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Referee appointed for UEFA Super Cup in Monaco

Special tribute to Antonio Puerta - Sevilla FC press conference moved

Austrian referee Konrad Plautz has been appointed to handle the UEFA Super Cup match between AC Milan and Sevilla FC at the Stade Louis II in Monaco on Friday 31 August, kicking-off at 20.45 CET. Konrad Plautz will be heading an all-Austrian team comprising Egon Bereuter and Markus Mayr, along with Fritz Stuchlik, who will be acting as Fourth Official.

Konrad Plautz, born in the Alpine town of Navis on 16 October 1964, took up refereeing as a teenager, feeling that handling games gave him more satisfaction than actually playing at right-back. He set himself a ten-year target for reaching the upper levels of the profession and achieved it ahead of schedule, making his debut in the Austrian Bundesliga in 1992. He was awarded his FIFA badge in 1996 and, in that same year, was named to handle the European Under-16 Championship final in Vienna, where Portugal beat France to take the title.

He starts the new season with 24 UEFA Champions League matches on his track record and is now breaking the half-century in UEFA matches. Apart from his enthusiasm for sport – Konrad has always been a top performer in fitness tests – he counterbalances his physical activity with the roles of director and actor for a local theatrical group.

Konrad Plautz is no stranger to AC Milan – though goals have been scarce during their encounters in UEFA club competitions. On 14 August 2002, he refereed their 1-0 home win against FC Slovan Liberec; On 19 October 2005, he was in charge when AC Milan were held to a goal-less draw at San Siro by PSV Eindhoven; on 29 March 2006, there was also an absence of goals at the Stade de Gerland when AC Milan visited Olympique Lyonnais; and, most recently, on 7 March 2007, he had to wait until the third minute of extra-time before he could point to the centre-circle – which was when Kaká scored the solitary goal which secured a 1-0 aggregate win over Celtic FC.

His encounters with the current UEFA Cup champions have been less numerous. In fact, they boil down to a memorable quarter-final return leg in London on 12 April 2007. After going two goals ahead in double-quick time at White Hart Lane, Tottenham Hotspur fought back with two goals to give the eventual champions a few anxious moments.

A special tribute will be paid to the memory of Antonio Puerta prior to the match.

The pre-match Press Conference of Sevilla FC will be moved from the Grimaldi Forum in the afternoon to the Press Conference Room at the Stade Louis II at 20:00 (prior to their training session).

**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