

CD TENERIFE

From heaven to hell in a week



By Chris Todd

With the all important derby day looming, CD Tenerife have shown their good and bad sides so far this season. An opening day defeat at Zaragoza was slightly unfortunate when a draw was probably a fairer result.

That was followed by an encouraging display at home against Numancia when the blanquiazules should have won by a far greater margin than the 3-2 result suggests. But there can be no excuses for the 4-0 thrashing inflicted on them by newly promoted Ponferradina. Once again we appear to have this Jekyll and Hyde team that look excellent at home, but away from the Islands struggle to win matches. Last season, Tenerife only managed to win away once (twice if you include the Reus default match) so obviously with statistics like that you need to be untouchable at home if you are going to avoid relegation. But these are early days and the worst thing that the club and fans can do is to panic. We do not want a repeat of what happened last season when, after a difficult start (the team were forced to play their first few matches away from home due to a new pitch being laid), the manager at the time, Etxeberria, was sacked after just five matches. Then to get the fans 'back on side' the club hired popular ex-manager Jose

Luis Oltra to take control of the team. The problem was that the team was not designed to suit his style of play and the matches that were won were done so with more heart than game plan. We were lucky to stay up at the end of the season. We surely do not want that scenario again? Current manager Lopez Garai has 10 new signings to deal with and it's going to take time for him to find his best eleven and for him to drill home his footballing philosophy.

CD Tenerife recently signed their first ever British player in Sam Shashoua from Tottenham Hotspur. The youngster, born in Chelsea, has represented England at U17 and U18 level and also made the squad for a Spurs match at Leicester City in 2017. Sam has been described as the "English Pearl" in the local press so we will have to see if he can live up to his promise.

25/08/2019

CD Tenerife 3 Numancia 2

With the new VAR refereeing technology being used for the first time in the Heliodoro stadium it was hoped that correct decisions would now be made, but the controversy continues.

The pre-match talk was overshadowed somewhat by the previous week's forest fires in Gran Canaria. The Tenerife players wore special shirts with a logo dedicated to the



It's early days yet but the team really needs to pull together, especially at away matches

people affected on the neighbouring Island and more initiatives at the coming Canarian derby are planned. The intense football and island rivalry has been put on hold for the time being. Back to the match and VAR was in fact going to prove to be one of the main talking points of the evening, with five key decisions being made (all going against the blanquiazules!). Tenerife were still missing their new centre forward Ramon Mierez, who is yet to make an appearance due to injury, but they brushed aside Numancia in an entertaining match. Tenerife opened the scoring through a bullet header by Borja Lasso before the break and the second half could hardly have started bet-

ter when Suso transformed a penalty to make it 2-0. Then came the VAR show! Malbasic (we thought) had scored a third goal but after a lengthy wait the goal was ruled to be off-side (replays later showed that the VAR decision was actually wrong and the goal should have stood). The stoppage affected Tenerife's momentum and from a possible 3-0 minutes later, the visitors pulled a goal back to make it 2-1. Another Tenerife goal was disallowed by VAR before Malbasic made it three with a nice header. With seven injury time minutes added (in reality it could have been more) a sloppy mistake by new Tenerife defender Sipsic led to Numancia scoring again on 96 minutes, but it was too late for

the visitors and Tenerife were worthy winners.

01/09/2019

Ponferradina 4 CD Tenerife 0

This really was a day to forget for Tenerife as they capitulated against newly promoted Ponferradina. The blanquiazules really do seem to be the kings of looking so good one week but awful the next. There can be little excuse for this mauling but perhaps the players have not adapted to the new style. Playing out of defence, as so many teams do these days, is fine but you need the right players to pull it off. The game actually started with Tenerife dominating but when the home side took the lead on 16 minutes they lost their composure. If the

first half was average by Tenerife the second was a disaster. Three more home goals followed and the final 4-0 result was the blanquiazules worst away defeat in 10 years.

The team need to brush themselves down, go over what went wrong and prepare for the big Canarian derby on September 7 at 8pm in the Heliodoro Stadium, Santa Cruz. A full house is expected, with a Carnival type atmosphere this time as both sets of fans come together to pay homage to all those affected by the recent forest fires on Gran Canaria. Rumours point at pre-match DJs, a fan zone and a 'green theme'. The good intentions are fine but at the end of the day we just need to win the derby! ■

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