
EL JUEGO MATINAL

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

Volume 1, Issue 13

15 September 2002

First goal took its time

By John and Ricardo

“**T**he quality of play during our Sunday game matched the intensity and good skills from the previous Sundays. But clearly the ‘insults’, (or rather free expressive colloquialisms) this past weekend had a higher quality, and generally nastier, than the insults the previous weeks. This of course had nothing to do with the fact that Ricardo and Nacho were back.



The game ended in a victory for “**John’s Stars**,” defeating “**Ricardo’s Tough men**” by a final score of 5 to 4. Though admittedly, I don’t remember the score, we never do, but I do remember that we won despite Ricardo’s attempts at altering the score in his favor by trying to confuse everyone by yelling random numbers each time we scored.



Above, Richard is yelling that he is “all free”, despite Nacho keeping a close mark on him.

The first goal however, took almost the whole first half to be scored. Which is a testament to our ever-improving playing skills, of faster clocks, perhaps. Whatever the case, the fun level continues to rise as our team gets stronger with time.

Final Result:

John’s stars: 
Ricardo’s men: 

Mike, play it again...



The two most memorable goals were by the **Mike the Great** and **Great Mariano**. Mike scored effortlessly a lovely header into the corner of the goal, much like he did a few weeks ago in a similar play. Mariano’s goal, on the other hand, initially looked like a tactical deflection, but it was actually his great skill and touch that put the ball past the goalkeeper, who would have gotten the ball had it not been for Mariano’s touch.



The only complication to these two brilliant plays was the fact that both Mike and Mariano scored own goals, rather than the more common practice of scoring goals on their opponents. In their defense, however, we must say that they both made defensive plays (most of the time) that prevented at least 8 or 9 goals on either side, but mostly on John’s...

EL JUEGO MATINAL

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

Game Highlights

Mike also had the opportunity to lean his shoulder into Nacho's head in a gesture of friendship and camaraderie, and it added greatly to our entertainment when Nacho went rolling on the ground, claiming (as incredibly as it sounds) that he was fouled!

Nacho's retribution came swiftly, when he managed to insert his right kneecap into my hear well after I had the ball in my possession. Of course it was not a foul. (riiight...) And then he gently removed **Klaus'** glasses and mangled them because Klaus had the audacity to prevent a Nacho goal.

The other feature of the game, which surprised was that for the first time in years, we actually allowed to have **Mariano** and **Victor** on the same team, this created a large amount of uncertainty because Mariano had not come straight from the bar. This time, he was kicked out from Chijmes after he started singing Mexican mariachis rather early in the morning, so he actually got some sleep and could have been a lethal threat to the opposition. (*or as a defense, as we previously explained...*)



We countered with two **Javiers**, **Antonio** and **Tall Paul**, and the striking partners of **Julio** and **Camilo**, alongside with **Tzi**.

Although **Wendy** and **Chris** continued to extend their dominance of Julio and Camilo, we expect Camilo and Julio to restore their Romario & Ronaldo striking partnership soon.

The Men of the Match

The other great highlight was the change in performance of **Javier** (the Original) from the time his wife was there, until she left: While she was there he was fully of energy and dominating in the midfield, but after she left, he faded badly. While the "wife-effect" often tends to alter some expressive behaviors in Victor, it does seem to drag Javier and lower his playing skills when she is not there.

Similarly, we do remember it took **Antonio** several weeks before he could overcome his spousal-dependency after she stop coming by; However, it appears that his vow to ride his bicycle to the Julio Acosta Olimpico stadium every Sunday allowed him to overcome this stress.

Rumor has it that soon we will see **Antonio** sporting a cool motorcycle and he has promised to take us all back home on his motor bike, just like they do in some towns in Colombia where they fit up to 7 or 8 relatives on the motorcycle (in addition to some groceries and one or two live animals...they do this in cities where there is not Metro system. (Ask **John** where that is, and also, if you have time, do ask **Mike** to tell you the bear-hunting joke...)



Finally, did anyone notice that **Daniel** missed a penalty? John would like to remind you all that he has stopped THREE (3) penalties in a row and will continue to add saves as we go along, and also as long as **Victor** nor **Juan** would kick them.

Rumor has it, that Victor, in addition to his great and expressive vocabulary, is a very accomplished penalty taker. In addition, Juan is also banned from kicking penalty kicks, because he injures the keeper and they tend not to come back after that, isn't that so **Robert?**