

Vitolo and Morata relaunch Atlético

The Canarian winger, the thrust from Herrera, and the goal scorer from Madrid's instinct lead the Atlético's comeback against Espanyol.

On the back of the conditions and the passes of Vitolo, from the leadership of Herrera and Morata's lucky streak, Atlético prevailed over Espanyol in the second half of the game where the battle and the frenzy demanded by the coach was finally set. The reaction of Simeone's players after the first half turned around to show a lack of continuity in the game. It almost reached halftime when a goal by Correa was validated by the video assistant referee (VAR). Just when everything was at the point of caving in, Atlético let loose and held back Espanyol until they were knocked down.

Atlético, not being finely tuned, certified the change in the lineup, given by Simeone, that operated in all lines. On the defense, Lodi was sent to the bench because of his vulnerability in the last few games. His position was given to Saúl, who has already become the standard for what his coach has been searching. Their change of positions was directly proportionate to the lack of precision on the team. The new change to the center of the field was Herrera from Mexico. He was recruited to alleviate the lack of leadership that Simeone had detected. The flag of that revolution was the replacement of Diego Costa and the addition of the newest player Vitolo, as guard for Morata. It was the Canarian winger that lead the attempt to change the weakness and lack of formation on the field for Atlético. He had to understand that there was an area of danger behind Naldo and that's where he positioned himself on two occasions to win the bottom line within the area.

A through ball from Vitolo after a steel from Herrera, set Morata facing Diego Lopez. The forward chose a little chip before trusting in his strength to surpass the Espanyol's goal while running. The mistake weighed on Atlético as if it had been a goal against them. The local cheering outburst faded. Suddenly, fearful of the mistake and without a pulse, the rough team appeared with the ball, without conviction

they put pressure on the 3 midfielders from Espanyol to take out the ball. Espanyol spread out, to the critic of Marc Roca, and brought the game to a slow pace that baffled Simeone's soccer players. It started a series of losing the ball, bad passes, and worse clearances that unleashed the murmuring in the stands. The paleness and dullness of the attack reflected in various plays in which stuck Diego facing the area without knowing where to look for a gap. Stuck with the ball, Victor Sanchez took advantage of a reckless pass from Thomas to Koke by swiping the ball from the captain and connecting with Darder, then executed it to Oblak with a shot adjusted to midgoal. Stranded in these harmless attacks with halftime approaching, Vitolo came up with a pass over the defense that Morata, tilted, chipped delicately over the head of Diego Lopez. The ball appeared to enter, but Correa took over by hammering it with his head in front of the midfielders who were two feet taller than himself. The assistant denied the goal, but the VAR validated it, reigniting a team that was on its way to a grieving locker room.

The spark from Correa's goal stuck around at the beginning of the second half. Then you saw that electrifying team willing to transform every recovery into an offensive frenzy. Morata and Correa informed the VAR before they reviewed a possible penalty to (on) Felipe. The delay in the final decision from Gil Manzano did not short circuit the high energy that Atlético was transmitting. Once again lead by Vitolo and Herrera as soccer players who best applied the vertical attack that their coach expected. A steal by the Mexican and another telescopic pass from the Canarian to the space won by Morata to Bernardo and the race unlocked a right jab that struck David Lopez by his post. This represents the sixth consecutive goal from the Spanish international that had surpassed an unaware Diego Costa by leaps and bounds. In the excitement, Herrera hooked up a trick play with Trippier but he overkicked his shot. Correa had the third but got flustered. Without ending the game with goals, Simeone began to finish it with the wheel of change. He withdrew Vitolo who attended to the recognition of the fans as if it were a bullfighter's walk. He left the field on the opposite side of the bench and while on his way to the booth, the stands sent a message to his coach by chanting his name. The lack of forcefulness could cause an

upset to Atlético in the final stretch. Gil Manzano overturned a goal by David Lopez after a questionable offense on Koke, after that the midfielder from Espanyol connected a clean head shot. With fear in the crowd, Simeone replaced Morata and Correa with Costa and Llorente. It was the Spanish Brazilian who after another steal by Herrera ran a pass that Koke had not practiced with so much precision in a long time. The wide-open center, Costa, let Herrera pass and Koke himself crushed it, put an end to the anguish of a team that needed the victory to calm the internal volcano that could have erupted from having stumbled.