Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid

UEFA Champions League Semi-Final

May 10, 2017

Real Madrid through to Champions League final

Last Madrid Derby at the Vicente Calderón sees Atletico win, Real advance

Rain poured down as the players and staff from Real Madrid celebrated their advance to the 2017 UEFA Champions League final. For Atletico Madrid, the weather seemed to reflect how the rest of the night went for the team.

Real looked about as dominant as a team can in a 2-1 loss, advancing 4-2 on aggregate to face Juventus in the final.

The clouds did have a silver lining for Atletico as they won the last Madrid Derby that will be played in their Vicente Calderón Stadium before the team moves next season. The home side shot out to a brilliant start as they pressed Real's back line heavily. A header from Saúl Ñíguez off a corner by Koke saw Atletico to an early lead in the 12th minute. Moments later, a penalty kick from Antoine Griezmann saw the side two goals up less than a quarter of an hour into the match.

However Isco rained on Atletico's hopes when he tapped home a rebound in the 42nd minute nabbing a crucial away goal for Real. The goal was set up by Real's Karim Benzema who beat three Atletico defenders near the touchline to cross the ball into the box. Atletico went into half time facing a 3-goal deficit on aggregate.

The match would finish that way thanks to the heroics of Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas who made two saves in quick succession in the 66th minute to quell any hopes of an Atletico comeback.

In a chaotic match where every tackle was hard, it was surprising to see 22 men on the pitch at the end of the match. Atletico finished the game with 23 fouls committed and 6 yellow cards, while Sergio Ramos and Danilo also were booked for the away side.

Real Madrid manager and former player Zinedine Zidane praised the efforts of Isco in turning the match around for his side.

"Atlético started strongly, they were excellent at the beginning." He said "Isco between the lines was fantastic and did a lot of damage" Real also managed to hold most the possession in the game with 59 percent.

Now Real look ahead to the Champions League Final against another former club of Zidane, Juventus.

"We need to play the final. Juve are there for a reason. It's a long, hard road, they deserve to be there and so do we." Zidane said.

For now, Zidane was full or praise for his players as they celebrate their accomplishment.

"I'm delighted with how things have gone for me. This squad is fantastic, it's the work of everyone. The players are the ones who go on the pitch, fight and give their all" he said.

Real Madrid will face Juventus in Cardiff, Wales at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday June 3.