

Day 3

The players and staff met in the hotel dining area at 9 am for what seems to be the customary breads, sweet breads, cornflakes, and yogurt breakfast. Everyone seemed to be upbeat and excited to start the day. After breakfast, the players took a jog and stretch around the local neighborhood. It was the first day for us here during normal working business hours, so it was the first real experience of the Buenos Aires in full swing. After the run, the players were broken into groups for a film session with the coaching staff. Head Coach Josh Kalkstein decided to break up the players into three groups: Goalkeepers/Backs/Defensive Midfielders, the Defensive Midfielders/Attacking Mids, and the Attacking Mids/Forwards/Wingers. Each group was shown video breakdown of the previous matches this particular group played at Disney in Orlando, FL during the Christmas break.

After video, it was lunch and then down time in order to prepare for the match today. During the break, the Buenos Aires sky opened and down came the rain. The rain was a welcome change from the heat, although, there was a change of venue. Instead of playing at the Argentinos Juniors facility, we played our game at a private athletic club in the region of BA called Palermo. The club housed multiple indoor and outdoor futsal courts, weight room, indoor pool, and of course a full size Sports Turf field.

After arriving, we promptly booted up and took the field to challenge Club Ateneo. Our opponents proved to be a very tough team. They were well organized and technical on the ball. Despite going down at half by a goal, Region IV scored in the second half eventually tying the game 1-1.

The first half opened up with fairly quickly. Ateneo put Region IV under pressure early. Region IV was dealing with the surface (albeit very nice, but firm and fast) and trying to cope with a different style of opponent. Overall, the first half could be characterized as physical as there were a number of fouls called on both teams. In the 18th minute after a Region IV foul, Ateneo scored from a restart. The foul occurred just outside the box, with the Ateneo player shooting directly on frame. It was initially saved by Goalkeeper Dillon Snyder but the rebound was calmly put away by an Ateneo player.

After some adjustments at halftime, Region IV settled into the game. In the 48th minute, Neil Ignacio scored a great goal to even the score at 1-1. The goal came after Juan "Crabby" Gutierrez beat two defenders at the top of the box and unleashed on effort on frame. The Ateneo goalkeeper made a great save but left the ball for Corey Christ to pick up the rebound and play a ball back across the goal to Ignacio who scored after making a great run into the box. For the remainder of the half, Region IV built some momentum and had some changes, but it wasn't to be as Region IV tied Club Ateneo 1-1.

After game, we immediately went to Hotel Embajador where we were served chicken cordon bleu with and potatoes. Everyone seemed pleased with the game, the food, as well as the company. The players retired to their room's content with the days activity, but exhausted from the game. Overall, it was a good day, as we finally got to do what we came here to do- Play soccer!

Lineup for the game as follows: Dillon Snyder, Nico Johnson (Neil Ignacio), Edgar Rodriguez (Ryan Felix), Jacob Valadez, Andrew Trejo, Jacob Beerman (Jordan Gibbs), Juan Gutierrez, Juan Mendoza, Jacob Martinez, Tanner Williams (Corey Christ), Aaron Goo.

