

## Robinho not in the mood

### INTERNET SOURCE

Brazilian striker Robinho said Wednesday he plans to stay with Santos but won't play until his mother is released by kidnappers.

Robinho denied reports in the sporting press that he has agreed to a contract with Spain's Real Madrid, where he would join Brazilian national team regulars Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos.

"Nothing has come to me," he said in a televised interview. "I plan to stay with Santos. I like the club. It's my home. I want to win the national championship, and the Copa Libertadores."

The Spanish newspaper Marca reported this week that Real Madrid would pay 12 million euro (\$20.02 million) for Robinho and sign him to a five-year contract.

Robinho's agent Wagner Ribeiro denied the report, and Robinho confirmed it was untrue.

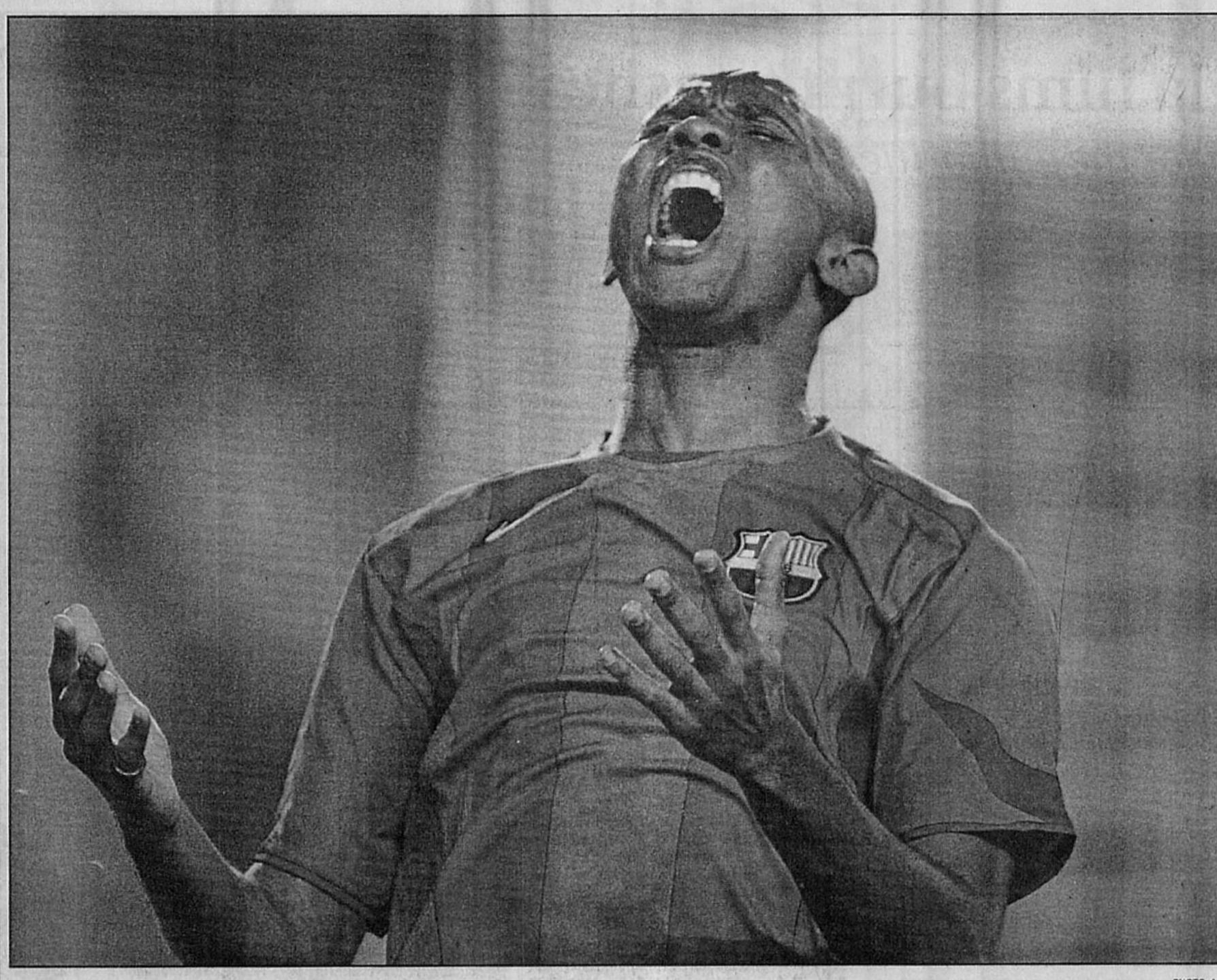
It was a rare public appearance for the 21-year-old striker, who has not played for Santos since the abduction of his mother earlier this month.

"I haven't got the head to deal with this right now," he said. "I won't play until my mother is home."

Robinho's family has asked police to stay out of the case, and they have agreed.

Santos president Marcelo Teixeira said the club wasn't interested in transferring Robinho, who helped lead Santos to the national title in 2002.

"No negotiations are under way," Teixeira said in a radio interview. But he added that, beginning next July, "we can start listening to offers."



PAVAROTTI TAKE COVER! Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o lets out a scream of ecstasy after scoring against Celtic in Barcelona on November 24.

## Barca as expected



AFP, Barcelona

Celtic defied the odds and held Barcelona to a 1-1 draw in the Nou Camp but the result still saw the Catalan side qualify from Champions League Group B here on Wednesday.

Both goals came in the first half, John Hartson equalising for Celtic on the stroke of halftime after Samuel Eto'o had given the Catalan club the lead.

The second half stalemate lead to Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard dubbing the tactics of his opposite number Martin O'Neill "anti-football".

"In the first half they played better football, they had two men up front and played a much more open game."

"But as soon as they equalised they shut up shop. I don't understand it in their position. I am happy with a draw because we go through but this was a horrible game in the second half."

"I feel sorry for the spectators but Celtic played anti-football. We tried and tried and tried, but what could we do against the Scottish wall."

"They had two lines of five players. The statistics tell the story, we had about 70 percent of the possession," blasted the Dutch coach.

The draw put an end to Barcelona's previously perfect record at home this season but eliminated Celtic from the Champions League.

O'Neill, whose side had lost a fiery Old Firm derby at the weekend, praised his players.

"I take flak every single day so this week has been no different," said the Celtic manager.

"I thought the effort of the players tonight was just phenomenal against an absolutely brilliant team and a side that beat Real Madrid

here a few days ago.

"They are seven points clear in their league and to come here and do what we did tonight was just phenomenal."

Despite being held by the Scottish league leaders, Barcelona remain many people's choice to repeat their triumph from 13 years ago and lift the Champions League title.

"Can we win the Champions League? Well, we are through to the next round so we'll have to see what happens then," said Eto'o, who got his third goal in five Champions League outings after 24 minutes.

The Cameroon striker made a driving run through the midfield, playing a neat one-two with Ronaldinho, before he found Deco on the edge of the area.

The Portuguese international then returned the ball to Eto'o and the African Player of the Year had no problems slotting the ball past Celtic goalkeeper Magnus Hedman.

Xavi Hernandez and Eto'o had chances in the first half to put the game well beyond Celtic's reach before halftime.

They were later to regret their failure to find the net when Celtic levelled the scores at the end of the first half.

Celtic's Bulgarian winger Stilian Petrov sent in a free kick from the left flank and in the goal mouth melee Stalivin Varga got a touch with his head but John Hartson was on hand to tap in the misguided effort with some justification, that the Welsh international was offside.

In the second half, Barcelona had further chances to get all three points and maintain their formidable winning streak but never quite had the urgency and determination to break down Celtic's formidable defences.

"To win would have been better, and we were playing for a win, but a draw doesn't do us any harm," added Eto'o.

## PSV get the ticket, others wait

### UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Paris

Nine-man Arsenal spluttered closer to the knockout stages of the Champions League on Wednesday while Claudio Ranieri, who took Chelsea to the semi-finals last year, was handed a stay of execution when his Valencia side clinched a vital victory.

Thierry Henry gave Arsenal a 1-1 draw in Group E at PSV Eindhoven despite the Londoners having skipper Patrick Vieira and defender Lauren red-carded.

The result gave the Dutch side a place in the knockout stages for the first time after Panathinaikos were held to a 2-2 draw by Rosenborg in Norway.

Arsenal will join them in the last 16 if they beat Rosenborg at Highbury next month.

But they will have do so without Lauren, ordered off in the 65th minute, and Vieira, who joined him 13 minutes later, both players deservedly punished for needlessly reckless challenges.

Holland defender Andre Ooijer headed PSV into the lead from an eighth minute corner before Henry combined brilliantly with Freddie Ljungberg to slot home a 31st minute equaliser.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger said he was confident even a depleted Arsenal could secure the required three points against Rosenborg.

"We showed great strength tonight and now it is in our hands," the Frenchman said. "We don't expect any favours from PSV -- if we don't beat Rosenborg we can not complain about anything."

### STANDINGS

Standings in the European Champions League after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group E	PSV	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Arsenal	5	1	4	0	6	5	7	7
Panathinaikos	5	1	3	1	7	7	6	6
Rosenborg	5	0	2	3	5	8	2	2

Group F	Milan	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Barcelona	5	3	1	1	9	4	10	10
Celtic	5	1	1	3	4	10	4	4
Shakhtar	5	1	0	4	3	9	3	3

Group G	Inter	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Bremen	5	3	1	1	10	6	10	10
Valencia	5	2	1	2	6	8	7	7
Anderlecht	5	0	0	5	4	14	0	0

Group H	Chelsea	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
Porto	5	1	2	2	2	5	5	5
PSG	5	1	2	2	2	5	5	5
CSKA	5	1	1	3	2	4	4	4

PSV's Andre Ooijer (L) heads to score against Arsenal at the Philips stadium in Eindhoven on November 24.



### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collected results in the European Champions League after Wednesday's matches:

#### Group E

At Trondheim, Norway  
Rosenborg (NOR) 2 (Helstad 68, 76)  
Panathinaikos (GRE) 2 (Konstantinou 16, Skacel 71)

At Eindhoven, Netherlands  
PSV Eindhoven (NED) 1 (Ooijer 8)  
Arsenal (ENG) 1 (Henry 31)

#### Group F

At Barcelona, Spain  
Barcelona (SPA) 1 (Eto'o 24)  
Celtic (SCO) 1 (Hartson 45)

At Milan, Italy  
AC Milan (ITA) 4 (Kaka 50, 90, Crespo 53, 84) Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) 0

#### Group G

At Brussels  
Anderlecht (BEL) 1 (Wilhelmsson 24)  
Valencia (SPA) 2 (Corradi 19, Di Vaio 48)

At Bremen, Germany  
Werder Bremen (GER) 1 (Ismael 49)  
Inter Milan (ITA) 1 (Martins 55)

Group H

At London  
Chelsea (ENG) 0 Paris Saint Germain (FRA) 0

At Moscow  
CSKA Moscow (RUS) 0 FC Porto (POR) 1 (McCarthy 28)

Group I

At Amsterdam  
Ajax (NED) 2 (Van der Vaart 10, 25)  
Real Madrid (ESP) 2 (Guti 10, 25)

Group J

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group K

At Copenhagen, Denmark  
AaB (DEN) 2 (Larsen 10, 25)  
Borussia Dortmund (GER) 2 (Klose 10, 25)

Group L

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group M

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group N

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group O

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group P

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group Q

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group R

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group S

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group T

At Roma, Italy  
Lazio (ITA) 2 (Cassano 10, 25)  
Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Krause 10, 25)

Group U