



Foxtrot Charlie Delta

The Inferno Newsletter for all things FC Dallas

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 1, 2009

UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS

- 4/4 6:30 pm —
FCD at New England
Watching Party at Trinity Hall & Lochrann's
- 4/11 3:00 pm —
FCD at Toronto
Watching Party at Trinity Hall & Lochrann's



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Section 132: One Will, One Intent

By Dana Crane (DeigoRedD)
Inferno President

*"You pour the desire to come with you
Into my heart to such an extent
That I've regained the purpose I first knew.
Now let us go, for we have one will, one intent,"*



Dallas 'Til I Die
(Photo by Rags Gardner)

These words from Dante's Inferno say most eloquently the passion that we have for FC Dallas. We all want the stadium to be packed with passionate fans spurring our boys on to victory. Together we can make an impact that affects positive change on the field. All it takes are people with a passion to support the team, a willingness to roll up your sleeves and dig in to make ideas come to life.

If we keep Dante's words in the back of our minds and remember to put the team first, section 132 will become THE place to be at PHP! It's my hope that the Inferno will grow in spades and the energy created in 132 infects the entire stadium.

See Page 5 for information on the watching parties for the upcoming away games!

FC Dallas Kick-Off Party

By Brenda Beard (GraceTX)

Inferno members proved themselves to be the masters of FC Dallas and general soccer trivia by taking the top four places in the trivia contest at the FCD Kick-Off Party on March 19th.

The Lochrann's party sponsored by FC Dallas was to get people geared up for the opening day game against the Chicago Fire. The Kick-Off had a good turnout, but not as well as the food tasting at PHP earlier in the day. Free food = good turnout. Free 1st Beer = lots of Inferno show up. It's amazing at how many free 1st beers we actually had.

Throughout the night, Dianna Childs, Manager of Customer Service handed out several door prizes including a couple to new Inferno members Nathan and Trent (nee Tyrone).



Clockwise: Hitch addressing the crowd; Trent with the Blake Wagner jersey he won; Nathan with a certificate for a year's supply of Dr Pepper; The Quiz Champions - Travis (4th), Dan (1st), Andre (2nd), Jon (3rd) and FCD's Kevin Lindstrom (Quizmaster); Jon and Travis playing darts; Inferno socializing at the Kick-Off Party.
(Photos by Brenda Beard)

Chicago 3, FC Dallas 1

By Gina Zippilli (Gina)

A great game - for nine minutes.

We tailgated. And tailgated. And tailgated. And in return, we got an eighty-one minute suckfest.

I say eighty-one minutes because the first nine were magical. Kenny Cooper's goal was amazing. It was amazing how the shot was so effortless, but the ball sailed with so much force. I watched the replay to see where exactly he shot it from and just yelled, "NO!!!!" Kenny never ceases to amaze me.

Morale was high in those first few minutes, but we then realized that the Fire were playing with twelve. And we were playing with no desire. Chicago's first goal might have been legitimate as we always tend to give up a goal right before half, but their second goal was a gift and the third was the ref doing a Harry Potter-style summoning-goal-to-scoreboard type thing.



Purdy receiving a yellow card. One of many handed out by Baldomero Toledo in the season opener. (Photo by Maggie Hutchison)

Chicago's PK for their second goal was for a Drew Moor handball in the box. Given the unfair way this ref was calling the game, we are lucky Drew didn't get a red card. What killed me about the PK was that Dario guessed the right way; he just missed by a fingertip.

As I said, while the ref was the most one-sided ref I've ever seen, we did not help ourselves. Every touch Dax McCarty had was to the other team, every touch Steve Purdy had resulted in him falling flat on his butt, and Cooper and Jeff Cunningham played selfishly.

I do have to give props to Chicago where props are due. Cuauhtemoc Blanco didn't start because of a sore knee, but it paid off for them to sub him in. He did exactly what they wanted in the fifteen minutes he was in: play and score. I don't agree with the call at all (I think the ref visioned a foul in his mind), but he proved himself useful. For them, at least.

The opener was discouraging because everything seems the same as last year. Forwards who don't gel, giving up soft goals before halftime and inconsistent defense all fall under this category. Fortunately, it was only the first game. My advice for this season is to expect the unexpected, just like every other season. As always, it's gonna be a wild ride.

2009 Inferno Opening Day 24-Hour Tailgate

By Warren Abao (gwar0127)

Folding chairs. Coolers. Grills. A keg. Bed-sheets. Flags. Paint. Extension cords. Doughnuts. Tents. Kolaches. A projector. Satellite dish. On a boat. (Scratch the last item)

Those are just some of the items you would have seen at the 2009 Inferno Opening Day 24-Hour Tailgate, which began at 7:30pm on Friday, 20 March. Congratulations to the fifteen brave souls that survived the grueling 55-degree temperatures and intimidatingly slight breeze at Pizza Hut Park's Gold Lot by sleeping either in a tent, in their car, or on a mattress in the back of their SUV. Also, thanks to the countless others who showed up Friday night or early Saturday morning to share in beverages, play some Xbox 360, and help with making banners. Finally, a special thank you to Deina McNabb of Lochrann's Irish Pub (6195 Main St., Frisco), Pedro Marroquin of Chick-Fil-A (5211 Eldorado Pkwy., Frisco), our wonderful friend Rob, and FC Dallas Ambassador of Fun Bobby Rhine for the Krispy Kremes, chicken biscuits, fresh-roasted-and-brewed Brazilian coffee, Dunkin Donuts, and kolaches that served as a large part of our balanced nutritious breakfast.

Let's do it again next year!



(Photo credits to Harlan Haire, Susan Curtis, Warren Abao, Jon Beard, and Brenda Beard)

Inferno Staff

President

Dana Crane
dana@the-inferno.net

Vice-President

Joey Meyers
joey@the-inferno.net

Treasurer

Dan Veshia
dan@the-inferno.net

Web Administrator

Travis Bell

News Editors

Warren Abao
 Heather Ferguson

Layout Design

Brenda Beard
 Jon Beard

Please email comments and suggestions to:
newsletter@the-inferno.net

Visit us at
<http://www.the-inferno.net>

Brutal: FCD 0 - 2 Chivas USA

By Jon Beard (Rex Kramer)

Since somewhere around the 80th minute of this game I was trying to figure out how to start this article. My initial thought was stealing Samuel L. Jackson's immortal line and going with "I've had it with these motherf'in' refs in this motherf'in' league", after a second game in a row of questionable decisions scuppered Dallas's hopes of a victory.

I suppose we should have realized there was trouble ahead when Security stopped an Inferno member from bringing his drumsticks into PHP, allegedly refusing to call Security Chief Jim "Vader" to come intervene. I'm not sure what has to be done to get PHP's security on the right book, let alone the right page when it comes to the SGs, but apparently 3 home games in, it still hasn't happened. Frankly, that took the wind out of everyone's sails and, much like the team in front of them, Inferno just never managed to get themselves up for the match. Chivas signaled their intent early, with a header from a corner slipping inches over the crossbar while Ray Burse was stranded. Before another 10 minutes had passed, Burse came up big with a point blank save on Atiba Harris during a goal mouth scramble. The best chances of the half went to Dallas though, as Cunningham scuffed a diving header wide from 2 yards and Cooper saw two

point blank shots saved by Zach Thornton after a good cross from Dax McCarty. Despite these efforts, 0-0 at halftime was hardly surprising, with the ball often bogged down in midfield.

With the second half underway, the first of the questionable decisions came into play. Drew Moor put in his only decent cross of the night, finding Cunningham who laid the ball off to Cooper for a tap-in. However, the Hoops fans celebrations were short-lived as Cooper was flagged for offside on the original cross. Unfortunately, it was the last meaningful effort the Red Stripes had on goal, as the strikeforce disappeared and the midfield failed to break the Goats down.



Cooper's almost goal. (Photo by Jon Beard)

Shortly after the hour mark, Chivas took the lead through Eduardo Lillingston who mysteriously

"beat" the offside trap, despite being a yard or so beyond the last defender, and slotted the ball past Ray Burse. Nothing much you can do about it when the linesman clearly failed the refereeing exams.

Dallas piled the pressure on, but failed to register a shot on goal that wasn't straight to the keeper. They were soon undone once more by the same linesman, as Aaron Pitchkolan was dragged down by a Chivas player off the ball, giving Bojan Stanpanovic all the space he needed to make it 2-0.

In a clear admission that the game was over, Coach Hyndman threw rookie striker Peri Marosevic on to the field for his first MLS minutes in place of Cunningham, but Dallas couldn't test Thornton and it was all over. It's hard to say Chivas deserved the three points, but then neither did Dallas with both teams' outfield players looking lackluster. Is it possible to dock points from both teams *and* the refs for showing why so many don't take MLS seriously?

Bobby Rhine: An Interview with FCD's "Ambassador of Fun"

By Heather Ferguson (HeatherF)



(Photo by Brenda Beard)

We recently had the opportunity to chat with Bobby Rhine about what he is doing these days. This season, for the first time in ten years, fans won't see him in uniform, but he's still a major part of this team. It looks like he's going to take the work ethic that we loved to see on the field into his new role as Manager of Community Development. After spending just a few minutes with Bobby, his love of the sport and the team is pretty obvious. What is not so obvious but is always there is that he doesn't use the word "I", even now. It's always "we". We asked him about his new role, and what his plans are for the year.

Foxtrot-Charlie-Delta (Foxtrot): What are you really doing this year as Manager of Community Development?

Bobby: We're doing a lot of things this year to connect with the fans on a lot of levels. We want to listen and communicate in a variety of ways this year.

This week, we will launch our online social network called "myfcdallas.com", where fans can create and personalize profiles, post pictures and video, online chat, and have occasional access to players. It will go live for season ticket holders on Friday and to the rest of the world on Monday. We'll also host an online TV show called "In the Stands". It's pretty cool!

Foxtrot: Tell us more about your online TV show.

Bobby: "In the Stands" will be available on myfcdallas.com, and will be shot in section 132. We plan to have a new episode every week, and fans can watch episodes online at their leisure. We don't have a hard set format, and it might be anywhere from a couple of minutes to half an hour long or longer. Co-hosting with me will be Sarah Wilson. I think you guys will really like her. She's a lot of fun. She has a great sense of humor. Although she's originally from England, she went to school here in Ft. Worth and is a part of the FC Dallas Academy. One segment that will be on every episode will have Sarah interviewing me about being a broadcaster.

Foxtrot: There has been some controversy about whether or not the FC Dallas dancers are a good idea. What do you think about them?

Bobby: I like them. They don't interfere with the game, but add elements to the fan experience. They're also spokesmen for the team. They've been out in the community doing some work with the FC Dallas Foundation, and we're getting very positive feedback about them. They bring entertainment value, and it creates different types of connections with the fans. I think it's a positive addition to the brand.

Foxtrot: Is there anything else you guys are working on that you'd like to share?

Bobby: Sarah and I will both be on Twitter. My alias is RamblingRhino and Sarah is hullbird. We'll be doing some cool promo stuff and will send tweets out to tell about it. For instance, we might head out somewhere for a couple of beers and just send out a message to join us. It should be a lot of fun.

Foxtrot: Where do you see the efforts to grow the fan base leading this year?

Bobby: We're really working to reach out to fans in a variety of ways. Clearly if we could have an atmosphere like we had on opening night all the time, it would be great. The supporters groups are the leaders of the fan atmosphere. We want to grow that. We want to get more people in the stadium with that passion. That's where we want to get to.

Foreign Affairs: Make Some Noise

By Jon Beard (Rex Kramer)



Let's get one thing straight here. I am by no means an expert on the Premier League. In fact, since I've moved to Dallas, I'm finding it harder and harder to have anything beyond the most basic knowledge of what's going on over there. I'm fairly sure that, despite having been to games at stadiums throughout the country, after close to 3 years as an FCD season ticket holder, I've actually now been to more MLS games than I have games in England.

However, you don't need to be an expert to notice one marked difference between the two leagues – the fans. In the Premier League, and in fact pretty much any professional game in England, the atmosphere is electric throughout the whole stadium, even the “family” sections. It doesn't matter if it's Liverpool vs Everton, Bristol Rovers vs Bristol City, or two teams whose only claim to rivalry stems from the fact that they currently play in the same league, such as the Reading vs Blackburn game Brenda and I attended last season. Drums, horns, flags, banners, posters and other tifo are not allowed in the vast majority of British stadiums, yet the noise level is intense and prolonged through singing, chanting and clapping alone.

While a few MLS teams, particularly the expansion teams are starting to get to a similar level, others (FC Dallas being a prime example) just aren't providing the atmosphere that can sometimes help their team overcome the odds.

Don't get me wrong, the members of Inferno and El Matador are doing a fantastic job, getting louder and louder throughout the second half of the Chicago game, despite trailing by a goal. I look forward to the day (Houston road trip?) when the two groups can join together and really bring some intensity to the table.

No, the problem certainly isn't with the supporters groups. It's with the Prawn Sandwich sections, the soccer-hating soccer moms and the people who'd rather spend half the game lining up for an overpriced hotdog than to cheer on their team. It is possible to cheer and watch the game at the same time – this is why I generally prefer to be towards the front and edge of the Inferno section – yet most of these folks would rather sit on their hands and give the SGs ugly looks for daring to make noise and have fun.

It's an attitude that seems to be fairly unique to the American sports landscape and for the life of me I can't figure out why; I've seen it at baseball, hockey and basketball in this country too, yet even at my old local very minor league hockey team, all 300 or so of the crowd were loudly cheering on the Bees. All too often in pop culture, Joe Yank is seen as being sports mad, with whole rooms decorated in the local teams' colors and still following their college team despite having graduated more than 20 years ago. So why the apathetic attitude when at the games? I'm not sure, but I'm starting to think I need to throw this out as a Burning Issue.

Of course the more important question from an Inferno point of view would be how can we change this? Well obviously having a winning team helps – the level of support has skyrocketed in Columbus over the past year, while Houston has seen a decline in attendance to start this season. The opponent makes a difference too – the West Side certainly seem more involved when the Dynamo are in town. As far as things we have some measure of control over, the growth of the supporters groups is, for me, the biggest part – entire sections of people singing and waving flags is exponentially more impressive than 50 people and changes the perception from “those 50 drunken idiots who swear a lot” to a wall of passionate support for the team. It'd be hard for the Library to not get involved in the two-sided chants if that many people are yelling it at them.

My initial feeling is that this could be more readily achievable for El Matador than it is for Inferno. The Interliga games at PHP have proven that there are plenty of Mexican and other Hispanic soccer fans who are willing to drive to Frisco for a team they want to support; it's just a case of showing them why they should add support to their new local team as well as their hometown team, while putting aside the other loyalties of those around them. No easy task, admittedly, but if it's possible for a few, it can be possible for more. Inferno meanwhile have to work hard on a somewhat smaller scale, persuading those already at the games to try out I32, or bringing friends and folks from USNT watching parties who may have an interest in FCD games along on the new Scorched Earth policy.

I'll certainly be trying to do my part on that front this season. It'll be interesting to see if it brings any results.

Staff Predictions for 2009

- Dynamo will fail to win the cannon back from us
- FC Dallas will win the cup; a cup of some sort
- FC Dallas will have a new GM by the end of the season
- Harlan will average eighteen curse words and six beers per game
- Brenda will average six curse words and two beers per game (lightweight)
- Kennedy the Ball Kid will pass out at a tailgate sometime this summer
- Seattle fans will stuff the ballot every time a Sounders player's up for Goal of the Week
- Inferno will eventually have one game without any security issues (Hope springs eternal!)
- Inferno and Matador will join forces for the Houston games and rock both stadiums
- Seattle will finish just out of the playoffs, but they will lead the league in attendance
- Kenny Cooper will become the 4th player in club history to score a hat-trick in league play
- Jim "Darth Vader" Smith will give up his life as head of security for FCD, move to England and become a soccer hooligan
- Gina will walk away from what promises to be a stellar law career, declining a clerkship with Justice Ginsberg to become an FCD dancer
- A linesmen will finally, after years of urging on the part of the Inferno, stick a flag right up his bum. Sideways
- Global warming will really take off, the oceans will rise dramatically, and Houston will disappear into the ocean



IFC Results

By Dan Veshia (Dan)

Division 01B	Inferno I 0-3 International United (3/22) Inferno I 0-5 Streaks (3/29)
Division 2	Inferno III 0-0 Dartos (3/22) Inferno III 0-0 Sack Up (3/29)
Division 6	Inferno II Results pending (3/22) Inferno II Results pending (3/29)
Division O30B	Inferno United 3-1 Lone Star (3/22) Inferno United 3-3 United SC (3/29)
Division O30E	Inferno 30 Red 0-1 2008 Olympians (3/22) Inferno 30 Red 1-1 Barron United (3/29)
Division O30G	Inferno 30 Black 1-1 Dragon (3/22) Inferno 30 Black 2-1 Chernobyl (3/29)
Division O40D	Inferno 40 Black 3-1 North Dallas 40 (3/22) Inferno 40 Black Results pending (3/29)

BURNing Issue



In the previous newsletter, we asked for your opinions on FC Dallas introducing a team of dancers to perform during half-time. This is what you had to say about that Burning Issue.

“Gyrating, pelvic thrusting suggestive dancers with heaving silicone orbs have no place in soccer. If dancers are more like majorettes - drill team that’s one thing but if the dance moves could be applied on a pole then I’m not on board.” (Gordon R)

“It is stupid and a waste of money and talent which adds nothing of value to the game.” (Joey M)

“I find that they are ok. I think it adds something to tell your friends to get them out to the game.” (Harlan H)

“I probably don’t mind the dancers as much as some other people do and can see both sides of the issue. I think it’s weird to look up at the stage and see them dancing to our chants/songs. I appreciate that FCD is doing something to market outside the rugrat crowd. And if given a choice between dancers and Radio Disney DJs at half time, I’ll pick the dancers every time.” (Dana C)

“I just groaned when I saw them opening day. ‘They’ tried this at the Cotton Bowl. It didn’t work then, it won’t work now.” (Christine G)

“In general, I support anyone who wants to help create and support a home field advantage for FC Dallas, and I support FC Dallas for taking this huge step towards shifting the team from “fun time for the Romper Room set” to “serious American Sport”. That is where the true value is in introducing a “spirit team” now - it sets FC Dallas in line with the other teams in the area - Cowboys, Desperados, Mavericks, and Stars (they have TWO such teams - Ice Girls and cheerleaders in the mezzanine). I realize the Rangers don’t have cheerleaders, but then they play a sport where the defense team puts the ball into play and the coach has to wear the same uniform as the players, so there we are.

Additionally, in Mexico, every soccer team usually has at least THREE squads - their own, and one each sponsored by a beer company and a cement company. I know this isn’t Mexico, but this isn’t England either. This is America, where some form of “spirit squad” is an integral part of the presentation of professional sports.

During the run of the game, I think the dancers would be most effective if they were to stand lined out behind the field signs (you know, those long lines of sponsor signs back from the sidelines and goal lines), like they are in the other stadiums. That way, they would be in a more visible place, where they could encourage more crowd involvement. This would also allow them to participate for the full half, and then be in a convenient location to perform their halftime routine.” (Edward H)

This week’s Burning Issue— At the home opener the Inferno waved a large number of flags - a number that hasn’t been seen in a long time. However, this also brought up a long-time debate about when the flags should and shouldn’t be waved. What do you think the supporters group policy should be for waving the flags?

Just send your opinions on the subject of the week to burningissue@the-inferno.net, and we’ll print our favorite responses from both sides of the Burning Issue. Alternatively, you can just post your opinion in the Burning Issue forum thread.

Watching Parties: FC Dallas & USMNT



Saturday, April 4
FCD @ New England Revolution
 6:30pm kickoff

Saturday, April 11
FCD @ Toronto FC
 3pm kickoff



Wednesday, April 1
USA v Trinidad and Tobago

Trinity Hall, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas
 6 pm kickoff

Trinity Hall, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas
Lochrann’s, 6195 W Main St, Frisco

After starting the season with 2 home losses, FC Dallas heads out of town to face New England and the hostile atmosphere of Toronto. Both opponents started the season with a win and a tie on the road, and FCD will have to improve on their early season performances in order to get anything out of these difficult games. For those unable to make the long trips northeast to see the games in person, the official FC Dallas and Inferno watching parties will be at Trinity Hall and Lochrann’s. For those going to Trinity Hall, don’t forget you can use the DART Light Rail at Mockingbird Station if you want to be able to enjoy a beer or two.



FOXTROT CHARLIE DELTA

The United States, current leaders of CONCACAF Hexagonal qualifying for World Cup 2010, sets down in Nashville to play the Soca Warriors of Trinidad and Tobago in Match Day 3. On 28 March, USA overcame a two-goal deficit to escape El Salvador with a 2-2 draw, while their opponents needed a goal in the 88th-minute to salvage a 1-1 draw at home against the Honduras. If you can’t make it up to Tennessee to watch the game in person, go to Trinity Hall for the watching party, brought to you by the American Outlaws, FC Dallas, and the Inferno.



Inferno Membership

How do I join?

You can register with Dan Veshia at the Inferno tailgate in front of Dr. Pink field in the Gold Lot. You can also join online at <http://www.the-inferno.net/join>.