



As the world's most popular sport, football (soccer for us North American readers) has borne witness to some of the greatest athletic feats and inspirational performances of all time. Whether on the grandest stages at the World Cup or in local squares, the sport's following is unquestioned, the dedication and support of its fans, unrivaled. Unfortunately, all too often, fans become fanatics and take their passion for the game and loyalty to the team too far. BY DENISE AHRENS, MARKETING MANAGER, CROCKETT INTERNATIONAL



A Step Ahead

Pelco Secures Argentine Stadium



We've read the stories and seen examples of the violence that can erupt when thousands upon thousands of fans turn support into violence. Understanding the need to provide a safe environment for fans and players alike during soccer contests, the City of La Plata, located in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, made security the most important component of its mission when it constructed its Estadio Unico. One of the most beautiful arenas in all of Argentina, Estadio Unico is a modern structure that sits on a 32-acre site, with a seating capacity of 40,000.

While teams from across the country provide endless hours of entertainment, the real star is the Pelco video security system deployed by security integrator Selnet S.A. Responsible for the design, development and implementation of the stadium's video security presence, Selnet chose to go with a total Pelco solution.

Cristian Iammarrone, Commercial Manager for Selnet says, "Choosing Pelco technology to satisfy the needs of our clients was based on the reliability of their products and high demands that were required in this application. Pelco's brand is highly regarded in the security industry and once again the quality of its products was demonstrated."

Based in Buenos Aires, the company's main commercial activity is the distribution of electronic security products, as well as end-to-end design, engineering, installation and operations of security solutions. With more than 24 years of experience, Selnet S.A. has consistently worked with Pelco for the last decade, having successfully completed security

projects with Pelco as the featured product manufacturer of choice.

With the stadium project completed, the video and audio electronic security system is considered one of the most modern and powerful among all soccer stadium installations in Argentina.

The heart of the system is two DX8000 digital video recorders running in concert with a CM6800E Matrix System, four KBD300A keyboards and a combination of 28-, 21- and 14-inch monitors.

Providing high-quality video of the stadium, ticket booths, exits and entrances, stands and surrounding areas are six Esprit Integrated Positioning Systems and 18 Spectra Series Dome Cameras.

According to the stadium's security personnel, "The stadium has encountered many of the same issues that other stadiums in the country and around the world face. As a result, we demand high-technology equipment in order to enhance the prevention and deterrence of violence while having video evidence of incidents in case prosecution is necessary after the fact."

Nowdays, these systems are highly important, not only for post-event investigation, but they also assist the performance of the security forces on site, enabling issues to be resolved and mitigated before an event escalates. Such a proactive response further enhances the safety of the players and public in attendance. The video security system is used not only during each game by police and security officials but also two hours

before and two hours after the game to provide an experience second-to-none for the fans.

Four operators are in charge of the supervision and control of the whole system. And offering complementary support are Selnet S.A. personnel, who assist with technical issues and act as backups for the entire operation.



This picture was taken during a Argentinean First Soccer Division game, in La Plata city, Province of Buenos Aires. The classic match pitted Estudiantes against Gimnasia y Esgrima, in front of a jam-packed Estadio Unico.

To celebrate the goal he scored, Ezequiel Maggiolo from Estudiantes hugged one of the Pelco Esprit Integrated Positioning Systems, which is part of the overall video security presence at the Stadium.

Augusto Devesa, Regional Sales Manager from Crockett International in Argentina said: "This event was seen on Fútbol de Primer, the most watched soccer show in Argentina, which presents highlights of the most important games. The final score was 2-1 in favor of Estudiantes; without a doubt Pelco brought them luck!"