







UEFA Europa League

Play-OFF Round, 2nd Leg

(CZE) AC Sparta Praha		3:1		PEC Zwolle (NED)
28/08/2014, 20:30 CET – Prague, Stadion Letná (Czech Republic)				
Goals: 1:0 Krejčí (10', SPA) 2:0 Dočkal (44', SPA) 3:0 Brabec (62', SPA) 3:1 Nijland (83', PEC, P)				

Match Officials	Name	NAT	Mark	Mark*	Difficulty
Referee	Ivan Bebek	CRO	8.4	0.0	Quite Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Tomislav Petrović	CRO	8.4	0.0	Normal
Assistant Referee 2	Miro Grgić	CRO	8.4	0.0	Normal
Fourth Official	Domagoj Vučkov	CRO	8.3	0.0	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Nikolay Levnikov	RUS			
UEFA Delegate	Luis Cuervas Del Real	ESP			
Blog Observer	Edward	GRE			* without crucial mistake, if 7.8/7.9

Evaluation Scale		Level of Difficulty									
9.0 – 10.0	Excellent.	<p>Normal: Normal match for the officials, few challenging situations</p> <p>Quite Challenging: Difficult match with some difficult decisions for the officials</p> <p>Very Challenging: Very difficult match with many difficult situations for the officials</p>									
8.5 – 8.9	Very good. Important decision(s) correctly taken.										
8.3 – 8.4	Really 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.	<p>Additional Time</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Signaled</th> <th>Real</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First Half</td> <td>+1:00</td> <td>+1:02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Half</td> <td>+4:00</td> <td>+4:04</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Signaled	Real	First Half	+1:00	+1:02	Second Half	+4:00	+4:04
	Signaled		Real								
First Half	+1:00		+1:02								
Second Half	+4:00		+4:04								
7.5 – 7.7	Below expectation, poor control, significant point(s) for improvement.										
7.0 – 7.4	Disappointing. Below expectation with one clear and important mistake or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.										
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.										

Disciplinary			
Minute	Team #No.	Card	Disciplinary Sanction and Misconduct Classification
32'	SPA #08		YC - Dissent by Word or Action
36'	PEC #03		YC - Unsporting Behaviour - Tackle
56'	SPA #05		YC - Unsporting Behaviour - Others
57'	SPA #26		YC - Unsporting Behaviour - Tackle

Description of the match:

2nd Leg match of the Play-OFF round for the UEFA Europa League. Sparta Praha and PEC Zwolle had left unfinished business on the 1st leg with the 1-1 tie. Sparta Praha had a slight lead since they had the away goal but it's a fact that this match would be different. 16.612 of both teams created a very hot atmosphere in the Letná Stadium. The atmosphere combined with the very good weather and the very good pitch, gave us the opportunity to watch a great match.

The match seemed easy after the end of the 1st half when Sparta Praha was 2-0 ahead. Their 3rd goal seemed to finish the match since PEC Zwolle needed 3 goals. They scored only once from the penalty spot at min. 81' but even so the match became much better with the ball moving from one penalty area to the other and both teams had many chances of goal.

Croatian Ivan Bebek was the appointed referee. He led a full Croatian team. The match presented only some difficulties for the referee. However there was a lot of pressure to him mostly from the home fans especially after the penalty kick for Zwolle. For this reason we choose to assign a "Quite Challenging" difficulty for the referee.

REFEREE

1 Application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game / match control, tactical approach and management of the game with the special situation(s) of the minute(s):

Comments:

The referee tried from the beginning to avoid unnecessary stops by whistling every little contact. His intention was to be lenient in foul detection in order the match to flow as much as possible. However he was quite consistent in foul detection and as a result the match produced only 25 fouls. His tactical approach was suitable for the match.

The advantage rule was applied in a very good way (12', 32', and 67') and always with the proper signal. The referee could even bring back play when it was needed (11', 45', 46').

The referee had 2 difficult situations to evaluate in regard with penalty area decisions. After carefully examining the replays, I agree with both decisions taken by the referee.

Minute	Description of the situation
38'	#23 SPA gets inside the penalty area and #03 PEC challenges him for the ball. Both players are tackling for the ball and there is a contact. However despite the fact that many SPA players are asking for penalty I can't see any infraction. The referee correctly waives play-on.
81'	Here we have 2 scenes. At the first scene #23 PEC falls after a shoulder to shoulder contact with #11 SPA. At the second scene #06 PEC is fouled from #17 SPA from behind. Despite the easy fall by the attacker, there is a clear contact with the knee. The referee is quite close and correctly points to the spot. Well done.

2 Disciplinary control, management of players and team officials with the special situation(s) of the minute(s):

Comments:

The referee tried from the beginning to control the players without issuing cards and wanted to only caution players for clear infractions of the LOTG. He chose to warn #15 PEC for a foul committed with hands on his opponent's (#15 SPA) face at min. 08'. He correctly removed #06 PEC who is injured at min. 15' and after 8' he correctly sent him off again when he returned in the field of play wearing a head bandage which is not allowed according to guidelines. The first YC was issued at min. 32 to #08 SPA for his reaction after a given foul against his team. However he should issue the YC to #23 PEC because he tried to push his opponent. The next YC at min. 36' to

#03 PEC raised some voices for something more. The offender tackled his opponent using his studs but according to this observer there wasn't sufficient force to justify a RC. I agree with the referee's decision. At min. 47' he chose to warn #15 SPA for a really reckless challenge to #30 PEC. For me the call is 50/50 and I could also accept a YC here. The next YC came at min. 56' to #05 SPA for jumping on his opponent and pushing him from behind with force. Correct YC. Finally the last YC was issued 1' later to #26 SPA for a reckless tackle. Again a good decision by the referee.

Minute	Description of the situation
32'-36'-56'-57'	4 correct YC's.
08'	#15 PEC fouled on #15 SPA by using his hands on his opponent's face. The referee only warns him. I would prefer a YC here.
47'	Reckless challenge by #15 SPA to #30 PEC. The referee warns the player. I accept the decision.

3 Personality (Soft skills, character, individual style, self-presentation / appearance in the match):

The referee has a quite good way to interact with players and is even ready to change his attitude towards the players when it was needed. He can be calm and quite alert at the same time. He is firm and sure of his decisions. Players clearly respect him and as a result his authority was never questioned. Overall the referee presented a good mixture of authority and empathy for the players when it was needed.

4 Co-operation with assistant referees, additional assistant referees (where applicable) and fourth official:

Co-operation within the refereeing team was at an expected level. His AR's weren't much challenged with offside calls. They helped the referee in the few cases that it was required. The FO should have been more careful with the injured player at min. 23'. Overall we can't say many things in the specific section.

5 Physical Condition (*only* concerning Fitness, Stamina, Sprinting abilities): **Good**

Positioning and Movement:

+ Expected -			
---	X	---	Always close (but not too close) to play, not interfering with it
---	X	---	Flexible & Efficient Diagonal Movement
---	X	---	Backwards and Sideward's Movement when needed
---	X	---	Enters the penalty area when necessary
---	X	---	Anticipative & Efficient Positioning
---	X	---	Efficient positioning at set pieces / dead ball (e.g. corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)]

Please describe any special situation(s) with indication of the minute(s) - mandatory if you tick "-" (negative point) in one of the above boxes:

Minute	Description of the situation
51'	Excellent sprint at a PEC attack to the penalty area. The referee is really close to the action.
75'-84'	The referee appears tired. He could be more energetic when running. A little lack of power present.
81'	Good position to the penalty call.

Full time	The referee had a good physical condition in general even though he appeared tired towards the end of the match (min. 75'-90'). His positioning was very good and was a contributing factor so the referee can evaluate correct both crucial situations.
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6 General comments, advice on performance and personality – rooms for consideration:

The referee had a weird match to control. The 3 SPA goals seemed to make the referee's job quite easy but the converted penalty for PEC changed the match which became more interesting with chances for both teams. However the referee controlled it very good. Moreover he correctly decided in both penalty area incidents. His management of the players was quite good and the referee was even alert of some details (min. 23').

The only negative aspect is his lack of power towards the end of the match. He seemed to struggle a little with his fitness after min. 75' and up until the end of the match. In a different and more difficult match this could, potentially create a problem.

However the performance is still expected level since the starting mark (8.5) must suffer a 0.1 loss due to a missed YC at min. 08'. I truly believe that he is ready for more challenging matches.

7 Points discussed in the report:

Positive points:	1)	Match control.
	2)	Foul detection.
	3)	Advantage rule.

Points for improvement:	1)	Disciplinary control. It doesn't matter how early the infraction happens at the match, issue a YC if needed (min. 08').
	2)	More energetic towards the end of the match. Not good to run out of power.

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1

8 Assistant referee's performance (please mention some important decisions with reference to the minute):

+ Expected -			
---	X	---	Accurate (No-)Offside Decisions and good "Wait-And-See-Technique"
---	X	---	Adequate alertness and good co-operation with the referee
---	X	---	Reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control
---	X	---	Efficient control at set pieces / dead ball (e.g. corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)
---	X	---	Good Positioning and Movement
---	X	---	Adequate Flag Technique (flag always in hand closer to play & visible for referee / signals)

Comments:

AR1 was only challenged twice with offside calls (min. 08' #23 SPA, min, 40' #17 SPA) and both were correct. However he risked a lot at min. 21' when #11 SPA was offside but AR1 didn't flag him even though he challenged an opponent for the ball. However it's not a clear mistake. He signaled fouls when it was needed. He correctly signaled every goal-kick, corner-kick and throw-in. Good positioning and movement at the whole 90' and probably helped the referee at the first scene of the penalty kick. Expected level.

Please describe any special situation(s) with indication of the minute(s) - mandatory if you tick "-" (negative point) in one of the above boxes:

Minute	Description of the situation
08'-40'	2 correct offside calls.

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2

9 Assistant referee's performance (please mention some important decisions with reference to the minute):

+ Expected -			
---	X	---	Accurate (No-)Offside Decisions and good "Wait-And-See-Technique"
---	X	---	Adequate alertness and co-operation with the referee
---	X	---	Reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control
---	X	---	Efficient control at set pieces / dead ball (e.g. corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)
---	X	---	Good Positioning and Movement
---	X	---	Adequate Flag Technique (flag always in hand closer to play & visible for referee / signals)

Comments:

AR2 was only challenged once with offside calls (min. 90+1' #18 SPA) and it was correct. He signaled fouls when it was needed. He correctly signaled every goal-kick, corner-kick and throw-in. Good positioning and movement. Expected level.

Please describe any special situation(s) with indication of the minute(s) - mandatory if you tick "-" (negative point) in one of the above boxes:

Minute	Description of the situation
90+1'	Correct offside call to #18 SPA.

FOURTH OFFICIAL

12 Comment on the fourth official (technical duties, co-operation with the referee when needed, dealing with team officials...):

+ Expected -

---	X	---	Respectful and Deescalating dealing with the benches
---	X	---	Technical Management (injured players, substitutions, signaling additional time)
---	X	---	Reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control

The fourth official didn't face any challenge to execute his technical duties. All the substitutions and the additional time were executed properly and on time. Moreover he had full control of both technical areas. However he should be more alert at min. 23' and not allow #06 PEC to re-enter the field of play while wearing a head bandage. Expected level.