

Bayern rue missed chances

REUTERS, Munich

Bayern Munich have only themselves to blame for failing to lift the Champions League trophy for the fifth time on Saturday after dominating against Chelsea but losing 4-3 on penalties, coach Jupp Heynckes said.

Bayern had the upper hand for most of the 1-1 draw at their own Allianz Arena but wasted a bagful of chances and an extra-time penalty before the English club snatched the top European club trophy in the penalty shootout.

"This was not about who won in the penalties," Heynckes told reporters. "This was about us not using our chances to win the game. It is purely our fault that we did not use our many chances."

"My team played an outstanding game against an opponent who played as we expected them to do," said the 67-year-old coach, who won the title with Real Madrid in 1998.

This was the second consecutive season that Bayern were left without any trophies.

They had though looked on track for their first Champions League victory since 2001 when Thomas Mueller headed in for a much-deserved lead in the 83rd minute after the Bavarians played cat and mouse with a defensive Chelsea for much of the game.

"It is difficult to put what we feel into words," a dejected Mueller told reporters. "This is football and we have seen it so many times in the past that it is not always the team that deserves it that holds up the trophy in the end."

"We had three match points in this season and we did not convert a single one," said goalkeeper Manuel Neuer after losing the German league and Cup titles to Borussia Dortmund.

"If you see the game we played tonight you would have never thought that Chelsea would walk away as the winners."

"We just could not figure out how to convert our many opportunities. You have to score because if you don't you will be punished," Heynckes added.

Some players declined penalties

REUTERS, Munich

Some Bayern Munich players including Arjen Robben refused to take penalties in their shoot-out defeat by Chelsea in the Champions League final on Saturday, forcing coach Jupp Heynckes to nominate keeper Manuel Neuer, Heynckes told reporters.

"Some of my players did not feel sure enough or confident enough to take penalties," Heynckes said. "They were tired after 120 minutes of play. You cannot force anyone to take a penalty."

Heynckes said among those was Robben, who takes all of Bayern's penalties but missed one in the first half of extra time.

"He did not feel confident to be nominated," said Heynckes. "So that is why Neuer took a penalty. It is understandable. That is legitimate and I need to know it."

Bayern lost 4-3 on penalties after taking an 83rd-minute lead through Thomas Mueller. Didier Drogba levelled two minutes from time before Robben squandered his spot-kick chance in extra time.

This was Robben's second big penalty miss after squandering his spot kick in a crucial league match against champions Borussia Dortmund in April.



JOY AND DESPAIR: Chelsea players rush to congratulate Didier Drogba after he scored the winning penalty as Bayern Munich players look on in despair following the Champions League final at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Don't mention the score

THE TELEGRAPH

It has been two years since David Cameron was forced to endure England going out of the World Cup in a humiliating 4-1 trouncing by Germany, a defeat compounded by the fact he was sitting next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

So the British Prime Minister could be forgiven for not being quite so humble in victory when Chelsea beat Bayern Munich to take the Champions League title last night.

Mrs Merkel looked less than impressed as Didier Drogba hurtled his penalty past

Manuel Neuer to seal the match while Mr Cameron threw his hands in the air in double fist pump.

Barack Obama, who was standing diplomatically between the two, also appeared engrossed in the game although he kept his hands firmly clasped behind his back.

The three world leaders watched the match during the G8 summit in Chicago, where Mr Cameron has called for world leaders to draw up "strong contingency plans" for the break-up of the euro after discussing the European debt crisis with Barack Obama.

Di Matteo in the frame Lampard had no doubts

AFP, London



triumph, senior club officials said Sunday.

As the dust began to settle on Chelsea's victory over Bayern Munich, attention turned to the issue of Di Matteo's long-term future at Stamford Bridge following three remarkable months in charge.

The 41-year-old Italian took over after the dismissal of Andre Villas-Boas in March and has steered the London club to FA Cup and Champions League victories.

Chelsea officials have so far refused to elaborate on Di Matteo's long-term future amid mounting calls for him to be appointed permanently.

However chairman Bruce Buck told Sky

Sports Television on Sunday that Matteo would discover his fate "sooner rather than later" as Chelsea begin what is expected to be an extensive summer rebuilding process.

"He's done an amazing job, Robbie, he's enabled the players to get back the confidence they used to have and he's really got the players performing," Buck said.

"We've put (managerial speculation) aside for the last six or eight weeks, concentrating on Barcelona, the FA Cup and Bayern Munich, but I think now we have to sit down and figure that out."

"Roberto is certainly in the mix, he's done a great job and has to have serious consideration," Buck said.

The Chelsea chairman added that the club wanted a new manager in place before entering the summer transfer market.

"We really need to get the new manager on board before we can start talking about (signing) players," he said.

REUTERS, Munich



Frank Lampard began to think there was no way back for Chelsea in the Champions League final as the minutes ticked down with Bayern Munich leading 1-0, but when the match went to a penalty shootout he had no doubts the trophy was coming to London.

Saturday's final ended 1-1 at the Allianz Arena and after missing their first kick in the shootout, Chelsea battled back to win it 4-3.

"I admit when we were trailing 1-0 with about a minute left, I wasn't so sure," said Lampard.

"Once it went to penalties, I thought there was no way we were going to lose. I thought, we are going to win this."

Lampard's confidence was remark-

able given the circumstances.

Bayern had never lost a penalty shootout in Europe, Chelsea had never won one, and the German side were at home and taking the spotkicks in front of their own fans after captain Philipp Lahm won the toss.

A glance through the record books showed no English team had beaten a German one on penalties either.

But Lampard said the heartbreak of losing in the final four years ago to Manchester United on penalties spurred his team to victory.

"It wasn't going to be a repeat of Moscow, we couldn't have stood that again," he added.

Chelsea not only stopped Bayern winning the title for a fifth time, they also became the first London side to win Europe's top club competition in its 57-year history and the third English team to beat Bayern after Aston

Villa in 1982 and Manchester United in 1999.

Lampard continued: "I really wasn't sure there was a way back and I was thinking well, perhaps it wasn't meant to be after all ... then Didier equalised with a minute to go and Petr (Cech) saved Arjen Robben's penalty in extra time and I thought, 'we are going to do this'."

"And when the penalties started I was sure."

The 33-year-old heaped praise on Drogba, whose contract is set to expire and could well have played his last match for the club.

"I have to say, Didier was the main man tonight, and he dug us out of a hole there."

"The man is a Chelsea legend, he is a hero, without him we're not here. He scores the goals in the big games."

No gold yet for 'golden generation'

REUTERS, Munich



Another Champions League final another defeat, time is running out for Bayern Munich's home-grown talent to claim the top prize in European club football and cement their status as a golden generation.

Bayern had set their sights on the Champions League in December 2010 when club president Uli Hoeneß mapped out their target of lifting the trophy in their own stadium in 2012.

But 18 months later, that dream turned into an "absolute nightmare".

Bayern started with five youth academy products in the side and despite dominating much of Saturday's game could manage only a 1-1 draw with Chelsea before they were beaten in a penalty shootout.

The German side have now lost two Champions League finals in the last three seasons.

"What happened to us is an absolute nightmare," said Bayern sports director Christian Nerlinger. "The disappointment has gone very deep. It is like a bad movie and it will be very difficult to digest this defeat."

Local boy Thomas Mueller had given the Bavarians an 83rd minute lead but Didier Drogba levelled for Chelsea two minutes from time. Dutchman Arjen Robben's penalty miss in extra time gave Chelsea the chance to snatch the title in the shootout.

Bayern had hoped to ease the pain of a second successive season without a domestic trophy by winning the Champions League, a title that would lift captain Philipp Lahm and Bastian Schweinsteiger on a par with other club greats like Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Mueller.

Germany captain Lahm had said before the game that without a major title they would never be remembered as a "golden generation."

Lahm and Schweinsteiger, who along with younger Toni Kroos, Mueller, Diego Contento and sus-

pending Holger Badstuber, came through the club's youth ranks, have also got runners-up medals from Euro 2008 and two third place finishes at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups behind them.

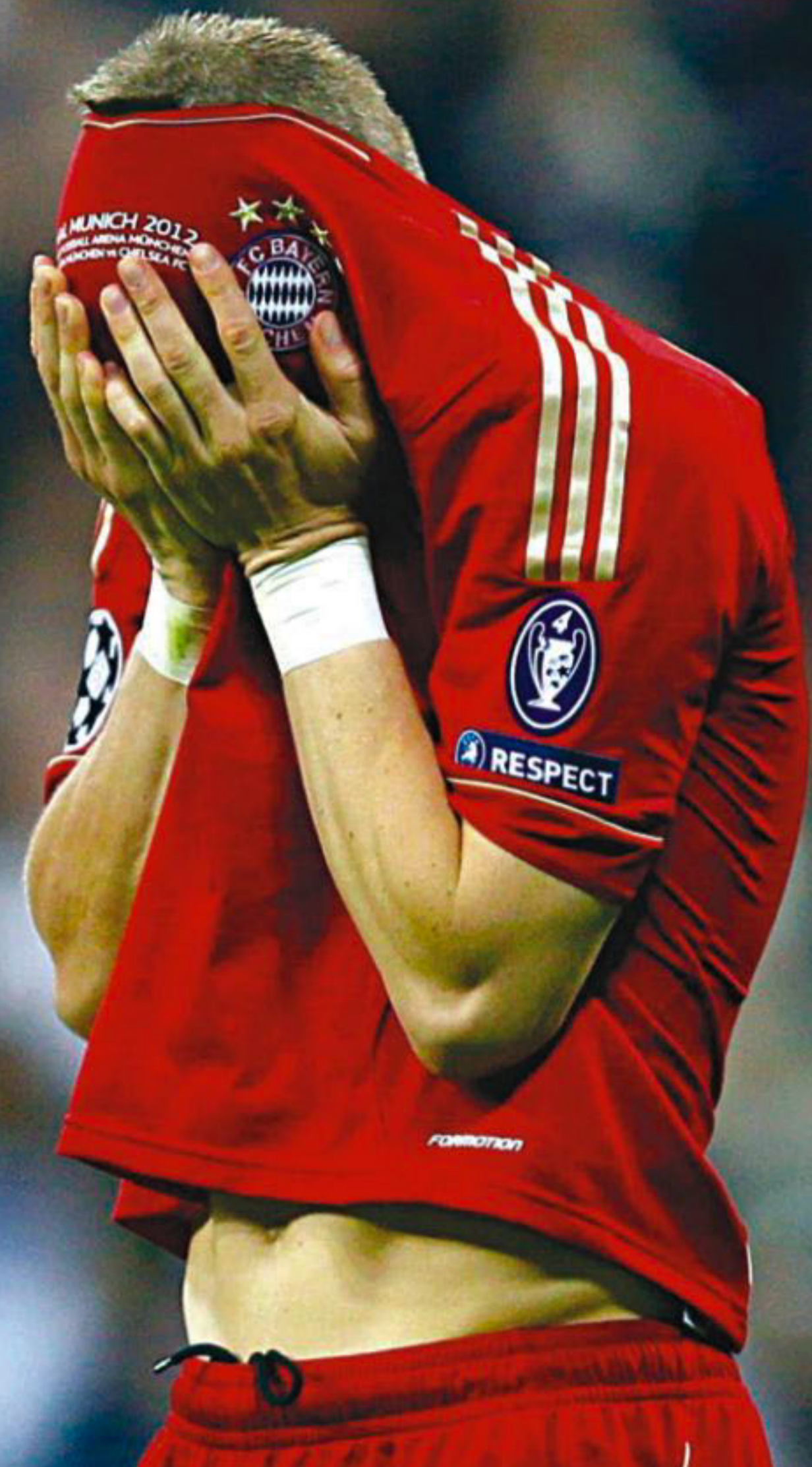
Bayern have also played second fiddle to Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga in the past two seasons, and lost to them in the German Cup final last week.

Lahm and Schweinsteiger, who missed his penalty in the shootout, hung their heads as they left the stadium and did not utter a word to waiting reporters.

They know that at 28 and 27 respectively time is gradually running out for that elusive major trophy.

While club success will have to wait, they will get another shot at silverware next month when they lead Germany into battle at Euro 2012 with fellow internationals Badstuber, Mueller and Kroos.

"We will build the boys up. With us they can still win a title," said Germany team manager Oliver Bierhoff.



SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

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