

## **A Promising Season That Never Happened**

Tottenham entered the 2013-14 Premier League season with no less than seven new players coming in at a total of £105,000,000. Andre Villas-Boas and Franco Baldini had assembled a squad that seemed like it could challenge for the championship in the EPL. A task that wouldn't be easy considering that Gareth Bale, the reigning English player of the year and young player of the year was sold to Real Madrid for a record €85,000,000. The season was promising with the team bringing in young and veteran stars from other leagues such as Erik Lamela (Serie A), Christian Eriksen (Eridivise), Roberto Soldado (La Liga), Paulinho (Brasileirão) among others.

The team started off strong winning 13 points out of a possible 16 points in its opening six games reaching its highest position of second place in the EPL table for the season. The main concern with the team however was its lack of scoring goals. In its first 10 games, Tottenham was only able to score nine goals with three of them coming by way of a Roberto Soldado penalty kick. The team essentially played this way all the way up the dismissal of head coach Andre Villa-Boas on December 16th and the promotion of Tim Sherwood to first team manager.

After the promotion of Sherwood, the team went on a run of winning four out of the next five games and Emmanuel Adebayor who was relegated to practicing with the youth team and was thrust into the starting 11 and scored 11 goals in the final 21 games. The rest of the season, Spurs volleyed back and forth between the "Europa League" spots in the table of fifth and sixth place

### **FINAL POSITIONS:**

**BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE:** 6th PLACE

**FA CUP:** KNOCKED OUT IN 3RD ROUND

**LEAGUE CUP:** KNOCKED OUT IN 5TH ROUND

**UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE:** ROUND OF 16

The rumors at the end of the season was not if Tim Sherwood would be fired but when he would be fired even though he was given a contract extension after he took over duties as first team manager. Sherwood left the team on May 13, 2014.

## 2014-15-Rebuilding?

It is tough to sum up the upcoming season for the Tottenham Hotspur only because the team still hasn't made many moves which may be a good thing. Last season, the team brought in a string of new players and played in a number of different formations and the team just couldn't mesh together. Mauricio Pochettino was hired as the new manager of the squad. Pochettino who led a young promising Southampton team to finish 8th, tied for their highest finish in the EPL table in the club's history. Pochettino was criticized for using a translator during press conferences with Southampton but in his first press conference as Spurs manager, he did not use a translator and spoke in English.

Pochettino will bring an attacking style to a Tottenham team that needs one since they are a team that struggled to score goals. The team has responded by scoring goals in their preseason games with the most potent game being a 6-1 victory over Celtic. The pre-season games have shown that Spurs are ready to attack as soon as they get the ball and they run hard at the defenders.

## WHO'S IN?

POSTION	NAME	TRANSFERRED FROM	FEE	DATE
DF	Ben Davies	Swansea City	P/EX	07/23/14
GK	Michel Vorm	Swansea City	£3,500,000	07/23/14
DF	Eric Dier	Sporting CP	£4,000,000	08/02/14
DF	DeAndre Yedlin	Seattle Sounders	£2,400,000	08/13/14

## WHO'S OUT? (First Team Players)

POSTION	NAME	TRANSFERRED TO	FEE	DATE
GK	Heurelho Gomes	Watford	Free (End of Contract)	06/30/14
MF	Jake Livermore	Hull City	£8,000,000	06/21/14
MF	Gylfi Sigurðsson	Swansea City	P/EX	07/23/14
MF	Iago Falque	Genoa	£4,000,000	08/01/14
DF	DeAndre Yedlin	Seattle Sounders	LOAN	08/13/14

## PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP



## FINAL PREDICTION:

This is an interesting season to predict for Tottenham, the fan base has been thirsting for a return to Champions League play for a few years now, but the top teams of the EPL continues to strengthen in numbers. Manchester City and Chelsea will be battling for the title with Liverpool, Arsenal, and Manchester United battling it out for the remaining Champion League spots. If Tottenham gets off to a hot start, they could be mentioned with those teams but Spurs fans shouldn't expect to light the world on fire from this team and should be satisfied with another 5th/6th place position and challenge to win the Europa League which this year will have the added benefit of the winner being able to enter Champions League.

**EPL:** 5th/6th Place