

CYCLING

# Two professionals train in Tenerife

A pair of professional athletes, Puck Moonen and Demi de Jongg from Team Lotto Souda, has been visiting Tenerife for a winter training session, setting up base camp at the rural hotel La Casona del Patio in Santiago del Teide. "We chose this island because we consider this challenging landscape and warm climate to be the perfect combination to physically prepare for the cycling season ahead. There is also a variety of routes, with different levels of difficulty, the slightly easier ones along the coast and the difficult climbs in the mountainous regions. This makes the island a perfect place for intensive winter training," they summed up. For ten days they trained on the largest Canary Island and drew very positive conclusions. "We were surprised by the safety and quality of the roads," they said, admitting that in some countries, even in some Spanish cities, they feel rather insecure. The female cyclists have many fans on social networks who follow their posts. Therefore their stay is not only a confirmation of the excellent sporting conditions on the island, but at the same time an advertisement for Tenerife as a holiday destination. ■



↑ "We felt very safe in Tenerife," said the two athletes on their departure

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CD TENERIFE

# New players shine in Tenerife victory



By Chris Todd

20/01/2019  
CD Tenerife 2:0 Nástic de Tarragona

The new-look Tenerife team, with their latest signings Racic and Borja Lasso, brushed aside their Catalán visitors in style. Okay, Nástic have been struggling recently at the wrong end of the table but you cannot take anything away from this dynamic blanquiazul display. The home form has been decent but sometimes matches have been won through the individual merits of certain players or points have been gained with more heart than good play, scoring scrappy goals in the closing minutes. This latest victory was more a team effort and how the crowd enjoyed Serbian Uros Racic's debut. How we have managed to prise him away from Valencia in the January transfer window I really do not know. We have found a gem and not since the times of Jokanovic in the 90s have we witnessed such an elegant midfielder in these parts. Tenerife were forced into defensive changes. Hector at right back is one of the players earmarked to leave the club but his excellent performance against Nástic may change the club's plans. Players that have already left are Chilunda (on loan to CD Izarra in Navarra) and Bryan Acosta who joined Dallas FC in the American MLS, it was the money from that deal that has enabled Tenerife to bring in the fresh talent. Back to the action and the blanquiazules tore into the



↑ Suso celebrates the opening goal with Uros Racic

Nástic defence during the early stages. Borja Lasso almost scored a peach of a goal on his debut when he smashed the ball onto the bar after a fine turn in the box. Soon after Luis Milla struck the post after one of his trademark free kicks. Was it going to be one of those days we all thought? Thankfully not. On 28 minutes Suso scored a fine header to put Tenerife 1-0 up after a great cross by Lasso. Racic bossed the midfield, winning tackles and not getting flustered under pressure which gave more time and space to Luis Milla who is our more creative player. The second half started in the same vein. As the wind picked up and the sun went down the temperatures dropped but not Tenerife's intensity. After a fine move involving three players on the right wing it was that man again, Racic, who cut the ball back for Jorge Saenz to score, 2-0 and pretty much

game over. However, the team pressed for more goals to please their long-suffering supporters. Racic almost put the icing on the cake with a fierce shot smashed off the bar. Manager Oltra shuffled his team and brought on Naranjo for Montañés and debutante Coniglio the Argentinian striker recently signed from Lanus replaced Suso. With the game won and another big match coming up soon against Málaga the team took their foot off the pedal in the closing stages, but the blanquiazules always had control of the play and Nástic did not create anything worthy of mention. This was a fine victory and although we should not get carried away it gives fans hope that this season may not be just about staying up. However, stiffer tests are on the way. On January 26 at 7.30pm CD Tenerife face high flying Málaga in one of

the big games of the season in the Heliodoro Stadium, Santa Cruz. The Málaga team will not be travelling alone and will be backed by hundreds of supporters including 70 expat followers of the club from the Costa del Sol. Málaga also has in their ranks the young promising Scottish striker Jack Harper who has scored some crucial goals this season including the winner last week against CD Lugo. It will be a great occasion and will attract without doubt the best crowd of the season. The new look Tenerife against promotion favourites Málaga. Not one to be missed! If you can't get to the stadium the game will be televised live on TV Canaria but will also be shown live on YouTube as part of a new deal to show all 2nd Division matches live with English commentary. The coverage on Youtube will not be shown in Spain however. ■

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