

UEFA Cup Parma, Lyon, Leeds ousted

Football

INTERNET, London

In a night of UEFA Cup shocks, Parma, Lyon and Leeds all found themselves dumped out of the competition in dramatic fashion.

Many expected an easy passage through for Parma after a hard earned 0-0 first-leg draw with Hapoel Tel Aviv in Israel. The result was anything but. Goals from Milan Osteric and Istvan Pisont put Hapoel 2-0 ahead and the Italians' only reply was an 84th minute consolation goal from Emiliano Bonazzoli.

Hapoel's staggering achievement simply cannot be understood. They've already achieved the feat of being the most successful Israeli team ever to enter the UEFA Cup but to beat Chelsea and Parma on the way to doing it is quite amazing. We are talking about sides with budgets hundreds of times bigger than Hapoel's and yet the team from Tel Aviv have continued to upset the form book. It just goes to show that even in this modern age, money isn't everything.

Lyon were another major casualty of the night as they went out in embarrassing fashion, 4-1, at

Liberec, it would be no surprise to see a number of their highly talented players popping up in the European leagues in the next year or so.

Leeds United's last chance of a trophy also went last night as they were beaten 1-0 by PSV Eindhoven in dramatic fashion at Elland Road. It was yet another poor performance from the Yorkshire side and PSV got the goal they'll feel they deserved when Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink headed a last minute winner. This was a huge result for the Dutch side and served, once again, to demonstrate that a 0-0 away draw is

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UEFA CUP QUARTERFINAL FIXTURES

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) v AC Milan (Italy)
Inter Milan (Italy) v Valencia (Spain)
PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) v Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Slovan Liberec (Czech Republic) v Borussia Dortmund (Germany)

First leg: March 14
Second leg: March 21



PHOTO: INTERNET

BYE, BYE LEEDS: PSV Eindhoven's Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (L) heads in the last minute winner against Leeds United's on February 28.

Slovan Liberec. Goals from Nezmar(2), Stajner and Neumann ensured it was a night to remember for the Czech side, and Lyon could only muster a reply through Patrick Muller.

Lyon are now left to reflect on the possibility of yet another trophy-less season. Following the weekend's defeat at Sochaux their title hopes have almost faded and they are now left with the prospect of a real fight for a Champions League spot. As for

always a risky result.

With Leeds nine points off the Champions League places in the Premiership, it looks increasingly likely that David O'Leary's side will be playing UEFA Cup football at best next season. There will also be the inevitable talk of a mass exodus at the club although these suggestions are surely premature.

Milan survived a huge scare before booking their passage through to the quarter finals after

meet Valencia.

The Cheshire made it through after a 2-2 draw with Swiss minnows Servette. After the 3-0 first-leg scoreline the outcome was never really in doubt. Juan Sanchez and Miguel Angel were the men on target for Rafael Benitez' side to set up that mouth watering quarter final with the Nerazzurri. It will be a terrific tactical battle between two of the meanest defensive sides in Europe. Both currently top their domestic

league and one senses that it could be a moment of brilliance from say, Christian Vieri or Pablo Aimar, that separates the teams after 180 minutes.

Elsewhere, Feyenoord booked their place in the next round with a 3-2 win over Rangers and in the night's remaining encounter Borussia Dortmund squeaked through after a 1-1 aggregate draw with Lille. The match ended 0-0 on the night and Matthias Sammer's side will now face Slovan Liberec in the next round.

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