

Soccer in Croatia

Croatian transcript:

Hrvati jako vole nogomet! Dakle, imamo nekoliko klubova u Hrvatskoj koji se svake godine uporno trude ući u Ligu prvaka, i svake godine to im naravno ne uspijeva. Imamo našu super nogometnu reprezentaciju, našu nogometnu reprezentaciju koja je uspjela ostvariti par nekakvih zavidnih uspjeha na međunarodnom planu, naravno. Uglavnom, naše nogometne utakmice su jako posjećene, i to je, mogu reć najpopularniji sport u Hrvata. 1998. godine Hrvati su bili treći na Svjetskom nogometnom prvenstvu. Jako su ponosni na taj plasman i danas nakon dvanaest godina, onako, time se diče, ne znam, svim srcem, ono, „mi smo treći.“

English translation:

Croats really love soccer! [laughter] So, we have several clubs¹ in Croatia which are desperately trying to enter the Champions League² [group stage] each year; of course, they fail every time. We have a great national soccer team, our national team which has managed to win a few awards – internationally, of course. In any case, our soccer matches are quite well-attended, and I can say that soccer is the most important sport in Croatia. In 1998, Croatia was third at the World Cup. The people are very proud of that achievement, and even today, after twelve years, they are still wholeheartedly delighted—“We were third!”

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¹ The most notable soccer clubs in Croatia are NK Dinamo Zagreb and Hajduk Split. Although the speaker claims that they are struggling, both clubs have participated in European tournaments on a regular basis (Dinamo Zagreb even won the Europa League once, in 1967, after losing the final game in 1963). Currently, in the 2011/12 season, Dinamo Zagreb is participating in the group stage of the Champions League.

² UEFA Champions League, originally known as the European Champion Clubs' Cup or European Cup, is an annual international club soccer competition organized by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) since 1955 for the top football clubs in Europe. It is the most prestigious club competition in European soccer.