

A tale of two halves: Campo di Pianti vs IUE Calcio

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"Lives of great men all remind us greatness takes no easy way. All the heroes of tomorrow are the heretics of today."

~ Yip Harburg ~ (quote of the day according to wikiquote.org, also Wikiquote is celebrating IUE's victory!)

"Few things are impossible to diligence and skill."

~ Samuel Johnson, Rasselas, Chapter XII. ~

"Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient will we should always have sufficient means. It is often merely for an excuse that we say things are impossible."

~ Francois de La Rochefoucauld ~

"Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with IUE Calcio, nothing is impossible. (...). Wait. Train without ceasing."

~ John Piper ~

"A very old prophecy says that Ciacci will score on a day called Footballnarök which will mark the end of football. We shall see if it is true (this year Ciacci!)."

~ Andrea Gazzani ~

"People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them."

~ George Bernard Shaw ~

"Impossible is nothing."

~ Adidas ~

The weather was wonderful at l'Affrico this Monday night when our heroes from IUE Calcio achieved another victory (7 victories and 1 draw in the last 8 games). Memories of the home match were filling the heads of our players. Just 4 months ago we played against Campo di Pianti at Cerreti, and again their complaints toward the referee caused two red cards (Cosimo and Ludvig), we did not want a vendetta but at least a chance of playing 11 vs 11 during the whole match.¹ IUE Calcio started with their classical 3-5-2:

Cosimo

Ludvig-Jan-Patrick

Frank-Gabo-Gazza-Albert-Jonas

Leo-Metin

Everything was ready to begin, then the referee took his whistle to start the match... but wait he forgot the whistle in the dressing room! After waiting 5 minutes the match could start! The first half was brilliant. Campo di Pianti coul barely overcome our midfielders, and as soon as our midfielders recovered the ball they were creating amazing passes for our strikers. It was clear that we wanted to score asap.² Campo di Pianti started complaining as soon as the match started. Each time the referee was whistling Campo di Pianti were yelling and complaining to the referee, sometimes without even checking whether the decision was on their side or not. Albert got a ball on the edge of the box and was really close to shoot. But it was just a matter of time the first goal was in the air, and so it arrived: brilliant assist from the midfielders to Treno Metin who dribbled a defender and the goalkeeper at the same time and scored without mercy. Campo di Pianti 0 - IUE Calcio 1. (it was something like this <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqP5kdaNk6U>)

Our players were great: on the sides Frank reminded the best days of Cafù, Jonas was Rise's brother. The defense was compact, with Ludvig, Jan and

¹I personally recall that day since I had to play my first match, but due to their complaints which caused the two red cards, it was not possible.

²It was so clear that a player from Campo di Pianti thought that Albert was a striker. He told his own coach: "Mister ma il loro numero 9 è una seconda mezzapunta!"

Patrick denying any type of occasion to Campo di Pianti. In the midfield: Gazza fought and won every single ball that went around him. Gabo and Albert were superb running and dribbling always the first man on every ball they touched. Leo and Metin were ready to take advantage of any ball coming to their area. It happened again, Metin got a great ball and used his sprint to go beyond Campo di Pianti's defenders and...ops!...we scored again. 0-2

At this point of the game, Campo di Pianti were unified in their complaints. They were crying every second.³ We had some other occasions to score during the first half but we could not take advantage of them. They also had an occasion but Jan cleared the ball as fast as he could

In the second half, our team went to the pitch with the exactly same spirit. Campo di Pianti tried to get the game as nervous as they could: complaints and insults run all over the pitch. And in a lucky chance they managed to score.⁴ 1-2. In the Curva, on the pitch and in the bench we started fearing that a draw could have come. But our guys were as strong as possible. The referee did not dare to whistle two penalties on Metin. Il Treno during this half was constantly man marked. Fede changed an exhausted Frank who gave everything on the pitch. Then it was the turn of Luis and Il Lore that entered for Albert and Leo. Our substitutes gave energy and freshness to our actions. Now we were running more and attacking. However, we were just one goal above. Gabo built an amazing occasion when he sprinted on the right side and shooted a bomb that hit the post. In this moment seemed that all the circumstances were against us, we easily had 5-6 chances so far and scored two goals. Whereas Campo di Pianti had two lucky chances and scored one of them.

Alberto sent me in for Metin. My tasks were clear, using Alberto's words: bother the midfielders of the other team as much as I could and attack if we had any chance. But it was Footballnarök day: Il Lore got a great ball on the right side a defender was following him. Another one was following me, I was running using all my *dinamismo*.⁵ Il Lore run inside the box, pretended to shoot with his right foot but instead dribbled the defender and then suddenly shot with his left foot. The ball hit the defender, the goally tried to catch it but he could

³Besides crying they were also quite impolite. During the second half their number 5, insulted Fede on the bench for not helping him in taking a ball that went out.

⁴Note that these players could not score us in the home match: when they were playing 11 vs 9 and we had Vasyl as a goalkeeper! Hence, I guess that scoring this goal for them was a big thing. As a matter of fact we only got 24 goals this year, we are in the top three defenses of the championship.

⁵Cit. needed. Diego Garzia's copyright.

Figure 1: The magic shoes with the magic shoelaces



not. So something totally irrelevant happened, I scored.⁶ Campo di Pianti - IUE Calcio 1-3. At the end of the match free paper tissues were provided for all Campo di Pianti's players.

We started this match report with some quotations, they are all true but one. I do not know if the end of football is close, what I can say is that Jan Giovanni Karremans was right: "...and then we all became indissolubly One thing".

Forza IUE!

⁶As I promised to Alberto during aperitivo at Finnengan's. This sentence is for Gazza, who suggested me to write it in the match report.