
EL JUEGO MATINAL

"Where the truth never gets in the way of a good story..."

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A start that leave us

By John

World Champion Argentina Coach Cesar Luis Menotti once said that football had to be beautiful or it was not worth playing, and it is very unfortunate that one of the great artists has left our Sunday gatherings. **Juan, the Spanish missile launcher**, really added to the quality of the Sunday game through his great talent and very subtle, but sharp insults during and after the game. But after nearly a year of playing, Juan has decided to move on and pursue his dream of becoming a professional ballet dancer in Johor Bahru. Just kidding, he moves on to continue his illustrious career in Dallas, Texas-USA, home of the big food, large people, huge cows and a rather bizarre U.S. president...

We will truly miss his traditional Green and White Real Betis shirt, we already miss **his nephew Mini-Juan**, and we will miss all the brilliant excuses he used to have for missing our Sunday matches.

Most of the time, Juan played several notches about the rest of us, unless of course he had a rough Saturday night, and during those 'few' occasions he would sometimes miss a pass or be a little bit slower than usual in the counterattack... especially after the WOMAD festival, Juan looked like he had been in one of the Alien movies. When Juan first started playing with us, he made Roberto Carlos shots look like soft passes, but as time went on he metamorphosed into more of a Denilson style of player, leaving everyone behind when he went on the attack (and then firing without mercy on the poor goalkeeper). Who can forget the time when former star goalkeeper **Robert** made the mistake of putting his hand in the way of Juan's shot, with the net result of dislocating his hand, and a full time ban from the game (For Robert) as a result of the injury.

Juan's shots never intimidated our superstar goalkeeper (**Ricardo**, of course) since he would always avoid getting on the line of fire, though later he would try to convince us that he could have blocked the shot had he been... awake?

I must confess that when I saw Juan winding up for a shot, I always worried about my health. I would then breathe a sigh of relief when Juan either missed the shot, or the shot hit off one of our unfortunate defenders. I felt sorry for the defenders (especially **Mike**, when he had a hangover), but at least my limbs were intact.

What we'll remember...

By Multiple Authors:

Here are some of the testimonials from some of our players:

Nacho said: 'El vago no sumaba nada y ademas sus pases eran horribles'.

Translation: We will miss our good friend Juan.

Javier said: 'Juan quien?'

Translation: He was a good player but never passed the ball to Nacho.

Ricardo said: 'Juan era un borracho, y embustero, le gusta el juego y el vino y tiene alma de marinero'

Translation: Juan was a nice guy but his passes to Nacho were not of very high quality.

Richard Bottomley said: 'El Betis es una mierda. Viva Sevilla. Pero Juan era un gran borracho'.

Translation: Juan was a good player and a good friend.

Chai said: 'Juan? He always fouled me and was generally slow.'

Translation: Juan always fouled me and was generally slow.

Diego Maradona, the great Argentinian Player and Nacho look-alike said: 'Quien es Juan? No lo conozco.'

Translation: Juan was generally an ineffective passer.

Even if he didn't make enough passes to Nacho, so that Nacho could secure his position at the top of the scoring table of the season, we all appreciate Juan's contribution to the game.

The game review

By John and Ricardo:

Juan's team won with 4 out of 5 goals scored by our departing star. Most of the passes to Juan came from our new star, **Gail** 'Roy Keane the insane irishman' **Sheridan**, who at least initially resorted to some Gaelic football tactics (using her hands) rather than the more traditional (and hand-less) moves used in the other variety of football that we play on Sunday. **Naomi** also returned claiming that she was in London, but as we mentioned before, we have not heard of any bars in Singapore called 'London'. Juan actually had a tough time getting his goal tally started due to some impressive saves by **Ricardo** and a very tough defense that had both **Mike** and **Victor**, with **Javier** in midfield.

Another good game for **Chai** and **Tzi**. **Sabah** and **Kar Leong** also did well, though the latter unfortunately told me he will be moving to a different part of the island and may not join us after December.

And YES. The final goal was scored by **Nacho** in true Batistuta fashion, rifling a shot that was unstoppable into the right corner of the goal. Ricardo claims that he touched the ball, but then someone woke him up from that dream and he realized that he had no chance whatsoever.

So we will meet again on Sunday, if the haze permits, Nacho allows, and Naomi decides to come out of the bar early enough to join us...