

LA LIGA 2

A summer of change at CD Tenerife



By Chris Todd

After missing out on promotion by a hair's breadth, CD Tenerife has come back down to earth in the last week.

With many players either on loan or on short term contracts the dismantling of the team has come not so much as a shock but as a disappointment to fans. Main striker Choco Lozano joined FC Barcelona this week, but as Tenerife did not own him they will not receive a transfer fee. In principal Choco will play for the Barcelona B team but will be included in the Champions League squad.

Last season's top scorer Amath has returned to Atlético Madrid after his year loan. As Atlético are not allowed to sign players due to a UEFA ruling until January 2018, he is expected to remain under Simeone's orders for the time being, although there is a slight chance that he will be loaned back to CD Tenerife.

Other players to leave include German, on his way to Granada

CF, and Aarón Níguez to Real Oviedo. Tottenham Hotspur has apparently been knocking on CD Tenerife's door to enquire about young keeper Carlos Abad, the planned second choice keeper for next season, but they will need to pay a €3 million get-out clause to seal the deal. And the situation regarding teenager Cristo Gonzalez is slightly hazy at present. Rumours suggest that Real Madrid is interested, but his refusal to sign a new deal with Tenerife has left the club with no option other than to sell him or stick him in the reserves.

So here we can see one of the main problems with the blanquiazules: they can only go so far with many loan players and footballers not under contract. We always seem to have to start from scratch every pre-season. Yes, it could work, as last season showed, but it is a risk. We need a more solid base. If loan players do well, their original clubs want them back. If they have been flops, you do not want them anyhow.

The ideal scenario would be for the top players to either stay and boost the team for the following season, or if they have to leave at least get a decent transfer fee. Only then can the club reinvest and make progress on the pitch. The only players to be sold over the last few years have been Ayoze Pérez to Newcastle United (€2 million), Nano to SD Eibar (€3.2 million) and German to Granada CF (for a paltry €100,000).

Signings

With so many players leaving the club this summer, the director of football, Serrano, has plenty of work on his hands to fill all the gaps. The fact that CD Tenerife finished so high in the league last season could be a key factor in attracting fresh talent. It also helps that the club's budget will be increased for the coming season. This is worked out by the Spanish league according to attendance figures (up



Joe Perry of Aerosmith wore a CD Tenerife shirt during the recent concert at the Heliodoro Stadium

by an average of 3,000 last season), season ticket sales and general income.

First to be signed up as a new blanquiazul was 29 year old Juan Villar from Valladolid, who

was closely followed by Casadesus from Levante. Both are seasoned second division players. It was expected that young Argentinian striker Emi Buendia would be joining Tenerife from Getafe, as it was announced by the Getafe President during an interview, but Swansea City has now shown interest and the blanquiazules cannot compete financially with Premier League clubs.

Another nine signings are anticipated before the season starts, a mix of experience, young promising players (perhaps on loan from La Liga clubs) and also not forgetting chances for CD Tenerife academy lads during the pre-season period. Confirmed friendlies this summer include a 'not so friendly' two-leg tie against UD Las Palmas on August 2 in Santa Cruz and August 9 in Gran Canaria. Tenerife will also play a match in El Hierro for the first time in 36 years on July 29 against Deportivo de La Coruña, with a second leg on Aug 12 in La Orotava, North Tenerife. ■

NOMADS FC

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By Soccer Experience

Finally, school's out! And while that mean a lot of schedule shuffling for parents, it's a chance for your kids to chill out and enjoy the summer.

Thankfully, in Tenerife that means plenty of time outdoors, whether on the beach, around a pool or just chilling in the sun on our fantastic island.

But there's also another option. Why not give them the chance to join in friendly football matches at our facility in Los Cristianos? They don't have to be a member Nomads FC. Everybody is welcome to our training sessions and games, whether you're full-time residents or holidaymakers. The



Cristiano Ronaldo

only requirement is a passion to play football.



Nomads FC is on the lookout for new players

However, if you and your family are planning on being here long term, we're always on the lookout for new Nomads players, both boys and girls, to join our under 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s teams. We had a fantastic season last year at all levels.

Maybe your kids can help us continue the winning streak! So bring your kids down and check us out for some fun, friendly football in the sun. We're opposite the Hotel Villa Mandi, at the side of Golf Las Americas. Just show up on

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 5pm till 6.15pm (12s and under) or 6.15 pm till 7.30pm (12s and over), and we'll take it from there.

We need more girl power

We'd really like some more girls to join the sessions so we can have separate younger and older groups. If you or someone else you know has a daughter who might want to play, why not bring her along on the days above and see how it works.

Football birthday parties

More and more families are hosting birthday parties at our football pitch. The kids run around for two hours and then enjoy cake and snacks at the end. It's a lot easier

than being contained in a restaurant's limited space! If your kids would like us to organise a special football birthday party, please get in touch.

Want to know more?

Further details on local football opportunities can be found at: www.nomadsfc.com. Each team has its own webpage. Alternatively, email: info@socexp.com or call/message: (+34) 654 200 470. Also visit our international website: www.socexp.com.

Can you believe it?

Cristiano Ronaldo is the only player in the Spanish league to have ever scored 50 goals in all competitions for five seasons in a row! ■

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