing you must do there is keep that ball, give everyone a chance who's going in to attack that ball, give them a chance, he fires it in.

Jonathan Pearce: into the last minute. there will be some stoppage time of course, because of the second-half goals. now a chase, Giggs is involved, Craigan got the touch that was so important. Vaughan jumps with Gillespie, now this is Jones. strong in the tackle on his club-mate, towards James Quinn, suspicion of a little punch there by Partridge?

Mark Bright: doesn't look like it, it's just one of those things that happen, between the centre-backs and the centre-forwards. they're just appealing for anything at this stage.

Jonathan Pearce: the board's gonna go up now to tell us how much time we'll have added on. four minutes.

Mark Bright: oh... it's an eternity!

Jonathan Pearce: and the Northern Ireland fans have seen the board held up by **the fourth official, Kevin Blon.** Vaughan, turning away from Johnson, who went aground, this is Robinson, Duffy, good run by Simon Davies, just too far in front of him. terrific entertainment. away by Delaney, Hartson offside.

Mark Bright: the kick's weak. they've gotta get around Quinn. they've just got to drop that ball to Quinn and get around him. the pitch is spread. I mean Brunt's out here...

Jonathan Pearce: Murdock and Quinn together there, but it was dropped in short Carl Robinson headed it away, now Craigan, one minute of stoppage time played. Brunt's header down, Duffy blocked and clears.

Mark Bright: Duffy showed a bit of inexperience there, he had Simon Davies just in front of him, just roll the ball into feet, and then Simon Davies can make a decision. what's he done is give it straight back to the opposition.

Jonathan Pearce: high up towards Murdock, who'll surely stay forward in this stoppage time period, Gillespie hoists it, James Quinn backing on to Fletcher who held his ground, now Giggs! oh, he's blocked off by Craigan, and he would've had a clear run really, a long way out I know...

Mark Bright: he probably knew what he was doing there, he had to take a chance, just no chance of catching Ryan Giggs, no chance at all. and I don't think he's got booked, has he? I think Ryan Giggs is furious!

Jonathan Pearce: (*showing replay*) knocks it beyond the defender, and he would've had a clear run down that side. two minutes of stoppage time played. and it's been an extraordinary game, Mark.

Mark Bright: it has, it's been really enjoyable, you know, for two different reasons, you know, on the back of that great win against England, if they could back it up here, against Wales, they're just struggling for goals, four straight defeats, you know, lots of criticism for the manager, looks like he's answered the critics, for the time being anyway.

Jonathan Pearce: Northern Ireland without a victory here against Wales in thirty years. on to Jones, they'll have to wait a minute longer, or will they? this is Johnson, Vaughan's across there with him, and he got the touch, but Johnson's gone beyond! Murdock's on the far post, Quinn is there too, it's loose, it's come to Healy! goodness me, he struck that!

Mark Bright: it looked like a handball...

Jonathan Pearce: it hit Partridge, didn't it?

Mark Bright: I couldn't tell who it is, but it was a fantastic strike.

Jonathan Pearce: and now Wales can break away, in the last minute of stoppage time. Duffy on the overlap, Hartson's in the middle, offside. and he's tickled it in, but he was always in an offside position. your overall thoughts, Mark?

Mark Bright: well, just a fantastic entertaining game, you know, a great start from Wales, and a great comeback from Ireland obviously...

Jonathan Pearce: this is Quinn, and he looks for Brunt.

Mark Bright: the referee's looking at his watch, the crowd are just urging one last throw.

Jonathan Pearce: seconds to go. hoisted it there again, looking for Murdock, and just turned away... only as far as Davis. Murdock... oh! and surely the last chance has come and gone.

Mark Bright: well, it's incredible really, it's just one end to the other, and John Toshack will be fuming, I think it was Duffy who made the overlap past Davies a few moments earlier.

Jonathan Pearce: it's all over! and Wales' miserable run of fourteen games without a competitive victory has come to an end, and it was the goal by Ryan Giggs, as the rainbow comes out over Windsor Park, on sixty-one minutes, that gives them a terrific three-two victory! joy for Wales, and they've stolen Northern Ireland's thunder. three-two to Wales!

7.4) Analyse de 400M

Tom Hammond: up next is the men's four-hundred metres, as Jeremy Wariner of the United States tries to win back-to-back world championship gold medals. Lewis, you were talking earlier about Jeremy saying he needed perfect conditions to challenge Michael Johnson's world record, but the wind has picked up here in Osaka.

Lewis Johnson: it has, in a two-hour surprise, because we have not had a wind issue here at these world championships, we've had heat and humidity issues, but that was not a concern for Jeremy Wariner because he trains in Waco, Texas, where it is generally pretty hot. wind has picked up but again, the other elements that he was looking forward, the fast track which he has, the great competition which he has, and now we'll see if that wind is a backer, Ato.

Ato Boldon: and I can tell you, Lewis, I can admit to you guys now, this is the race that I have been looking forward to, even more so than the one-hundred, why, because this is the best field assembled on four-hundred metres in quite some time, and Jeremy Wariner in lane six is gonna be running with his two main rivals, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor just his insides on lanes five and four.

Tom Hammond: so Jeremy Wariner will come into the race as in the favourite, there are as Ato mentioned three Americans, he'll be challenged by Angelo Taylor and Lashawn Merritt...

Lewis Johnson: and an interesting fact, with the domination of American quarter-milers all over the world, it is amazing to see that the United States have never swept the world championships over four-hundred metres, and I think that it is a great opportunity for that to happen today.

Atto Boldon: I spoke to Johnson for about an hour about this race, this is the race that I started in but I've forgotten so much about it, and what he told me, one of the things to remember is that if it comes down to close finish at the end, Lashawn Merritt has had the experience this year, he's run forty-four point sixty-two to win in Paris, forty-four point four in Rome, forty-four point three in Monaco, that means that he's in great shape, Angelo Taylor has not raced quite as much, and that may be the difference, if Jeremy Wariner is able to secure the lead, to see what happens for that silver medal.

Lewis Johnson: and I talked to Jeremy Wariner today about this evening and his plan throughout the World Championships, and all the two-hundred he ran, trying to get that speed intact, to get that part of the race ready, and he said that the most important thing for him tonight was not to focus on a world record, but wanting a personal best, now his personal best's forty-three point fifty, if he's under that, he's close to a world record.

Tom Hammond: (showing contestants) lane two, Avarad Moncur of the Bahamas, gold medallist of the two-thousand-and-one world championships, lane three Tyler Christopher of Canada, set the Canadian record at the two-thousand-and-five, world's bronze medallist in the world championships in Helsinki. lane four, Angelo Taylor, won gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in the four-hundred metre hurdles. lane five, Lashawn Merritt of the US, lifetime best, forty-four point zero-six at the US championships, but lost in the photo finish to Angelo Taylor, then the third of the three Americans in a row is Jeremy Wariner, defending Olympic and World Champion, won his semi-final heat in forty-four point thirty-four. lane seven, Leslie Djohne from France who lored his French national record, forty-four point forty-six in his semi-final race, he was seventh at the Athens Olympics. in lane eight, Chris Brown of the Bahamas, fourth at the two-thousand-and-five world championships, and in lane nine, Johan Wissman of Sweden, the Swedish national record holder, in fact he has set records in both his races here, first round and semi-finals, in forty-four point fifty-six.

Lewis Johnson: (showing Jeremy Wariner) well I had a talk with Clyde Hart today, who is Jeremy Wariner's coach, the man who posted Michael Johnson to the world records in the four-hundred and two-hundred metres, and he said that Wariner ran the perfect race in his semi-final, around twenty-one seconds at two-hundred, thirty-two seconds at three-hundred, and he said the difference in the time will be what happens in the last hundred metres.

Atto Boldon: when I spoke to John Smith, Lewis, he said, don't think for a second that this is not an unfortunate lane-drop for Wariner, because his main competitors are right behind him, lane six is probably not the lane that Jeremy would've wanted, but you don't get to become the world's most dominant quarter-miler by quibbling about lanes, he has to navigate lane six, that's the hand he's been dealt for this final.

Tom Hammond: and there's the gun! Angelo Taylor lane four, Lashawn Merritt five, Jeremy Wariner in six, and Wariner's away to a fast start...

Atto Boldon: look for the move, Angelo Taylor, we've seen it all through the rounds, this move down the back stretch from Angelo Taylor, in lane four.

Tom Hammond: and Jeremy Wariner is there, Lashawn Merritt, Angelo Taylor, Christopher from Canada, into the turn for home, and Jeremy Wariner along with Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor the three Americans, home's straight away now and Jeremy Wariner has the lead, Lashawn Merritt and Angelo Taylor, here is Merritt trying to close the ground but Merritt has too much, Wariner wins, Merritt second, Taylor third, the US sweep one, two, three! forty-three point forty-six...

Lewis Johnson: and Tom, the whole battle plan for both Taylor and Merritt was get close enough to him at three-hundred, put some pressure on him, but Jeremy Wariner, the heart of a champion. he took this race out, he could not see them to his inside, but he stuck to his script, and at three-hundred metres he was clear, and he never looked back, they never were able to pull up on his side and really challenge him.

Tom Hammond: and the official time, forty-three point forty-five, personal best for Jeremy Wariner.

Lewis Johnson: and that was the goal, coming out here for this final, between Wariner and his coach Clyde Hart, not looking for a world record, not chasing that time, just simply looking for a personal best, not as simple as it sounds, because running forty-three point five is pretty unbelievable, but that's exactly what he did, a personal best and a gold medal on top of it.

Ato Boldon: (*showing Angelo Taylor*) tremendous running by Wariner. as we look at a disappointed Angelo Taylor, I thought he put himself out of it, he didn't make the move that we normally see from him down that back stretch and it might have cost him in that final.

Tom Hammond: but it is a US sweep led by Jeremy Wariner, the defending champion.

Lewis Johnson: (*showing replay*) Wariner told me that in his phases he wanted to get out hard the first sixty metres, then keep that pace on the back stretch, then when he'd get on the turn, really pump the arms and make the legs come up, and then off the turn coming up to straight away where he is right now, it's just an all-out kick. and the final thing that Jeremy said he would not do, he would not look over to the clock before he got to the finish line, that he'd run through the tape and then look, and we saw that on the replay, Wariner running through the tape, trying to get the fastest time possible, but without the doubt he has sent the message to everyone around the world that I am unbeatable.

Ato Boldon: alright guys, how scary is this four by four four-hundred metres relay really going to be!

Tom Hammond: oh!

Ato Boldon: Angelo Taylor has to be disappointed with forty-four point thirty-two, he looked so good during the rounds, but it's not about how you run the rounds, it's how much you save for the final, and Angelo Taylor looked like he actually was a little bit tired this evening, coming off of that final turn.

Lewis Johnson: just think about the work that Clyde Hart has done with Jeremy Wariner, physically they are so, so different, and Jeremy Wariner has advanced so much faster than Michael Johnson did, as he creeps ever closer to forty-three point eighteen, the existing world record over this event.

Tom Hammond: and Lashawn Merritt, you know, running a pretty good race here too to take the silver medal, for him, forty-three point ninety-six, breaking forty-four seconds. when we come back, the men's hundred-and-ten metres hurdle final, and we'll hear from Jeremy Wariner, world champion.

7.5) Analyse de CATCH

Bobby Heenan: and this is what it's all about at the Joe Louis Arena, here in Survivor Series. here we go... (*showing child in crowd*) boy, all these little Hulksters are gonna be wiping their noses and rubbing their eyes, because I feel it, Monsoon, the electricity is in the town, the electricity is going all over the world, Hulkamania's gonna be put to rest very, very shortly...

Robert Marella: a lot of people, unfortunately, think the same way you do, however I think this is gonna run for quite some time. I've seen what the Hulkster can do, I've seen what the Undertaker can do. what a gigantic confrontation.

Bobby Heenan: all I can say, the greatest challenge.

Robert Marella: as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over till it's over.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing Hulk Hogan*) you're looking at the greatest wrestler in the world today, the World Wrestling Federation world champion Hulk Hogan! (*showing poster*) hulkamania lives forever!

Robert Marella: indeed... Hulkster destroying that casket!

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker*) he'd better be worrying about that man, not that casket. oh my hair's standing on the back of my head, I'm ready for this one.

Robert Marella: oh, the Undertaker's gonna have to face the Hulkster face-to-face. not too many guys have done that successfully.

Bobby Heenan: well you're still stuck on that Hulkster, Brain. you keep talking like Hulk Hogan's girlfriend, I'm gonna have to keep telling you the truth.

Robert Marella: what determination. he is focused on Hulkamania.

Bobby Heenan: we're underway! both men approximately the same size... Hulkster with all that wealth of experience behind him...

Robert Marella: a former ref just told me, he just came from the hall, there's not one person at the concession stand or in the hallway, everybody is focused on this. eyes and ears of the world watching this one. Hulkster showing that quickness, that agility...

Bobby Heenan: I don't think you can hurt the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: I think you can. nobody is impervious to pain. sooner or later it gets you.

Bobby Heenan: yes, but how much pain can they take? what is his threshold for pain?

Robert Marella: the Hulkster will find out!

Bobby Heenan: If anybody will, he will.

Robert Marella: side headlock by the big guy... (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer with the urn, he'll know what no one really knows, how much that urn weighs, or what's in there! could weigh fifty pounds! Hulkster's got a pretty good idea, he felt it on the back of his head! duck underneath by the Hulk Hogan off the ropes, oh, runs into a nice elbow, and out of there immediately, before the Undertaker could take advantage of it...

Bobby Heenan: the true mark of a coward.

Robert Marella: the true mark of a champion!

Bobby Heenan: it is a smart move to hit the floor and regroup... but I don't think Hulk Hogan did it as a smart move, I think he realises hulkamania's dead!

Robert Marella: that certainly is not obvious to me at this point in time, Brain!

Bobby Heenan: just shut up and watch! I'll handle things.

Robert Marella: that's what I'm afraid of... the entire world of hulkamania stands behind the Hulkster, not like being out there with only one guy, I'm referring to Paul Bearer, on your side.

Bobby Heenan: well as Hulk Hogan always says, I'm never in that ring alone. the hulkamaniacs all over the world are in there with him. well he's gonna need them to beat the Undertaker, there are not enough hulkamaniacs walking this earth for him to win tonight... Undertaker trying to rip off the face of the Hulkster...

Robert Marella: what a rip off, huh? ha ha ha ha...

Bobby Heenan: well Detroit's known for hockey, that could be a face-off!

Robert Marella: will you stop? (*showing Paul Bearer*) Paul Bearer's talking from the outside... as if the Undertaker wasn't enough to worry about, he's gotta worry about that guy!

Bobby Heenan: Hulk Hogan hasn't launched much of an offence since he entered that ring, has he? he's been taking a beat!

Robert Marella: oh, look at this! COME ON! (*showing Paul Bearer*) YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!

Bobby Heenan: my monitor went out there, what happened?

Robert Marella: your monitor went out... your brain went out! from the outside it was a blatant attack by Paul Bearer! Hogan in a lot of trouble right now... oh! really got airborne, the Undertaker did, but the Hulkster got out of there in a hurry. a roundhouse, and another one, and one more gets the attention of the big guy. into the ropes!

Bobby Heenan: but he didn't knock him down!

Robert Marella: Hulkster going for a slam? no...

Bobby Heenan: he couldn't slam him. hulkamania's dead, Monsoon! I can feel it, I can see it! couldn't knock him down, couldn't slam him. watch this!

Robert Marella: elbow right between the eyes! you're talking like the match is over!

Bobby Heenan: you cannot hurt the Undertaker! rammed head first into the corner, and back to the other side for another shot.

Robert Marella: I'll tell you what, he's really rocking him real and now, Brain! Hulkster with a clothesline, three-hundred-sixty by the Undertaker, who lucky for him, came down on his feet.

Bobby Heenan: but he is still standing! and he has enough presence of mind to pull Hogan out. now throw him back into the ring, cause you can't beat him on the floor.

Robert Marella: OH! Hulkster face first right into the steel steps!

Bobby Heenan: history's gonna be made here! don't get disqualified, Undertaker! don't blow the chance of a lifetime!

Robert Marella: using microphone ring cord wrapped around, the referee being distracted by Paul Bearer, as Undertaker continues to choke up the Hulkster. come on, ref! number one, you should've sent that guy back to the dress room before this match even started.

Bobby Heenan: he draws power from that urn, there's something in there that motivates this man. wow, what a match! what a Survivor Series! tremendous condition being shown here by the Undertaker, and that tattoo he has on his arm, do you know what that is the tattoo of?

Robert Marella: yes, the Grim Reaper.

Bobby Heenan: the Grim Reaper himself! and we may be looking at the next World Wrestling Federation champion, who might very well be the Grim Reaper!

Robert Marella: oh watch again, from the outside, Paul Bearer, come on!

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you this, my monitor just keeps kicking in, kicking out.

Robert Marella: I'm gonna start kicking you in and out in a minute...

Bobby Heenan: tension in the air, we could cut it with a knife, here in the Joe Louis Arena in the Motor City. everyone just sitting there right on the edge of their seats, ready to explode at any moment!

Robert Marella: you know what, that woman's on the edge of her seat!

Bobby Heenan: she's got a three-hundred-pound Kane behind her!

Robert Marella: how many times have we seen the Hulkster being drummed down into the mat, and somehow muster, somehow get that adrenaline flowing?

Bobby Heenan: but we might not see that here!

Robert Marella: well they're both still on their feet!

Bobby Heenan: you know, it's easier to hold on to the title than to win it, because you've got the disqualification rule, and if ever Hogan wants to take the coward's way out, he knows he can do it. can you hear me?

Robert Marella: I can, I'm just ignoring you.

Bobby Heenan: I can't hear you... twenty-something-thousand people screaming, I can't hear a thing, you people will have to bear with me.

Robert Marella: Hulkster in a whole lot of trouble... the Undertaker with that hold right on the forehead of the Hulk...

Bobby Heenan: you know, an average man would've given up by now...

Robert Marella: Hulk is not an average man...

Bobby Heenan: an average man would've been driven to submission by now.

Robert Marella: you're talking about the reigning World Wrestling Federation champion...

Bobby Heenan: I know, the immortal Hulk Hogan, ba:h...

Robert Marella: nothing average about him.

Bobby Heenan: he's drawing strength from that urn...

Robert Marella: I wanna watch if this doesn't turn into a smother here...

Bobby Heenan: I'll tell you what, the Undertaker, he's been ahead ninety percent of this match! it's all in his favour.

Robert Marella: doesn't tell you what the percentages are in the record book, only whether you won or lost.

Bobby Heenan: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at that, Monsoon, he has no eyeballs!

Robert Marella: he's sick.

Bobby Heenan: he's some place else right now! his body may be in Motown, but his mind is out there some place.

Robert Marella: well that arm dropped twice, had it dropped one more time, I believe the referee would've called it! but it didn't.

Bobby Heenan: he's on his feet, they're both on their feet! Hulk Hogan, Monsoon, and I mean this, he is fighting for his life!

Robert Marella: Hulkster with a series of shoulder blocks... wow! what a flying first there by the Undertaker!

Bobby Heenan: get the flowers ready, sign in the guest book, it's time for a funeral!

Robert Marella: look at that big dent in the urn, it's probably where he clubbed the Hulkster from behind with it...

Bobby Heenan: so what...

Robert Marella: so what, yeah...

Bobby Heenan: it's my opinion, I'm a broadcast journalist!

Robert Marella: (*showing the Undertaker's face*) look at this guy, he's not even sweaty...

Bobby Heenan: he's too cold to sweat! he'd have to have blood and pores to sweat!...

Robert Marella: I've never seen him perspire.

Bobby Heenan: look at the ease!

Robert Marella: he's gonna try to ply him with a tombstone! OH YES! no one has ever...

Bobby Heenan: oh, look at that, Monsoon! Paul Bearer can't believe it!

Robert Marella: who's not immortal now, Brain?

Bobby Heenan: he's still on his feet! the Undertaker is STILL on his feet!

Robert Marella: Hulkster continues to unload several roundhouse rights...

Bobby Heenan: he's down to one knee! the first time he's been down on one knee...

Robert Marella: this place has gone crazy! Hulkster says he's gonna pick up – oh watch this! (*Showing Ric Flair entering the Arena*) where is he going?

Bobby Heenan: the real world champion!

Robert Marella: slam by the Hulkster... what business does he have down there?

Bobby Heenan: well you'd better talk to Ric Flair, I don't know... I mean it, I really don't know.

Robert Marella: Hulkster finally... oh, says what are you doing down there, roundhouse right, on Ric Flair!

Bobby Heenan: why would he go touch Flair? he never touched the ring, he never got involved in the match!

Robert Marella: what business does Flair have down there?

Bobby Heenan: I don't know, but he doesn't deserve to be struck...

Robert Marella: oh, big boot by the Hulkster... oh, from the outside, it's Paul Bearer, grabbing the leg of the Hulkster. oh, the referee's lost control of the match. look at this! Flair with a chair! he got piledrived right into the steel chair!

Bobby Heenan: wait a minute...

Robert Marella: COME ON! GET UP!

Bobby Heenan: ONE, TWO, THREE! we got a new world champion! the new World Wrestling Federation champion, woo:h!

Robert Marella: what a miscarriage of justice!

Bobby Heenan: I told you so!

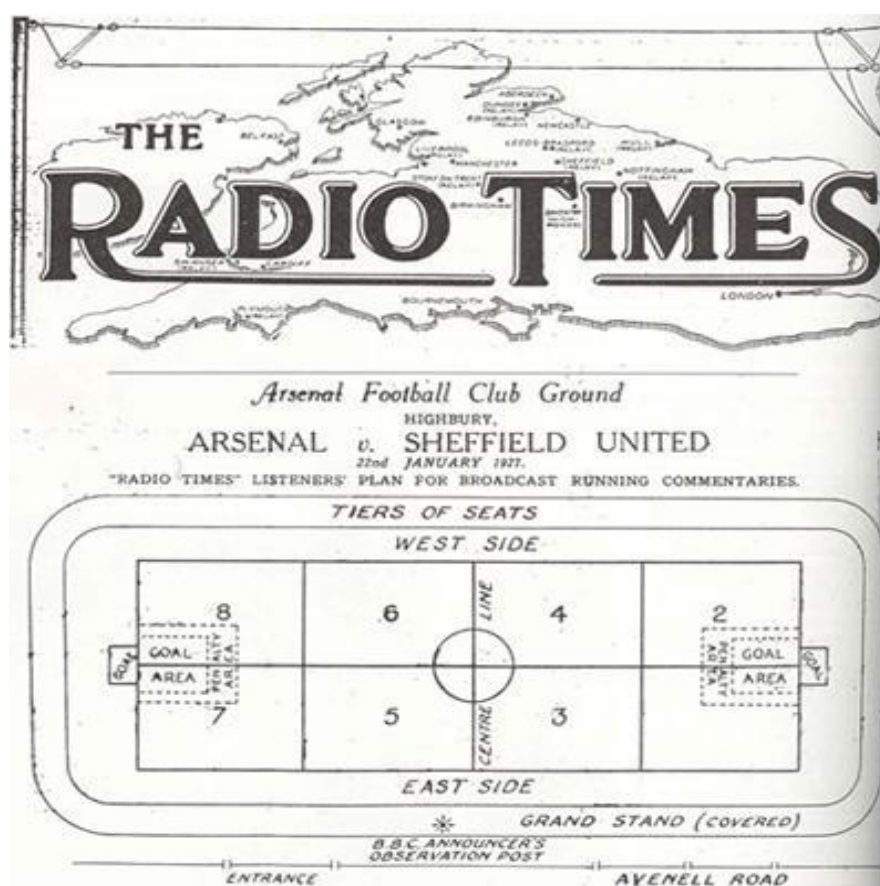
Robert Marella: this is horrendous! three guys, it took! it took the Undertaker, Paul Bearer and Ric Flair to beat Hulk Hogan!

Bobby Heenan: Hulkamania is dead! and is dead, long live the Undertaker!

Robert Marella: walking down here is the new World Wrestling Federation champion, but not deservedly so... the Undertaker.

Annexe 8 – La grille des commentaires sportifs radiophoniques britanniques

8.1) Le premier exemplaire (22 janvier 1927)



Grille publiée dans le *Radio Times*, à l'occasion du match entre Arsenal et Sheffield United, disputé au stade de Highbury (Londres).⁶

⁶ VAGT, Christina. « At the Stadium ». Publié en ligne le 2 février 2009, consulté le 16 juin 2015 sur <www.beam-me.net/beitragdetail.php?lang=e&artid=31>.

8.2) Un exemplaire récent (21 janvier 2007)



Grille publiée dans le *Radio Times* à l'occasion du quatre-vingtième anniversaire de la rencontre ci-dessus⁷

⁷ Document mis en ligne le 18 janvier 2007, consulté le 15 juin 2015 sur <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/6266771.stm>>.

Annexe 9 – Exemple de tableau de positionnement

ARKANSAS STATE INDIANS : 12-17 / 7-7				Assts: TONY MADLOCK SHAWN FORREST JAY COOK	
Coach: DICKEY NUTT		04 yrs	here yrs		
		162-154/11TH	JAME		
0	1	CREIGHTON PARKER	5-11 170 TFF LITTLE ROCK, AR	- %ft 0-1 %3p	ONLY SBC/PLAY - TROY (Op - 2:00)
0.3	2	KEY-TUS WITHERSON	6-8 255 SR ORLANDO, FL	69 %ft - %3p	HIT BY CAR - PRE-04 BULLING DISK, NO PRACTICE ONLY Hg (SHIN SURGERY + FOOT)
5.9	3	JIM JONES	6-2 190 JR BEAUFORT, NC BROOKSVILLE, NC	63 %ft 37 %3p	STARTED ALL 29 GAMES 25p - DIE MISS 16p - TROY
3.8	4	BRANDON BALLARD	6-3 180 TFF LEACHVILLE, AR	63 %ft 33 %3p	SHOULDER INJ, MISSED 2 WKS (INCL. TROY)
12.4	5	DEREK TIPLER	5-10 190 SR NEW MADRID, MO	75 %ft 33 %3p	5.1 APR 2ND T A/SBC 5/2ND TDUB: 14p, 13A, 10R TENDINITIS (LH) 4/2ND H/PS - UNLR 2L ST/G / #2/SBC STARTS
4.4	14	YULE BANKS	5-10 165 JR MEMPHIS, TN	63 %ft 42 %3p	FMR W/P, CAME ON W/ STARTED FINAL: 18G NICKELS/INT
4.4	20	KYLE WRAY	6-5 180 TFF SEARCY, AR	67 %ft 0-1 %3p	SH/ 23p/FIC WALK-ON
7.3	21	TYLER KING	6-4 195 SR CLINTON, AR	- %ft 0-2 %3p	Hg ALL YEAR, ONLY SBC/G: 2MIN-TROY 1MIN-20W
1.6	31	KORREL HENDERSON	6-4 215 JR WARRIENHEAD, NC BRUNSWICK, NC	1.5 %ft 0-3 %3p	
0.8	33	MARCUS ARDISON	6-6 210 SR CAMPTI, LA	66 %ft - %3p	11p, 14REB-TROY HASN'T PRACTICED/WALK (ANKLE-UNO) 4/HI 53%FG
0.3	45	ISAAC WELLS	6-8 225 JR JACKSON, MS	68 %ft 42 %3p	24p - TROY LAST 16-8, 8.4RPG
0	50	TREO LITTLE	6-11 370 JR LITTLE ROCK, AR	38 %ft - %3p	37/37 - #2/TEAM TO REPLACE ARDISON? STARTED 1P3G, BUT 7:00/1PT-TROY 7.4RPG

Tableau de positionnement créé par Barry McKnight à l'occasion du match de basket-ball entre les universités d'Arkansas State et de Troy (Alabama), lors de la saison 2005-2006.⁸

⁸ Les sigles %ft et %3p correspondent respectivement à free throw percentage et three-point percentage.

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