







Real Betis vs Rayo Vallecano



For our first game excursion in Sevilla, we had the opportunity to watch Real Betis take on Rayo Vallecano at Estadio La Cartuja. Our day began at 1:00 pm, for a 4:15 pm kickoff, at the Cerveceria Grande, a few miles from the stadium. Full of fellow Betistas (a fan of Betis), the energy was already buzzing with excitement for the game to come. Then, we began the ~45-minute walk to the stadium, slowly seeing more and more green adorned on fans on the same journey.



We got to the grounds a little over an hour before the game to soak up the sun, grab a bite to eat, and enjoy the chants and atmosphere. We also checked out the team store, and Brad and Carson became true Betistas by getting kits.



Once we got inside, the size of the stadium really hit us, especially because from the outside it didn't even look like a typical stadium. Seeing thousands of fans dressed in green and white made the moment feel even bigger. When the teams walked out, it was incredible to witness how passionate the supporters were, singing their team's anthem out loud while holding their scarves high in the air. I especially enjoyed that the lyrics were displayed on the big screen, which allowed everyone including us, who didn't know the anthem to sing along. It made us feel included and truly part of the Betis community.



Betis went up early in the 16th minute when Cédric Bakambu scored off a rebound, and the stadium absolutely erupted. People were jumping, hugging, yelling, it was chaos in the best way. After halftime, Betis had a few chances to extend the lead, but Rayo Vallecano answered back in the 42nd minute and tied it 1-1 through Isi Palazón who scored off a cross into the box. The last stretch of the game was tense.

Betis kept pushing for a winner, and every time the ball went into the box, everyone stood up expecting something to happen. In the end, they weren't able to capitalize, and the game finished 1-1. The result left many Betis fans disappointed because, table-wise, Betis were in 5th place while Rayo sat in 17th, near the relegation zone. Realistically, it felt like this was a game Betis should have won. Overall, it was such a cool experience. From the walk to the stadium to singing the anthem and celebrating the goal, it felt like we weren't just watching a game but we were part of it.