



FOOTBALL ▶ LALIGA SMARTBANK

# The first in the pocket

FC Andorra debuts with victory in LaLiga Smartbank by beating Oviedo 0-1 with a goal from Casadesús

@FCANDORRA

<b>REAL OVIEDO</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FC ANDORRA</b>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Real Oviedo</b> Tomeu Nadal Lucas Ahijado Rodrigo Tarín Dani Calvo Daniel Aceves Viti Rozada Luismi Sánchez Hugo Rama Borja Sánchez Samuel Obeng Borja Bastón</p>	<p><b>FC Andorra</b> Raúl Lizoain Martí Vilà Diego Alende Adrià Vilanova Àlex Petxa Sergio Molina Rubén Bover Marc Aguado Adrià Altimira Marc Fernández Carlos Martínez</p>
<p><b>Trainer</b> Jon Pérez Bolo <b>Changes:</b> Obeng per Flores (54'), Enrich per Rozada (69'), Sangalli per Sánchez (69'), Suárez per Luismi (75'), Montoro per Rama (75')</p>	<p><b>Trainer</b> Eder Sarabia <b>Changes:</b> Hevel per Altimira (68'), Jacobo per Fernández (75'), Gil per Molina (75'), Casadesús per Martínez (87')</p>
<p>► <b>Goals:</b> 0-1 Casadesús (95') ► <b>Referee:</b> Andrés Fuentes Molina (comitè valencià) ► <b>Cards:</b> Sergi Enrich -vermella-, Suárez (Oviedo); Petxa (FC Andorra) ► <b>Field:</b> Carlos Tartiere ► <b>Attendance:</b> 14.500 espectadors.</p>	



► Carlos Martínez fights a ball in front of three Oviedo defenders, in a move from game.

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Dolça debuts in LaLiga Smartbank the one FC Andorra had yesterday when they took the victory in extremis by 0-1 against Oviedo in the Carlos Tartiere, thanks to a goal by Pau Casadesús in the 95th minute.

During the first few minutes, it was difficult for FC Andorra to combine effectively, as the defensive pressure from the home team was extremely demanding. The low block raised by Oviedo's coach, Jon Pérez Bolo, forced the tricolors to establish a fast-passing line, which on many occasions ended in a loss and, subsequently, with the need to start again and try the played by the sides, with Altimira as the most incisive man.

Bastón had the first chance of the game for his team, and together with the company of Obeng, the striker was synonymous with danger during the time he was on the pitch. The direct football of Oviedo, which was nourished by balls in the space looking for Obeng, was neutralized, among other members, by Petxarroman, who despite having arrived a few days ago in the Principality group enjoyed his first minutes. The footballing concept established by Eder Sarabia gradually gained prominence as the minutes went by, and FC Andorra took on an identity on the pitch.

Marc Fernández had his chance following a deep pass from Carlos Martínez, but the player could not overcome Oviedo's defensive line. On the other hand, Bastón was

about to open the scoring, while those from the Principality answered with a good counterattack, which ended with a shot by Bover. With the score 0-0, the referee blew the whistle for the end of the first 45 minutes, with everything to be

decided.

Already in the restart, Petxa was the first to approach the opponent's goal with a long shot (FC Andorra's first of the match), while Hugo Rama did the same, with a good save from Lizoain. With the mo-

re daring Andorrans, Altimira had the clearest thanks to a good offensive transition that Nadal was responsible for undoing, rejecting the low shot of the tricolor player.

From there, Oviedo pressured the Andorrans to such an extent that Sarabia's men spent 10 or 12 minutes running after the ball, an unusual scenario and which forced FC Andorra to repair them. And he succeeded. Possession of the ball allowed the balance to return to the game, until the last 10 minutes, with new faces on the pitch, pressed the accelerator of opportunities.

Montoro and Sergi Enrich had two clear opportunities to open the scoring, but everything turned upside down following the expulsion, with a red card, of Enrich, due to an ugly tackle on Petxa. The opportunity to face 10 players with five minutes left was not wasted by FC Andorra. A long shot from Gil ended in a corner (with controversy included, as Nadal defended that he had not touched the ball). The short shot was taken by Hevel, who with his left leg put a direct cross to the head of Pau Casadesús,

who sent the ball into the back of the net to make it 0-1 and add to FC Andorra's first victory in his debut in the silver division of Spanish football. ≡

## «I think we played a great game and for us this result is incredible»

►► The coach of FC Andorra, Eder Sarabia, wanted to explain, right at the end of the meeting, how the team's first victory in professional football had been experienced. «I think we played a great game and for us this result is incredible», declared the Basque coach, who also remarked that at some points in the game the team «knew how to suffer against a historic and one of the best teams in the category, as is Oviedo».

►► The triumphant debut of the tricolor took on even more value, according to Sarabia, for having achieved it «on a stage in which, just



►► A moment from game.

arriving, we already got goosebumps». FC Andorra thus overcomes the first test, the jump in quality from one category to another, in which for the team «it is a dream and a prize in a year in which we will go out to compete in all places».

## The keys

- STYLES**  
FC Andorra bet on maturing the plays to create danger, while Oviedo was more direct.
- OCCASIONS**  
The first half, in terms of chances of danger, was for Oviedo, with Bastón as the key man in the area.
- INTENSITY**  
The second half was a declaration of intent by both teams, who went out for the game.
- ECSTASY**  
Pau Casadesús scored the winning goal with five minutes remaining, sealing the first tricolor victory.

# This is a trend that new clientele much more in demand in «slow tourism»

**NADINE ROMIEU** Director of the ITO Conflent-Canigò

IRINA RYBALCHENKO  
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From 16 to 23 August in the Conflent region (Pyrenees) classes at the Catalan Summer University (Universitat Catalana d'Estiu) will be held. Since 1968, the university has been organising its conferences at the Lycée Charles Renouvier and hosting over a thousand participants (students, teachers and members of the public).

Conflent is a historical Catalan comarca of Northern Catalonia, now part of the French department of Pyrénées-Orientales. The Canigou (Catalan: Canigó) mountain dominates Conflent.

Conflent-Canigò is a real natural treasure that is associated with many ancient legends.

We speak to Nadine Romieu, director of the Intercommunity Tourist Office (OTI) Conflent-Canigò.

**-Why is the Canigou massif called the emblem of the Eastern Pyrenees and a sacred mountain for Catalans? What is the history of this place?**

-It is the emblem of the Eastern Pyrenees classified as the Grand Site of France since July 2012, and the Grand Site of Occitania since 2017. The Canigou is an exceptional natural site that offers hikers an impressive spectacle over the plain of Roussillon.

This is the first high peak of the Eastern Pyrenees chain, it is visible from Languedoc, Arieja and the province of Girona. It is also a symbol of the identity of the Pyrenean landscape.

In addition, there are traditions around the Canigou (the «meeting» of Sant Joan on June 23). This famous «meeting» takes place the weekend before Sant Joan. On this occasion, thousands of guardians of the «Flame of Canigó» gather no matter what the weather is - rainy, windy, snowy or hot. One single goal inspires this spontaneous collective: to climb the famous peak of Canigou and get the sacred flame. It is also a great celebration of friendship. There are no young or old, no actors, no spectators. There are only keepers of traditions living together in one country and enjoying these meetings.

It is curious that the first certified ascent of Canigou, which Pere III of Aragon made, was recorded in 1285. However, the monarch did not make it to the top.

And if you want to take more advantage, you can go by the famous Yellow Train from Villefranche-de-Conflent and relax in the hot springs in Vernet-les-Bains, Molig or the Banys de Sant Tomàs.

**-What would you recommend that tourists visit first? What sports activities do you offer in summer and winter?**

-Conflent is rich in heritage. Three villages are part of the Most Beautiful Villages in France.



LUIS URBINA

Evol is a medieval town with a «mountainous character,» with schist walls and slate roofs, dominated by an old feudal castle from the 13th century and equipped with a Romanesque church.

Eus is an atypical stone village, suitable for artists. It is the ideal place for a family walk where you can enjoy an impressive view of the Canigó.

Villefranche-de-Conflent is a medieval city that the famous Vauban fortified. UNESCO listed the city as a World Heritage Site. It is a must-see in Conflent for all lovers of Vauban's work and heritage. The town is charming with its cobbled streets.

The territory also includes thousand-year-old Romanesque abbeys: the abbey of Saint-Martin of Canigou and the abbey of Saint-Michel-de-Cuixà.

Conflent has a wide range of sports activities: hiking, cycling, rock climbing, canyoning, via ferrata. In winter, you can go canyoning in the warm waters of Thuès-entre-valls, sledding or snowshoeing in Mantet.

**-Do you think that ecotourism is a trend in recent years?**

-This is a trend that new clientele much more in demand in «slow tourism», nature and open spaces are feeling and confirming. But it is also

a clientele that is looking for more quality. The pandemic has changed the habits and practices of tourists, which are likely to continue.

**-Can you tell us about the tourists who visit the Conflent Canigou destination?**

-The clientele that visits the Conflent is mainly made up of families, customers of the spas of Molitg-les-Bains or Vernet-les-Bains and hikers. Catalans from Spain are the first international visitors.

**-What, in your opinion, is the most beautiful excursion to Conflent?**

-There are about 85 signposted routes in El Conflent, the most beautiful and famous of which are the ascent to the summit of Canigou, the gorges of Carança, the ascent to the summit of Madres, the Cascade des anglais and Saint-Vincent.

**-Do you have a strategic plan to attract tourists, including international tourists?**

-The Tourist Office of Conflent Canigou has different well-oriented means of communication. Fairs dedicated to outdoor activities, a regional and international press action plan (mainly Catalan and English). We value our wealth of natural and cultural heritage.

The Tourist Office participates in the promotions of the departmental tourism development agency and the regional tourism committee.

**-How would you like to develop the tourist infrastructure? Do you have an investment plan?**

-The Tourist Office does not intervene directly in the territory's infrastructure. However, we conduct important work to improve the quality of the offer.

**-Do you organise any cultural events? What is planned for this year?**

-We organise a festive and family day at the end of June. The aim is to discover the natural, heritage and gastronomic riches of the territory with many free activities for young and old (excursions, castles, giants, sardines, culinary entertainment, shows and boat races).

In addition, from May to November we offer activities to discover cultural sites. We organise minibuss excursions that include a visit to a monument or a noteworthy village and the discovery of an agricultural farm with a tasting of local products.

On November 26 and 27, 2022 The Sant Andreu Fair will take place in Vinça. During an entire weekend, tourists will be able to discover Catalan traditions such as

the sardanas, the castellers and the correfocs (fire show). Local products will also be valued in the producers' market.

Other events value Catalan traditions such as the Festival of Giants in Villefranche-de-Conflent for Easter, and the Festival of Sant Joan in Vernet-les-bains on June 21, 22 and 23.

**-Please tell us about the famous Canigó championship: 34 kilometres and 2180 metres are proposed for everyone or is there an easier race?**

-The Canigó Championship is the most important sporting event in the territory. The Canigó Championship is part of the history of Conflent, as it owes its origins to the brave inhabitants of Vernet-les-Bains who went in search of blocks of ice in the Canigou, which they brought with them to refresh SPA clients who frequented luxury hotels.

Today, every first Sunday in August, this famous race gathers runners with loads (8 kg) to pay tribute to the old ice carriers with or without load.

Participating in the Canigó Championship is an unforgettable experience. The most famous race is the classic race: 34km/2200m of positive and negative gradient, limited to 800 participants.

In recent years, two other tests have been offered to open the sporting event to as many people as possible: the «Mattes rouges» race: 19km / 1250m of positive and negative gradient, limited to 200 participants and the «Goa» race: 11.5km / limited to 100 participants.

The records that the competitors in the classic race hold are as follows: Male: 2 h 58; Female: 3 h 41; Men with load: 4 h 04; Female with a load of 8 kg: 5 h 14.

**-Gastronomic tourism in the Pyrenees: what can the Conflent Canigou destination offer tourists?**

-The territory has many local products and Catalan specialties catalanes (*Calçots, Panellets, Coscoll, Ouillade, Boles de Picolat, Cargolade, Bunyetes, Coques, Rosquillas*).

To taste good Catalan products, you must go to the weekly markets or the producers' markets in the Rotja valley (every Thursday in the summer) or have lunch in one of the home-cooked restaurants offered by Conflent.

**-The Catalan Summer University will take place from August 16 to 23. Is it open to everyone? What are the conditions to participate? How many people will participate?**

-The Catalan Summer University is open to everyone. There is a wide range of courses, seminars, fun or high-level meetings, workshops, conferences, debates, films, cinema, songs, and concerts. It is the occasion for the population of Prada to welcome people from all the Catalan Countries and organise free concerts in Catalan in the evenings in the great Plaça de la República. ≡