



Barcelona players led by Ronaldinho (2L) clap their fans after their Champions League journey came to an end at Anfield on Tuesday.

Lyon choke again

AFP, Lyon



French champions Lyon suffered more Champions League frustration here on Tuesday as Italian side AS Roma beat them 2-0 in their last 16-second leg match to prevail 2-0 on aggregate.

Goals by captain Francesco Totti and Mancini – his first ever in the competition – inflicted Lyon's first home Champions League defeat since Ajax in October 2002 and ended former France and Liverpool handler Gerard Houllier's hopes yet again of landing the competition for the first time.

Houllier, who is set to guide Lyon to their sixth successive domestic title which will be a first in European league football, said it was really disappointing.

"I cannot bring myself to say that they are a better team than us," said Houllier, who never finds it easy to accept defeat.

"All they were more realistic than us and scored from their two

opportunities whereas we had many more and failed to do so.

"It is hugely disappointing but that is football and that is life."

His Roma counterpart Luciano Spalletti, whose side are only in the competition because of the fallout from the matchfixing scandal last season, said his side had held their nerve under some foul play by the increasingly frustrated French side.

"The team were perfect and showed a maturity which they have not displayed over the past few years," he said.

"Especially that they did not react to the provocations from their opponents."

Roma had been furious in the sixth minute when Italian international Daniele De Rossi's header was ruled out somewhat contentiously by the referee Manuel Gonzalez for a foul by Totti for allegedly pushing Eric Abidal.

However they got their reward when Totti headed home in the 22nd minute as unmarked – Cris having criminally lost sight of him – he got on the end of a superb cross by Max Tonetto and gave Gregory Coupet no chance at saving.

Lyon were playing most of the

the near post.

Roma should have made it 3-0 early in the second-half but Rodrigo Taddei – left onside by Cris – with only Coupet to beat flashed his shot high and wide.

That sparked a bit of a comeback from the hosts as first half-time substitute Sylvain Wiltord saw his close range effort blocked by Doni and then the Italian 'keeper was equal to the task of tipping over Juninho's excellent effort from 15 metres.

Doni stepped up to the plate again on the hour as another of Houllier's half-time replacements Kim Kallstrom unleashed a fierce effort from the edge of the area which took a deflection off Roma's Romanian international skipper Christian Chivu – part of the Ajax side that won back in 2002 – but which Doni managed to punch up into the air.

The sorry night for Lyon was summed up when Brazilian international striker Fred was fortunate to stay on the pitch when he elbowed Chivu, who had to go off bloodied, though, the doughty Romanian returned minutes later to rub salt into Lyon's wounds.

Champs crash out

AFP, Liverpool



Barcelona's defence of their Champions League crown ended in a whimper here on Tuesday.

Ronaldinho and company wilting before the combined passion of the Anfield crowd and a Liverpool side that refused to relinquish their last chance of silverware this season.

Substitute Eidur Gudjohnsen's goal a quarter of an hour from the end gave the champions a 1-0 win on the night.

But the scarcely-deserved victory was not enough to prevent Rafael Benitez's side from walking in to the last eight of the tournament on the away goals rule courtesy of their 2-1 first-leg victory.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard said that it was hard to tell which performance had been better.

"They were two good team performances," said the dynamic England midfielder.

"I'm not too sure which was the better performance, in this one there was more grit, more blocking and more spirit.

He was determined, though, that their challenge wouldn't end in the last eight.

"We're ready for anyone."

"The biggest win I think we have experienced is this one tonight.

"Even though we knocked them out they are the best team in the world still."

"How did I feel when the whistle went? Relief! Two or three minutes to go I was praying for the whistle to go."

By the stage of Carragher's block Liverpool might easily have extended their first-leg advantage thanks to the energetic efforts of the first-leg match-winner John Arne Riise.

Having already screwed one 20-yard effort narrowly wide of Victor Valdes's left-hand post, the Norwegian hammered a second against the bar after selling his marker, Oleguer, a dummy that Ronaldinho would have been proud of.

There was another narrow escape for the Catalans in the 26th minute, goal-line blocks keeping out the follow-up efforts of Dirk Kuyt and Riise after Bellamy had got in behind Carles Puyol to force a good save from Valdes at his nearpost.

But those let-offs were surpassed seven minutes later, when the Barcelona goalkeeper miscued a clearance from the edge of the area straight to Momo Sissoko.

From 35 yards out, the

midfielder had the goal at his mercy but his lob was struck a fraction too firmly, the ball ending in the crowd

via the top of the bar.

Another chance went begging within 60 seconds of the restart, Steven Gerrard's pacy cross from the right dipping on to the six-yard line for Bellamy, who appeared to be caught by surprise at his good fortune and was unable to get the ball out from under his feet in time to get a shot away.

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A wonderful 270-degree swivel was followed by a sidestep past Carragher but the Brazilian maestro could not quite complete what

would have been a masterpiece of a goal, his sidefooted shot striking the inside of the post with Jose Reina well beaten. That moment of genius apart, Liverpool rarely looked like being opened up until Gudjohnsen entered the fray.

The former Chelsea striker's first meaningful involvement in the match saw him find just enough space in the inside left channel to collect Xavi's superbly judged pass before carrying the ball round Reina and prodding it into the net.

That ensured a nerve-wracking finale but Liverpool's back four did not make the same mistake twice.

"I don't know if they are going to hire him or not but if they did it would be without a doubt a great signing," Deco told radio Antena 1.

"Without a doubt, if he came to Spain I would prefer it if he joined Barcelona. I think he is in fantastic form, has grown every day as a player, and Barcelona would be well served if he joined the club," he added.

Ronaldo's brilliant form for Manchester United this season has reportedly attracted interest from Barca and Real Madrid and the 22-year-old striker has done little to distance himself from the links to the two clubs.

Ronaldo has scored 16 goals so far this season for the league leaders, two fewer than the Premiership's top scorer Didier Drogba of Chelsea.

Last month Portugal's Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari advised Ronaldo, who is under contract with the Red Devils until 2010, to move to Barcelona, saying he would complement Brazilian international Ronaldinho "perfectly."

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Navarro has apologised for his part in the incident, but Burdisso has verbally attacked his opponent for his cowardly actions.

"I was attacked from behind and I would have never expected this kind of behaviour, a man doesn't act this way," said the Argentine after the goalless draw at the Mestalla Stadium.

"The UEFA delegate will do what he has to do, but I don't think Inter will take any further steps," he explained.

"These things can happen in

football, the thing that makes me sorry is that we were eliminated from the competition."

"In any case, we proved that we are a great team, even if we failed to qualify," concluded Burdisso.

Inter chief Massimo Moratti hinted on Tuesday that his club would not take any significant action against the Spanish outfit.

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UEFA launches Mestalla probe

Football

INTERNET, undated

UEFA have opened an investigation after the massive brawl which followed the Champions League match between Valencia and Inter.

Spanish defender David Navarro punched Nicolas Burdisso just seconds after the final whistle, which broke his nose and sparked a huge scuffle

between both sets of players on the pitch and inside the dressing rooms.

The governing body of European football is preparing a lengthy investigation based on the television images, witness testimony and the report provided by referee Wolfgang Stark.

"An investigation has been opened for the incidents which happened last night against both clubs," said a UEFA spokesman on Wednesday.

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BTV

11:15 Cookery Show
11:40 Shotrupa

12:05 Maa O Shishur Katha
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Shukri Porbar

02:15 Children's Drama

02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi

04:00 Cartoon

04:30 Esho Computer Shikhi

05:00 Bansuri

05:05 Documentary

05:30 Programme

06:40 Doctor Jokhon Durey

06:40 Jiboner Alo

07:00 Shangita

07:20 Shomoyer Shanglap

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Swadhinata Amar

08:40 Bishwa Nari Dibosh

09:10 Drama of the week:

Megher Khor Kuto

10:30 Musical Programme

08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondu

08:40 Special Talk show

CHANNEL I

09:30 Shangbad Potre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Gramene Phone

03:05 Tritiyonatra

04:00 Citiroll Tanakaloton

04:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

04:30 Shangbadpotre

05:00 Shangbadpotre

05:30 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak

04:05 Shafoyer Shirshir Nari

04:35 Komla Kahini

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 Nandita

06:00 Aktei sms Doradori

06:20 Amar Chobi

07:50 Jibon Jekhanei Jemon

11:00 Ebong Nari

09:35 Ekhoni Shomoy

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobumi

12:00 Gramophone Ajker Shangbadpotre

Channel 1

08:40 Shuprov Bangladesh

09:30 Chokhi Mele Dekhi

02:30 Special Programme:

Jago Nari Jago

03:45 Telefilm: Chandni Upakhan

05:10 Amar Chonkor Ami Nari

06:20 Rangchut

05:15 Golachhut