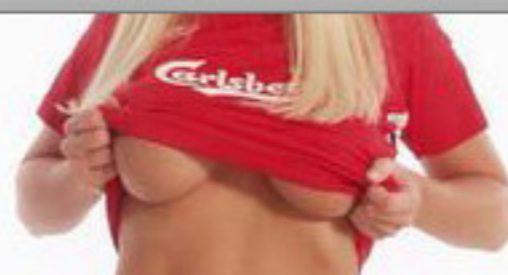




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Navidul 1 – 4 F.C. Britanico

Britanicos convincingly pass their toughest test of the season so far

Despite the convincing score line Saturday's game was by no means easy. Navidul showed they are not only Iberian jamón experts but also know a thing or two about the beautiful game. They are a solid well organised side, who know how to take their chances. The table doesn't lie and prior to the game they occupied fourth spot with four wins, a draw and one defeat.

The first 15 minutes were very even with neither side really creating any dangerous openings. Then on 20 minutes after a superb Britanicos move the ball was crossed into Prince who fired home to make it 0-1 to the visitors.

After the goal Britanicos had most of the game, although Navidul continued to look capable of breaching the Britanicos rearguard. Then on 35 minutes after a good move by the home side the ball was neatly threaded through to the Navidul forward who rounded goalkeeper Ashely to draw the scores level. The visitors were not unsettled and finished the half the stronger side. But they could have no complaints about the scoreline. The top teams will always be capable of exploiting lapses of concentration among their opponents.

The emphasis of the Mister's half time talk was to stress to his players that concentration and patience are paramount to winning leagues titles. However, his most telling point was probably to tell them that 80% of Britanicos goals have come in the final third of games.

This week was to be no different with Britanicos showing superior fitness and exemplary attitude in the second half. Navidul were systematically outplayed and outfought. After Dave Hughes (pictured right) made it 1-2 on 60 minutes there was only ever going to be one winner. Shortly afterwards FCB extended their lead after another trade mark finish by lead scorer Hughsie.

But Navidul did not give up. Credit to them they got themselves back into the game forcing a very good save from debutant goalkeeper Ashley, who commanded his area superbly throughout. The home side then even forced a penalty after some typical Spanish theatrics. However, their striker was unable to finish as he rifled his shot against the crossbar.

The Navidul offensive was soon thwarted after a quickly taken FCB free kick saw Dave Hughes tripped in the opposition box and a penalty awarded. It was a brave decision by the referee as Dave H tried to stay on his feet and did not hit the ground like a sack of patatas bravas. The FCB number 9 stepped up himself and expertly drilled the ball home to complete a superb second half hatrick making it 1-4 to the visitors and completing another strong Britanicos' finish.

Back in September if any one had asked manager Rami if he thought, that after the first quarter, his team would be top of the league, he most likely would have brushed such talk aside with a concerned smile claiming his main ambition would be to reverse the trend of the previous few seasons by not losing any of the opening matches.

Seven games in and Britanicos not only sit top of the league but have done so by winning all seven fixtures, recording a record goal difference and playing with a lot of style and commitment. Long may it continue!

Madrid, October, 27th, chief editor

Britanicos: Ashley, Jonas, Martin O, Diego, Gary, Ryan, Dave P, Dave H (3), Prince (1), Soray, Mente, Joe, Rami

