

A Letter to Marcelo....



Dear **Marcelo**,

I hope you are enjoying your holidays in cold Argentina, we hope that your family is well, we hope you are convincing your brother to come to Singapore to play with us, and we all are hoping that your favorite team, Racing, is building up a strong team for the new season.

I write you this letter instead of the regular newsletter to keep you up to date on the goings on at the Sunday football game.

You will be happy to know that despite the unusually very rainy weather in Singapore, *eight players, two lovely fans, and the press, showed up (no Marcelo, your driver did not show up)*. **The players had a very entertaining game, with an amazing display of spirit and teamwork.** Meanwhile, the fans and the press sat there and got soaked to the bone due to the rain. The game actually had three 30 minutes halves (yes, three), the first 30 minutes was a rather comical (and mostly failed) effort by **Raimundo, Wendy and Paul** to try to build the goals, because our usual constructor, Sergio Ems, was absent. Then we had two great halves of wet, but spirited football.

Once the goals were finally built, there was the team selection. Everyone missed you here, **Marcelo**, and your usual efforts to fix the teams so that your team ends always up with the better

LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO

players, using the color of their shirts as an excuse ,with you changing your shirt depending on which team you favor to win.

The teams .

National Team of Chile - Raimundo, Gerardo, Wendy and Eduardo

PSV Eindhoven -- Louis, Rodrigo, Paul, Felipe.

The final score was about 10 or 11 to 7, from what I remember.



I will tell you, Marcelo, that if **Raimundo** would have played on Chile's Copa America team, they would have won the Cup. He started quietly, but when he decided to run, he ran fast, passed even faster, and scored.

In fact he scored so many times that I even managed to get pictures of three of his goals. He was the master and commander of the field, and this time he did not hit any of his rocket shots to the moon.



Gerardo also had quite a good game, he continues to make very funny faces when he plays, and he continues to be fouled regularly by **Felipe**. Clearly the Chilean connection with **Raimundo** worked quite well and he also teamed up with **Eduardo** (and his hangover) with great skill. He reminded me of a Chilean version of Javier Mascherano.

Note, **Gerardo** was *ALWAYS* marked by **Felipe**, he appears chasing **Gerardo** in every single picture I took during the weekend.



Eduardo actually showed up with a friend, someone called “*Mister Massive Hangover*”. It was clear that **Eduardo** had not slept more than a couple of minutes the night before. He had already informed his friends via SMS that he was not coming to the game because his nocturnal activities, but at the last moment he surprisingly showed up, carrying that 100 kilo hangover. He played so well, **Marcelo**, that we asked him to go out every Saturday night and get completely wasted, because it does not affect him very much on Sunday, in fact he plays better. He was able to do all his **Cristiano Ronaldo** moves without a problem. Cristiano would have been proud of his twin in Singapore!



Wendy – She made another special appearance at the Olivier Crespin Exocet Stadium. She also played quite well, **Marcelo**, especially on defense. She **erased Louis PSV Eindhoven** from the pitch, very much like the Brazilian defenders in Copa America successfully covered Lionel Messi during the Brasil vs Argentina final (do you remember? The one Brasil won 3-0 with their “B” team).

Of course she was wearing fancy new boots, and that helped her maintain her dominance over much larger players like **Louise** and **Paul**. She said the quality of the game has improved since you left, but we told her it was because **Sergio Ems** wasn't there. Not you.



Louis PSV Eindhoven – he announced he had muscle pains and a flu, but he still came. He was also wearing a new PSV Eindhoven shirt, so we thought that he was going to put on a show, but as I mentioned before, wherever he went on the pitch, Wendy was covering him. He of course took the game in good spirits, of course he scored a few goals, and was a leader on his team.

I think that **Louis** missed you, **Marcelo**, because there was no one there to foul him, and **Felipe**, the new hammer, was playing on his team.



Felipe – It is now unfortunate **Marcelo** that you have officially lost your title of Hammer, because **Felipe** has become the new hammer. He hammered a few people during the Maersk game, remember? Last week he hammered **Gerardo**, and this week he kind of distributed his fouls among the four players on the other team. He is tenacious in defense, and quick in offense, but I think **Marcelo** when you return you have to start injuring a few players if you want to take the title of Hammer away from **Felipe**. He is now an honorary member of the Uruguayan National Team! And of course, **Felipe** also brought Santa Catalina de Estonia, who braved the rain and cold weather and watched the whole game. Of course he was trying to show off for her, so he got his usual Roger Federer tennis outfit completely muddy and dirty in order to impress her. *Curiously enough Katri found it amusing that Felipe's full and complete name at football is "Felipe Hammer Junior Ronald Mcdonald Roger Federer", but I think that after today's game it will simply be Mr Hammer.*



Rodrigo Citibank – He is quiet, efficient, and a very good defender, he was probably more worried about moving into his new apartment than about playing football, but it was definitely nice to see him come on Sunday despite the rain. When the New Hammer **Felipe** ran up on the attack, what saved the team was **Rodrigo's** defending because unlike **Paul**, **Rodrigo** actually runs. Maybe when you return, and you need a good defender for your team, **Marcelo**, you should consider picking **Mr Rodrigo Monti**.



Paul – since he brought his wife Jessie, we thought he would put on a good show, and in the first 10 minutes of the game he scored two amazing goals (I didn't see them, of course, but I heard there are witnesses who saw the goals, so I will take his word for it), but after that his lights went out.

He spent most of the time posing for the pictures, very much like he does usually, as you know. During one of **Raimundo's** goals, poor **Paul** had to rebuild the goal because the shot was so hard it totally broke the goal. But according to **Paul**, of course he made several assists for goals, and played "immaculate defence". Yes, those were his words.

LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO

There were the usual absentees, Marcelo, and you and I know that a few of them were stuck in their usual bars in Orchard Towers and chose not to follow Eduardo's brave example of coming directly from the bar to the stadium. Sergio Ems and Alejandro were missing in action, and the others continued to stay away because they probably have better things to do. Capitan Luis is apparently off to Argentina, we did miss him giving everyone instructions, advice, directions, organizational ideas, and measuring of the goal lines to the last centimeter to make sure they are properly aligned.

But look who did come... Santa Jessie and Santa Katalina..



See you soon, Marcelo. Enjoy the rest of the vacation and rest up your ankles for you will need them in the new games being played on Sunday...

Take care and regards to you family.

JOHN THE EDITOR