
EL JUEGO MATINAL

Volume 1, Issue 4

21 April 2002

Robert's hand got hurt:

By John.

After missing for three weeks with a massive hangover (which Robert described politely as a "virus"), Robert was back in excellent form, making a few great saves, until late in the game he unfortunately tried to stop a very close range shot from Juan el *nuevo Español*. Ricardo and I, the other goalkeepers, agreed while driving home, that we would have run away from that particular shot, and that Robert was very gutsy (or insane) trying to stop it.

Here is his own medical report: *"I went to the hospital after the game. X-rays showed that my wrist was dislocated. After a local anaesthetic they pulled it back into place, which was very painful. I have a bandage cask which I will have to keep on for the next 5-6 weeks."*



...And just for the record, Ricardo did not have anything to do with Robert's dislocation, unlike the time when he accidentally broke his forehead.

The Game result:

Argentina 19 vs England 14. There was a rumor that Ricardo Freyre's army beat West Ham 5-2, but for most of those present on Sunday, especially our Argentine colleagues it was the Singapore Rugby 7's result of Argentina 19 vs England 14. Rumor has it that Ricardo Bottomley renounced his British citizenship and adopted a new Spanish one. In Addition, he now wishes to be addressed in Spanish from now on. Apparently Argentina beat New Zealand in the finals, but the press incorrectly reported that New Zealand won the Singapore Rugby 7's

Another lucky day

I know I am going to regret this -- but Ricardo's goalkeeping was downright excellent, though he admitted to me later than he tried to get out of the way of one of the clear shots on goal, but the ball hit him and bounced out. For any observer it looked like a brilliant save, for him it was a lucky break. We suspect there were many other similar incidents. One sad passing moment in Singapore history: It appears that the John vs Nacho duel has been replaced by the Ricardo vs Nacho Mano-a-Mano. In fact Nacho lets me play on his team now, something he would have never allowed in the past three years.

Rumor has is that that Nacho, Mariano and Ricardo, have started a 'pre-season training' that involved low-impact training in the pool with repeated head kicks to improve their accuracy. (and headaches as well...)



Juan, the new player:

By John.

We had a new player join us, a Spanish fellow named "Juan" who had the Betis Uniform . He made his mark in more than one occasion, including the game ending injury on Robert. And he didn't even suffer the usual heat stroke symptoms that new players usual face after their first game in Singapore! He didn't have the insane running capacity of Olger (who also went missing) but had wonderful ball control and passing skills.

The secret of his success:

Victor -- still a star despite his 58th birthday last weekend. He also holds the record for most number of uniforms, last Sunday it was Nigeria, which was very effective because Wendy got all sentimental (its her home town) and wouldn't tackle him.



Missing players and ghosts:

Don Julio went missing! - It is clear that West Ham sorely missed Julio's dazzling runs, his natural speed, quick counterattacks, sharp shooting and his stamina (and his colorful vocabulary....).

There was a pale white apparition in the 2nd half on the West Ham team, those who saw it described ti as a a large white ghost running down the center of the field with some swiftness. After close examination, we determined it was Mariano without his shirt, rather than some sort of extraterrestrial being or spirit from the other side. Even as a ghost, he played up to his usual brilliant level.

The Double Paul's

One of the Paul's was possessed by the spirit of Roberto Carlos, usually shooting well (though he scored with his head...), but he had "the shot" one that went about 3,500 meters into the air, and landed somewhere passed the Indoor Stadium, rumor is that he had to go to Geylang to pick up the ball.

Meanwhile, Tall Paul has become a lot more influential on the right side though he quite doesn't have the physical presence, speed and stamina (!) of our usual right-winger Don Julio "Olimpico" Acosta. (Certainly doesn't have his colorful vocabulary. ☺)

The Sunday Latin Game is becoming quite an event. We have a solid (if not full) attendance each week, and the quality of our games (if not the fun we have each weekend) is improving with time. This newsletter is also helping seal the bond that brings us together each week, and I would like to thank all of you for making it possible.

So let's continue having the best kept secret of weekend football entertainment. See you there this and very Sunday morning at (around) 10:00am (latin time, of course).

All the best,
Ricardo F.