

UEFA Europa League 2012 / 2013

Quarterfinals

(TUR) Fenerbahçe		2:0		Lazio Roma (ITA)
04 April 2013, 21:05 CET – Sükrü Saracoglu Stadium, Istanbul, Turkey				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark ¹	Mark ²	Difficulty ³
Referee	William Collum	SCO	8.6	---	Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Martin Cryans	SCO	8.3	---	Normal
Assistant Referee 2	William Conquer	SCO	8.5	---	Challenging
Additional AR 1	Robert Madden	SCO	8.0	---	Normal
Additional AR 2	John Beaton	SCO	8.2	---	Normal
Fourth Official	Alan Mulvanny	SCO	8.0	---	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Luis Medina Cantalejo	ESP			
Blog-Referee Observer ⁴	Niclas E.	GER			

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

² 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).

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

⁴ 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 mistake or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.

Description of the match:

Fenerbahçe – Lazio Roma, first leg in the context of UEFA Europa League's quarterfinals. Istanbul's specially heated atmosphere created a tense duel throughout the entire 90 minutes, featuring the home-side Fenerbahçe as the deserved winners after a converted penalty kick by Webó (78') and a tap-in by Kuyt (90').

Besides the great ambience in the fully occupied Sükrü Saracoglu Stadium, the weather and field conditions were on a good level, too.

Scottish Elite Group official William Collum headed his crew into this match and faced several challenging situations, specially in the second half. Due to many crucial decisions that went against the Italian side, a team responsible of Lazio Roma lodged a complain to UEFA delegate Barry Taylor of England that was also received by Spanish observer Luis Medina Cantalejo.

Referee

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.
(Crucial decisions, if available, have to be explicitly mentioned in the grid and highlighted).

Comments:

Based on a good knowledge of the Laws of the Game, the referee's feeling for the sensible interpretation of them was tremendously sophisticated. Midfield fouls' detection was very good. Same goes for his awareness for technical Laws of the Game, that became visible in the first minute of play when he swiftly stopped play after FEN #5 and LAZ #8 collided with their heads and stayed on the ground. He attentively asked after their wellbeing and continued play with a dropped ball, such as provided for by Law 8.

Besides his good foul detection, his disciplinary management in terms of cautions was very good as well. The most remarkable yellow card was given for unsporting behaviour committed by LAZ #7, who obviously demanded a yellow card for an opponent. Very sensible call in this specific situation (52'). Another booking to LAZ goalkeeper for wasting time was not really necessary, he did not waste more than ten seconds. He did it repeatedly though, so that the referee might have given this card as a preventive action (54').

Other cautions were issued mostly for unsporting behaviour (tackles). Correct 2nd yellow card issued to LAZ #23 in minute 48 for a mistimed challenge from behind in the midfield. The referee had no other opportunity apart from cautioning and thus sending off the player.

Correct penalty decision upon consultation with (A)AR2 in minute 77: LAZ #26 touched the ball with his hand while jumping. His arm was widely stretched, his body volume clearly enlarged. Although the distance does not support the referee's decision, the hand movement and position were unnatural. Therefore, an acceptable decision in the end.

Also correct to award a free-kick to FEN that led to the 2-0 goal – dangerous play: the player's leg and foot were way too high and endangered the opponent. Correct yellow also here (90').

The most controversial decision apart from the penalty however occurred in the early stages of the match (see grid, minute 12).

Minute	Description of the situation
12	FEN #5 and LAZ #7 collided in the Turkish team's penalty area. Both players fell: replays did not make it totally clear, but from what the cameras tell me, LAZ #7 (striker) crossed the path of the last defender (FEN #5) and touched him. For this reason, FEN #5 started to fall and thus also touched LAZ #7, who was coerced to fall, too. Difficult decision, Collum waved play on, very probably, this decision came from AAR2. Due to limited TV replays, this decision must be accepted and seems to have been the correct one. (in case of a defender's foul, it would have been DOGSO → red card, penalty)
31	Yellow Card to LAZ #23 for repeatedly infringing the Laws of the Game (unsporting behaviour, tackle), correct
45+2	Having first and sensibly applied the advantage rule, the referee issued a YC to FEN #2 when the ball was out of play for the next time. Correct and exemplary dealing with that (unsporting behaviour, tackle).
48	2nd Yellow Card to LAZ #23 for repeatedly making a mistimed challenge from behind. Unsporting behaviour, correct sending-off with the 2 nd YC, no doubt.
52	Yellow Card to LAZ #7 for demanding a YC to the opponent. Unsporting behaviour, correct and very suitable caution.
77	Penalty to FEN for handball committed by LAZ #26. + Careless, unnatural hand movement and position, Enlargement of body volume - Small distance between ball and hand distance, no clearly deliberate act = In the end, an acceptable decision. The referee first did not seem to be willing to award this penalty, slightly moved towards the midfield, then changed his mind and turned to the penalty area and pointed to the spot. Surely, he got a remark by his (A)AR2 via micro.

78	YC to LAZ #26 for the handball, not really necessary, as he did not preclude an opponent from getting the ball. Perhaps also given due to the fact that the defender did not fully accept the call and looked for a conversation with the referee.
78	YC to FEN #99, not caught by the TV cameras. It looked as if he had a conversation with the referee before executing the penalty, perhaps he also demanded a yellow card to the offender. The cheers after his goal was actually in an acceptable scope.
90	YC to LAZ #6 for dangerous play, justified free-kick to FEN leading to the 2-0 goal.
90+4	YC to FEN #14 for a half kung-fu jump. Fortunately, he did not totally touch his opponent and also retracted his stretched foot a bit. Therefore still a YC for dangerous play/unsporting behaviour. The borderline to a red card was at least in sight...

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.

Comments:

The referee's tactical approach was clear, understandable for the players and uniform throughout the entire match. He did allow physical play but consistently cautioned too serious tackles as well as unsporting behaviour. Demanding a yellow card is rewarded with a yellow card, good principle set by the official.

His way he dealt with the players was characterized by total self-confidence and trust in his decisions and his general appearance on the pitch. He was authoritative in his decisions and cautions, so that the players quickly recognized they would not achieve anything by protests. His pro-active refereeing was also visible in some moments, such as a clear speech in minute 18 when he advised LAZ #2 to better commit no further foul. Good, respectful and clear gestures bolstered by good communication skills.

Furthermore, he explained his decisions well to the players and audience, e.g. making a gesture to explain why he booked LAZ #7 (demanding a YC for the opponent).

Although this style worked in this match, he could sometimes have a more friendly charisma. His concentration is very high, but a smile here and there could reinforce a good relation to the players.

Positive Points	1.	Clear and uniform approach, facilitating a good match with physical play while not forgetting the Laws of the Game
	2.	Huge level of determination and self-confidence, nearly no protests by players despite many controversial situations
	3.	High level of mental alertness
	4.	Clear gestures and good communication skills
	5.	Advantage rule followed by booking the offender afterwards
Point to improve	1.	Immediately booking the goalkeeper of the Italian side for wasting time was unnecessary. Verbal warnings could be more sensible here (54').
	2.	A bit more management by a more pleasant appearance (more smiles...) could be needed in other, tougher matches

Minute	Description of the situation
57	funny incident: the referee lost one of his cards – FEN #16 picked it up and gave it back to him. He did not use the chance to caution Collum here...

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): Very 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 (specially 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
90	Throughout the entire match, the referee was always in movement, always at an optimum distance to the ball, not too close, not too far away. His movement did not convey a hectic impression though.

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

Comments:

Basically, the teamwork was at a normal level, at least considering elements that were visible for the common spectator. The most relevant situation where teamwork was obviously needed and done was the penalty kick awarded to FEN in 77'. Both (A)AR2 were obviously involved and supported the referee by taking a correct decision.

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

Comments:

Very good performance in a really challenging 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

Comments:

The first assistant referee showed an expected level performance in this match. He was never really challenged or involved, as most of the trouble happened in the side of the pitch of AR2 and AAR2. His movement on the sideline and flag technique were good, no remarkable decisions to list.

Minute	Description of the situation

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

Comments:

The second assistant referee was challenged specially in the second half. He reacted well to incidents happening in his area of responsibility and supported the official in two game-relevant calls. Normal performance with regards to other aspects, such as movement or positioning.

Minute	Description of the situation
77	Correct detection of the culpable handball made by LAZ #26. Although the referee slightly moved to the midfield, the AR2 moved into the direction of the goalline and thus indicated his advice to award a penalty here. Replays revealed that he also immediately shouted "handball" into his micro, so good communication and co-operation.
90	NO offside prior to 2-0 goal. Not easy to detect, as the long free-kick got back into the box after a ricochet caused by the goalkeeper. FEN #11 was level with the 2 nd last defender.

Fourth Official

Fourth official's performance (reference to technical management like substitutions or signalling of additional time, dealing with benches in case of conflicts)

Comments:

Good teammember, who was never really challenged. Although the officiating team made a few big decisions against LAZ, the Italian bench did not complain throughout the match, but afterwards. Technical procedures were fulfilled as expected.

Additional 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		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

Comments:

No involvement. There was hardly any situation happening in his box, there was one very small penalty claim by FEN #99 in the first half (alleged handball), but that was nothing, the protests were faltering and the complaints hushed before they started. Clearly no infringement, so actually no challenge. Alerted movement and positioning.

Minute	Description of the situation

Additional 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		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

Comments:

Rarely involved, but when he was challenged, he was ready to help the referee.

Minute	Description of the situation
77	Very probably involved in deciding to award a penalty to the home side. After some LAZ players came to him to question this call, he determinedly nodded and communicated with Collum via micro. After that, the referee issued a yellow card to LAZ #26, so perhaps this not really mandatory card came from his advice.