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1. Angel goal lifts Red Bulls

By: Stefan Bondy

Herald News

June 6, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD – Don't forget about the other striker.

On the same evening Jozy Altidore discussed his intention to leave the Red Bulls, Juan Pablo Angel made a statement with a goal in the 75th minute of a 1-0 victory Thursday over Chivas USA.

The 33-year-old Colombian forward, a league MVP candidate last year who has struggled with injuries this season, knocked a header under the Brad Guzan, capitalizing on a perfect cross by midfielder Dane Richards.

It snapped the Red Bulls' two-game losing streak and woke up a stagnant offense, giving the team a much-needed boost as it prepares for the remainder of the season without Altidore. The Red Bulls (4-3-3) are still in fifth place in the Eastern Conference, two points behind Toronto FC.

"(Angel's) a top professional," coach Juan Carlos Osorio said. "He's probably not having the best time compared to last season but he is very committed to the club.

"He got his chance and put it away, which is the sign of a good striker."

Altidore, who will transfer to Villarreal for a reported \$10 million, didn't play because of an ankle injury. His absence was glaring for most of the match and, until Angel's header, another reason to denounce a depleted side with just 10 goals in the first nine games.

The Red Bulls didn't have a shot on goal until the 64th minute, when Danleigh Borman took a chance from 25 yards that bounced harmlessly into the goalie's hands.

But Angel showed he's still a one-man threat, even if the envisioned 1-2 punch with Altidore will never be realized.

He scored his second goal of the year, both game-winners, giving the 9,521 in attendance something to cheer about after 74 minutes devoid of drama and offense. The teams combined for just seven shots on goal and Red Bulls goalie Jon Conway earned his third shutout with four saves.

The first half was especially uneventful with just two shots on goal, neither particularly threatening.

Osorio credited the defense, which looked horrible two weeks ago in a 5-1 loss to Chicago, but shut down a Chivas USA team that was averaging two goals in its previous three games.

"We limited a good team to only a few chances so I have to be pleased," Osorio said.

But a 0-0 draw wouldn't have done much to restore confidence in a struggling team, not with Altidore gone and his potential replacements combining for zero goals this season.

Angel saved himself and the Red Bulls from the questions, the doubts that would be raised had they gone scoreless again. Angel was the key to last year's playoff run, scoring 19 goals in his inaugural MLS campaign, and will have to do it again as the main target.

2. Altidore eager for next step

By: Stefan Bondy

Herald News

June 6, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD – Jozy Altidore wore his sleek black suit and flashed his \$10 million smile. Jeff Agoos sat by his side, the man now responsible for replacing the team's leading scorer, and spoke in cheerful tones.

Thursday's press conference felt more like a celebration than a departure, perhaps because everybody involved knew this was coming. Altidore officially announced his intention to transfer to Villarreal, a top team in Spain's La Liga, bidding farewell to a two-year career with the Red Bulls.

His transfer fee is roughly \$10 million, according to a league source, more than double the amount that an American player has ever commanded. The transfer is still pending a physical and agreements on minor details.

"I decided going into this year that it would be one of my goals (to go overseas), if I could," Altidore said. "It's always a goal to try to find a new challenge."

The 18-year-old striker will have plenty of challenges ahead – a giant upgrade in competition, the immediate possibility of being loaned out to another club and potential opportunities to play in the Olympics and World Cup.

But he has likely played his last game with RBNY, sitting out Thursday's 1-0 win with an ankle sprain. Although Altidore had no timetable on his departure, he spoke of the Red Bulls in past tense.

"Each game, whether there were 4,000 people or 66,000 people, were all special to me," he said.

Altidore understood he wouldn't stay through his contract that expires in 2011. As interest grew from Europe last winter, Altidore said he played this season wondering whether each game was "another audition." The MLS turned down an \$8 million transfer offer from English club Reading in January, around the same time of Villarreal's first inquiry.

"It's a huge relief," he said. "The pressure factor is gone, and now I can just play without the worry."

"A lot of young players go through it, and when it's finally done, you can see the difference in their play."

Agoos, the Red Bulls sporting director, is left to pick up the pieces of a franchise in a tailspin with a 1-2-1 record in its past four games. Offense is an issue (a conference-low 10 goals before Thursday) and Altidore (three goals) was the lone bright spot as Juan Pablo Angel has been limited by a nagging back injury.

Agoos said they wanted to hold onto to one of the team's marketable stars, but multiple factors led to "the difficult decision." The Red Bulls get two-thirds of the transfer fee, \$500,000 of which they can use to sign another player.

There are targeted replacements, Agoos said, but it isn't the priority for a roster with so many glaring holes.

"I don't think you can immediately replace somebody like Jozy," Agoos said. "We've had other positions we're trying to strengthen, and we'll use those resources for those positions."

3. Altidore sees reign in Spain

By: Brian Lewis

New York Post

June 6, 2008

Coming off back-to-back defeats, and losing captain Claudio Reyna to a hamstring injury and teenaged star Jozy Altidore to a transfer, the slumping Red Bulls needed a win in the worst way. And the shorthanded, half-gutted team pulled one out, a must-have 1-0 victory against red-hot Chivas USA.

"(It was) huge," said coach Juan Carlos Osorio. "As I told the guys, as frustrated as we were, this is professional soccer and this is professional sports. You have to grind out the results, and we did."

Just hours after Altidore held a press conference over his \$10 million dream transfer, his mentor gave a last lesson in true professionalism. He went the whole way despite coming in with a back

injury, and headed home Dane Richards' 75th-minute cross before limping through the final moments.

"He's a top professional. He's probably not having the best time compared to last season, but he's very committed to this club," Osorio said of Angel, who's been playing through pain for weeks. "He got his chance and he put it away, which is a sign of a very good striker."

The Red Bulls (4-3-3, 15 points) were solid defensively in a 4-2-3-1, but created very little offense with Angel stranded alone up top and Mike Magee and Dave van den Bergh (back from his son's birth) in central midfield. They pulled Magee for striker John Wolyniec and a 4-4-2 - and it worked.

Angel - who has a back injury that sends shooting pain through his hamstring - got open on a delayed run in the box, and nodded home a cross from Richards. It was just his second goal after tallying 19 times last year.

"I was very sore in my back and in my hamstring as the game went on and 10 minutes before the end of the game, I went to trap the ball and felt it go very tight. I don't think I pulled it but it's very (tight). I hope it's nothing serious but I'm not really happy with how things are going this year," said Angel, who took some solace in the scrappy win.

"I think it was one of those games where we have to scrap. We came after the back of two losses and it wasn't an easy game for us; there was a lot of pressure with some important players missing. It was a full credit to the team; we kept it together and kept a clean sheet, which we haven't done in a couple of games."

There is even more pressure on Angel - and to an extent Richards - with leading scorer Altidore leaving. Richards is rounding into form after a preseason knee ligament injury, and showed it in the second half.

"I have to be honest, I just told him to go out there and express himself and play without any restrictions" Osorio said. "I think he found the game himself, which is what we said at halftime, find the game yourself."

Richards held possession better and started dominating left fullback Francisco Mendoza until sprained his left ankle late in the game.

"I know Mendoza. He's an attacking player like me; there's no way he can defend," Richards said. "Each time I get the ball, I just keep going at him: Sometimes I don't beat him, sometimes I do, but my motive is to beat him every time so I just keep going at him all night."

"Juan is hurt, so most of the time he's going to delay his run. I just tried to pick him out and he did well to finish it."

4. Red Bulls lose Altidore to Villarreal

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post
June 6, 2008

The most promising soccer player in America is headed to Europe, with MLS and Villarreal agreeing to a U.S.-record transfer fee for Jozy Altidore. And while it's a dream move for him, it sounds like a nightmare for coach Juan Carlos Osorio, who wasn't told about it until Wednesday afternoon.

"It's always a goal to try and find a new challenge," said Altidore, from Livingston, NJ. "I didn't decide that I was definitely going to leave and go to Europe, but it's always on your mind. I just wanted to be healthy and have a good year like every other year. Fortunately for me, this opportunity came up.

"Villarreal approached me in January. The interest grew and fortunately it was at a time I was playing my best soccer and something materialized from there. I'm very happy," said Altidore. "I chose (la Liga) because it's a very good league. I like the way they play the game, the way they play soccer."

It's unclear if this will affect the 18-year-old's chances of playing in the Beijing Olympics in August, with la Liga starting at the end of the summer.

What's certain is he's going to a team that reached the 2006 Champions League semis and finished second in la Liga. He could compete for playing time with Clifton (NJ) native Giuseppe Rossi, who had 11 goals this year; but it's more likely that he'll get loaned to Recreativo Huelva.

"That's something that a lot of clubs do when you go to a new league," Altidore said. "It's not easy to adjust, especially for me: I'd see a little bit of a faster-paced game. It's a bit different over there. That wouldn't be a bad idea. They're second in la Liga, so it'd be tough for me to get in there right away and contribute the way I want to."

"I just wanted to go somewhere I'd be challenged every day."

The transfer fee was \$8 million with clauses that could make it \$10 million, breaking Clint Dempsey's MLS record of \$4 million and Red Bull captain Claudio Reyna's U.S. mark of \$5.7 million. There's a sell-on clause that could net MLS even more; but what do the Red Bulls get for having their most valuable player sold out from under them?

"It's a dream for any player to play in Europe. For us, there's nothing you can say. I was notified (Wednesday) they came to terms and that's the end of it," said Osorio. "I was notified late afternoon at 4 o'clock...I just thought there were a lot of speculations...but I didn't know."

The Red Bulls get 2/3 of the fee, but can only use \$500,000 on salary allocations. MLS holds the rest for the club to use on "soccer activities." But if they open a Designated Player spot next season - say not re-signing off-injured Claudio Reyna - they can use the rest to pay the new star.

At the moment, Osorio insists the priorities for the summer transfer window haven't changed. He wants three players; a central defender, central midfielder and left-winger, with the club close to signing Venezuelan Jorge Rojas to fill that last spot.

"If this goes through we'll have a chance to strengthen the team in other areas and hopefully we manage to do that," said Osorio, who is going on a scouting trip this weekend and dispatching a Red Bull employee to watch Rojas play vs. Brazil Friday in Foxboro (on FSC).

"I'm going away (Friday) and hopefully we'll get the chance to see a lot of players. If the right deal comes up for a striker than we'll do it, but the priorities are still the same; a central defender - left footed - hopefully we'll get done with the left sided midfielder, and a playmaker. We need to improve the quality and hold the ball."

5. Jozy Altidore cozy with Spanish club Villarreal with \$10M fee

By: Michael Lewis

New York Daily News

June 6, 2008

For Jozy Altidore, the decision to leave the Red Bulls for Europe was an easy one. The 18-year-old forward wanted to develop as a player and be challenged.

Of course, the fact that his transfer to Spanish club Villarreal set an American record at \$10 million, and the subsequent big payday for himself certainly didn't hurt. But Altidore said the competitive aspect was the lure.

"I've said I wanted to get as good as I can because I wanted to compete for a roster spot," Altidore said about the U.S. 2010 World Cup team. "I want to be in a place to be challenged on a daily basis."

In La Liga, he will be.

"I chose to be there because it is a very good league," Altidore said before the Bulls' 1-0 win over Chivas USA Thursday night. "I think it is the second only to the (English) Premier League. ...I like the way they play the game there. I think it would be a good place for me to further develop my game."

Altidore sat out last night's game with a bruised left ankle, but the Bulls prevailed on Juan Pablo Angel's 75th-minute goal, his second of the season.

Altidore, who sat in a suite, said he doesn't know how long he will continue with the Bulls. He still has to work out a contract with Villarreal and take a physical.

"Everything is a little bit crazy," he said.

Altidore said making his decision was "a lot of relief. The pressure factor is gone. Now I can play without the worry that this is another audition."

Altidore said his parents, with whom he is close, played "a huge role" in his decision. He speaks to them three or four times a day and sometimes via conference call.

"People were always advising me, whether it was Claudio (Reyna), Juan Pablo or higher parties," he said. "We all figured out that this would be the best place for my game to develop more."

6. Player ratings: Red Bulls vs. Chivas USA

By: Jack Bell

New York Times Blog

June 6, 2008

The Red Bulls (4-3-3, 15 points) started the season losing only one of their first seven games, and they allowed just six goals over that period. Heading into the match Thursday night against visiting Chivas USA (4-5-2, 14 points), the Red Bulls had lost two straight games, allowing six goals in the process. Chivas was trying to extend its unbeaten streak to four games, but failed. Red Bulls won 1-0.

The Red Bulls were badly short-handed ... Jozy Altidore has most likely played his last game in M.L.S. after the announcement of his pending transfer to Villarreal of Spain. Juan Pablo Ángel continues to be beset by problems in his lower back that have spilled down his leg. Likewise, the oft-injured Claudio Reyna is, well, injured with a herniated disk and missed his fourth straight game. The rookie midfielder Luke Sassano had an injured left toe.

Another home game, another lone striker for the Red Bulls.

Finally, Giants Stadium is hosting a game between the United States and Argentina on Sunday, a match that will not be played on the usual artificial turf. But the Red Bulls did not get the benefit of playing on the real thing because the sod will not be plunked down until Friday and will have barely three days to settle for the international friendly.

Final Score: Red Bulls 1, Chivas USA 0

The Ratings (on a scale of 1, diabolical; to 10, world class):

Red Bulls

Goalkeeper

Jon Conway

Excellent kick save, and a beauty, on Sacha Kljestan as time ran out in the first half. Covered a shot by Atiba Harris in the last 10 minutes and did not cough up a rebound. Grade: 7

Defenders

Kevin Goldthwaite

Again solid in the back; nothing spectacular, which is fine. Grade: 5

Jeff Parke

Put a long, dangerous ball across the face of the goal to Kevin Goldthwaite. Mental giveaway — not going for a loose ball — led to an open shot for Ante Razov of Chivas USA. Stuck like glue to Razov as he tried to steer a late cross past Conway. Grade: 6

Andrew Boyens

Missed badly on a header in the middle of the field that nearly led to a break for Razov. Grade: 5

Chris Leitch

Had to deal with the reality TV star Jorge Flores, who has been quite hot of late. Second straight start in place of Hunter Freeman. Grade: 5

Carlos Mendes

Injury-time defensive replacement for Dane Richards. Grade: Incomplete

Midfielders

Mike Magee

A very talented player who simply needs to be doing more on the field, take more chances, take more shots when they are there. Left in the 65th minute, replaced by John Wolyniec. Never really got into the game. Grade: 4

Dane Richards

Early crossing ball flew way past the goal; what else is new? In the 21st minute, walked around Francisco Mendoza for right-footed diagonal shot just wide of near post. Tracked back nicely to break up a dangerous pass by Francisco Mendoza. ... And when Richards finally does hit a useful cross, Ángel flashes into the area and scores on a header from the penalty spot. Left late with an injury, replaced by Mendes. Grade: 7

Dave van den Bergh

Back in the starting lineup after missing two games, one on a suspension and one to be with his wife while she gave birth to the couple's second son. Returned to the middle of the midfield, where the team can take better advantage of his vision and passing ability. Grade: 5

Danleigh Borman

Nice long crossing ball that found Richards on the right side. Shows some nice first touches. Shooting from distance on goal, trying to make something happen. Left the match in the 77th minute, replaced by Sassano. Grade: 5

Seth Stampler

Has evolved into the team's hard man in the midfield. Solid game. Grade: 5

Luke Sassano

Replaced Borman in the 77th minute. Grade: Incomplete

Forwards

Juan Pablo Ángel

Wore the captain's armband in the absence of Reyna. Faces some barren time up front if the midfield, which was composed of five players against Chivas USA, continues to be incapable of getting him the ball. Perhaps realizing he is all alone, Ángel seems to be trying too much on his own. Powerful header from a Richards cross ended a long drought without a goal, only his second of the season after scoring 19 last year. Played like a warrior. Grade: 8

John Wolyniec

Replaced Magee in the 65th minute as Red Bulls Coach Juan Carlos Osorio tried to jump-start a moribund offense. First opportunity goes wide to the near post. Grade: Incomplete

Coach

Juan Carlos Osorio

Another game, another starting lineup at home with a lone striker up front. The continued absence of Reyna and the return of van den Bergh enabled Osorio to use him in the middle of the field, for starters. Brought Sassano for final 15 minutes to beef up the defense a bit. Overcame a hot team and snapped a streak of subpar results. Grade: 6

Substitutes/Did Not Play

Zach Thornton (GK), Hunter Freeman, Sinisa Ubiparipovic, Kevin Mesa.

7. Red Bulls win on goal by Angel

New York Times/Associated Press

June 6, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Juan Pablo Ángel scored on a header in the 75th minute and the Red Bulls snapped a two-game losing streak with a 1-0 victory over Chivas USA on Thursday night.

Dane Richards set up Ángel's second goal of the season with a cross from the right edge of the penalty area that left Chivas goalkeeper Brad Guzan defenseless.

The game was played a day after Major League Soccer announced it had reached a tentative agreement to transfer the teenager Jozy Altidore from the Red Bulls to Villarreal of the Spanish League for a \$10 million fee.

Altidore, who must pass a physical before the deal is completed, did not suit up for the game because of an ankle injury.

8. Angel's tally helps Red Bulls edge Chivas

ESPN Soccernet

June 5, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey – New York Red Bulls sporting director Jeff Agoos does not think the team can immediately replace a player like the soon-departing Jozy Altidore. But Juan Pablo Angel did his part for the time being.

Fighting soreness in his back and hamstring, Angel headed home a ball from Dane Richards in the 75th minute to lift the Red Bulls past Chivas USA, 1-0, on Thursday night.

"He is a top professional," New York head coach Juan Carlos Osorio said of Angel. "He hasn't been having the best time this season compared to last year, but he is very committed to the club."

In putting an end to Chivas' three-match winning streak, the Red Bulls triumphed for the first time since their 2-1 victory at Los Angeles on May 10, which also came by virtue of a game-winner from Angel.

"It was one of those games where we had to scrap for goals," Angel said. "Important players and names were missing, but we kept it together for a great win."

New York was without the services of its leading scorer, Altidore (left ankle), and captain Claudio Reyna (right hamstring). Angel, who just returned after missing the team's prior two contests, hopes he won't be rejoining that list.

"I was feeling sore in my back and hamstring before the game and it got worse after the goal," Angel said. "I don't think I pulled anything; I'm just sore right now."

An ailing Angel is an especially welcomed sight for Osorio, who lost Altidore to Spain's La Liga. The explosive 18-year-old striker held a pregame news conference to discuss his imminent transfer to Villarreal.

"For us there is nothing I can say," said Osorio. "I was notified by the MLS that they agreed on a transfer fee and there is little we can do now except concentrate on what's best for our club moving forward."

Altidore, who must now agree to personal terms with the club and pass a physical, was eligible to play Thursday.

Although Angel provided the heroics, it was defender Jeff Parke and New York's back line that frustrated one of the league's top scoring teams. Chivas experienced difficulty in penetrating the Red Bulls' defense, and when it did, veteran goalkeeper Jon Conway was there to smother every shot - including a left-footer from 15 yards out by Atiba Harris in the 82nd minute.

"We had six, seven great chances in the second half that we didn't connect on," Chivas head coach Preki Radosavljevic said. "The final pass wasn't good enough or the shot went straight to the goalkeeper. We didn't manage to break them down."

9. Angel's tally helps Red Bulls edge Chivas

By: Michael Lewis

Big Apple Soccer

June 5, 2008

East Rutherford, N.J. - It's gotten to the point where Juan Pablo Angel can't even celebrate his goals properly these days.

After he headed home the game-winning goal in the Red Bulls' 1-0 victory over Chivas USA Thursday night, Angel was about to jump, then hesitated, remembering he could do even more damage to his injury.

"Normally I try to jump with my left leg and that's the one that's hurt right now," he said.

As it turned out, he re-aggravated his lower back injury with about 10 minutes remaining in the match, an ailment that has been bothering and painning him for most of this MLS season.

"I was very sore in my back and in my hamstring as the game went on," he said. "I went to trap the ball down and I felt it go very tight. I don't think I pulled it but it's very short right now. I hope it's nothing serious. But I'm not really happy with how things are going this year."

Who can blame Angel?

After scoring a club-record 19 goals this season, the Colombian forward has found the net but twice this season. Blame it on hamstring injury that turned into the lower back ailment. Angel has played in pain this season.

The key word is played, where other players would have decided to wait until the pain abated.

Asked how important the goal was for himself, Angel replied, "I need to be pain free. First of all. my problem is not about confidence. It's about getting rid of this needles and pain. I have to play at my full strength. I will look more sharper than I was today."

Perhaps no one has appreciated Angel's willingness to play more than coach Juan Carlos Osorio.

"He's a top professional," he said. "He's probably not having the best time compared to last season, but he is very committed to this club. He got his chance and he put it away, which is a sign of a very good striker."

Angel's goal and Red Bulls win averted what could have gone down as a rather lackluster scoreless tie before a crowd of 9,521 at Giants Stadium. The victory also snapped a pair of streaks a two-game losing skid and a three-game winless streak (0-2-1).

"It was one of those games where we have to scrap," he said. "We came back after two of the losses and it wasn't an easy game for us. There was a lot of pressure with some important players missing."

Watching the game from stadium suites were the American soccer's first \$10 million man – forward Jozy Altidore (bruised left ankle), the team's leading goal-scorer (three) and captain and midfielder Claudio Reyna (right hamstring strain).

The win was important for a number of reason, including the fact that the Red Bulls will play five of their next six matches on the road.

They visit D.C. United June 14 and then the New England Revolution June 18 before returning home to host FC Dallas June 21. Then the Red Bulls play at Chivas USA June 28, the Colorado Rapids July 4 and Kansas City Wizards July 10.

Osorio said the win was "huge. As I told the guys as frustrated as we were, this is professional soccer and this is professional sports. You have to grind out the results."

Finally, the Red Bulls broke through in the 75th minute as second-year midfielder Dane Richards' right wing cross found Angel some 11 yards out on the left side of the penalty area. Angel headed the ball on one bounce past goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

"I was in a great position," Angel said. "Dane played a great ball and I managed to put it into the back of the net. That's what it's all about – fight to get those chances and hopefully convert them."

Richards used Angel's injury to his advantage.

"Well, Juan is hurt most of the time," he said. "He is going to delay his run. So I just tried to pick him out and he did well to finish it."

There really wasn't much to boast about in this game – televised on ESPN2 – the chances were few and far between.

Chivas's best chance came in first-half stoppage time as former Seton Hall standout Sacha Kljestan ran in toward the goal before goalkeeper Jon Conway stopped him six yards out. The ball hit Conway in the leg.

Conway said he came out and tried "to make myself big. Obviously he's already through. I just try to throw myself out at the ball and take it as he hits it."

10. Osorio now looking for a striker

By: Dylan Butler
Big Apple Soccer
June 5, 2008

East Rutherford, N.J. – The news of Jozy Altidore's record-setting transfer to Villarreal stunned the Major League Soccer world. That includes Juan Carlos Osorio, who was one of the last to know he'd be losing a valuable striker.

"I was notified on Wednesday late afternoon, at 4 p.m. that the MLS has come to terms with Villarreal," the Red Bulls coach said. "We immediately called up for a meeting and told him he was free to talk to them."

Osorio had originally planned to travel to Gillette Stadium Friday to possibly put the finishing touches on signing Venezuelan international Jorge Rojas, who will take on Brazil in a friendly there.

But that plan was scrapped when he found out he now needs to also shop for a striker. Osorio said a Red Bulls representative will be there, but he's on a scouting trip elsewhere.

"I'm going away tomorrow and I will be open minded...hopefully I will be get the chance to see a lot of players," Osorio said. "If the right deal comes up for a striker, then we'll do it, but the priorities are still the same – a central defender, left footed, hopefully we get done with the left-sided midfielder and the playmaker."

It helps that the Red Bulls will get an allocation worth \$500,000 to go on a shopping spree. Although a striker wasn't on Osorio's lengthy list.

"I don't like to complain. That's reality. If he goes, very good for him," Osorio said of Altidore. "We just go on with our business and we try and improve the team in the areas and positions I have stated in the past. If we come to a good striker that suits not only the budget, but the way we play, then we will look at it."

Altidore still has to come to personal contract terms with Villarreal. And once he does, Juan Pablo Angel is sure Altidore will do well when he gets there.

"He is a very intelligent kid," Angel said. "He has to learn his way there. It's a different environment there, a different culture, a different language. But I think it's going to be a great experience for him. He signed for a few years and I'm sure he's going to have the time to settle, to adjust to the place."

A positive for Altidore, Angel said, is that he won't have to rush to adjust to life in Spain and La Liga.

"One of the good things about it is that he's going to go in the beginning of the season instead of going in the middle of the season," Angel said. "He'll have a chance to have a full pre-season with the team, get to know the players, the environment. Hopefully he'll do well over there."

And then there's learning Spanish.

"He's been practicing," Angel said. "I'm sure he'll learn."

By the sounds of it, Altidore still has a lot to learn.

"No hablar Espanol pero yo entiendo un poco," he said.

11. Chivas again

Big Apple Soccer

June 5, 2008

East Rutherford, N.J. – The Red Bulls just defeated one Chivas team Thursday night.

In less than three weeks, they'll face another.

They will take on Club Deportivo Guadalajara, known as Chivas, in a friendly Wednesday, June 25. The game will be played at the

University of Phoenix Stadium, located in Glendale, Ariz at 11 p.m. ET.

The Chivas teams are sister organizations.

"As a club constantly striving to test ourselves against the world's best competition, we are excited to face Chivas de

Guadalajara as part of their preseason," Red Bulls sporting director Jeff Agoos said in a statement. "Chivas has a storied history of excellence and we are looking forward to providing a strong test for them at the beautiful University of Phoenix Stadium."

It will be Chivas de Guadalajara's second match in the United States in 2008. On Jan. 13, they defeated Colombia's Deportivo

Cali 2-1 at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla. Chivas is also scheduled to play FC Barcelona at Chicago's Soldier Field Aug. 3.

Oh yes, for the record, the Red Bulls defeated Chivas USA at Giants Stadium Thursday, 1-0.

12. Another injury? Richards rolls his left ankle

Big Apple Soccer

June 5, 2008

East Rutherford, N.J. – The injuries just keep piling up for the Red Bulls.

Midfielder Dane Richards rolled his left ankle near the end of the Red Bulls' 1-0 win over Chivas USA Thursday night.

"I tried to cross the ball and when I planted, I just rolled my left ankle real bad," Richards said.

"My knee is fine. It was

just my ankle."

Richards suffered a torn right MCL against the Red Bulls Salzburg reserves in the pre-season.

Red Bulls central defender Jeff Parke also rolled his ankle in the game as he limped off the field after the final whistle.

Because they played on a Thursday, the Red Bulls will get three days off before returning to training Monday, giving Richards and Parke a chance to rest their ankles.

13. Altidore's Red Bulls career is over

By: Ives Galarcep

Soccer by Ives Blog

June 5, 2008

While Jozy Altidore's record-setting transfer to Villarreal won't become official until July 1, his Red Bull career may already be over, and if it isn't, what remains will only consist of a short cameo appearance.

According to multiple sources, Altidore will not start for the Red Bulls tonight against Chivas USA, will not play for the club beyond tonight and may not even be in uniform for tonight's match. The best Red Bulls fans wanting to see Altidore in a Red Bulls uniform one last time can hope for is an appearance as a late-game substitute, which would serve as his final farewell to Red Bulls fans.

Altidore did not train again after picking up an ankle injury on Monday in training, which means he probably wouldn't have started even if his pending multi-million transfer to Villarreal wasn't looming, but sources have told SBI that Red Bulls head coach Juan Carlos Osorio has told his players that Altidore no longer figures into any of the team's future plans.

Altidore is set to join the U.S. national team this weekend for Sunday's friendly against Argentina on Sunday (his status for that match remains unclear), then is expected to take part in the extended national team camp ahead of upcoming World Cup qualifying matches against Barbados on June 15 and 22. After a week off, Altidore will then travel to Spain to make his transfer to Villarreal official on July 1.

14. Angel and Richards give Red Bulls gut-check win

By: Brian Lewis

New York Post Blog

June 6, 2008

Coming off back-to-back defeats, and losing captain Claudio Reyna to a hamstring injury and teenaged star Jozy Altidore to a transfer, the slumping Red Bulls needed a win in the worst way. And the shorthanded, half-gutted team pulled one out, a must-have 1-0 victory against red-hot Chivas USA last night.

"(It was) huge," said coach Juan Carlos Osorio. "As I told the guys, as frustrated as we were, this is professional soccer and this is professional sports. You have to grind out the results, and we did."

Just hours after Altidore held a press conference over his \$10 million dream transfer, his mentor gave a last lesson in true professionalism. He went the whole way despite coming in with a back injury, and headed home Dane Richards' 75th-minute cross before limping through the final moments.

"He's a top professional. He's probably not having the best time compared to last season, but he's very committed to this club," Osorio said of Angel, who's been playing through pain for weeks. "He got his chance and he put it away, which is a sign of a very good striker."

The Red Bulls (4-3-3, 15 points) were solid defensively in a 4-2-3-1, but created very little offense with Angel stranded alone up top and Mike Magee and Dave van den Bergh (back from his son's

birth) in central midfield. They pulled Magee for striker John Wolyniec and a 4-4-2 _ and it worked.

Angel _ who has a back injury that sends shooting pain through his hamstring _ got open on a delayed run in the box, and nodded home a cross from Richards. It was just his second goal after tallying 19 times last year.

"I was very sore in my back and in my hamstring as the game went on and 10 minutes before the end of the game, I went to trap the ball and felt it go very tight. I don't think I pulled it but it's very (tight). I hope it's nothing serious but I'm not really happy with how things are going this year," said Angel, who took some solace in the scrappy win.

"I think it was one of those games where we have to scrap. We came after the back of two losses and it wasn't an easy game for us; there was a lot of pressure with some important players missing. It was a full credit to the team; we kept it together and kept a clean sheet, which we haven't done in a couple of games."

There is even more pressure on Angel _ and to an extent Richards _ with leading scorer Altidore leaving. Richards is rounding into form after a preseason knee ligament injury, and showed it in the second half.

"I have to be honest, I just told him to go out there and express himself and play without any restrictions" Osorio said. "I think he found the game himself, which is what we said at halftime, find the game yourself."

Richards held possession better and started dominating left fullback Francisco Mendoza until sprained his left ankle late in the game.

"I know Mendoza. He's an attacking player like me; there's no way he can defend," Richards said. "Each time I get the ball, I just keep going at him: Sometimes I don't beat him, sometimes I do, but my motive is to beat him every time so I just keep going at him all night.

"Juan is hurt, so most of the time he's going to delay his run. I just tried to pick him out and he did well to finish it."

15. Red Bulls score late to beat Chivas USA

Los Angeles Times/Associated Press

June 6, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – After scoring only his second goal of the season, Juan Pablo Angel thought about celebrating for a brief second.

Bothered all season by a hamstring injury and nerve damage in his back, Angel skipped his usual jump and settled for an arm swing to celebrate the goal in the 75th minute that gave the New York Red Bulls a 1-0 victory over Chivas USA on Thursday night.

Dane Richards, who sprained an ankle late in the game, set up Angel with a cross from the right edge of the box that found the striker alone and left goalkeeper Brad Guzan defenseless. "You lose

a mark for one minute of a game and a guy like Juan Pablo is not going to miss from that close," Guzan said.

Until Angel's goal from 11 yards out, Chivas USA had the best scoring chance. Sacha Kljestan broke in on Jon Conway during the first-half stoppage time, but the Red Bulls goalkeeper made a sliding stop with his leg.

The loss ended a three-game winning streak for Chivas USA, which seemed to have the better of the second-half play until Angel converted.

"They had one play in the second half and that's it," Chivas Coach Preki said.

16. Angel's late strike lifts Red Bulls

Goal.com

June 6, 2008

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – Juan Pablo Angel scored his second goal of the season in the 75th minute to lift the New York Red Bulls to a 1-0 win over Chivas USA at Giants Stadium on Thursday night. The three points were much-needed by the home side, as it snapped a two-game losing streak.

"We managed to come off two tough losses and get back in the swing of things and get a W," said goalkeeper Jon Conway, who made four saves to earn his third clean sheet of the season. "I thought it was a good performance tonight, just a bit ugly at times, but I think last week was ugly as well. We could have easily have gotten a point out of it but this week, we just held on and kept playing well and defending well and got a chance and Juan (Pablo Angel) put it away."

Chivas USA had the better run of possession on the night and appeared to be the side most likely to break the deadlock until Angel snuck into the box unmarked in the 75th minute. Dane Richards, who was dangerous along the right flank throughout the night in his matchup against converted midfielder Panchito Mendoza, hit a precise cross with his right foot that found Angels' head. The former EPL star nodded it past goalkeeper Brad Guzan to his right.

"He's a top professional," said Red Bulls head coach Juan Carlos Osorio. "He's probably not having the best time compared to last season but he is very committed to this club. He got his chance and he put it away, which is a sign of a very good striker."

Chivas USA wasn't able to sneak one past Conway, but nearly did right at the end of the first half when Sacha Kljestan was sent behind the New York defense by a through ball in a tight space in the box played by Jesse Marsch. The U.S. Under-23 international had his effort saved by a sliding Conway, who used his large frame to block his low shot.

"I guess that's the difference maker," said Kljestan, who is staying behind in New Jersey to meet up with the U.S. National Team to take on Argentina on Sunday. "(Goalkeeper Jon Conway) makes a good save. I think he went down early and as I look back, I probably should have tried to chip him over him with a little dink. I told him right after he saved it, 'Hey kid, good save.' I got unlucky. I guess that would have changed the game."

The Red Bulls played without 18-year-old striker Jozy Altidore, who had a left ankle injury. It came one day after he announced his transfer to Villarreal of La Liga. Altidore must agree to personal contract terms and undergo a physical with the Spanish side before the deal is completed.

"I think what it means to him is to take a further step in his career," said Osorio. "It's a dream come true not only for an American player but for any player to go and play in Europe. For us, there's nothing you can really say. I was notified by the MLS that they came to terms with Villarreal and that's the end of it. We just have to concentrate on what's the best for this club."

17. Richards, Angel lead Red Bulls over Chivas

By: Pat Martin
Seattle PI

East Rutherford, NJ (Sports Network) - After a lackluster first half vs. Chivas USA at Giants Stadium on Thursday night, New York coach Juan Carlos Osorio told his team to "express themselves" in the second half and get a little more creative.

Winger Dane Richards took him up on the suggestion, creating numerous chances from the right side with his pace, including setting up the only goal in a 1-0 Red Bulls' victory.

Richards used his speed to create separation after receiving the ball at the top of the Goats' penalty area with 15 minutes to play and crossed to striker Juan Pablo Angel, who headed home from 11 yards out for his second goal of the season.

"I thought we were pretty decent," Chivas coach Preki said. "I thought we had more of the play and more moments going forward. In the second half we made one mistake and that's it. The game at that point ran away from us."

Chivas USA goalkeeper Brad Guzan agreed with his coach's assessment.

"I thought we played all right. We dominated most of the game. You don't judge a winner and loser of a game by keeping the ball and moving the ball and doing things like that. You judge it by scoring goals and at the end of the day we came up a little short," he said.

New York (4-3-2) snapped a two-game losing streak while Chivas USA (4-5-2) had its three-game winning streak snapped.

"You need three points every time," New York goalkeeper Jon Conway said. "Last week [in a 1-0 loss at Houston] I thought we could have gotten out of there with a 0-0 [result], it was one play, one slight mental lapse that causes us to lose.

"This week we came out with the same sort of mentality and played great defensively and we were able to get a W. We bided our time until Juan got a chance and then put it away, so it was good."

The game started with both teams playing very sloppy in the midfield. Consequently there were few chances for either side before the break.

Both teams recorded five shots, but Chivas USA was the only team to get one on goal, two to be exact.

New York did have one chance, however, when Richards collected the ball in the offensive third, deked past defender Francisco Mendoza on right side of box and fired a shot just wide of far post in 21st minute.

Chivas USA's best chance of the half occurred seconds before the whistle when Sacha Kljestan split the defense at the top of the six-yard box, but Conway did well to come off his line to make the save.

"I guess that's the difference maker," Kljestan said of the play. "Conway makes a good save. I think he went down early as I look back, I probably should have tried to chip over him with a little dink. I told him right after he saved it, 'Hey kid, good save.' I got unlucky. I guess it would have changed the game."

Instead the Red Bulls came out with a little more life in the second half, partially caused by a tactical switch by Osorio.

"We tried to start out with three strikers [in the first half]," Osorio said. "One target man and two wide players and with Mike [Magee] as the playmaker. We saw it wasn't going to work so we made an adjustment and went 4-4-2 and added the second striker [John Wolyneic] to partner Juan and we made things easier."

New York didn't get its first shot on goal until the 64th minute when Danleigh Borman fired a long range blast right at Guzan, but about 10 minutes later it was able to get the winning goal.

"It's about speed, it's hard to catch up with me," Richards said. "All I have to do is put it up to Juan Pablo [and it's an] automatic goal."

"I'm pleased with the result," Osorio said. "I think we still need to improve, especially with keeping the ball. In general I think we got what we deserved. We limited a very good team to very few chances, a team that is in form and won its last three games."

18. Mexico's Chivas to play MLS' Red Bulls in Glendale this month

By: Jose E. Garcia
Arizona Republic
June 6, 2008

Mexico's most beloved professional soccer team, Chivas de Guadalajara, will play Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls at 7:30 p.m. June 25 at University of Phoenix Stadium.

The game is the second of three stops that Chivas is making during its 2008 U.S. Tour. Chivas played in Orlando on Jan. 13 and will play in Chicago on Aug. 3.

Chivas recently wrapped up its season in the Clausura Tournament, the first of the two sections of the pro Mexican league. Chivas finished the regular season of the Clausura Tournament in first place with a 9-2-6 record but lost in the first round of the playoffs to Monterrey.

advertisement

Mexican stars Ramon Morales, Alberto Medina, Johnny Magallon and Luis Ernesto Michel play for Chivas, but it's unknown which players will travel to the Valley. The Red Bulls feature Colombian Juan Pablo Angel, but talented young forward Jozy Altidore, who is headed to play for Spanish La Liga runner-up Villarreal CF after MLS and Villarreal recently agreed to a transfer fee, probably won't dress.

Altidore must agree to contract terms and undergo a physical before the deal is completed, according to the Red Bulls' Web site. The Red Bulls are in fifth place in the MLS Eastern standings with a 4-3-3 record.

This will be New York's first trip to the Valley, while Chivas returns for its annual journey to the Valley. The Mexican team played at the University of Phoenix Stadium last year against rival America in front of 40,496 fans.

Tickets for the game go on sale at 9 a.m. Monday. Tickets (\$25, \$35, \$45, \$55) can be purchased through Ticketmaster at 480-784-4444.

19. Red Bulls to play Chivas of Mexico on June 25

Arizona Republic/Associated Press

June 5, 2008

SECAUCUS, N.J. - The New York Red Bulls will play Chivas of Mexico in an exhibition game on June 25 in Glendale, Ariz., the MLS team announced Thursday.

"As a club constantly striving to test ourselves against the world's best competition, we are excited to face Chivas de Guadalajara as part of their preseason," Red Bulls sporting director Jeff Agoos said. "Chivas has a storied history of excellence and we are looking forward to providing a strong test for them at the beautiful University of Phoenix Stadium."

It will be Chivas de Guadalajara's second match in the United States this year. It beat Colombia's Deportivo Cali 2-1 in January in Orlando, Fla.

Chivas, which has won 11 Mexican league titles, is also scheduled to play FC Barcelona on Aug. 3 at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Chivas is led by Mexican national players Ramón Morales, Alberto Medina, Johnny Magallán and Luis Ernesto Michel.