

Norway Cup 2005

For me, being on the field of play among the players is the most exciting feeling. That is why I chose to be a referee. Although football is a game in which the players have the main role, each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.

As a highest level referee I became a member of Danish Referee Exchange (REFEX) and as a REFEX member I went to Norway to take part as a referee in the Youth largest football tournament in the whole world, Norway-Cup 2005.

There were a lot of teams, and of course a lot of referees from all over the world. As for myself, I stayed in the same room with a German group of referees and I met a lot of good referees, different cultures and a lot of pleasant people indeed.

The first three days I refereed matches from groups. My first matches were very interesting and I saw very different manners of playing football.

After that I have been appointed as a referee of 16-final in class "A". My match was between a team from Brazil and a team from Norway. It was very interesting match full of good moves and Brazilian team won the match.

The next day, I have been appointed as a referee of quarter-final in class "A" and on that match I had three observers. It was very good but very hard match and on that match I got maximal points from my three observers.

In the evening before the final matches, all referees had a party and on that party spokesman of the tournament said: "Referee on the final match in class "A" is...is...is...Igor Cvetkovski". I have to admit that I was surprised but in the same time I was very proud of myself and proud of REFEX. My assistant referees were from Norway and the Fourth Official was from Denmark. The match was between Bayelsa UTD (Nigeria) and Vindbjart (Norway).

The next day, we arrived on the stadium approximately an hour before the match started. We checked the field of play including field of play lines, dimensions of pitch, nets and after that we took twenty-five minute warm up. Before the match in the dressing room we had some discussions about our team work. After warm up we were ready for the match.

The match began with some nervousness from the Nigerian team, and at the first minute of play one player from Bayelsa was cautioned with yellow card for unsporting behavior. After first half the result was 1-1. In the second half of play a player from Vindbjart scored a goal and after the final whistle the result was 2-1 for Norwegian team Vindbjart. There were a lot of people in the stadium, they all sang and were very happy.

The Fourth Official, the assistant referees and I won a gold medal for our final match. For me, that gold medal will be some kind of stimulus for my work and refereeing. Actually, it turned out most satisfactorily.

I would like to emphasise the fact that "Norway-cup" is the best tournament I have ever seen. It is perfect organized tournament with approximately 30.000 participants. Therefore, it provides good opportunities for development as a referee and as a person.

That is why I recommend this tournament to all referees from all over the world.

And finally, I am very proud that I am a member of REFEX...

Igor Cvetkoski