

Great Expectations

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The 2017/18 season is about to start. You've lost the league that you've dominated for so long to underdogs Monaco and you've been thrown off the cliff of Europe's elite after blowing away a four goal lead in Spain to Barcelona. Your only triumph of the season is only a (pretty much guaranteed) domestic cup.

What better way to raise your fan's hopes after a disappointing season than by breaking the transfer record to sign Neymar and luring your direct competition's star player Kylian Mbappé?

You now have a squad with the jaw-dropping frontline of Mbappé, Cavani, and Neymar, a midfield with the likes of Marco Verratti and Blaise Matuidi, and a Brazilian backline of Thiago Silva, Marquinhos, and Dani Alves.

Your manager, however, is still Unai Emery: a man unfit for a team with the squad and ambitions of PSG.

And overlooking this very factor, one that can make or break a team, emphasizes just how reactionary football fans are as a whole. When people heard of PSG's successful capture of Neymar and the subsequent addition of Mbappé, they were quick to declare PSG this year's European Champions, Neymar the inevitable Ballon d'Or winner, and this season as the one where Mbappe would cement his status as the best young player in the world and among the world's finest as a whole. Look at how all that turned out.

The 2017/18 season is now entering its final stages. You're now at the top of the table – a position that seemed so elusive last year – but this is just a mere walk in the park. Your mega-squad has been perched off its high horse in the UCL once again in the RO16, by back-to-back champions Real Madrid, Neymar is out till the World Cup in the summer, and Unai Emery's job is hanging by threads.

Age is catching up to Dani Alves, Thiago Silva looks out of his depth in the big games, and after being denied a once in a lifetime move to Barça, Marco Verratti seems to be a shadow of his true ability in moments of pressure. Mbappe, Cavani, and Neymar (MCN) were expected to gel instantly and just kill it together but the role of the manager is important and did not facilitate that. And now, Liverpool's

front three are what people expected MCN to be: the best trio in the world currently.

Unai Emery is a not a good coach – he is out of ideas tactically and has nothing unique to offer his teams. Neither is he a good manager as he does not have the skills or the personality to handle the egos in his dressing room and disputes at the club like the penalty issue between Neymar and Cavani. An average Emery should not have the responsibility of players like the ones he has right now.

It's managers like Marcelino, Valverde, and Spalletti who have stepped into a new club this year and changed it for the better, whether that's because of their structure and management or their ability to handle the players. I can't stress this point enough even if I tried to. This is what Emery was expected to do this year, by injecting new ideas and making PSG one cohesive unit, ready to dominate the world. But he has failed spectacularly just as those not deluded by PSG signings expected him to.

Expectations are always bound to collapse when the people setting them overlook the elephant in the room.