

# RCDMAGAZINE

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*"WHEN THIS IS  
OVER, I WANT TO  
GIVE FANS PLENTY  
TO SMILE ABOUT"*

**CUCHO  
HERNÁNDEZ**







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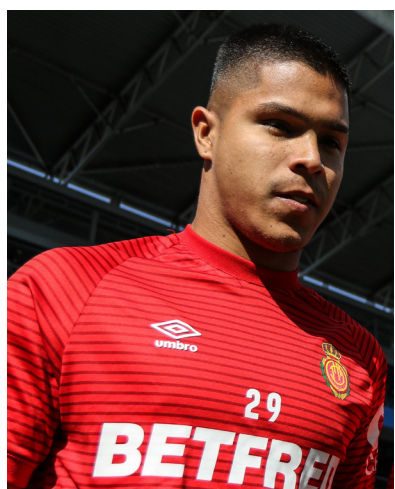
# PayPal interview: Cucho Hernández

## “We always have to try and take the positives out of messed-up situations”

Cucho Hernández has had fewer reasons than most to smile this year, yet the striker has not once lost the boyish grin which encapsulates the very essence of who he is. Optimistic after undergoing hamstring surgery which ruled him out for the first few months of the campaign, sanguine throughout rehabilitation away from his new team-mates at Son Bibiloni and upbeat during a nine-month wait for his first goal since May 29th; the 21-year-old's positivity is infectious. It's a mentality which is particularly efficacious given the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak and resulting suspension of La Liga football at a time when Cucho had begun to find his feet on the island having scored twice in his last four games. When football does eventually return however, few will have a wider smile than our frontman.

**Hi, Cucho. First things first, how are you getting on in quarantine? Are the group training sessions going well at home?**

They're going very well. We can't



*“We think a lot about the people who are having a really bad time”*

complain because we have the tools to do our job, which is to train. So far everything has gone really well and we hope that this situation doesn't last much longer. Should it be prolonged, we'd accept it and then take it in the best possible way.

**You recently turned 21 but had to mark the milestone in lockdown. How did you celebrate your birthday?**

Honestly, time flies by. They tell me that the next 20 years of your life go very fast so I will have to try and enjoy it in the best possible way. I had a lovely birthday surrounded by my parents and girlfriend at home. They gave me this big surprise and then sang happy birthday to me, so it was very good.

**With many away from their families during such difficult times, do you consider yourself lucky to be surrounded by loved ones?**

Without a doubt. It's much better to get through this situation with your family than at home alone. This way, co-existence is much better. If I was alone it would've been very difficult for me. When we get a little overwhelmed by it all, we think about the people who are having a really bad time and those who have to go out on the streets to risk their lives and to work as if nothing is happening. That encourages us to be well and to live with a smile.

**On reflection, do you believe this experience is teaching us to value things we previously**



# PayPal

**took for granted?**

Of course, yes. From this situation we'll all learn to be better people, to value our day-to-day lives, to live life to the fullest and to keep smiling despite such difficulties. We've got to try and be better people, learn and always take the positives out of messed-up situations. That's what I'm going to try to do and I hope many people will do the same.

*“I'm very happy at Mallorca”*

**Reverting back to your birthday, did you know you were born just two days prior to the night RCD Mallorca reached their first-ever European final on April 20th, 1999? Twenty-one years later, here you are at the club...**

I did! I'm going to take advantage of my spare time to watch the game against Chelsea and learn a little more about the history of this great club. These are things that you don't really expect. Who would have imagined that one day I'd be here, on this beautiful island, at a club with history such as RCD Mallorca? From as far back as I can remember, I've always heard about Mallorca because it's well known in South America. In the little time I've been here, I've been received by the people and Mallorca fans with great affection. The

love they've shown has been huge and I'm very happy to be at the club and on the island. I'm very grateful. I'll continue to give my best every time I'm on the pitch and I hope that when this situation ends, I can give Mallorquinistas much more to be happy about.

**In the space of a year, you've lived through complex situations such as injury and now the COVID-19 outbreak...**

They're both very different situations. Obviously, with the injury that I had, I had a terrible time as I couldn't do what I love most, which is playing football. In that sense it's the same, but it doesn't affect just me, it impacts everyone - that's why I have no reason to complain. I thank God that I'm healthy. Luckily, I finished the last few games well without any discomfort or injury. Being healthy and well, you don't need much more than that.

**As you mentioned, you were in good form before the suspension of La Liga. In fact, you scored against Alavés and then one week later at Betis your first goals as a Mallorquinista. That's not something you will forget in a hurry...**

I remember them very well. As I said, they came at a time when I was feeling good. When I went out onto the pitch against Alavés, I felt I'd get an opportunity to score and that







it would depend on me. This is how us forwards are and how we live: in front of goal and with our gut instincts. I'm very happy with how I played in those games before the enforced break, but know I can give much more. I hope that all this ends soon and I can continue offering goals and my football to the team.

**The squad has been training relentlessly to be in perfect condition for when football does eventually return. How has it been training via video call? Salva Sevilla recently told us seeing his team-mates again has helped keep him motivated...**

I totally agree with Salva. We all think that this has been the best way to train given what the club's technical and medical staff are actually able to carry out. They're interested in our physical state, our diet and everything else in a very professional manner. The club is treating us like a top club. We're very grateful for it and I'm enjoying training and feeling good with my team-mates. When you train alone, you don't have that same motivation as when you see the faces and efforts of your team-mates. We have to continue with this dynamic and be ready for our return.

**Speaking of food, we periodically publish recipes used by the first team in this magazine using the guidelines of First-Team Nutritionist Núria Granados. What is Cucho cooking in the kitchen?**

Well, a recipe of mine would have to be Colombian food,

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*"I hope this ends soon and I can continue offering goals to the team"*

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although the typical dishes of Colombia are a bit heavy so I'm not allowed them! It's not convenient for me to have such luxuries right now because running at home is not the same as those morning training sessions at Son Bibiloni. I have to pay attention to what I'm eating, just as everyone else is doing. Of course, when everything returns to normal, I promise to make a typical Colombian dish for everyone.

**And speaking of Colombia, what's the situation like in your country?**

The health crisis in Colombia is getting worse but it's not as bad as Spain. They've acted quickly, although it came as a surprise. Fortunately, everyone in my family are well, healthy and taking good care of themselves. From here in Mallorca we look out for them.

**There's a lot of talk about returning to football in the near future, but you've always made it clear that you only want any competition to resume when it's safe to do so...**

Right now, the most important thing is life and health. In such cases, football takes a back seat. We all need to take good care of ourselves, just like we've done so far. If the intention of La Liga is to return, it needs

to have all the extreme security measures necessary. We need to be sure we'll be safe and not worried about infecting someone in our family when we come home.

**This pandemic will change many of our lives and has already begun to do so. From our habits, routines, work and football...**

Not just football, everything will surely change. People will be more cautious and afraid, which is normal given it has become normalised. I hope this situation doesn't hit football too hard so much in the future, because it's an entertainment for people and something everyone enjoys. Let's hope we can enjoy a sport as beautiful as ours once again.

**You're really missing football, aren't you?**

I miss seeing my teammates, training sessions, away trips and, above all, games and being able to compete. It's not just about going to train, it's about chatting and laughing with your team-mates. I miss them so much. I'm trying to take it as if it were a vacation, so I don't get overwhelmed or stressed. It has, of course, been a very active vacation!

**Finally, what message would you like to give to fans?**

Stay at home, be responsible and keep in mind there are always people who are worse off. There are people who have no resources or have problems with food, housing, health. Think about those people who are having a hard time yet feel lucky and optimistic. We'll get out of this soon, I'm sure.



## REMEMBER?

# The Only Goalkeeper To Score In Open Play For RCD Mallorca



Photo: Diario de Mallorca

It's possibly the best goal that should never have happened, and despite 37 years having passed since April 23rd 1983, former goalkeeper Ramón Reus still can't believe it went in either.

Playing conditions were the worst an already relegated Córdoba had seen at the old Estadio Arcángel all season following an evening of torrential rain in Andalusia, but given the weighty importance of the five remaining fixtures in our quest for promotion from the Segunda División to the Primera División, a prolonged pre-game pitch inspection by officials was perhaps just a formality. For RCD Mallorca president Miquel Contestí and the two chartered planes full of supporters making the trip towards the peninsular, the turbulent weather was a pathetic fallacy of the week which had previously transpired - an injury to first-choice goalkeeper Mariano Tirapu meant the club's hand was forced into making the emergency signing of García Mallo from Segunda B side Compostela. Despite the new arrival's hasty registration in order to be eligible for the fixture at Córdoba, manager Lucien Muller held the following short conversation with deputising shot stopper Reus prior to the game.

Muller: "Ramón, I have to tell you something: the board wants me to start Mallo because they say that being Galician and having played in Compostela, he has more experience playing on a muddy pitch like today."

"However, I'm not going to put Mallo in. He has only been with us for two days and you have to be the goalkeeper today. You're going to play, but I must let you know: you can't fail, because if you do, we'll both be on the streets by the end of the day."

True to his word, Muller ignored pressure from above and started the goalkeeper who had previously featured in the promotion from Segunda B to the Segunda División three years prior and had made sporadic appearances since. The gamble would ultimately pay off when goals from Rolando Barrera and Juan Luis Riado put the game beyond doubt in the second half, but with Córdoba unable to muster much in the final third, Reus had a point to prove - even if it came at the other end.

"We were winning 2-0. Andrés Sabido and Rafeal Zuviría were passing the ball between them and they decided to play it back to me," he told RCDMagazine. "I raised my head and saw our striker Sergio Nichiporuk, and I wanted to put the ball up there for him as he was alone with the centre back. I hit it hard and the ball reached the opposition's box, hit a puddle right in front of Borja - the Córdoba goalkeeper - and ended up going in. I think he misjudged his run and it didn't help that the field was wet. The ball moved, landed funnily and went in."

While goal-scoring custodians remain a novelty in modern football, judging by the reaction at the Estadio Arcángel, Reus getting himself on the scoresheet was inconceivable back in the '80s: "It was a very strange reaction," he continued. "You never think something like that could happen. Back then, something like that had never happened. Everything is recorded today and there's more access to images from around the world so things like that are seen from time to time, but that surprised us all -

especially me. My team-mates came running to the goal to celebrate and congratulate me. Those who least believed it were the spectators there. When the game was over and we boarding the coach to leave, fans from Córdoba were waiting for us to see with their own eyes who had scored that peculiar goal."

Watching on in disbelief from the press box alongside radio commentator Alejandro Vidal was former RCD Mallorca shot stopper Juan Heredia. The usually verbose duo were entrusted to keep listeners back in Mallorca up to date, but Reus' goal had left them lost for words: "Imagine it: if that goal had taken everyone there by surprise, my family, friends and colleagues back here in Mallorca listening on the radio thought I had scored an own goal," Reus continued. "When the commentators were able to explain what had happened, only then did they understand and could stop worrying about me."

Clearly vindicated by his decision to start Reus over Mallo once the final whistle had gone, Muller couldn't resist a light-hearted gloat in front of his employers: "We were on the bus about to leave for Seville airport, and just ahead of us were President Contestí and the vice president, who were saying goodbye to the Andalusian leadership," the goalkeeper said. "Muller then approached the bus and said out loud just enough for the managers to hear: 'wow, Ramón, what a great goal you scored, we're going to be famous all week thanks to you'. He said it as if to say to the managers: 'You didn't want Reus to play and look what we could have missed'. It's a tremendous anecdote."

A win against Cartagena at the Lluís Sitjar the following week meant RCD Mallorca needed just one point from their remaining three games to secure

promotion, but two consecutive losses meant ascension would depend on other results going into the final day of the season. A place in the Primera División seemed all but lost after defeat to Castilla at the Bernabéu, but news of title challengers RCD Deportivo's failure to overcome Rayo Vallecano soon reached the capital and kickstarted celebrations. Following his heroics in Córdoba, Reus retained his position as No.1 until the penultimate fixture of

*"That surprised us all, especially me. My team-mates came running to the goal to celebrate and congratulate me"*

the season, although would ultimately never make an appearance in the Primera División for the club having played his last game as a Mallorquinista: "On the penultimate day of the campaign we hosted Cádiz at Lluís Sitjar," he concluded. "We went ahead in the first half thanks to a goal from Barrera but then Cádiz levelled the score right at the start of the second half. In any case, that was enough for us to seal promotion. However, with just over 10 minutes left, 'Mágico' González put one of those balls into the box which is looking for a touch but no one gets to. The ball picked up speed and bounced in front of me before going in. It's fitting that the goal and defeat was my fault as I never played for RCD Mallorca again."

And at that, after four seasons, three promotions and 71 official matches, Ramón Reus remains the only goalkeeper to have scored for RCD Mallorca.



Photo: Ultima Hora



## Training At Home With Christian Castilla

Almost as soon as the state of alarm was announced by the Spanish government on March 12th, work was underway behind the scenes at Son Bibiloni to ensure our players remained both fit and healthy. Carefully curated exercise plans were constructed, individual therapy sessions implemented and equipment ranging from weights to spin bikes were en route to homes throughout Palma the very next morning; however, training remotely did pose one major issue to coaching staff: how can we be certain exercises are going to be completed both efficiently and effectively?



Tasked with answering that question is Christian Castilla, the club's first-team physiotherapist, who took it upon himself to create a number of video tutorials of individually-tailored exercises for each player. While such footage won't be making its way to any home fitness DVD's in the future, our very own film star has been hard at work: "We had a lot of meetings before in order to co-ordinate a lot of things," he told RCDMagazine. "You've got to check if the players have all the necessary equipment ready in order to be able to organise a training session. Everything has to be controlled to the finest detail. For example, we had to think how we would show an exercise before recommending it to a player. We recorded more than 100 exercises which helped Dani Pastor put together a training plans for the players. We were looking for that intensity, volume, density, frequency and professionalism for every one of the exercises that could be executed. You could invent thousands of exercises, but the player might not have enough space available to do it, the planned exercise might look good on paper but isn't realistic, or it can't be carried out properly. Also, paying attention to the load measurement has been very important."

Lockdown has shifted training away from the tactical and technical emphasis players are accustomed to, and according to Christian, that too has meant coaching staff have had to adapt: "We must keep in mind that players aren't able to play too much with the ball. Of course, every player has a home, let's

*"You've got to have a routine, stay active and get your body used to training every day at more or less the same time"*

not forget that, but not everyone has space such as a terrace or garden to exercise in. We've tried to introduce that as much as possible because training with and without the ball is not the same."

The coaching team have also strived to innovate and develop as quarantine has been prolonged, a particular example being a move away from sessions held in isolation and the introduction of group video calls: "Anyone can understand that training alone is not the same as with more people. In football it's the same, it's a collective sport in which 11 play against 11 and it's important that this union between players is not lost. That's why, with collective training via video call, what was sought after was precisely that, so we could all suffer together during each tough session."

Given the cosmopolitan composition of a dressing room featuring players hailing from countries as diverse as Ghana, North Macedonia and South Korea,



Christian has found himself acting as the club's very own international point of reference: "It's a funny anecdote because I really like speaking English. My colleagues make fun of me by saying that I studied at the University of Wisconsin and that's why they assigned me the group of players who speak the least Spanish. Besides from working hard, we have a great time and that's something which is very important."

While a clean bill of health in the squad is something every physiotherapist strives for, Christian is looking to pre-emptively avoid any future injuries within the squad by instead focusing on physical preparation rather than his usual rehabilitation mandate: "Although I'm not able to perform physical therapy on players, we do have the tools to help them self-manage. One of those tools is the foam roller, a hard rubber cylinder with edges of different shapes that we use before and after training. We use it before training to give greater elasticity to the muscles and for activation; after training it helps us dissipate late-onset muscle pain – basically being stiff. We

also recommend waist-deep cold baths to help each player reach the extent of their abilities."

With the wider public still confined to their homes for the foreseeable future in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Christian believes finding a balance between exercise and mental stimulation is the key to making the most of life in lockdown: "You've got to have a routine, with a previously established schedule, stay active and get your body used to training every day at more or less the same time. The general recommendation is to walk about 10,000 steps a day and, obviously, at home, that's difficult. You have to exercise to stimulate the elimination of calories. Our body: the less it does, the less it wants to do. I also recommend reading, playing an instrument or learning a new language. We must make the most of our time. All this without forgetting a very important hobby: continuing to cheer on our RCD Mallorca from home."

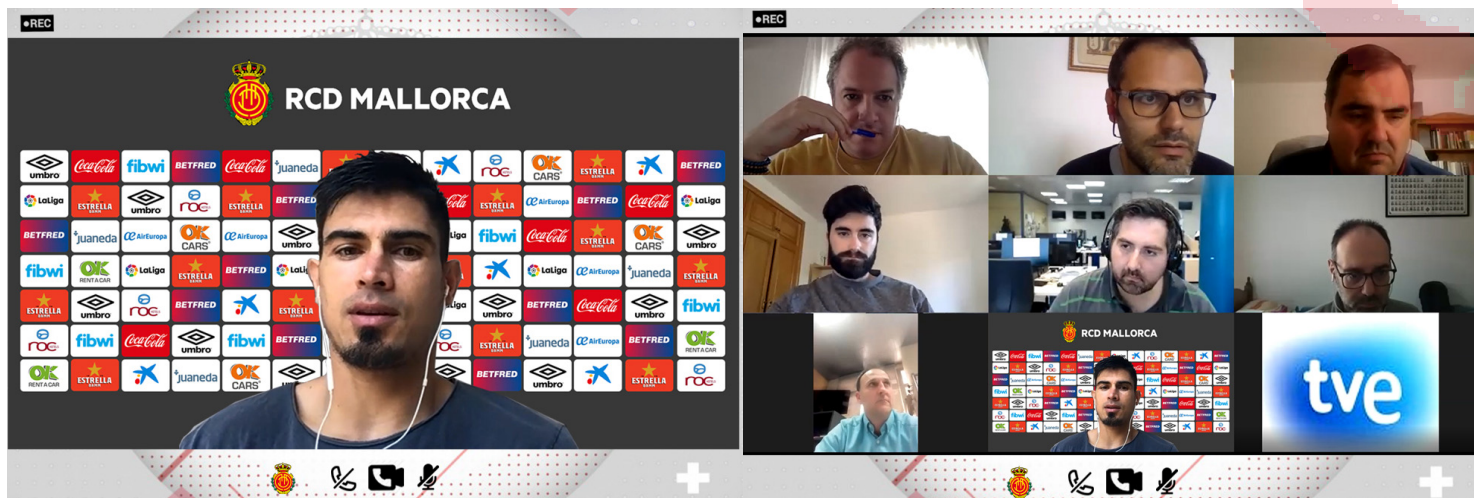
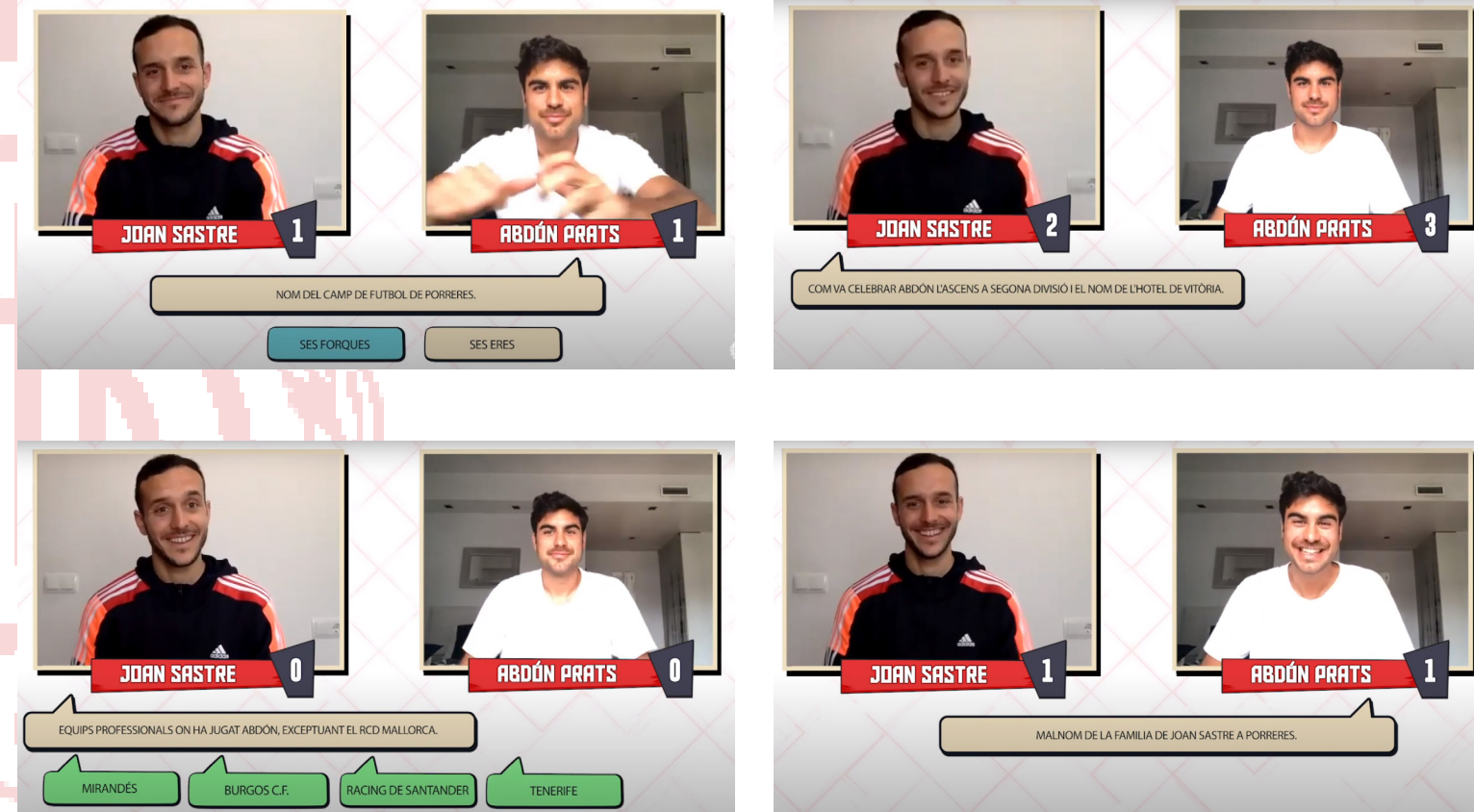


# Xisco Campos Hosts The Club's First Virtual Press Conference

The captain spoke to journalists via video call about life in lockdown and the team's training programme

Adapting to the ever-changing situation and challenges which COVID-19 poses, RCD Mallorca has had to find innovative ways at every level to maintain a degree of normality. Taking inspiration from the first-team's use of video calls to remain connected, the club's communications department broke new ground on March 22nd when they hosted their first-ever virtual press conference. Despite a rather drastic change from our usual press room surroundings at Ciudad Deportiva Asensio, captain Xisco Campos spoke to press from the comfort of his own home regarding his physical state and the condition of the team following weeks of confinement.

"It's weird not being able to be on the pitch, but I have to say that this team never ceases to amaze me," he told journalists signed into a group video call. "Everyone's predisposition to work in these complex conditions has been and is remarkable. We have people who are not from here, who live alone and away from family, and they're doing everything on their part to be well. The truth is, the coaching staff are going out of their way for us. They work harder now than ever before and are managing everything virtually. I take my hat off to my teammates and coaching staff. The work we're doing is fantastic."



Ever wondered how well someone really knows you? Whether it be a trip to Camp Nou or Santiago Bernabéu, Partners In Crime is putting our first-team stars to the test with a range of questions about their roommate on the road. Having lodged together for the last three seasons, Mallorca-born duo Abdón Prats and Joan Sastre are first to step up to the challenge in this unmissable episode of our new series. Keep an eye out for more Partners In Crime in the near future, while you can watch the full video [here](#).





## Aleksandar Trajkovski: Family First

The attacker opened up in an intimate interview with RCDMagazine about life in lockdown and his desire to get back playing

Wherever Aleksandar Trajkovski goes, family is never far behind. Accounting for a rough accumulation of over 5000 kilometres between playing spells in countries such as his native North Macedonia, Croatia, Belgium, Italy and now Spain, you begin to wonder how extensive could one man's kinship truly be.

Here in Mallorca, the forward shares a flat with his wife and young son overlooking one of the many picturesque harbours Palma prides itself upon, but should he take a short 20-minute drive outside the city centre to the rural district of Son Bibiloni, Trajkovski is once again among 'family'. The summer signing has quickly found himself a home away from home at the club's training ground Ciudad Deportiva Antonio Asensio, and while its doors remain firmly shut for the time being amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the 27-year-old can still count on those closest to him.

"We're like one family," he told RCDMagazine. "We see each other every day on Zoom and it's really special we do these kinds of things. I was speaking with my wife about when you finish a season, you know in one month you're going to start your preparations, but in this situation, you never know when it's going to start. Now we've been in lockdown for around 45 days. You train, but it's not easy. I miss training on the pitch with the team a lot because it's not the same. I miss the game; I miss the pressure and adrenaline the game gives me and everything else that comes with it. I can't wait to start again and train with

the team."

While football clearly runs in the family should Trajkovski's social media be anything to go by, like many parents, he has had to adapt to an



unprecedented and challenging situation: "I think for children, if they're a bit older they might understand," he continued. "Parents might find it difficult to explain to their children how tough the situation is outside and why they can't go out. For me, it was easier as my boy is still young. He's three-and-a-half years old so he still doesn't quite understand what's going on outside. He hasn't asked me at all to go out, he's not been stressed or anything like that. I have a lot of fun with him at home. I play with him and I try to do things with him that aren't boring. When I finished training with the team the other day, I decided to do some exercise with my son. I put the cones down and said: 'we're going to do some exercise'. I wanted to see how he was, his co-ordination and how he would get through it. Sometimes we play, we watch cartoons and we're playing Nintendo too! I'm trying to do the best I can for him to have fun."

Following the government's latest ease in restrictions allowing children accompanied by parents to leave the house for an hour to exercise, the attacker believes an eventual return to normality draws ever closer: "It's funny, when the

*"We see each other every day via video call and it's really special we do these kinds of things"*

government said on Sunday that we can go for a walk, I asked my son if he wanted to go out and he said no! He's used to staying at home all the time but after we went out, he was really happy. He didn't want to go back inside the house. He was like: 'wow, I'm outside!' We went for a walk and did stuff like that. There were a lot of people outside with their children and you could see normal life coming back. I can only say in these moments that people stay at home, listen to what the government says and when everything is back to normal, I'll be waiting in the stadium for fans to cheer us on. Hopefully we'll get back to the competition and achieve our objectives - we can only do that together.





# Reserved For Legends



## Fact File

### RAFAEL DALMACIO ZUVRÍA

- **Born:** 10.01.1951, Santa Fe - Argentina
- **Nickname:** El Torito
- **Position:** Left back / left winger
- **Seasons:** 2 (1982-1984)
- **Debut:** Barcelona B 2 - RCD Mallorca 0 (05.09.1982)





Rafael Zuviría walks with an air of serenity about himself through the striking vineyards of Bajo Pendés' Banyeres, just outside the city centre of northern province Tarragona. Famed for its production of classic wines, the Argentine explores the open terrain on this occasion not as a viticulturist, but rather to exercise the knee impaired at a consequence of a decade's worth of professional football – a not-so-distant epoch of Zuviría's life in which he shared dressing rooms with the likes of Johan Cruyff and Diego Armando Maradona.

Although a far cry from the raucous crowds the Lluís Sitjar and Camp Nou once afforded him, pleasantries in Catalonia are not a product of chance. Coming from a family of butchers, the former star opened various butcher shops and a chicken farm in his homeland alongside his brother with the money he had earned from an illustrious playing career, although an eventual dispute between siblings and financial issues resulted in a return to Spain: "I lost the money and the brother," he sighed. "I left everything and decided to come back to Spain to start a new life."

Now living in the country which had first given him the chance to play football in Europe, Zuviría transitioned from the meat market to the vineyard and dedicated himself to selling and exporting various wines and cavas. It wasn't long before his own adaptation of the latter made from grapes a stone's throw away from his afternoon stroll was available for purchase; each bottle detailed with a

personal signature and pictures of his playing days. With no siblings involved this time around, business was an initial success before a knee operation enforced an early retirement.

Having led a colourful life off the pitch, Zuviría was just as fascinating on it - if not more so. Bestowed with the nickname 'Torrito', translated as 'The Little Bull', by his team-mates in his formative years at Argentinos Juniors for the manner in which he would charge from side to side during rondos to a chorus of 'ole' accompanying every successful pass made, it's a moniker which personified his full-blooded style of play.

It wasn't long before such skills became sought after both at home and abroad, and amid a flurry of financial issues at Argentinos Juniors, Zuviría can vividly paraphrase the moment the club's president told him he was up for sale: 'Rafael, we're going to have to sell you. We need money and you're the only player I can get a juicy transfer for'.

"In Argentina, I had played on the left and was one of the team's leading figures," he told RCD Magazine. "I earned 380 pesos at the time and Racing offered me 12 million pesos. When they told me that, I didn't hesitate. My mother asked



*"I've got great memories of my time there, especially with players like Higuera or Barrera"*

me: 'Rafael, do you even know where Spain is?', to which I replied: 'I have no idea mum, but since they're giving me such money, I'm going'. And that's how I signed for Racing Santander and spent the next four seasons."

Assimilating to life abroad can be challenging for players, although for Zuviría, a lack of mesh fencing in stadiums to prevent fan invasions and violence came as a culture shock: "When I saw that, I asked how they were going to avoid an avalanche of people or a pitch invasion without wire fences," he said with a grin. "They told me that at every game there were two policemen with two dogs. 'Two dogs against 25,000 spectators!?', I asked them. I was confused and scared, so I didn't play the first league game. When I saw nothing like that happens in Spain, I soon calmed down."

Once accustomed to the fenceless stadiums throughout Spain, the Argentine went on to play three seasons in the Primera División with Racing Santander before eventual financial issues resulted in a transfer a few kilometres east to FC Barcelona: "When I first walked into the Barcelona dressing room, I was star struck," he said. "It wasn't long before I was making jokes with Migueli. Having players like Cruyff, Neskens and Reixach was incredible. My job was to run and work for players like Cruyff. I remember Reixach always used to say that running was for cowards."

Zuviría started life in the famous Blaugrana strip as he meant to go on, ending his debut campaign with a tally of six goals – one more than the more offensively-deployed Cruyff. After five seasons, four titles and two European Cup medals in Catalonia, fate would herald the arrival of Argentinos Juniors' latest prodigy, a player Zuviría can vividly



remember as a boy: "When I played for Argentinos Juniors, a young lad joined the lower categories of the club called Diego Armando Maradona. He was very young but was already a magician with the ball. In fact, he sometimes came with us to games to juggle the ball and was a bit like our opening act. Many people came to see him."

Seeking a new challenge following the arrival of Maradona, fans at RCD Mallorca welcomed Zuviría with open arms ahead of the 1982-83 campaign under manager Lucien Muller: "Many team-mates used to ask me what was the secret as to why children who came to the Sitjar always wanted to approach me," he recalled. "The truth is that when I came off the pitch after games, I always used to carry a bag of sweets in the car and would hand them out. Every Sunday they were already waiting for me."

While his relationship with Muller was in large part a positive one, there were moments in which 'El Torito's' bullish approach to the game could frustrate his boss, perhaps none more so than taking penalty duties away from the designated Roland Barrera in the last minute at Real Zaragoza with a crucial point at stake: "Muller went crazy on the touchline and was screaming: 'let Barrera take it! Let Barrera take it!', but I ignored him and took it," he said. "I went over to the dugout and said 'was there a problem, mister?' We had a good laugh about it after, but only because I scored and we won."

Little did Zuviría know how important his goal would be at the time. Promotion to the Primera División ultimately went down to the final day and was dependent on the outcome of other results, and despite a defeat to Castilla at the Santiago Bernabéu appearing to have cost Muller's side, RCD Deportivo's



failure to overcome Rayo Vallecano meant 'El Torito' would once again play his football in the Primera División. A disappointing campaign the following year not only resulted in relegation, but left Zuvaría with a tough decision to make: "At that time I had two options," he said. "One was to retire and the other was to continue playing in Argentina. I had a great time at Mallorca and I've got great memories of my time there, especially with players like Higuera or Barrera. In the end, I decided to play a little more and went back to my country. I had the option to do that at River Plate, but some friends who played at Defensores de Belgrano convinced me to go there with them in the Segunda División. However, I soon realised that my football had changed and had

nothing to do with the level that was being played in the Segunda División of Argentina. I would play a pass deep and my team-mates wouldn't run, they wanted the ball to feet. In the end my own fans rebuked me from the stands and told me that I didn't know how to play. My patience wore thin and during a game, after an insult from the stands, I took off my shirt, kissed the badge, left it on the grass and went to shake hands with the referee. No one knew what was going on. I left the pitch and never played again. That's how I retired from football."

And with that, we conclude the eventful epilogue of Rafael 'Torito' Zuvaría, the Argentine who delighted fans at the Lluís Sitjar for two seasons.



## YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE IN MALLORCA

Following the government's decision to allow children accompanied by parents to leave the house for an hour to exercise, April 26th marked the first day of a gradual ease in restrictions for people across the island. To mark the occasion, we asked young Mallorquinistas to send in their photos for a chance to feature in the latest edition of RCDMagazine, and here are the best of the bunch!







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