



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***Referee appointed for UEFA Cup Final***

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced the referee for the final match of the 2006/07 UEFA Cup to be played at Hampden Park in Glasgow on Wednesday 16 May, kicking-off at 19.45 local time (20.45 CET). The all-Spanish final between RCD Espanyol and Sevilla FC will be handled by Swiss referee Massimo Busacca.

It is the first time Massimo Busacca has officiated at a game involving either of the two teams. But he is not a total stranger to them, as the Sevilla FC duo of Javi Navarro and Christian Poulsen were on opposing sides when Spain met Denmark in Madrid in March.

Curiously, Massimo Busacca's debut when he became an international referee in 1999 was a Spain v Croatia match in the UEFA Under-16 finals. Current Liverpool FC goalkeeper, 'Pepe' Reina was in the Spanish goal and, during three other games in the same tournament, Massimo Busacca made the acquaintance of the Czech Republic goalkeeper, Petr Cech, and Sevilla FC's German defender Andreas Hinkel.

Massimo Busacca, born in the Swiss city of Bellinzona on 2 June 1969, had previously started his refereeing career in 1990, making his debut in the top division of the Swiss league in 1996. As an international referee, he was promoted to the Premier category in 2002 and has been in the Elite squad since 2003. He had been selected for the UEFA Under-18 Championship finals in 2001 and the FIFA World Youth Championships in 2003 and 2005 before claiming a place in the refereeing team for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals, where he handled the Spain v Ukraine and Argentina v Mexico games in Leipzig as well as the Sweden v England match in Cologne.

His record in UEFA club competitions includes 14 UEFA Champions League games, the most recent of which was the FC Porto v Chelsea FC fixture on 21 February. His team on that night at the Estádio do Dragão is the one he is bringing to Hampden Park for the UEFA Cup final. His assistant referees will be Matthias Arnet (aged 38; international since 2000) and Stéphane Cuhat (aged 43; international since 1999) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Official will be Carlo Bertolini (aged 41; international referee since 2002).

This will be Massimo Busacca's third professional visit to Hampden Park – and his second for a UEFA final. He was the referee when the Scottish national team posted a memorable 1-0 victory over France in their UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifier last October. And he was the 4<sup>th</sup> Official in the team that Urs Meier took to Glasgow for the 2002 UEFA Champions League final between Real Madrid CF and Bayer 04 Leverkusen.

**For further information:  
UEFA Media Services: ++41 848 04 27 27**

Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon 2  
Tel. +41 848 04 27 27  
Fax +41 22 707 28 38  
media@uefa.ch  
**uefa.com**