

Hey Everyone,

Welcome to the next installment of the FIFA 08 Producer Blogs. I'm Darren Hedges, Producer for Online and Game Modes.

What does that mean for all of you out there? I'll break that down in the blog below but for FIFA 08 on the Xbox 360 and PS3 you will be closer to the sport online than you ever have been before in a football game.

The Online experience:

When we set out on the FIFA 07 journey our goal was clear for online.

“Make the online game play and feel like the offline game”

I believe in FIFA 07 you experienced the best online football experience on any Next Gen console and this year for 08 we have taken bigger leaps forward than I imagined at the start of the project.

We have been planning all year to give you the features that you have been asking for and pushing the boundaries of the online arena even further.

Bringing the fan closer to the beautiful game:

Over the next few paragraphs I will explain what we have added to FIFA 08 this year to bring you the fan closer than ever online to the beautiful game.

Let me start with **EA SPORTS™ Online Leagues**.

One of the biggest features we get asked for on forums and through consumer feedback is the ability to play your friends online the way you want to play. Unrestricted by schedules and rules set by someone you don't know.

EA SPORTS™ Online Leagues is exactly that. This is your chance to set up a league with up to 32 people with your rules playing it your way. There is no schedule to follow just play the games when your friends are online. Once the league is finished the winner will have all the bragging rights and the trophy to display.

Next up is **EA SPORTS™ Interactive Leagues**. The FIFA development team where disappointed last year that we couldn't get to Interactive leagues on the Next Gen formats.

This year we will be bring the excitement of following the real world right in the comfort of your living room. Playing as your favorite team and helping them achieve league victory throughout the season.

EA SPORTS™ Online Team Play is the one feature we are really excited about for FIFA 08. You won't see this on the final disc, but you will get it as FREE downloadable content around 6-8 weeks post launch.

Online Team Play allows 10 unique consoles to play against each other in a 5 user vs. 5 user game. We have had a lot of fun developing this and want to ensure that you all have the best experience from it when it's released.

You can choose to either play as a single position or as a floating position able to switch, and I have to admit its great fun having 3 or 4 people play in a position and one floater to clear up the ball when needed. When this is released you are all going to have a lot of fun and for us it's one step closer to our goal of 11 vs. 11 online play.

EA SPORTS™ Podcasts:

So you like your news in an audible format we have that covered too. FIFA 08 brings you football Podcasts from around Europe and the USA partnering with the top radio and podcast broadcasters in each territory to bring you Podcasts on your Xbox 360 and PS3 to keep you fully informed of the football world you live in. In addition to this we also have a full coverage of the FIFA community Podcasts from around the globe. These Podcasts you can now switch on or off or if you want listen to a completely different language.

FIFA 08 Squad updates Content:

Squad Updates:

In September and then again in February 09 we will be offering the full update to our leagues to cover off all of the latest transfers from the January Transfer window.

Well that's about it from me for now. Keep an eye out for further FIFA 08 Producer blogs as we get closer to launch. I look forward to seeing you in the online field of play.

Darren