



Press Release

UEFA Champions League **Juventus vs. Arsenal** **Wednesday 13 April @ 10.15pm**

Aside from Barcelona many people thought Juventus were the toughest opponents Arsenal could have drawn in the Champions League quarter finals. Therefore as the home leg came first it was vital the Gunners did as much as possible to put themselves in a strong position for the 2nd leg in Turin.

Thanks to goals from Henry and the excellent Fabregas, Arsenal have a solid 2-0 advantage to take into the next game. Aside from being in a numerical advantage, this is also a great psychological boost to a side which has seen more than its fair share of criticism over the past season.

What has added to this victory is the disciplinary situation Juventus now find themselves in. Both Zebina and Camoranesi were red carded late into the match and Patrick Vieira will also be suspended after picking up a third yellow in the tournament. Losing these three players arguably helps to further unsettle Juve's preparations for the second leg and further shift the pendulum in Arsenal's favour.

Success in Turin will depend on Arsenal's defence which came in for high profile criticism this season. It will really be key to see whether the likes of Eboue and Senderos have successfully taken on the mantle previously held by Lauren and Campbell. It will also be interesting to see if Jens Lehmann turns in one of his "reformed" performances or if he has any of his trademark rushes of blood to the

head. It is also crucial Fabregas continues to show maturity beyond his years as he was an inspirational figure at Highbury.

With every passing game Arsenal and their fans' self belief must be rising slightly and with good reason. That said, even with all their advances in recent weeks, Barcelona do appear too strong for them and would possess that extra edge of class and experience should the sides meet, which would seem inevitable if Arsenal were to progress to the final.

Arsenal certainly appeared to be one of the underdogs in the last 8, especially if you took into account domestic form and previous Champions League experiences. In recent seasons however the underdogs seem to have prospered as any Porto or Liverpool fan will tell you. From a rational perspective you wouldn't think Arsenal would win it, but in football, that doesn't make it any less likely!

Don't miss Juventus vs. Arsenal on Wednesday the 13th April at 10:15pm on e.tv.