

THE DAY OF THE FAN

By Paul "never runs" D'Souza



Viva Eduardo

It had been a rainy day the Saturday before and the magnificent Bishan Park stadium was glistening, never mind that it was actually very soggy and messy. The rumour had been floated a couple of weeks ago that **the "Fan"** would be playing this Sunday, and in support of this, we had a packed stadium.

This actually prompted the junior editor to exclaim, "dude! Where's my ground??" For those who are confused at this point, I need to make it clear that there was a sort of fair or carnival happening at the adjacent ground, which led to a large crowd of people, which was fine.

But it also led to a big tent being put up in the middle of our pitch (did I tell you it was glorious?) and as a result of this, the match was shifted (unceremoniously) to one half of the pitch we usually play in.



Never mind the adjustments, true professionals that we were, the game was very much “on” when the **junior editor Paul who never runs**, reached the place. The teams were as follows

Team “Brash Youth”

Junior, Gerardo “Gerrardo”, “Young Capitan” Luis & Paulo (Gerardo’s friend). I almost forgot Eduardo!

Team “Beauty and the Beasts”

THE FAN, Felipe “Hammer 2”, Someone from Peru, “Ale” Alejandro, Luis ex-Borracho “Tour De France” and “Jr Editor” Paul (who also clicked some pictures while he played).

The players sorely missed the editor in chief, **John “Buffalo” Lilley**, who sadly was busy making excuses to yours truly about wanting to see the match, but that his niece wasn’t allowing him to go. The readers are advised to request for an explanation in writing (in triplicate) the next time they see him.

As I mentioned, I was late to the game and was unable to see most part of the first half, except that I know the first half ended with Team “Beauty and the Beasts” leading by 3-0. The other team couldn’t even score!!!! *The main reason for this was the excellent central defending by the newly converted fan. So afraid were the opponents of her, that they promptly gave her possession of the ball the moment they encountered her on the field. Indeed, a lot of goals were saved in this fashion, and I believe they guys were blushing in embarrassment, they said it was the humidity...*

Cartons of NEWATER were provided during the half time break, which seemed to revive everyone, even better than the traditional 100 plus drink!! Where they came from was a mystery, it could have been a ploy by the government to get people to start drinking the water.

LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO

The second half was a totally different story. Team “Beauty and the Beasts” became just “The Beasts” and we were left to fend for ourselves against a very determined “Team Brash Youth”.



They responded to the first half’s frustration by scoring 6 in a row. Several combinations of defence and offence were employed by the beasts, to no avail. **Junior** actually managed to pass a few balls to **Gerardo** to score (of course he hit as many balls out of the ground). **Alejandro** and the Peruvian gentleman tried to keep the defence ticking to no avail as **Paulo and Eduardo** stepped up the pressure with some brilliant passing and footwork.

The hapless beasts had no options but to hold a round table conference and decide on another attacking strategy. **Luis** made some suggestions, and we tried to abide by them, to no avail. By this time, **the fan** who was missing for a considerable amount of time, reappeared (but did not play). It enthused the beasts no end, who went on to score 3 brilliant goals but lost eventually by one goal. **The final score, a very healthy 7-6.**

There apparently is a new way to find out whether the players are coming for the next week’s game. Very simple really, just ask them to keep the goals and the net and bring it in the next week. Voila! You get a flurry of excuses and information that they might not be around for the next game, they are on holiday and everything under the sun!! Finally I don’t know who kept the nets and goals, but I sure hope he plays this weekend!!

There will be some absentees for the next game, Luis ex-borracho might not be able to make it, and has promised to come the week after. Capitan Luis will be on holiday, probably flying back to Argentina for 3 weeks. Alejandro might not be able to make it as well.

....but Wendy is coming!



The game went on, and so did the fans....

Thanks Paul.....for the writing and the pictures.

The Editor