

## UEFA Champions League 2012 / 2013

Round of 16

(ESP) Real Madrid		1:1		Manchester Utd. (ENG)
13 February 2013, 20:45 CET – Estadio Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid, Spain				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark <sup>1</sup>	Mark <sup>2</sup>	Difficulty <sup>3</sup>
Referee	Felix Brych	GER	8.1	---	Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Mark Borsch	GER	8.4	---	Normal
Assistant Referee 2	Stefan Lupp	GER	8.5	---	Challenging
Additional AR 1	Marco Fritz	GER	8.0	---	Normal
Additional AR 2	Tobias Welz	GER	8.0	---	Normal
Fourth Official	Thorsten Schiffner	GER	8.0	---	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Bertrand Layec	FRA			
Blog-Referee Observer <sup>4</sup>	Chefren	ITA			

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

<sup>2</sup> 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).

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

<sup>4</sup> 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 mistakes or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.

### Description of the match:

Surely, the most fascinating match of 2012/13 UEFA CL round of 16. It was the first leg, played in Madrid at Santiago Bernabeu. The stadium presented an attendance of 79,429, almost a sold-out. A magnificent atmosphere for this match which was aired in many countries all over the world. Two top teams has offered a wonderful show, a game with a high pace from the start to the end. The referee Felix Brych and his team had to concentrate just on the game in a appropriate manner, because the crowd could have affected their decisions.

## 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).	
<p><b>Comments:</b>                      Felix Brych had to face a very intensive match. Overall, his foul detection followed a clear line and for this reason it was consistent. In first half, he decided to let the game flow when Real Madrid asked for a penalty. We can share this decision, because at the beginning of the match he hadn't whistled a similar contact. In second half there were other important situations, and especially a particular one when Evra was stopped by an opponent, during a counter attack. Probably this was the clearest mistake of the referee in his performance. He missed the foul. The card management was acceptable but not excellent, since we can point out several situations in which the card could have been appropriate. Overall, the whole performance hasn't suffered a real crucial mistake, but there are surely important areas for improvement.</p>	
Minute	Description of the situation
5'	The first foul of the match and immediately a YC is shown. The decision by Brych can be shared, Van Persie puts his hand deliberately on the neck of the opponent, disturbing him. No violent conduct, therefore appropriate yellow card, even though it could appear a bit harsh.
14'	Good attempt to give an advantage, waiting prior to whistle a free kick in favor of Manchester United.
19'	Rafael (MAN) has a contact shoulder to shoulder with Ronaldo (REA) which falls down. The referee let the game flow. This is a remarkable decision because a few later, Brych will show to be consistent in this kind of situations.
25'	Deliberate handball by Van Persie (MAN) correctly detected.
40'	Rafael (MAN) commits a blatant foul on Ozil in a dangerous position close to penalty area. Correct YC given.
41'	Penalty appeal by Real Madrid. Jones (MAN) has a contact shoulder to shoulder with Di Maria (REA). Similar situation to what happened in 19', Brych shows to be consistent in his line. Furthermore, the contact was probably not enough to justify a penalty.
44'	Possible YC to Arbeloa (REA) to Evra (MAN) for a tactical foul, not given.
45'	The decision to give 2 minutes as additional time seems exaggerated. Probably 1 minute was more appropriate.
54'	The most difficult situation of the match. Varane (REA) commits a clear foul on Evra (MAN) from behind. We can recognize a clear holding and also a contact between the legs. The situation was borderline, since Evra was ready to get the ball and reach the penalty area. Varane was the last man of Real Madrid. There wasn't the possession of the ball, but it might have been a relevant chance to score. Brych missed the foul. The color of the card to give can be discussed. It happened near the penalty area but not really close, therefore I will not consider it as a crucial mistake, taking into account that Brych could have given the YC and not the RC for DOGSO.
56'	Coentrão (REA) stops the opponent blatantly with the ball away. Tactical foul, YC could have been appropriate.
65'	Coentrão (REA) commits an handball, after having been overcome by the opponent. Report by second assistant, again the YC is not shown.
88'	YC to Valencia (MAN) for having raised the elbow while jumping. Dangerous situation for the opponent, even though there isn't a relevant contact, according to FIFA and UEFA instructions, this is a correct decision by referee.
90'+3	Final whistle prior to a corner ready to be kicked. Complaints by Manchester United

	players but the referee can whistle when he wants. Nevertheless, the management of this situation by Brych was not excellent.
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**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 control of the match was good. There were never tense moments, and players respected always the decisions taken. No riots. He showed to be able to handle the game. He often talked to player, giving verbal warnings. He showed, especially in first half, to have a clear line in foul detection, being consistent.

<b>Positive Points</b>	1.	Control of the match.
	2.	Communication with players.
	3.	Very good style.
<b>Points to improve</b>	1.	Management of the cards, especially in the case of blatant fouls, when the players have not chance to get the ball and they commit a foul just to stop the action. Here a YC must be mostly given.
	2.	I was not totally convinced by the added time in first half.
	3.	

Minute	Description of the situation
56' and 65'	A yellow card in these two situations might have been appropriate.

**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
14'	Good attempt to give advantage, he showed awareness.
41', 54	He was well positioned to evaluate the situations, thank to his excellent fitness.

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

**Comments:**

The cooperation with ARs and AARs was good. Both assistants had a faultless performance and they helped the referee in several situations. By the way, in the most important situations, Btych seemed to be sure to decide by himself.

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

**Comments:**

The mark (8.1) is the consequence of the important (but not still crucial) mistake happened at the beginning of second half, when Brych missed that situation. Furthermore, an improvement of card management can help him in order to get a better mark next time. Basically, it was a satisfactory performance, without doubts.

## 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:**

First assistant referee was busy especially in the first minutes of the match, when he had three situations to evaluate in a row, and he showed a faultless performance in a game with a normal grade of difficulty.

Minute	Description of the situation
3'	Kagawa (MAN) is flagged offside. Correct decision.
7'	Correct NO FLAG for Kagawa (MAN). NO offside. Good and difficult decision.
10'	Van Persie (MAN) is flagged offside. Correct decision.

## 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 was challenged especially in second half, and even though he had not many situations to evaluate, there was a very difficult call in 72', when he correctly let the game flow making a crucial and correct decision, since Van Persie had a big chance to score. For the rest, other correct decisions, and a good help to the referee, when he reported a handball. Excellent alertness.

Minute	Description of the situation
36'	Ozil (REA) is evaluated onside. Correct NO FLAG on a long ball.
62'	Welbeck (MAN) is flagged offside. Correct decision.
65'	Coentrão (REA) touches the ball with the hand. Correct report to the referee.
72'	Excellent NO FLAG for Van Persie (MAN) in a very difficult situation to read. It could have been a crucial decision. Very good!

## 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:**  
 The first additional assistant referee Marco Fritz was not involved in the match. He by the way showed to be attentive, as needed.

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:**  
 Tobias Welz could have been involved in the penalty situation in first half, but Brych showed to be sure making clear gesture immediately after the contact, being close to action. No help was needed because the referee decided by himself.

Minute	Description of the situation
41'	Possible involvement in penalty-appeal situation, but Brych seemed to have decided immediately by himself.

## 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:**

The fourth official was not involved in remarkable situations, Mourinho showed to be a bit restless as often happens, but nothing important to be reported. Good work with substitutions and added time.