

## UCL 2005–2006 Last 16 Day One

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- *From:* Benny <Benny@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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21 February 2006

PSV 0–1 LYON  
Juninho 65 (fk)

Coupet made a great save from a Vennegoor header and man mountain Alex almost snapped the crossbar in half with a ferocious free kick. Lyon didn't get going until the second half introduction of Wiltord. Gomes flapped at one of his corners but was bailed out when Aissati headed off the line. A few minutes later he was left with egg on his face when Juninho sent a long range free kick over the wall and right at him but when he tried to catch the ball, he missed. It was a surprise after these blunders to see him make a good save from Fred minutes later. Govou got a second yellow for a foul on Cocu he actually should have got two reds – one for the foul and one for his awful, stupid haircut. The extremely rubbish Arouna Kone missed an open goal following a rare mistake by the normally excellent Coupet.

Attendance : 29,400  
Red Card : Govou 81 (Lyon)  
Assist : Fred (won fk)

BAYERN 1–1 MILAN  
Ballack 23 Shevchenko 58 (Pen)

Ballack intercepted a headed clearance from Gilardino, after he plucked the ball out of the air he let it bounce then hit a spectacular half volley inside the post. Two minutes later he found Makaay with a great pass over the top of the Milan defence, Makaay shot first time, forcing Dida into making a fantastic save, probably for the first time in 11 months. Ismael's mindless handball allowed Shevchenko to get Milan level from the spot. Gilardino wasted a great chance on the break. Milan reserve 'keeper Kalac got rare minutes of playing time when Dida went off injured after Lucio, literally, kicked his arse. Shevchenko spurned another chance and with Bayern seemingly reeling Milan shut-up shop and played out for a draw.

Gattuso feigned injury when Ballack pushed him on his shoulder – by going down and clutching his face. Ballack was more successful with his retribution acting, earning

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Gattuso a yellow card which rules him out of the return. Serves him right.

Attendance : 66,000

Assist : n/a, n/a

### REAL MADRID 0–1 ARSENAL

Henry 47

Arsenal belied their abysmal league form with a confident start against a nervy Real Madrid. Henry created two chances, both wasted by Reyes and Ljungberg. The English Patient, Jonathan Woodgate, went off on 9 minutes with a quad muscle injury. Henry, who is notoriously bad in the air, failed to hit the target from close range. Real's once chance of note fell to Beckham following a mistake by Senderos but Lehmann was quick off his line and saved brilliantly. Lehmann looked less assured on a Roberto Carlos free kick but Robinho messed up the rebound.

Mejia passed a ball out of defence to Ronaldo but a heavy first touch allowed Fabregas to gain possession and he passed to Henry who was standing with his back to play inside the centre circle with a sea of white in front of him. As he turned he brushed aside feeble challenges from Ronaldo and Mejia, ran through a desperate lunge from Guti, and one final challenge from Ramos before stroking the ball inside a post. Henry, Diaby and Pires wasted chances in brief sorties upfield. Arsenal's continual time wasting and theatrics killed any chance of momentum from a Real Madrid side that were totally devoid of ideas.

This was a surprise. Not Arsenal winning because, unlike many others, I realise it's 2006 and not 2002, and many of the so called galacticos are nothing more than ageing, former greats. What was a surprise was Wenger's approach – 4–5–1 with Henry only getting occasional support from Reyes and the ever poor Ljungberg. Real Madrid's best player was an Englishman, Arsenal's best players were Spaniards and a Frenchman. Arsenal have an excellent chance of making the quarter finals but as soon as they play a team that can actually tackle they're in big trouble.

Attendance : 80,354

Assist : Fabregas

### BENFICA 1–0 LIVERPOOL

Luisao 84

To the surprise of no one this match was monstrously dull. Petit's 50 yards shot from the half–way line that briefly troubled Reina was the lone highlight. Even the goal was rubbish, Luisao got between Hyypia and Finnan to head in Petit's free kick.

Attendance : 65,000

Assist : Petit (fk)

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