



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***Referee appointed for UEFA Champions League final***

### **Kim Milton Nielsen to handle AS Monaco v FC Porto match in Gelsenkirchen**

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced that Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen will officiate at the 2003/04 UEFA Champions League final between AS Monaco FC and FC Porto to be played at the Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday 26 May 2004, kicking-off at 20.45.

His assistant referees will be Jens Larsen and Jørgen Jepsen, while the fourth official will be Knud Erik Fisker. All four members of the team are from Denmark.

Kim Milton Nielsen, 43, has been a referee for 28 years and won his FIFA badge 16 years ago. But this will be the first time that he has officiated at a single-match final of a UEFA club competition. On the other hand, he has been the referee of the first leg in two home-and-away finals: the UEFA Super Cup between SV Werder Bremen and FC Barcelona (1-1) in February 1993 and the UEFA Cup final between SV Casino Salzburg and FC Internazionale (0-1) in April 1994.

Kim Milton Nielsen is one of the twelve referees selected for UEFA EURO 2004™ in Portugal, along with his two assistants. It will be his third European Championship. At EURO 96, he handled Germany's 3-0 win over Russia in Manchester. And at EURO 2000, he was the referee of the Germany v Romania game (1-1) and started the Turkey v Belgium match in Brussels, only to suffer an injury and hand the whistle to Günter Benkö. At the 1998 FIFA World Cup, he handled the Germany v Yugoslavia and Argentina v England matches and, four years later, was the referee of the Germany v Republic of Ireland and Belgium v Russia games and the semi-final Brazil v Turkey.

His first contact with AS Monaco dates right back to a 2-1 win in Swansea on 17 September 1991, when Arsène Wenger's team started its run to the Cup Winners' Cup final. He then handled their 2-0 UEFA Champions League defeat in Barcelona in December 1993. But, for over a decade, their paths have not crossed again.

Kim Milton Nielsen's 134 international games have included four encounters with FC Porto. The first was a 0-0 draw with Feyenoord in Rotterdam on 3 November 1993. The second was a 0-0 home draw with Manchester United FC on 19 March 1997. The third was a 1-0 defeat by Olympiacos CFP in Athens on 3 November 1999. And the last was a 2-0 defeat at Anfield on 15 May 2001, when Liverpool FC went on to win the UEFA Cup.

Kim Milton Nielsen currently tops the referees' all-time appearances ranking in the UEFA Champions League. This will be his 45<sup>th</sup> match in the competition.

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