

Chelsea jinx strikes Messi

AFP, Barcelona

Lionel Messi's scoring jinx against Chelsea struck again as the Barcelona maestro missed a second-half penalty which could have put the Catalans into the Champions League final.

With Chelsea down to 10 men and trailing 2-1 on the night, Messi was handed a golden opportunity to end his seven-match scoring drought against the Blues after Cesc Fabregas was brought down by Didier Drogba.

But instead of firing Barcelona 3-1 ahead, the FIFA World Player of the Year was left stunned as his shot crashed back off the crossbar.

Chelsea then dug in to frustrate Messi at every turn through the remainder of the second half, and Fernando Torres' late goal on the counter-attack sealed a miserable night for the Argentinian maestro.

Messi has now failed to score in eight matches against Chelsea in the Champions League.

Barcelona's exit from the competition means Messi will have to wait before he breaks the record for a single European Cup campaign that he currently shares with Jose Altafini, who scored 14 goals for AC Milan in 1962-1963.

Overall, Messi has scored 63 goals in 55 games this season, four shy of Gerd Muller's all-time single-season European record of 67.



Chelsea midfielder Ramires celebrates after scoring a vital goal against Barcelona during their Champions League semifinal at Nou Camp on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Di Matteo hails spirit

AFP, Barcelona



Roberto Di Matteo hailed the phenomenal spirit of his players after Chelsea completed the latest in a line of stunning fightbacks to upset

Barcelona and advance to the Champions League final.

In one of the most remarkable nights in the illustrious competition's history, a Chelsea side reeling from the dismissal of captain John Terry came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 and seal a 3-2 aggregate win over the Catalans.

Brazilian midfielder Ramires and striker Fernando Torres scored the goals which secured Chelsea's passage

to the Munich final after Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta had put Barcelona in the driving seat.

But Chelsea owed everything to a heroic collective effort from a battle-hardened group of players who once again managed to pull victory from the jaws of defeat.

"It was an incredible game with all the events that happened," Di Matteo said. "I am very happy and pleased for all the players because they deserved this moment."

"We've had a difficult season; they always seem to dig something special out when they need to. I think that's part of the DNA of these players."

"Barcelona are the best team in the world. They are amazing. They have some of the best players in the world as well in their team."

"The way we played and defended and we just showed a lot of desire to reach the final and go through."

"We had a little bit of luck as well, which you need but I think to win the trophy, you need that."

Di Matteo has presided over a remarkable transformation in Chelsea's fortunes since he took over following the dismissal of Andre Villas-Boas in March.

At that time, Chelsea were on the brink of Champions League elimination following a calamitous 3-1 first leg defeat to Napoli.

However with Di Matteo at the helm Chelsea overturned that deficit with a 4-1 win at home and with Tuesday's win over Barcelona they now stand just 90 minutes away from an improbable Champions League triumph next month.

Guardiola at a loss

REUTERS, Barcelona



Pep Guardiola was unable to explain his emotions or pin down why his exceptionally gifted Barcelona team had failed in their bid to get past Chelsea and into a third Champions League final in four years on Tuesday.

The holders, bidding to become the first club to win back-to-back European titles since AC Milan in 1990, lost 1-0 to the ultra-defensive Londoners at Stamford Bridge last week despite dominating possession and creating a host of chances.

Then, in a dramatic return match at the Nou Camp, they were unable to kill off their rivals despite leading 2-0 on the night and

having an extra man following the dismissal of Chelsea captain John Terry shortly before halftime.

Guardiola told a post-match news conference he did not know what else Barca could have done but their elimination from Europe's elite club competition highlighted the fact that when their flowing passing game fails they have little scope to adjust their tactics.

"I have a feeling that sometimes football is like this," the former midfielder told reporters.

"To be honest, I just think that this year was not our turn. This year, it seems like we couldn't do it and that's it."

"I am sorry if I am not very clear but I have a lot of emotions inside right now. Maybe in time I will see things more clearly. I don't even know how I feel really."

Bolton fight back to win

REUTERS, London

Bolton Wanderers fought back from a goal down to beat Aston Villa 2-1 on Tuesday and boost their chances of Premier League survival.

Hosts Villa took the lead through Stephen Warnock after 61 minutes but Bolton hit back immediately with a penalty by Martin Petrov and David N'Gog grabbed the winner a minute later.

Bolton climbed above Blackburn Rovers into 18th place in the 20-team standings, a point behind Wigan Athletic and Queens Park Rangers with a game in hand.

Catalans mourn 'darkest' night

THE GUARDIAN



The Spanish press were on Wednesday reflecting on Barcelona's unexpected exit from the Champions League against Chelsea, pointing out the Catalans' bad luck and the "three darkest days" of coach Pep Guardiola's four-year reign.

The Madrid-based Marca revelled in Barcelona's failure, declaring: "Nightmare at the Camp Nou". Its editorial elaborated with: "Champion eliminated by 10 men of Chelsea" and "Barcelona out of La Liga and the Champions League after the three darkest days of the Guardiola era."

Real Madrid's 2-1 victory at the home of their arch rivals on Saturday night moved Jose Mourinho's side seven points clear at the top of La Liga with four games remaining.

El Mundo labelled Tuesday's result a "mortal blow at the Camp Nou" and asked: "Is this the end of the victorious cycle?"

The Barcelona-based Sport took a more sympathetic view, headlining: "Football punishes Barça".

It read: "Unjust, cruel, horrible, unmerited. Any adjective is not enough to define the incredible elimination of Barça at the hands of Chelsea. Few times has a team done so much to deserve to reach the Champions League final as that of Guardiola's. And rarely has a rival, with so little, gained that very prize. The fact is that the Blues scored three goals from three chances in 180 minutes. And they advanced to Munich."

AS read simply: "Adiós Barcelona". It continued: "An ultra-defensive Chelsea eliminated Barcelona to reach the final in Munich. The English team played with 10 men for 52 minutes. Fernando Torres made it 2-2 on the night. Messi missed a penalty and struck the post."

Barcelona have won two of the past three Champions League crowns, but El Mundo Deportivo looked back on their other unexpected defeats.

"FC Barcelona lose to Chelsea, as in Bern [1961 final against Benfica] and against Inter [2010 semi-final]," it read.

"Historical Barça has fallen in the semi-final against Chelsea in a game full of bad luck, in which Messi missed a penalty and hit the post while the English team took advantage of their two chances."

Madrid's El Pais went with the headline: "The most tragic monologue of Barcelona", and followed up with "Barça crash against the Chelsea wall on a fateful night for Messi."

Male three scalp problems - dandruff, itch and grease.
¹No visible flakes with regular use ²Associated with dandruff ³Remove excess oil on scalp

KEEP YOUR SCALP FIGHTING FIT

You spend hours at the gym, keeping fit. Your hectic schedule means you don't have time for a proper diet. So you pop supplements to complement your active lifestyle and to keep your body in tiptop shape. So why not do the same for your scalp?

Like facial skin, the scalp is under constant attack from the hostile environment around us. A scalp has a top layer of cells that act as a barrier to prevent foreign substances and organisms from penetrating and damaging the scalp. When the scalp is under attack, stressed and tired, the scalp barrier weakens, which leads to typical symptoms such as itch, dryness, irritation and dandruff. Most shampoo solutions only

address these symptoms from the surface, never really solving the issue.

Clear's research has shown that there are clear gender differences when it comes to scalp and hair. Male scalps are weaker, have more sebum glands and are more prone to dandruff. Hence, they require constant nourishment and revitalizing. Clear and its latest breakthrough technology,

Pro-Nutrium 10, does that job. Developed at Clear's Paris Institute, Pro-Nutrium 10 aims to deliver a revolutionary solution to scalp nourishment and repair. It is a combination of two actives, zinc pyrithione and another effective anti-dandruff active called climbazole. This synergistic combination is designed to nourish the scalp three layers deep—thus boosting scalp health.



Eliminates flakes and soothes dryness



Repairs the scalp barrier



Strengthens its natural resistance, so dandruff doesn't come back.

What your scalp needs, is a revitalizing boost that goes beyond skin deep. Like your body, your scalp needs daily nourishment from supplements. Because a healthy scalp and great hair only lasts if it's built on solid foundation.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Who has impressed you the most in the IPL?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

[twitter](https://twitter.com/dssport)

www.twitter.com/dssport



BTV World

National Cricket League Final

Rajshahi v Khulna

Live from 9:30am

SET Max

Indian Premier League

Pune v Deccan

Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

TEN Cricket

West Indies v Australia

Third Test, Day Four

Live from 8:00pm

TEN Sports

UEFA Europa League

Bilbao v Sporting Lisbon

Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN Action

UEFA Europa League

DAY'S EVENT



National Cricket League Final

(Five-Day Match, Day One)

Rajshahi v Khulna

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur

Bangladesh Premier League

Farashganj v Mohammedan

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National