

= 1994 European Super Cup =

The 1994 European Super Cup was a football match played over two legs between Arsenal of England and Milan of Italy . It was the 20th staging of the European Super Cup , a fixture between the winners of the UEFA Champions League and European Cup Winners ' Cup . The first leg was played at Highbury , London on 1 February 1995 and at the San Siro , Milan a week later for the second leg . Milan won the Super Cup 2 ? 0 on aggregate .

The teams qualified for the competition by separately winning the 1993 ? 94 UEFA Champions League and 1993 ? 94 European Cup Winners ' Cup . Milan won the former , beating Barcelona 4 ? 0 in the final . Arsenal qualified as winners of the Cup Winners ' Cup ; in the final of the competition they defeated Parma by a single goal . This was the first official meeting between both clubs in European football .

Milan 's preparations for the Super Cup were blighted by the death of Vincenzo Spagnolo , a Genoa supporter who was stabbed on his way to watch the two teams play . Once news of his death had arrived , the match was abandoned and the Italian football calendar was suspended for a week . Milan and Arsenal paid respect to Spagnolo by observing a minute 's silence before the first leg . A crowd of 38 @, @ 044 witnessed both clubs play out a goalless draw at Highbury ; the first leg marked the return of Paul Merson , who spent time away from football in order to seek treatment for various addictions . A significantly lower crowd at the San Siro saw Milan dominate in large periods and win courtesy of goals from Zvonimir Boban and Daniele Massaro .

= = Background = =

The European Super Cup was founded in the early 1970s , as a means to determine the best team in Europe and serve as a challenge to Ajax , the strongest club side of its day . The proposal by Dutch journalist Anton Witkamp , a football match between the holders of the European Cup and Cup Winners ' Cup , failed to receive UEFA 's backing , given the recent Cup Winners ' Cup winners Rangers had been banned from European competition . Witkamp nonetheless proceeded with his vision , a two @-@ legged match played between Ajax and Rangers in January 1973 . The competition was endorsed and recognised by UEFA a year later .

Arsenal qualified for the Super Cup as the reigning European Cup Winners ' Cup winners . It marked their debut in the event . Arsenal had conceded only three goals throughout the 1993 ? 94 staging of the Cup Winners ' Cup , and beat Italian side Parma by a single goal to win the final . The other Super Cup place went to Milan , winners of the 1993 ? 94 UEFA Champions League . Milan defeated pre @-@ match favourites Barcelona 4 ? 0 in the final , a result which earned the club their third top European honour in six years . Milan were appearing in the event for the fifth time ; prior to the game against Arsenal , they had won the Super Cup in consecutive years (in 1989 and 1990) , and were on the losing side twice (in 1973 and 1993) . This was first meeting between the two sides in competitive European football .

Neither match was televised live in the United Kingdom , though highlights were shown on Carlton (the London @-@ based ITV company) , Channel 4 's Football Italia and Sky Sports . Live radio commentary of the second leg was broadcast during Trevor Brooking 's Football Night on BBC Radio 5 Live .

= = First leg = =

The first leg was held at Highbury on 1 February 1995 . Milan 's preparations were overshadowed by the violence that occurred in their last domestic fixture , against Genoa three days ago . Clashes between both sets of supporters resulted in police intervention and the use of tear gas . Vincenzo Spagnolo , a Genoa supporter , was stabbed prior to kick @-@ off and subsequently died while receiving treatment . The match was later abandoned once word was sent to the players and staff during half @-@ time . Milan manager Fabio Capello admitted his players were deeply affected by the incident and struggled to focus on the Super Cup match . He told reporters : " I believe that the

psychological balance of each player has been damaged by Sunday 's tragedy . Our team was in great condition until Sunday . But in the past few days I have had to wake up the players . So I 'm not able to anticipate which kind of Milan you will see . " 800 Milan supporters travelled to London , and Capello denied reports a section of them intended to cause trouble .

Paul Merson returned to the Arsenal squad , after his much @-@ publicised cocaine , alcohol and drug addiction . The England international , who was admitted to a rehabilitation clinic for treatment during his absence , started on the substitutes ' bench . Arsenal lined up in a 4 ? 4 ? 2 formation , with Ian Wright paired alongside John Hartson upfront and Kevin Campbell shifted on the right of midfield . Milan lined up in a similar formation , with Marcel Desailly and Demetrio Albertini anchoring the midfield .

A minute 's silence was observed before kick @-@ off in memory of Spagnolo ; as is tradition in Italian football , the Milanese supporters clapped throughout to pay their respect . The game itself was lacklustre and was described as a " training match , " lacking in " fervour and commitment " by The Times football correspondent Rob Hughes . There were few clear @-@ cut chances created by both teams , and neither managed to score over the 90 minutes . Both however looked assured defending ; Milan triggered the offside trap on several occasions , while Arsenal were boosted by club captain Tony Adams playing his first full match in two months . Manager George Graham assessed afterwards : " It was back to the Arsenal of old . We were very solid . " Glenn Moore , of The Independent felt Milan would have won had they finished better , noting Dejan Savi?evi? 's tame volley in the 75th minute . Marco Simone twice hit the ball wide , while a free @-@ kick from Albertini forced Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman to action . The home side 's best chance came from Wright in the 36th minute . He picked up the ball from Arsenal 's half and proceeded to run , evading the challenges of several Milan players . His shot at goal was smartly saved by Sebastiano Rossi . Further chances went to Hartson , who headed from a Stefan Schwarz 's corner , and Steve Bould , before Campbell broke forward and had his effort blocked by the Milan goalkeeper .

Merson 's introduction in the 74th minute was cheered by the Arsenal supporters , as was his every touch of the ball . He admitted he was overwhelmed by the occasion , adding post @-@ match : " It was a great feeling to be in action again and I thank all those who 've made it easier for me . This is the first step back . "

= = = Details = = =

= = Second leg = =

The second leg was held at the San Siro on 8 February 1995 . It marked the resumption of football in Italy , as play was abandoned for a week in memory of Spagnolo . The incident at the San Siro prompted Milan to use security measures usually reserved for high @-@ profile matches . Ugo Allevi , the club spokesman however downplayed reports security was heightened : " There won 't be any special security measures for them . They will all be housed in a special sector of the stadium , segregated from the Milan fans . What we 're most concerned about is how our fans behave . " 15 @,@ 800 tickets were sold the night before the match , 13 @,@ 600 of which were purchased by Milan supporters . Allevi admitted this was a repercussion of the violence in their last home game ; " People are scared to come to football at the moment . "

Milan entered the match the fresher of the two teams , but Simon Barnes commented in his Times match preview that Arsenal 's biggest asset was their " sheer bloody mindedness . " The club 's indiscipline was a major talking point before the game , as two players were sent off in defeat to Sheffield Wednesday the previous Saturday . Graham 's future was also called in question , after claims that he received illegal payments from transfer deals (bungs) , which he dismissed . In his pre @-@ match news conference , the Arsenal manager spoke highly of European football and was eager to win another trophy for the club : " We are having a bad season by our standards and any win in any cup is worth something . "

Merson came in place of John Jensen in Arsenal 's starting XI , while for Milan Zvonimir Boban

replaced the suspended Simone , and Christian Panucci was chosen to stand in for Paolo Maldini . Graham deployed a 4 ? 1 ? 4 ? 1 formation , with Schwarz acting as the lone defensive midfielder and Hartson positioned the furthest forward . Watched by a crowd of 23 @, @ 953 , Milan eased to a 2 ? 0 win and in the process ended Arsenal 's 15 @-@ match unbeaten run in Europe . The home side 's first goal came minutes before half @-@ time , when Daniele Massaro 's defensive @-@ splitting pass found Boban , who scored , despite Schwarz 's attempts to hold him back by tugging his shirt . The Croatian forward nearly scored a second , but for Seaman 's quick intervention . Up until then , Arsenal had briefly threatened ; from a long ball in the 19th minute , Hartson managed to turn Franco Baresi , but scuffed his shot wide . Milan found it easy to contain the opposition , given Desailly and Savi?evi? influenced the tempo of the match . The latter came close to doubling Milan 's lead when he broke forward and hit a shot goalwards , only for Seaman to divert the ball round the post . In the second half , Wright thought he had equalised for Arsenal when he tapped the ball in , but the referee disallowed the goal as there was infringement in the build @-@ up . Milan continued to attack and extended their lead soon after ; from Savi?evi? 's corner , Massaro jumped higher than his marker Lee Dixon and headed the ball into the Arsenal goal . Dixon , who required treatment early in the second half , was substituted for Martin Keown right away as he struggled to play on .

The home side 's performance was lauded by journalist Russell Thomas , who opened his match report in The Guardian with the line " Milan produced football of ease and elegance way beyond the English capabilities . " By contrast , Moore noted Arsenal had " looked a different side from the sterile and nervous one seen in domestic matches . " Graham described Milan as " ... the best team in Europe , or in the world . We 've learnt a lot . But we could have given them a better game , though , and I am disappointed . " Capello was content with Milan 's win , and believed his team were " still about two months where we should be . " It was his eighth trophy as manager of the club , one better than his predecessor Arrigo Sacchi . He said of the achievement : " The mentality of this great club is passed on from the older players to the younger players , so they learn self @-@ sacrifice and how to fight for every trophy they go for . "

Arsenal and Milan went on to reach the 1995 finals of the UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup and UEFA Champions League respectively , though failed to retain their titles . Arsenal lost in extra time to Real Zaragoza , while Ajax beat Milan by a single goal .

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