
EL JUEGO MATINAL

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Another memorable game:

By John.

In this goalkeeper's opinion, it was probably one of the better games we have played in the past 3-1/2 years of the Sunday morning games.

There were actually two games on Sunday, the first one a 7 vs 7 game that culminated with a 1-0 win for my team. The game was prematurely ended when about another 8 players showed up and we had to start all over again.

This was probably a good thing, because Julio "Olimpico" Acosta brought the new yellow team uniforms, and Richard Di Canio brought several Westham United uniforms so there was a natural division in the teams. Although many of us thought that the pitch was a bit crowded and would be difficult to play, actually the game turned out to be quite dynamic, fast paced and with ample room for the usual verbal abuse and insults that goes on during these contests.

The natural talent of the Westham United players prevailed over the Colombians in a very tight 4-2 game, even though the Colombians were ahead 2-0 at half time. To a large extent their lead was a result of their strategy of either scoring, or knocking the ball deep into the tropical jungle that resides behind one of the goals.

Mariano, Richard and myself ended up with several bee stings, mosquito bites, poisonous plant irritations and fever as a result of our constant forays into that dense jungle.

The game ended on one of Nacho's now classic poacher's goal, much in the tradition of Batistuta, Crespo, Ronaldo and Thierry Henry. Here are a few of the highlights we remember from the game. They are in no particular order..

Wendy's return:

After a six week layoff due to injury (from the evil Daniel), she returned sporting Edgar Davids style glasses.

There was a certain degree of understandable reluctance on her side to enter into the rough tackling part of the game, but we suspect it was mostly intimidation, after she saw such high quality displays among our players over the last two weeks -- she knew she was dealing with real professionals from European leagues.



Additionally, she confessed that *'those guys in the Westham United uniforms looked really handsome and it was hard to concentrate on the game'*. Thanks to Wendy's return, all the guys have to stop looking like Homer Simpson and start tucking our stomachs-in, pretending that we are soccer players again, as the picture above clearly shows...

On an interview later on the week, she said: *"...you see I started out playing for the dashing guys in yellow, then was traded to the handsome guys in blue and maroon.todos son guapos!!"*

Julio (Romario)'s strategy:

Other than Conrado, did anyone notice His Excellency Don Julio "Olimpico" Acosta's new attacking strategy? He throws himself to the ground and lays there awaiting a pass, claiming that he is resting in order to prepare for his next lightening speed sprint to the goal.

This is a distinct variation from his earlier strategy of playing exclusively in the area that is covered by the shade offered by the trees. His strategy has not led to many scores yet, but we assume that soon he will be competing with Nacho for top scorer (or as the Spanish would say "el pichichi", right Richard?

Nacho's goal

the goal that put an end to the match and celebrated in true style, amazingly enough the uniform was large enough that he would actually take it off and wave it above his head. .. Nacho had been hounding Ricardo's goal and was very unlucky not to score several times in the second half, partially due to Ricardo's amazing saves, partially due to Ricardo's amazing luck. According to Richard di Canio (our hero for bringing the Westham shirts), to a large extent Nacho's goal was a result of the uniform more so than anything else. Nacho also has a new strategy on scoring goals. If Ricardo has the ball in his hands, Nacho simply picks up Ricardo, and tosses him into the net and says its a goal.

How about...

By Wendy

How about having drinks on a Friday night after work, somewhere? Any takers? Also, is there anyone interested in going to KL to see the Brazil vs Malaysia game on 25.May.02? Let's talk about it next time.

The new Sunday-game generation...



The youth in the match once again played outstanding games. **Chris'** skills continue to improve and surprise all of us each time that get gets the ball and makes a good and well thought out pass or a deflection on an attacker.

We would also like to point out that it is the first time, probably, in all the time that he has been in Singapore, that **Camilo** doesn't score on John. Usually when they are in opposing teams he plays like a "player possessed" and regularly humiliates me. Maybe he feels sorry for me, maybe that Dutch uniform is starting to weigh on him and forcing him to choke?

Another youngster in our team was Victor, for whom it must have been a very frustrating morning: In addition to have to defend for Ricardo, he came in the most elegant black Real Madrid Uniform, but was forced to change out of it and wear that Colombian chicken yellow shirt.

But Victor is Victor, so his quality of play did not suffer as a result, and he still looked like a real soccer player in the yellow shirt.

Rumor is that his birthday is coming up, and we want to be the first to congratulate him on his 53rd birthday, he certainly doesn't look that age, does he?

Vanishing Conrado:

And speaking of Conrado did anyone see him? Apparently not. He spent most of his time standing by himself near my goal, calling desperately for passes, unfortunately (for him...very fortunate for me) no one saw him. Julio saw him, because Conrado didn't know about his "sleeping" strategy, and Conrado actually encouraged Julio to run back a defend. We would recommend that Conrado takes the Nacho approach, that is, calling everyone HORRIBLE, and that will probably generate some traffic in his direction.

Ricardo's Paradox:

It seems that Ricardo is paying people off, because several players mentioned to me that: 1) "Ricardo played very well", 2) "the third goal was not his fault", 3) "it was a difficult ball", 4) "he was amazing after that". However, most of you forget that Ricardo spent the first half calling Daniel a "crybaby", calling Nacho (and the rest of us, including some of his own players) "horrible", and walking around telling everyone else at half time "*Ya wanna mess with me?*"

At the end of the game, I think it was Mariano who said that Ricardo is "better at making impossible saves than the easy ones". But admittedly, he was excellent in the second half. (*Just for the record: No, Ricardo did not write this up*)

Clearly the third goal on Ricardo was the most remembered one: (The one that Paul's lob and Ricardo kind of tapped into the net?). Nonetheless, the other goal, when Mariano tried to clear the ball but it ricocheted off of one of the opponents, and before I could even turn around, the ball ripped through the net and it was very impressive on Mariano.

There were several other highlights and players but that is all I remember, my mind is garbled by the huge amount of films I have been watching at the Film Festival, its nice to see some of you people there, especially Ricardo who sleeps through most of the movies..

For ever friends...

By Ricardo Freyre

It has been said that people will begin to mirror their friends as time goes by. After more that three (3) years of playing together, we begin to see some 'similarities', if not transformations between that infamous pair of friends who love to hate each other: John '5-0' Lilley and Nacho 'Rabona' Lannot.

Here at "*The Juego Matinal*" we would like to take a moment to celebrate our friendships, in the hope that these times we spend together will always be remember as the best times we had in Singapore experience.

As for John and Nacho's friendship-transformation, well.. a picture is worth a thousand words and it is captured here forever.

