

## THE GAME: ATLÉTICO BALEARES 0-1 CASTELLÓN

### FIRST HALF

In what was a must win game to end their winless streak, Castellón were the better side in the first period, effectively putting Baleares under pressure and not allowing them out of their half in the opening minutes. The first chance fell to Raul Sánchez, who cut inside and fired off a low drive which was well saved by the keeper. The next one came for Manu Sánchez at the back post, after a well placed, high cross by De Miguel, but the wing-back's header was parried away by Vilá in the Baleares goal. The home side responded with a good attempt by Edu Campabadal at the far post and 15 minutes later a shot from the edge of the box after the albinegros' clearance fell to Rochina, but it was well blocked by Iago Indias close to the goal line. Baleares ended the half better than they started it, slowly growing into the game.

### SECOND HALF

The visitors found the breakthrough only 10 minutes into the second 45. Centre-back Iago Indias produced a marvelous piece of individual play, picking the ball up in midfield, beating two defenders and squaring it to De Miguel, whose control on the edge of the box was inadvertently helped into the path of the onrushing Villahermosa by the Baleares defenders. The midfielder found himself with plenty of time to place a nice finish past the keeper and give Castellón a deserved lead. The complexion of the match started to change after the goal, with Atletico coming forward in search of the equaliser, and the albinegros getting chances in transition. Calavera saw his volley go narrowly past the post with 20 minutes remaining, as the counterattacks intensified. Baleares had their best chance eight minutes from time, when Rodriguez's volley at the back post was fantastically saved by Crettaz. Nuha managed to put the rebound in the net, but the offside flag quickly went up to kill any balearic hopes. The home side threw everyone forward in extra time, including the keeper, but Castellón couldn't add another on the break to round off the win.

### LINEUPS

Atl. Baleares: R. Vilá, Edu C., D. Navarro (Nana 83), Ofoli, J. Jaume (González 65), Ferroni, Azeez (Pastrana 83), T. Ramón, Rochina, Rodriguez, Shashoua (Nuha M. 71)  
 CD Castellón: Crettaz, I.Indias, Alberto, Jozhua, Calavera, M. Sánchez (Douglas 58), J. Gracia (Salva Ruiz 77), Villahermosa (Lottin 90), R. Sanchez (Iosifov 58), Medunjanin (Miñana 90), De Miguel  
 Goals: Villahermosa 55  
 Referee: Morales Moreno

### DICK'S THOUGHTS

"We controlled the first half, the second half we came out good, then we had some difficulties with their balls to the left and right, In transition we could have scored four goals, we were sloppy, we needed to do that better."  
 "Everybody is playing for something, we're playing to win the league, they're playing to avoid relegation. I want to praise our supporters again today. It's unbelievable."

## THE NEWS

### Castellón complete Lottin signing

With a couple of squad places still left open post-January, Castellón made the move to bring in Albert Lottin, a 22-year-old French midfielder formerly of Bordeaux and Utrecht. A free agent since leaving Greek second division club Panachaiki earlier this season, he brings support in an area where Castellón have had some injury issues this campaign, as a more physical presence who can help out on both sides of the ball. He made his debut against Atlético Baleares, and has signed until the end of the season.

### Robin Taylor leaves club

After the club announced the departure of Dave Reddin at the end of the January, the exit of the club's "CEO" Robin Taylor was also confirmed this week. The pair, along with financial expert Richard Bentley, formed the trifecta that made up Pitch32, the company that aided Voulgaris in the acquisition and running of the club. While Reddin was responsible for setting up the structure on the sporting side, Taylor was responsible for the commercial area, sponsorships and day-to-day operations. A brief statement by Voulgaris thanked Taylor for his hard work, stating the decision was mutual, both agreeing it best for both parties. The club have begun the process of hiring a "sporting coordinator", presumably a similar role to the one Reddin held before he left.

### UD Ibiza drop points again

Castellón's main title rival Ibiza dropped points once again this weekend to allow Castellón to reopen the two point gap the albinegros previously held. Playing at home against Mérida, who Castellón lost to last week, the celestes failed to score and were held to a goalless draw, missing a number of chances to take the lead. Unai Medina had their best chance of the game in extra time, but his effort hit the bar and left the home fans disappointed. Things will not get any easier next week, as Ibiza travel to third placed Málaga for a crucial top-of-the-table clash which the albinegros will be watching extremely closely.

## THE STATS

2

Castellón's lead over Ibiza after the latter failed to beat Mérida at home.

360

The number of minutes Jesús de Miguel has gone without scoring, his longest goalless run this season (by one minute).

5

The number of minutes Sergi Miñana played in his Castellón debut, after being a key player in the B team throughout the season.

## THE PHOTO



Photo from: CD Castellon