
EL JUEGO MATINAL

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The Olympians did it again

By (mostly) John and Ricardo

Once again, Julio's Olympians defeated Nacho's macho men in a very close game by 5-4 that was played under a scorching heat.

The game marked the return of one of our star players (**Julius**) **Cesar Acosta**, who had been transferred to a Colombian team for the season. Cesar wins the **Player of the Match** award, for the following reasons: First, he showed up despite the long trip. Second, he played very well with the massive jet lag. And third, he managed to survive the game despite the heat.



Although some felt that maybe he had too much "aguardiente" and "empanadas" in Colombia, and as a result, he was carrying a few more kilos than usual, he still performed up to his usual high standards, and more importantly, his sense of humor remains intact.

A new Player is born !!

According to our news sources, **Mike's wife, Angie**, gave birth to a baby boy on Tuesday night (21.May.02). Both mother and child are very healthy and doing great and we send them all our best wishes and congratulations.

We also hope that the boy will soon be joining us so that he can start teaching us some lessons in soccer.

Antonio: The new "Olympic" member.

Joining the very exclusive club of 'Olympians', was "Antonio Faillace" who scored a goal from a corner kick. He is in the distinguished company, of *His Excellency Sir Julio Acosta*, and Tanjung Rhu *Mayor Nacho Lannot* being the only other members of this club.

We have already contacted the WWF (no, **Nacho**, that's the World Wildlife Fund, not the Wrestling Federation) for the environmental conservation of all the mosquitoes, snakes and bugs that usually snack on our players when the ball gets knocked in that area of the pitch.



Since we have named our stadium and street after Sir Julio, we decided to rename the thick tropical forest behind one of the goals as the Antonio Faillace Rain Forest.

Jim, the new kid on the block.

We had a new forward player, Jim, who is one of **Camilo's** schoolmates (#11 in blue). He was teaming up with **Conrado** to lead the Olympian's team to their victory.



It is clear to us that over time we will have a Batistuta-Crespo controversy if these two continue to show up and insist on playing on the same team

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Victor: The best well-dressed
(and his play ain't that bad either)

Victor continues to show us a new look almost every Sunday. This time he wore his new Argentina national team shirt. Although there was a divided vote on whether the new Adidas shirt was nicer than the Reebok one.



Victor's only complaint about the shirt was that the new colors were too close to one of the Argentine club teams he hates, (The Racing).

Meanwhile, **Richard our Spanish Englishman** was not impressed either way and suggested that we ban Argentine shirts (as well as Nacho) from the pitch for an extended period of time.

Conrado finally gets noticed
(by his own team, that is)



It was particularly interesting to see how many passes Conrado actually got that ended either in a goal from him (two on his own), or in a critical play that threaten the goal keeper's arc (a lot more). It seems that all the clapping, whistling and yelling to his team mates is finally working.

Was it a valid goal or a Nacho goal?

Nuclear Juan (el betico) returned in fine form, scoring two great goals. However, by the second half he seemed to tire a bit and knocked a few balls over all the way over to Geylang.



His second goal raised a number of questions about its validity, given the special set of circumstances that surrounded the event:

- The first view about this goal, is that while **John** and (**Julius**) **Cesar** were chatting away - totally oblivious to the game, not paying attention and generally in dereliction of their duties- **Juan** was smart enough to notice this and hit a brilliant shot that neither John nor Cesar even noticed until the ball was already in the back of the net.

- John's interpretation, (if not an excuse) is that **it was not a goal**. He claims that he was still chatting with Cesar (about the greatest team in the World: *Santa Fe of Bogotá*) while waiting for the start of the play. At this point, **Nachio** illegally started the game, passed it to **Juan** who then blasted the ball with his usual power.



History will tell, whether this was a valid play, or just another "**Nachiavellian**" conspiracy. Stay tuned, I'm sure we have not heard the last of it.

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Sleepy Uruguay beats the Tigers

We attended the warm up friendly between Uruguay vs Singapore Tuesday night. Wendy (along with Todd), Carlos (the new guy with the Peruvian jersey), Victor and his family, as well as John, Ricardo and 24,000 other people, whose names I cannot remember...

We came out of the game with a few thoughts about the World Cup bound Uruguayan team:

1. Even though Uruguay were missing several key players, they were still absolutely awful.
2. France, Senegal and Denmark (*the other teams on group A*) should have an easy time with Uruguay if the game against powerhouse Singapore was any indication.
3. Why did Singapore (national colors are red and white) played in blue? And why did Uruguay (national colors are blue) played in red? They did not need to do that to make a bad impression.
4. Singapore could have won the game if they had Nacho.
5. Was the weather too hot and humid for the players? Come on! They should try our Sunday game.
6. The only fun part of the game was 'the wave', when in a most Unsingaporean-like fashion, the fans threw cups, paper, garbage, chicken wings, curry bags, coffee plastic bags and anything they could find up in the air.

We also discovered that Victor had some serious traces of Hooliganism in him that we didn't know about. He revealed his extensive and colorful vocabulary, particularly when addressing players (and ref) mistakes. The game was so bad that he managed to teach a crowd of Malays and Indians sitting in front of us to yell 'Burro'!!! at the Uruguayan players every time they touched the ball.

We later discovered that the reason Victor is a hooligan is that he was trained at the most famous hooligan ground in the World, La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires, where his team the Boca Juniors plays makes its home.

In short, Victor was almost dragged out of the stadium for his behavior, after he managed to shout at the Uruguayan players that we (*the Sunday group*) could take them apart without a problem.

As a result, we will be playing against the Uruguayan national team this Sunday to teach them a lesson. We are also trying to convince the Portugal team and the Brazilian team (*that are in Macau and Kuala Lumpur, respectively*) to come down to Julio Acosta stadium and take some punishment from us.



(I'm not sure if this picture goes with the story, but I thought it was a classic)

However, and in all fairness to the Uruguayan team, they barely just one day to recover from the jetlag of their trip from Montevideo, and were also rushing, right after the 7:pm game out to the Airport to catch the flight that would bring them to Japan. That could perhaps justify a bit their sluggishness at times during the game.

From the Editor's desk..

The proposed Saturday game against the Italians had to be cancelled since we could not book a field on time. However, we could book a smaller field for a 5 on 5 game on Monday afternoon (which is a holiday) Do let me know by Friday if you are interested.

Additionally, the senior editors, photographers, layout artists and delivery boys of this publication will be heading off to Japan and Korea for the World Cup soon, so we are not sure we can publish during June. However, if someone sends me some notes about the game, we can surely make something up easily because after all, **why let the truth get in the way of a good story?**