

Write up by Ohio South Referee Dean Fairweather for Friendly Match El Salvador National Team vs DC United

I was fortunate to referee as AR2, Assistant Referee on the fan side for the DC United and El Salvador match. Here is the link to the write-up from the DC United website: <http://www.dcunited.com/news/2010/06/united-1-el-salvador-0>

It was an awesome experience; from walking out of the tunnel barely able to hear the FIFA Anthem due to the roar of the crowd to hearing the 10,000+ strong sing the El Salvadorian national Anthem and even having to alert the Referee to hold the match due to the spectator that had just jumped the fence to my left and was sprinting across the pitch with a flag for a cape. It was also a very humbling and educational experience. It has never been so clear to me the level of mental preparation and focus that a game of this caliber requires. It was very easy to see how quickly a slight loss in awareness or concentration could spell disaster with the speed of play, how quickly things were moving & changing and how different it was with a stadium full of exuberant fans yelling and screaming and creating a moving backdrop against which I must keep the players and ball within my field of vision. I can only slightly empathize with the pressure that the referees working the World Cup must feel when the games comes down to that split second that you're looking across the pitch and trying to capture the frame and determine if that attacker is actually in line and whether or not your decision will allow that goal to stand. I had an awesome time and will never forget this game. Now, I can only work for the next assignment with the hope that there will be (many) more to come.

Lastly, I wanted to reiterate my statement regarding the referees in Ohio South that worked with me, trained with me and mentored me while I lived there. I wouldn't be on my way to becoming a National Referee and getting assignments like this one without the support of a lot of dedicated individuals that share my love of the Game.

Dean Fairweather