



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 03/05/2004

Communiqué aux médias

No. 069

Medien-Mitteilung

Referee appointed for semi-final in London

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced that Swedish referee Anders Frisk will officiate at the second leg of the 2003/04 UEFA Champions League semi-final between Chelsea FC and AS Monaco to be played at Stamford Bridge in London on Wednesday 5 May, kicking-off at 19.45 local time (20.45 CET).

His assistant referees will be Kenneth Petersson and Peter Ekström, while the Fourth Official will be Peter Fröjdfeldt. All four members of the team are from Sweden.

Anders Frisk, 41, has been a referee for 26 years and won his FIFA badge 13 years ago. His first major tournament was EURO 96 in England, where he was the referee of the 3-3 draw between Russia and the Czech Republic in Liverpool. Four years later, he officiated at three EURO 2000 matches, including the final between France and Italy in Rotterdam. The previous games had been Portugal's 3-2 win against England in Eindhoven and the Netherlands' victory over France in Amsterdam by the same scoreline. At the 2002 FIFA World Cup finals, he handled the matches between Brazil and China (4-0) followed by Spain and Republic of Ireland (3-2 for Spain in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw).

Anders Frisk has handled five UEFA Champions League fixtures this season and, curiously, not one has ended as a home win. The other curiosity is that, even though this is his 111th international match, he has visited London only three times – once for England's 2-0 defeat by the Netherlands in August 2001. The other two were for Chelsea FC's 0-0 draw with AC Milan in the UEFA Champions League on 15 September 1999 and Arsenal FC's 2-0 win against BV Borussia Dortmund on 17 September 2002, also in the UEFA Champions League.

In addition to that match at Stamford Bridge in 1999, Anders Frisk was the referee of Chelsea FC's 5-1 extra-time defeat by FC Barcelona at the Nou Camp in the 1999/2000 quarter-finals and, earlier in the current campaign, during the London side's 2-0 victory over Besiktas JK at the Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen, the scenario for this month's final.

Anders Frisk's only previous contact with AS Monaco was on 19 November 1996, when they beat Hamburger SV 3-0 at the Stade Louis II in a UEFA Cup match.

He is one of the twelve referees selected for UEFA EURO 2004™ in Portugal, along with his two assistant referees. All three were at UEFA's Preparatory Workshop in Portugal last week, where Anders Frisk, one of four 'ambassadors' alongside Pierluigi Collina, Markus Merk and Lubos Michel, helped to launch the joint UEFA/International Committee of the Red Cross campaign to protect children in war.

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