

## CD TENERIFE

# Away day joy for Tenerife



By Chris Todd

A few weeks ago it appeared that the Canarian derby, played in a few weeks time, would solely be about bragging rights but now the game has taken on a whole new importance.

After a mixed bag of results CD Tenerife find themselves hovering dangerously above the relegation area. Other teams below them have pulled off some good results adding to the concern. Meanwhile rivals Las Palmas have also suffered turmoil and their new manager, ex-West Brom boss Pepe Mel, will have to work wonders to take the 'yellows' into the play-offs this season when it was expected that they would be challenging for a direct promotion spot.

It has been a strange season and many times Tenerife have played well and come away with a loss or at best a draw and on other occasions

have not played so well and won the game. It's all about putting the ball in the net of course and that has been the main problem as the approach play has been fairly decent. Hindsight is a great thing but when the top scorer from last season Juan Villar was prised away by Osasuna late in the summer transfer window the funds should have been ploughed directly into signing a new out and out goalscorer. The club reinforced other areas of the squad instead and the gambles of signing strikers Nano and Naranjo did not pay off.

Where does the team go from here? The blanquiazules cannot rely on away form so the points will need to be won in the Heliodoro Stadium, something of a fortress over the years but less so recently it must be admitted. The manager, Oltra, will surely stay for the last matches. But unless we finish the sea-



Photo: CD Tenerife

↑ Tenerife celebrate their first away win of the season

son in spectacular style he is likely to be let go in the summer. New Director of Football, Victor Moreno, can then add his personal choice and develop a new look squad. All this depends of course on which division Tenerife will be playing in but spirits are high that the team can win enough points to retain their status.

05/04/2019

**CD Tenerife 0:1 Sporting Gijon**

A lack of ruthlessness from set pieces and a lack of goals has been the blanquiazules' downfall this season and this was highlighted by this defeat against promotion chasing Sporting. On play, Ten-

erife deserved more. Early chances fell to Suso, Lasso and Naranjo but their efforts were well saved by the visiting keeper. Midway through the first half Sporting took the lead after a corner led to a scramble in the six yard box. Dani saved the first shot well but the ball was eventually bundled into the goal by Djurdjevic. It was handball for sure but with no VAR until next season in the Spanish Second Division the goal stood. Tenerife pressed, actually played some good attacking football at times but in the second half chances were few and far between. Suso blasted the ball into the side netting

when he should have perhaps squared the ball but this has been the story of the season. Sporting rarely threatened but they did not need to as they soaked up any Tenerife pressure on the edge of the box. As the final whistle blew on a disappointing result the efforts of the team were rewarded by many fans stopping to applaud the players from the pitch. It had been one of those nights where nothing had gone right but full marks for trying!

13/04/2019

**Rayo Mahadajonda 1:3 CD Tenerife**

The away day voodoo has finally been broken and it

could not have come at a more important time. Earlier in the day another relegation threatened team, Extremadura, had surprisingly won at Malaga so the pressure was really on Tenerife. But after just two minutes it was Rayo who took a very early lead. The blanquiazules fought back however and goals by Nano, Jorge Saenz and Malbasic gave Tenerife a fine victory.

The team cannot rest on their laurels and they need to follow up the win with another on April 21. Finally the matchday and time has been confirmed for the Canarian derby. It will be played on May 4 at 7.30pm. ■

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