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SPORT

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2005



SIX NATIONS

The northern hemisphere's most prestigious rugby championship kicks off once again in February, with coverage of every match from the Six Nations live and exclusive on the BBC.

The competition begins on the weekend of 5 February with live coverage of France v Scotland and Wales v England on the Saturday, and Italy v Ireland on the Sunday.

Coverage is presented by Steve Rider and John Inverdale, with commentators including Eddie Butler, Nick Mullins, Brian Moore and Phillip Matthews.

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MATCH OF THE DAY

As the Premiership football season passes the halfway mark, the battle at both ends of the table starts to heat up – with the fight for the title, for European qualification and relegation, in full flow.

Match Of The Day rounds up all the action on a Saturday, with Gary Lineker and guests providing comprehensive highlights and analysis of every game.

And, throughout the season, Football Focus, Final Score and Score Interactive continue to bring all the latest news, analysis and results from all levels of football.

JM

FA CUP

The journey towards the FA Cup final began back in August 2004 with the qualifying rounds of the knockout trophy.

The New Year opens with the all-important third round of the FA Cup – the world's oldest and most well-known domestic football championship – when the big guns from the Premiership enter the competition for the first time.

Gary Lineker presents live coverage of three games over each FA Cup weekend in Match Of The Day Live, from the third round to the quarter finals. The BBC also has first choice of the semi final and live coverage of the all-important final in May.

In addition, Football Focus runs throughout the year, and brings all the latest FA Cup news, views and opinion.

JM

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

England's journey towards qualification for the Germany 2006 World Cup continues with two crucial home qualifiers.

Gary Lineker presents Match Of The Day Live for exclusive coverage of England v Northern Ireland and England v Azerbaijan.

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THE MASTERS

Steve Rider presents 14 hours of live coverage from the prestigious Augusta National course as the world's best golfers compete for the coveted Green Jacket – awarded each year to the tournament's champion.

Last year's Green Jacket winner, Phil Mickelson, will have tough competition from the likes of Ernie Els and Tiger Woods, who is still looking for a fourth Master's victory to take him a step closer to Jack Nicklaus's record six.

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THE GRAND NATIONAL

On the second Saturday in April, at 3.45pm, the whole nation stops for 15 minutes and focuses on an epic battle between 40 horses.

This year sees the 158th running of The Grand National, the world's most famous steeplechase and the climax of three days of exciting racing. Sue Barker and Clare Balding present all the action from Aintree.

JM

