



It's the day after the night before and I have a headache. Not because of wild celebrations but because what happened at Camp Nou last night still doesn't make sense. The score doesn't quite match what I saw. I think dark magic was in play, I'm still not sure.

Liverpool, the team that lost 3-0 actually played much better than the score suggests but at no point, even when Barça were without possession of the ball for long periods, did I think that FC Barcelona would lose. Dark magic.

This team is different. There's no soft centre, there's very little real weakness, they are more equipped than ever before to soak up pressure and they are both mentally and physically prepared to go all the way. Ernesto Valverde has learnt his lessons from last seasons UCL defeat at Stadio Olimpico. Liverpool really didn't do much wrong, they just didn't have the magical thing we have, Lionel Messi.

Before the season started, Lionel Messi made a promise to the crowd at the Gamper trophy game vs Boca Juniors. He promised the fans, in his first captain's address to Camp Nou and his adoring public, that the target for this season was to win it all, the priority being the Champions League trophy. I believe him. I like this version of Leo, he's determined, he's fiery, he's strong, he's a leader all mixed in with his absurdly otherworldly footballing abilities. I've never seen him look more focused. He's going to bring this trophy home. Last night he was the difference, for whatever team he plays for, he's always the difference. I've sat in Camp Nou hundreds and hundreds of times and I've seen him score more free kicks than I can remember but I still don't