

CD TENERIFE

Magical night in the Heliodoro as Tenerife beat leaders



By Chris Todd

The Blanquiazules have hit good form just at the right time, an epic, thrilling 3:2 victory over league leaders Osasuna was followed by a deserved draw at high flying Albacete.

The gap now between CD Tenerife and the drop zone stands at seven points but with ten games still to play in the Spanish Second Division they cannot rest on their laurels in the slightest. This April 5, Tenerife face another stiff test at home to Sporting Gijón who themselves need to win to gain ground on the play-off zone, so it should make for a fierce contest.

The recent improvement in results has taken pressure off manager Jose Luis Oltra but in the summer the club will need to decide whether he is the man to take us into next season or not. In his favour he is a very popular manager with the players and fans alike. He took over the role in September so the team is not exactly to his blueprint and for next season he will have an increased budget to work with mainly due to the sale of Jorge Saenz to Valencia. Against his name has been the inability to win any away games (Tenerife is the only team in the professional leagues not to have won away) and if we cannot stop that cycle next season we will not achieve anything.

However, there is still plenty to play for this season and

with a certain Canarian derby on the horizon (the weekend of May 4/5) nothing is certain. The day and time of the derby should be known soon but rumours point to a May 4 match with a 6pm kick off. The club recently announced ticket prices for the derby against UD Las Palmas and they are on balance very fair. Season ticket holders gain free entrance on the day which was welcomed as it was thought that an extra charge for the 'Day of the Club' would be added. Prices for the General Public have been increased from €13 to €30 in the Popular end, but there are special offers. For instance there is a mini-season card that allows entrance for the remaining five home games starting at €65 (so €15 a game including the derby) or existing season ticket holders can buy up to four tickets at reduced rates. Whatever happens, it's likely to be a sell out and even though both teams will probably not have anything to play for at either end of the table, a passionate affair is always guaranteed.

22/03/2019

CD Tenerife 3:2 Osasuna

What a match! What a comeback! It was one of those nights that you can look back on and say "I was there". Osasuna were flying, top of the table, seven points clear in the direct promotion zone, highest scorers and on a run of four straight wins.



↑ The Tenerife players were euphoric after their epic win

The first half had a good vibrant pace. Tenerife were playing some decent football and creating the odd chance but Osasuna were a different class on the attack. A fine move by the visitors ended with Ibañez scoring from close range on 26 minutes and two minutes later their lead was doubled through Brandon. The half time score was logical in a way but did not really reflect the play, which was fairly even. Osasuna incredibly had never won a league game on the island and it appeared that

the voodoo was going to be broken.

However, little did we know what lay ahead. Just after the hour mark Tenerife pulled a goal back to make the score 1:2 and the whole mood of the game changed. The closing stages of the game belonged to Tenerife, they knew that manager Oltra's position depended on it. When out of favour striker José Naranjo came off the bench on the hour mark most fans did not get too excited but he was in inspired determined form. But the goals came from an unlikely source! Right back

Isma López in only his third game at the club scored two goals, his first after 78 minutes and the winning goal on 83 minutes to bring the house down. With the score now at 3:2 Osasuna tried to equalise in the final minutes but the Tenerife defence held firm to record an important and thrilling win.

30/03/2019

Albacete 2:2 CD Tenerife

Albacete are rightly named the 'revelation' team of the season in the second division. For a relatively small club they're punching above their weight sitting proudly in third position and a play-off place is certainly possible. However they will be kicking themselves for dropping two points against Tenerife who once again left it very, very late to equalise.

The blanquiazules took the lead after only six minutes

when captain Suso smashed a shot under the Albacete keeper. The home team, unbeaten this season in the Carlos Belmonte Stadium, fought back and equalised through a looping header on 27 minutes. The second half started badly for the blanquiazules as they conceded again but there was not much Dani in goal could do to stop the thunderbolt from Bela. At 2:1 the game dragged on but Tenerife sensed that they had another goal in them, they had done it so many times before this season. Malbasic hit the bar and Racic blasted over, it looked as if it wasn't going to be our day. But on 90 minutes Serbian Malbasic latched on to a long through ball and coolly finished to make the score 2:2. It was a deserved point for Tenerife and an important morale boosting performance. ■



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