

## UEFA Champions League 2012 / 2013

Round of 16

(ITA) AC Milan		2:0		FC Barcelona (ESP)
20 February 2013, 20:45 CET – Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, Milano, Italy				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark <sup>1</sup>	Mark <sup>2</sup>	Difficulty <sup>3</sup>
Referee	Craig Thomson	SCO	8.2	---	Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Derek Rose	SCO	8.5	---	Normal
Assistant Referee 2	Alasdair Ross	SCO	8.1	---	Normal
Additional AR 1	Steven McLean	SCO	8.2	---	Normal
Additional AR 2	Kevin Clancy	SCO	8.2	---	Normal
Fourth Official	Graham Chambers	SCO	8.0	---	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	László Vagner	HUN			
Blog-Referee Observer <sup>4</sup>	Philipp S.	GER			

<sup>1</sup> Final mark according to evaluation scale. Expected level for AARs and fourth official is 8.0, crucial mistake 7.9 as usual!

<sup>2</sup> Mark if the final mark had not been influenced by a crucial mistake (only in case of a crucial mistake, to be held empty if no crucial mistake occurred).

<sup>3</sup> Difficulty has to be integrated into the final mark. Levels of difficulty are: "normal", "challenging" and "very challenging".

<sup>4</sup> Blog-Referee Observer = Inofficial referee observer appointed by the blog administrator.

Evaluation scale	Description of the Marks
9.0 – 10.0	Excellent.
8.5 – 8.9	Very good. Important decision(s) correctly taken.
8.3 – 8.4	Good. Expected level.
8.2	Satisfactory with small areas for improvement.
8.0 – 8.1	Satisfactory with important areas for improvement.
7.9	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.3 or above.
7.8	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.0 – 8.2.
7.5 – 7.7	Below expectation, poor control, significant point(s) for improvement.
7.0 – 7.4	Disappointing. Below expectation with one and clear important mistakes or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.

### Description of the match:

About 80.000 people in the stadium and probably many millions in Europe watched one of the top clashes in this campaign's round of 16 between these two teams which each have won the Champions League already three times. In the end, Milan beat Barca surprisingly 2-0, the first defeat with more than one goal difference since January 2011. Barcelona did not find a way through the good defense of the "Rossoneri" in the whole match. The Catalans possessed the ball, but did not produce a single clear goal scoring opportunity. On the other side, Milan could set some good attacks, scored twice and so could establish a very good starting position for the second leg in Spain.

UEFA appointed the experienced EURO 2012 and WC pre-listed referee Craig Thomson from Scotland for this match. Although having been in charge of e.g. an EL semifinal last year, this

## Inofficial Referee Observer's Report

© footballrefereeing.blogspot.com, refmarks.blogspot.com



match was one of the biggest in his palmares. The difficulty of this match was very changing as there were intervals with little work for him, as well as intervals (10-20, 50-60), where he had to take several decisions. Because of a few important decisions and the importance of the match, the difficulty can be described as *challenging*.

## Referee

<b>I. Knowledge, Application and Interpretation of the Laws of the Game, Disciplinary Control and Technical Management of the game with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.</b>	
<b>(Crucial decisions, if available, have to be explicitly mentioned in the grid and highlighted).</b>	
<b>Comments:</b> He was not faultless, but a decent performance, getting the big things right. The highlight was the allowed 1-0 instead of a handball call. His cards were all OK and no obvious one missing, but his disciplinary control line was not clearly visible, i.e. one could not be sure, whether a foul would be a yellow or not. Some problems with advantage and stoppage time.	
Minute	Description of the situation
8	The first harder challenge of the match, referee gives a verbal warning, OK
13	He missed a good advantage for Milan
15	A high ball by a Milan player is caught by their goalkeeper, assessed as unintentional, probably correct
25	YC for Mexes for a hard, maybe also tactical foul, correct decision
45	0 minutes of stoppage time in spite of two short treatment breaks; Strange: 4 <sup>th</sup> official signaled 3 minutes, what would have been too much
53	Boateng(?) stops his run by placing his elbow in Alba's face. Even if it was accidental, it should have been at least a YC
54	YC to Busquets, although he clearly plays the ball. Due to the intensity of the tackling still OK
56	Free kick before the 1-0 is correctly awarded
56	The free kick is stopped in the air by Zapate, in full speed and even in the first replays it seemed he used his arm, later replays and zooms suggest that it was his head. So probably a very good, difficult and important decision
56	Pique had no chance to see the replays, but offered Thomson his advice about the situation, who thanked him with a YC for dissent.
65	Puyol and Pazzini "crush" their heads. Pazzini was first at the ball and Puyol hit him afterwards, so it could have been a foul and then also a YC for denying a good opportunity. Thomson saw it as an accident and stopped the match only for allowing the treatment. Acceptable decision.
83	Penalty appeal by Barcelona due to a challenge against Pedro, but it was not enough and he fell to easy
90	5 minutes stoppage time seemed too much
90+1	YC for Traore for jumping into his opponent, OK
90+2	The same as in 83'

<b>II. Tactical approach and its Degree of Consistency, Personality, Match Control and Management of the Teams and Players with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.</b>	
<b>Comments:</b> He was not completely consistent, one could not tell, whether he was lenient or strict in this match. But it's far away from bad in this category, just also not really good. To say it positive, he adopted his style to the needs in different stages of the match. In the times, where playing was the main interest of the players, he stayed in the background, when they started to fight, he was there. So he did not seem to be the controller of the match, more the judge, who is asked, when there are	

disputes. While speaking to the players, he had a relaxed and friendly attitude, which reinforces this impression. Overall, he could talk a bit more, and use his advantage as a native English speaker (as Webb does).

<b>Positive Points</b>	1.	No handball before the 1-0
	2.	Adopting his style to the match situation
<b>Points to improve</b>	1.	Consistency
	2.	Advantages
	3.	Stoppage time

Minute	Description of the situation

**III. Physical Shape, Stamina, Positioning, Movement as well as Mental Awareness, if needed, with reference to the minutes when they occurred, always in case of a “-“.**

**Physical Condition (very good, good, average, poor):** good

**Further Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
X			Always close to play, follows play at all times with a flexible diagonal system and impedes interference with play
	X		Efficient positioning (at set pieces e.g.) and movement to be ready to take a (crucial) decision (especially in the box; be able to enter the box in some cases when it is necessary)
	X		Shows awareness and is able to anticipate the action

Minute	Description of the situation

**IV. Teamwork (co-operation with (A)ARs and fourth official with reference, if needed, to special situations and the minutes when they occurred)**

**Comments:**

The cooperation with the assistants was on a normal level, not many situations besides offside decisions, where they were involved. Some problems with the 4th official about the stoppage time of the first half.

**V. If needed: General comments or advices for improvement; explanation of the chosen mark; further matters (can be let empty).**

**Comments:**

Good things and bad things quite balance out, but in the end there are too many points of critics and some question marks left. So closely not expected level, but nevertheless he kept his chances for a further CL match.

## Assistant Referee 1

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

**Relevant Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
X			Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
	X		Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much / too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

Minute	Description of the situation
12	Correct offside decision against Barcelona, important call, because else it should have been a handball penalty for them.
32	Correct offside decision
75	Correct offside decision, very attentive

## Assistant Referee 2

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

**Relevant Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
	X		Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
	X		Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much / too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

Minute	Description of the situation
7	Correct offside decision
16	Wrong onside decision, leading to a big chance for Milan

## Additional Assistant Referee 1

<b>Assistant referee's performance</b> (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)			
<b>Relevant Aspects:</b>			
<b>+</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>-</b>	
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
	X		Efficient control at set pieces
<b>Minute</b>	<b>Description of the situation</b>		
56	Maybe involved in the very good no handball decision		

## Additional Assistant Referee 2

<b>Assistant referee's performance</b> (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)			
<b>Relevant Aspects:</b>			
<b>+</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>-</b>	
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
	X		Efficient control at set pieces
<b>Minute</b>	<b>Description of the situation</b>		
83,90+2	Possible involvement in the rejected penalty appeals		

## Fourth Official

<b>Fourth official's performance</b> (reference to technical management like substitutions or signalling of additional time, dealing with benches in case of conflicts)
<b>Comments:</b> Bad: He showed the wrong stoppage time at the end of the first half. Good: In 88', he was flexible, when he allowed a substitution to happen before he showed the number board.