

RECORD ASSISTANCE, BUT RECORD INJURIES AT OUR NEW STADIUM....

It was a great game on Sunday, with a record turnout of 13 players at the new Bishan stadium. The game was of excellent quality, with the pitch and weather quite pleasant as well. It had rained the night before and there was a light rain during the game, so both the temperature and the grass were cooperative, for once.

The final result was 1-1 according to my records, but the other team insisted that the final result was closer to 8-3 for their team. Since they had Raimundo on their team, it was obvious there was going to be some fantasy and fiction in the final score line.



The teams

Policia Federal: John Ronaldinho, Patron Bermudez, Jarko the mad Finn, Sergio Passarella Ems, Daniel JJ Lopez, Olivier Oligol Crespín, Alejandro Van Basten.

The other team: Junior (see picture to the left)

(spectators/hooligans: Carlos, Marcelo, Marcos, Raimundo, Phil...)

The other team's strategy was to kick the ball forward to **Junior** and have him run like crazy and score, which he did several times. **Junior** is faster, younger and more skilled than the rest of us and it showed, and we were only saved from more goals when **Junior** decided to pass the ball to someone else, like **Raimundo**, who would knock the ball all over the place, as most of us who have played with **Raimundo** would know. **Junior** was unanimously voted man of the match.

We also benefited from **Olivier** bringing Argentina shirts for our team, which according to **Marcelo** made us look like Buenos Aires Federal Police (Both because of the color and the angry and bitter look on our faces when the other team scored). I was wearing the blue *Colombia shirt* but still allowed me to be a member of the Buenos Aires federal police.



We have a new Argentine playing with us this Sunday, **Marcos No-nickname-yet**, a very accomplished player, apparently also a rugby star in Argentina, a skill he demonstrated well during the corner kicks against myself and the other strikers. Fortunately (or unfortunately) he injured himself and spent much of the second half standing in front of goal. Since he is about three times the size of the goal, it was quite difficult to score against their team. **Marcos** ended up pulling his hamstring, which alongside my injury set a record 2 injuries in one game... as **Olivier** often reminds us “this never happened at Tanjung Rhu, now everyone is getting injured in Bishan”.



We welcomed back **Raimundo** after a relatively long absence due to his ballet lessons on Sunday, and he was in good form as usual. Must have been his Colo Colo shirt. He was part of the Chilean backbone of our opponents team which totally destroyed us (**Carlos, Junior and Raimundo**). Plus they had **Marcelo** cutting us down in midfield, and little **Marcos** in the back, so it was going to be a tough game for us.

As for the other players on our team, **Oligol** had a few great exocet missiles launched from several different angles, but none hit goal, like in the previous weeks. We were hoping that **Oligol** would exercise more pressure on his employee the hammer **Michelini** and ask him to miss a few passes, but **Olivier** didn't bother with that kind of pressure.



Olivier also brought **Daniel**, an excellent defender who saved us from about 10-12 goals through his quick reaction time (he actually ran, unlike the rest of us). We are told that he resembles a very famous Argentine player from the 1980s called **JJ Lopez** (who played for River Plate in the 1980s).

The **Patron Bermudez** teamed up well with **Jarko**, producing the bulk of the goals for our team, and according to some reports, they teamed up to foul the **Hammer Michelini** as well. The **Hammer** subsequently took revenge on...me, sending me flying about 3 meters into the air with a tackle from behind (curiously enough, he did not repeat his usual comment of “no te toque”...).

Anyway, while **Jarko** ran the whole field, **Patron** confined his coverage to about 5 square meters in front of goal on the right wing, which actually produced pretty good results because he didn't disrupt play elsewhere.



Phil macho Camacho came a bit late, and more surprising wore an Argentina shirt (Second Englishman to wear an Argentina shirt at Las Bolas, first one was **Richard Bottomley** a few years back...). **Phil** has a remarkable amount of energy for someone his age (68 years old, according to **Marcelo**), and also has great ball control and managed to take the edge off his team which was engaging in rugby tactics after a while.

Alejandro had a surprisingly quiet game, spent much of the time giving **Marcelo** dirty looks and making some efforts to organize our admittedly disorganized midfield. Because in defense we were solid, with **Daniel and Sergio Passarella Ems**, but going forward we were not very organized. **Sergio Pasarella Ems** also had a quiet game, though we hear that the reason he stayed in defense was because he had a rough night at Orchard Towers where he was definitely playing on the attack, so he was understandably tired. It is possible that one of the reasons we lagged was because Sergio was probably in good company with Alejandro and Patron, but of course we cannot confirm that but it does sound right given past behavior patterns of Alejandro and Patron.

As a final note, your editor suffered the indignity of a major knee injury towards the end of the game. Although early reports were that I did it to myself after being totally taken apart by Junior, we have decided later, after watching the video replays, that it was a massive foul by Marcelo that caused the injury. It doesn't really matter than Marcelo was at the other end of the field, but he deserves the blame anyway. As a result I will be away from the stadium for a few months, as the doctor tries to rebuild my knee ligaments. Unfortunately, I will not be called up by FC Barcelona for the rest of the season and will have to wait until the next season to play next to Etoo, Ronaldinho, Messi and Deco & Co. The good news is that you now have a full time reporter covering the games from now on.

-- The Editor