



Lighter incident probed

Both Schalke 04 and the German Football Association (DFB) launched investigations on Monday to find the supporter who threw a lighter which badly injured Royal Blues' assistant coach Sven Hubscher. "There are signs the perpetrator will be found," Schalke board member Peter Peters told daily newspaper WAZ.

"We highly recommend that the person responsible gives himself up to police," Peters added, which would mean a milder punishment if there is a conviction.

Roberto Di Matteo's assistant Hubscher was left pole-axed and bleeding from a head wound on the sidelines after being struck on the head by a lighter on Saturday at Gelsenkirchen's Veltins Arena.

Transfer ban for 3 clubs

Blackburn Rovers, Leeds United and Nottingham Forest will not be allowed to sign new players in the January transfer window after breaching financial regulations, the Football League announced on Monday.

The three clubs all incurred financial losses of over £8 million (\$12.5 million, 10.1 million euros) last season, which left them in breach of the financial fair play (FFP) rules to which the 24 Championship teams must adhere.

The Football League will now scrutinise the accounts of Queens Park Rangers, Leicester City and Burnley, all of whom were promoted from the Championship to the Premier League last season.

"An initial analysis of FFP submissions from the current 24 Championship clubs has indicated that three clubs -- Blackburn Rovers, Leeds United and Nottingham Forest -- have failed to meet the fair play requirement under the division's FFP rules," the Football League said in a statement.

"Consequently, all three will be subject to an 'FFP embargo' under Football League regulations from January 1, 2015 for the remainder of the current campaign."

Under the embargo, the three teams will be barred from signing any new players -- including loan deals -- unless they have 24 or fewer "established players" in their squads.

Chelsea face PSG, City tackle Barca

AFP, Paris



Jose Mourinho's Chelsea were drawn on Monday against Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City tackle Barcelona in two blockbuster Champions League

last 16 ties.

Chelsea's 'reward' for sailing into the knockout stages unbeaten was a testing match-up against the Qatari-backed French champions who they beat on away goals in last season's quarterfinals.

Chelsea secretary David Barnard told Sky Sports News: "PSG are known to us as we played them in the quarters last year and they've got David Luiz playing for them too.

"It's a good draw logistically too for our supporters.

"Both sides have very different squads from last year, so if it was PSG or anyone else, it would've been the same situation."

Like PSG, English champions City will be out for revenge after being brushed aside 4-1 on aggregate by Barca at this stage in the last Champions League campaign.

City's director of football, former Barcelona player Txiki Begiristain, said: "We have plenty of confidence with the way we qualified beating Bayern Munich at home and Roma away, so the players will be working hard to get fit and arrive in confidence for those games.

RESULTS OF THE DRAW			
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)	vs	CHELSEA FC (ENG)	
MANCHESTER CITY FC (ENG)	vs	FC BARCELONA (ESP)	
BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN (GER)	vs	ATLÉTICO DE MADRID (ESP)	
JUVENTUS (ITA)	vs	BORUSSIA DORTMUND (GER)	
FC SCHALKE 04 (GER)	vs	REAL MADRID CF (ESP)	
FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)	vs	FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN (GER)	
ARSENAL FC (ENG)	vs	AS MONACO FC (FRA)	
FC BASEL 1893 (SUI)	vs	FC PORTO (POR)	

"We have improved our squad from last season and we have some real quality up front."

Barcelona representative Andoni Zubizarreta said: "It is the same draw we had a year ago, it was a very difficult game and we are going to look forward to it.

"Manchester City have an outstanding squad with a very good coach, a very good team and are very competitive."

The last 16 draw staged at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, gave holders Real Madrid a palatable pairing against

German side Schalke 04, coached by Roberto Di Matteo, who was in charge of Chelsea when they were crowned kings of Europe.

Real met Schalke in last season's last 16, easing through 9-2 on aggregate, en route to their tenth title.

"The balls come out as they come out, of course, we are the outsiders, but there is always the old football saying: "form beats class"," said Schalke board member Peter Peters optimistically

Last year's beaten finalists Atletico

Atletico's unbeaten home run ends

AFP, Madrid



Spanish champions Atletico Madrid suffered their first home league defeat in 28 matches as Luciano Vietto blasted home the winner six minutes from time to hand Villarreal a 1-0 win at the Vicente Calderon on Sunday.

An uncharacteristically error-strewn performance from Diego Simeone's men was deservedly punished by the visitors, who could have been out of sight before the goal but for two fine saves by Miguel Angel Moya.

Defeat leaves Atletico now seven points adrift of leaders Real Madrid and still three off second-placed Barcelona, who were the last team to beat Atletico on home soil in La Liga back in May 2013, whilst Villarreal move up to sixth.

Atletico were playing for the first time at the Calderon since a Deportivo La Coruna fan was killed in clashes near the stadium ahead of a meeting between the two sides a fortnight ago.

The club had promised to crackdown on their unruly ultras, but the unusually flat atmosphere in front of a half-empty stadium seemed to affect the Spanish champions in a first-half littered with errors.

Koke sent a rasping shot just wide from distance, but a promising start by Atletico quickly petered out and it took until seven minutes before half-time for the first shot on target as Tiago stung the palms of Sergio Asenjo.

Villarreal then had a glorious chance to open the scoring a minute before the break when Denis Cheryshev burst clear but opted to go for goal himself rather than square to the unmarked Vietto and Moya made a comfortable save.

The visitors were then furious with the referee moments later when Atletico captain

Gabi appeared to handle inside the area, but Pedro Jesus Perez Montero remained unmoved.

Vietto fired inches wide from the edge of the area as Villarreal also began the second period brightly, but that effort appeared to wake Atletico from their slumber.

Mario Mandzukic had a wonderful chance to continue his fine goalscoring form when he latched onto Diego Godin's knockdown, but former Atletico 'keeper Asenjo bravely blocked the Croatian's effort from point black range.

Moments later Mandzukic was denied by Perez Montero as he harshly ruled out the former Bayern Munich man's headed finish for a push on Mario Gaspar.

In their push for a winner, though, Atletico were leaving themselves exposed on the counter and were only pardoned by a poor touch from Vietto when he was this time released clean through on goal by Cheryshev.

The Argentine's mis-control allowed Moya to get a vital touch before Diego Godin completed the clearance.

Godin then snatched at the type of headed opportunity he normally converts at the other end from Koke's pinpoint cross and Tiago fired wide after good link-up play by Mandzukic.

Atletico were thankful to another fine stop from Moya to prevent Cheryshev opening the scoring with a piledriver from a narrow angle.

Yet, there was nothing he could do to prevent Vietto inflicting a first league defeat at home in 19 months when he turned Godin and fired high into the net six minutes from time.

Earlier, Sevilla's hopes of securing a return to the Champions League next season suffered a blow as they were held 0-0 at home by a resilient Eibar at the Sanchez Pizjuan.

Inter test for Celtic

AFP, Paris



Celtic face a tricky Europa League last-32 tie after being drawn Monday against Italy's Inter Milan as Liverpool take on gritty Turkish side Besiktas.

For former European heavyweights Liverpool it will be a return to Istanbul, the scene of their memorable 2005 Champions League final victory over AC Milan in which current skipper Steven Gerrard scored.

As for Celtic, they will rekindle their acquaintance with a side they fought the most famous match in the club's history against -- the 1967 European Cup final -- which Jock Stein's side, nicknamed the 'Lisbon Lions', won 2-1.

Celtic and Inter also met a second time in the semifinal of the tournament in 1972, with the Italians, who have won Europe's second-tier competition three times, eventually beating

the Scottish side on penalties.

Liverpool, also three-time winners, who were dumped out of the Champions League by Swiss side Basel last week, won their last meeting with Besiktas 8-0 in the 2007-08 elite European competition.

Titleholders Sevilla will be up against Borussia Moenchengladbach, fourth in the Bundesliga, in a tie between teams who have won the competition, or its predecessor the UEFA Cup, five times between them.

English side Tottenham, who won the second of their two titles 30 years ago, will take on Italy's Fiorentina while Everton were drawn against Swiss side Young Boys in the first tie out of the UEFA pots in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday.

Spanish side Villarreal have drawn Salzburg, who they met in the 2009-10 group stage, with the Austrian outfit winning both games.

Guingamp, the only French club left in the competition, will play

Toni hits 300-goal mark

AFP, Milan

Evergreen striker Luca Toni admitted his delight after hitting his 300th career goal in a 2-1 win over Udinese that helped the former World Cup winner shade Antonio Di Natale in a 'battle of the veterans' on Sunday.

Toni scored his fifth goal of the campaign when he levelled Di Natale's powerful 31st-minute header just before half-time after muscling his way past the Udinese defence to fire into Orestis Karnezis's top corner.

Lazaros Christodouloupoulos scored the winner for Verona seconds after the restart to end an eight-game winless streak and move Andrea Mandorlini's men up to 13th in Serie A.

Toni, who has also played for Palermo, Fiorentina (twice), Roma, Juventus and Genoa, hinted he may play beyond his 38th birthday which comes up next May.

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আমি তোমার ভানোবাসি

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