

= 2005 FIFA Club World Championship Final =

The 2005 FIFA Club World Championship Final was a football match played between São Paulo of Brazil , the CONMEBOL club champions , and Liverpool of England , the UEFA club champions , on 18 December 2005 at the International Stadium , Yokohama , Japan . It was the final match of the 2005 FIFA Club World Championship , a competition for the winners of the primary cup competitions of FIFA 's continental members . The Club World Championship replaced the Intercontinental Cup , which both teams had competed in before . São Paulo had won the Intercontinental Cup twice in 1992 and 1993 , while Liverpool had lost twice in 1981 and 1984 .

The teams qualified for the championship by winning their continent 's primary cup competition . São Paulo won the 2005 Copa Libertadores , defeating Brazilian team Atlético Paranaense 5 ? 1 . Liverpool won the 2004 ? 05 UEFA Champions League , defeating Italian team Milan 3 ? 2 in a penalty shootout after the match had finished 3 ? 3 . Both teams played one match in the championship en route to the final . São Paulo beat 2005 AFC Champions League winners Al @-@ Ittihad 3 ? 2 , while Liverpool beat 2005 CONCACAF Champions ' Cup winners Deportivo Saprissa 3 ? 0 .

Watched by a crowd of 66 @,@ 821 , São Paulo took the lead in the first half when Mineiro scored . Liverpool missed a number of chances to equalise in the first half . In the second half they had the majority of the possession and also had three goals disallowed . Despite all their chances they were unable to score against São Paulo who held on to win the match 1 ? 0 .

= = Match = =

= = = Background = = =

São Paulo qualified for the FIFA Club World Championship as the reigning Copa Libertadores winners . They had won the 2005 Copa Libertadores beating Atlético Paranaense 5 ? 1 over two @-@ legs in the final . It would be São Paulo 's first appearance in the competition , although they had won the forerunner to the competition , the Intercontinental Cup twice , in 1992 and 1993 .

Liverpool had qualified for the Club World Championship as a result of winning the 2004 ? 05 UEFA Champions League . They beat Italian team Milan 3 ? 2 in a penalty shootout after the match had finished 3 ? 3 . Like São Paulo , Liverpool were competing in the competition for the first time , although they had appeared twice in the Intercontinental Cup , losing in 1981 and 1984 .

Both teams entered the competition in the semi @-@ finals . São Paulo 's opponents were the winners of the 2005 AFC Champions League , Al @-@ Ittihad . A 3 ? 2 victory with two goals from Amoroso and a penalty from goalkeeper Rogério Ceni ensured São Paulo 's progression to the final . Liverpool faced 2005 CONCACAF Champions ' Cup winners Deportivo Saprissa . They won the match 3 ? 0 , Peter Crouch scored twice and Steven Gerrard also scored as Liverpool reached the final .

Both teams were well into their respective domestic competitions . São Paulo 's domestic season had finished two weeks before the final . They finished the 2005 Campeonato Brasileiro Série A in 11th position after 42 games , they won and lost 16 games each and drew 10 . Liverpool were in the middle of their domestic season , they were competing in the 2005 ? 06 Premier League . They were second in the table and won their last match before the competition 2 ? 0 , against Middlesbrough . The victory meant Liverpool had gone 10 matches without conceding a goal , which equalled a club record .

São Paulo manager Paulo Autuori was adamant that his team would have to improve on their performance in the semi @-@ final if they were to win the match : " We 're going to have to improve certain aspects of our play if we want to win the final . " Autouri was not worried about Liverpool 's aerial threat , but was expecting them to keep the ball during the match : " English teams are well known for their aerial excellence , But Liverpool are a side that can keep the ball very well too as they proved when winning the Champions League . "

Liverpool manager Rafael Benítez would take control of the team for the final , despite the death of his father earlier in the week . Benitez was confident that his Liverpool team would be capable of beating São Paulo : " We are playing with confidence and strength . I think we can beat anyone . " Liverpool Striker Crouch who scored twice in the semi @-@ final was as adamant as his manager about winning the competition . Adding that " We 've not travelled all the way to Japan to go sightseeing . "

= = = Summary = = =

Before the start of the match , a minute 's silence was held , in memory of Rafa Benítez 's father Francesco who died of heart failure on the Wednesday before the final . Both teams took the pitch wearing black armbands as a mark of respect . The match was delayed further when a fan invaded the pitch , he headed for one of the goals and got stuck in the goal before being caught . São Paulo lined up in a 3 ? 5 ? 2 formation , while Liverpool opted for a 4 ? 4 ? 1 ? 1 formation . Liverpool had the first chance of the match inside the opening 79 seconds . Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard 's cross into the penalty area was met by Fernando Morientes , but the striker headed wide of the goal . Liverpool created more chances with Luis García missing the goal twice from headers . São Paulo had only created one chance , a shot from striker Amoroso , but they began to grow in confidence . They pressed forward after Amoroso 's shot and defender Cicinho nearly scored with a lob from the halfway line which just went over the crossbar .

São Paulo 's pressure resulted in them taking the lead in the 27th minute . A chipped pass from Aloísio to Mineiro found the midfielder in space who put the ball beyond Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina to give the Brazilians a 1 ? 0 lead . It was the first goal Liverpool had conceded in over 1 @,@ 041 minutes of play . Immediately afterwards , Liverpool had a corner , which almost resulted in a goal . Xabi Alonso took the corner which found García , but his shot hit the woodwork . Liverpool had another chance 30 minutes into the match , but again he failed to score with a header . Gerrard had a chance to equalise five minutes later , but he put his shot wide after Harry Kewell had passed him the ball . Liverpool continued to create chances and in the 39th minute García saw his header into the far corner saved by São Paulo goalkeeper Rogério Ceni . From the resulting corner Liverpool defender Sami Hyypiä shot straight at Ceni . He had another chance late in the first half , but his header was saved by Ceni .

Liverpool had the first scoring opportunity of the half , six minutes into the second half . Liverpool were awarded a free @-@ kick 25 yards from the goal . Gerrard 's subsequent shot was saved by Ceni . Ceni made another save soon afterwards when he tipped a cross from Kewell onto the crossbar . Liverpool did score on the hour mark , but the goal was disallowed . García 's headed goal was ruled out for offside . Soon afterwards Morientes had another chance to score , but his overhead kick went over the crossbar . Liverpool had another goal disallowed soon afterwards . Alonso 's corner from which Hyypiä was adjudged to have drifted out of play before the defender scored .

São Paulo made the first substitution of the match in the 75th minute when striker Grafite replaced Aloísio . Liverpool made two substitutions four minutes later in an attempt to equalise . John Arne Riise and Florent Sinama Pongolle replaced Stephen Warnock and Mohamed Sissoko . They made their final substitution in the 85th minute when Peter Crouch replaced Morientes . Liverpool had a third goal disallowed in the 89th minute ; substitute Sinama Pongolle 's goal was disallowed after the assistant referee had flagged García as being offside in the build @-@ up to the goal . Liverpool had a final chance before the end of the match , but García put his shot wide . No further goals were scored and the referee blew for full @-@ time with the final score 1 ? 0 to São Paulo .

= = = Details = = =

= = = Statistics = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

Much of the talk after the match centred on Liverpool 's three disallowed goals . Liverpool manager Rafael Benítez was incensed by the referee 's decisions and remonstrated with the officials after the final whistle . Benitez was clear that at least one of the goals should not have been disallowed : " We knew that one of the goals was a goal , clear . " He also questioned the competency of the officials stating : " You wouldn 't get a Mexican referee and a Canadian linesman in the final of the World Cup . " Midfielder Luis García , who had a goal disallowed , summed up the feeling in the Liverpool : " We feel cheated . "

São Paulo goalkeeper Rogério Ceni was named as man of the match and also won the Golden Ball as the best player of the competition . Ceni was gracious in receiving the awards stating : " The awards are nice to have but the win was not just about me " Ceni dedicated the awards to those at the club saying : " When I look in these awards I see the faces of my team @-@ mates , the coach and everyone involved at the club . " São Paulo manager was delighted with his team after the victory and agreed with Ceni that the victory was a team effort : " It was a collective victory " he also said that it was " a great achievement for the club . " Goalscorer Mineiro was equally overjoyed with the victory stating : " It is the happiest moment in my career . "