
EL JUEGO MATINAL

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

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Rain of Goals

By John and Ricardo

It was the worst of days; it was the best of days." That was how most people felt after what it proved to be a very high quality game, despite the poor field conditions and the absence of our two professional players. (Nacho and Ricardo) Yet, to be frank, the field conditions are always poor, but the rain made it a bit more interesting and difficult.

The level of play was excellent, passing was outstanding: (*within 6 feet and less*), there was a lot of good defensive plays: (*all kicks were below the knee*), as well as a few interesting goals. (*that's goal-keeper's jargon for: "I didn't see it coming"*)

The cool weather allowed us to play longer than usual, but the underlying fact was that both teams were playing quite well, despite that our long capacity remained constant...

We now have two Javiers, both from Argentina. **Javier "the original"** and **Javier "the new guy"** had some good passing combinations, though New Javier also played quite well in goal during the second half.

You will be able to tell the difference between the two when they are confronted by little **Andres**, who can easily dispossess Javier the original from the ball. He did it twice during the Sunday game.

It seems that none of our favorite drunkards came to the game, with the absence noted of Ricardo, Mariano, Richard the Spaniard, Jeff the non-spaniard, and Nacho. (*The word on the street is that they were all seen leaving together quite late at night from a bar in "bad company"... - of course, they were together!*)

Other drunkards who did come to the game despite their hang-over included: **Wendy, Daniel** and **Don Julio Olimpico**.

Final Result:

Julio's Drunkards :



Juan's Betis team:



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"Two penalties saves ??"



John attempted to save two penalty kicks. The first one was shot by **Javier** who missed it, but out of no where, and with swiftness that always carries his through, **Chai** appeared from within the crowds and rifled the ball into the net, leaving John saying *"that was an interesting goal..."* Later this week, **Javier** admitted that he did not want to score on John, as he felt it may jeopardize his chances to get a ride home on such a rainy day.

The second penalty shot on **JBL** (John 'Butterfingers' Lilly) was from **Antonio "the biker"** who along with **Yan** showed up once on their bicycles vowing they would ride to the game every week so that they could be more fit. However, after doing it once last month, they have returned to riding taxis and blaming the weather, though we know otherwise...



The Men of the Match

Javier played a tournament game before the Juego Matinal, and scored three goals. He then scored twice at the Juego Matinal, and proceeded to play three more games after that. While this is impressive, We remain even more impressed that he (at his advance age) can eat a huge lunch (massive amounts of spaghetti) and still go on a play games shortly after having the lunch.

Tall Paul was successfully attacked by a hole in the ground on the Singapore Swimming Club side of the pitch. It looked pretty bad, though fortunately he managed to escape injury. A word of advise though: *'In the future do be careful when the ball rolls out on that side of the pitch'*, also *'when you knock the ball into the jungle behind the goals in the ECP side, watch out for dengue fever and hepatitis'*, and on the other side, *'watch out for massive hidden puddles of water!'*



Juan is playing more and more like Denilson every day (as a reminder to those few who don't know, Denilson is a Betis player, Juan's team). Earlier in his career at the Juego Matinal, Juan played more of a Roberto Carlos role, that is, shooting the ball very hard and injuring players. Now he does take the ball a lot more and goes on the attack leaving opponents behind. Brilliant skills!

Lastly, **Daniel** decided to show up half way through the second half as he continues to "watch VCDs until 3 a.m.", and now he decided simply to sleep in late rather than just show up on time and take the abuse.