

# First, Second and First Again

On December 9, Left Wing FC achieved a milestone by recording their first win as a club in a competitive play—that being Sports4Good 2006 Winter 8v8 tournament. The most racially diverse and politically motivated team in Northern Cali then went on to record their second win. By the end of their group play they managed another first - a place in a final.

In their morning game under cloudy skies Leftwing cast fresh rays of light with a lively movement and controlled play. The field became even brighter around the 10’ mark when Maria tallied her first of two goals to put Left Wing on top. From the left side and at a difficult angle she well placed her shot in the top corner. Left Wing continued to dominate play in the first half, however they suffered an early set back when their striker Victor Damian injured his knee in a collision with the keeper. He was released by great midfield play and found himself one on one with the keeper. The portero came out strong at Victor’s legs resulting in the injury. Left Wing then found themselves drawn when veteran midfielder Jacob poor back pass with his head was seized upon by the opposition’s forward and he was able to break through free onto goal.

In the 2nd half showed evidence that Left Wing had taken confidence in their first half performance and began piling on the pressure. Attacking midfielder Amal looked dangerous and continually terrorized the oppositions defense. He was certainly unlucky not to score. Midway through the second half Jacob made amends for his morning error and sent a clever through ball to Maria that set her up alone against the keeper. She applied a smart touch that left her with an open net to secure a 2-1 lead. Their defense remained stout with veteran Charles and debutante Anahí anchoring the back line. The victory, the very first in Left Wing’s near 3 year history was celebrated at the final whistle with pride, relief, joy and the brightest smiles seen anywhere in the tournament.

Invigorated by their accomplishments Left Wing started brightly once again but couldn’t find the back of the net in the early going. The lack of conversion allowed their opposition to gain the upper hand as they were first to find the back of the net. Left Wing for the first time in the day finding themselves behind quickly were 2 down when they paid the price for poor defending. Left Wing however refused to sulk and disappear. The spark was created when Left Wing’s two dominating center mids Erin and new Colombian international Federico linked beautiful on a corner kick. Federico used his height to his teams advantage and placed a powerful header pass the defenseless keeper. This goal lifted the whole team and they soon found an extra gear that was missing early on. Left Wing used beautiful link play from defense through the midfield and finally to the forward line that resulted in Erin crossing from the right side to meet Federico once more who finished spectacularly with a volley that sent the side-lines roaring in cheers. This two goal comeback had Left Wing the more confident side at the interval. This confidence was put on display by a commanding 2nd half performance. Left Wing piled on the pressure and nearly took the lead on another corner with Charles blasting a header just wide of the near post. They again looked set to take the lead when Erin was released free on the right with only the keeper in his way and Jeremy waiting in front of goal. Erin elected to take the shot which was well saved by the keeper. Their dominance would not be denied and they continued to find success down the right hand side. This time it would be newcomer Mandy who was set free. She bore down on goal and coolly scored with a perfectly placed shot on near post. Left Wing had achieved the comeback and were left with defending to do. They wisely switched from their 2-3-1-1 formation to 3-3-1, which was anchored by Juanita in goal. She proved why she had recruited by other teams earlier in the year when she saved what looked to be a certain goal with a sprawling dive. With their keeper’s inspiration their defense withstood the pressure through the final minutes and with the officials final whistle the leftist team that had never won a game were 2-0.

The third game found Left Wing placed against the only other team undefeated in their group. Approaching the start of the third game dark clouds with strong winds began to roll in, which could have been taken as a sign of what was to come. Via lackluster defending, strong counter attacking and getting in the heads of some of las futbolistas, the opposition put a 6-1 stomping on Left Wing. The defeat left a bitter taste in the mouths of Left Wing knowing they didn’t play up to their potential against a team they new were at best their equal. A final match in their group that followed held the fate if Left Wing were to advance to the final against the very team to which the fell to. The result was a draw, however the a strong storm flooded the fields sending everyone home for the day. All for the best perhaps as the final has been rescheduled for January 20, (location and time TBA). This will be Left Wing’s first showing in a final and one that is being met with excitement and anticipation. Maria reacted by saying “OH HELL YEAH. I mean, shit: Hugo Chavez won by a landslide, Pinochet’s murdering ass finally died of heart failure (ironic)... I’d say world events bode well for a LEFT WING VICTORY!!”. A winners trophy is at stake and Left Wing are in arms reach to bringing home their first piece of silverware.



Amal scorching the defense



Erin bears down on goal

