

Norway Cup 2003

I'm Juan Antonio Fernández, an Spanish referee from Ribes –a little village located near Barcelona-. I've been referring for 10 years, but I can say that I discovered the real enjoyment of referring on 1999.

During this season I read something about the possibility to referee in some tournaments across Europe, such as Dana Cup (Hjørring –Denmark-), Norway Cup (Oslo –Norway-) and Gothia Cup (Göteborg –Sweden-).

I was a little afraid because I hadn't been out of my country, and of course, I hadn't referred foreign teams from all around the world; because in Spain there wasn't tradition of organizing big tournaments as those I've explained before.

But I decided to participate at Dana Cup 1999, and my fears disappeared as soon as I arrived. I was very surprised about all the facts, which were surrounding the tournament: the large number of teams, players, coaches, supporters etc.

Everything was a new sensation for me, a positive sensation, because I met a lot of friends, I lived different experiences and shared many aspects of my culture and exchange them with my other colleagues. I can tell that Dana Cup was the beginning of my "referee adventure".

During the tournament, I met an American guy, who invited me to Orange Classic tournament in Florida, on Christmas. I accepted and it was a good experience also.

During 2000 season, I traveled again to Dana Cup, with Santi, another Spanish referee, and we repeated together our holidays, enjoying the tournament; as I had done one year before.

One year later, on 2001, it wasn't possible to repeat in Danacup, but I was participating in Gasteiz Cup –small tournament in Spain-. It was very nice, but I was sure that on next year I would try to come back to any tournament like Dana Cup.

And this year, I've been referring in Norway Cup with my friend Santi: It has been a great and funny experience, and plenty of many aspects, which make it unforgettable.

It's possible to do a comparison between Danacup and Norway Cup, but I think both tournaments are different, even if we can realize that there are several aspects in common.

But, according to my experience, I must explain that this kind of tournaments have helped me, not only to grow up as a referee, and even also as a person. Norway Cup isn't only the largest tournament of youth soccer in the world, is also a human experience, with cultural additional values.

I hope that it's possible for me to repeat this "referring holidays" during many years.

Best regards,

Juan