

DAILY NEWS

Tuesday 18 Feb 2020

ALKASS[®]
INTERNATIONAL CUP



TIKI-TAKA TORMENT

**BARCA OUT AS ASPIRE,
RANGERS & PSG PROGRESS**

 **Aspire Academy 4/4**  **Rangers FC**

 **PARIS SAINT-GERMAN 2/2**  **FC Barcelona**

TALKASS DIGITAL



THE FARMHOUSE AND THE FACTORY

HOW BARCELONA AND REAL MADRID INVEST IN YOUTH

They are perhaps the two biggest football clubs on the planet. They each have glittering, trophy-laden histories. They have millions of supporters across the globe. And - famously - they each have distinctive systems when it comes to recruiting and nurturing their young players, who all have dreams of making it into the first team setups at Barcelona or Real Madrid.

As this year's Al Kass International Cup is graced by the dual presence of Spain's 'Big Two', 'Daily News' takes a special, two-part look at the youth system at each of these gigantic institutions: La Masia (The Farmhouse) at Barcelona and - to begin - La Fabrica (The Factory) in Madrid.

The 1950s was a period of extraordinary - perhaps unparalleled - success for Real Madrid. Los Blancos excelled both domestically and across Europe, securing four La Liga crowns and - from the competition's inception in 1955 - an unrivalled five consecutive European Cups.

Argentinean legend Alfredo di Stefano would develop a lethal understanding with Hungarian hotshot Ferenc Puskas as Madrid swept all before them in the late-50s. And yet, even as they did so, there was a recognition that homegrown potential needed to be developed to play alongside such imported greats as di Stefano and Puskas.



It was against this heady backdrop that 'The Factory' was created. The brainchild of former Real Madrid Aficionados (Amateurs) player Miguel Malbo, La Fabrica was founded with the support of Real's legendary president Santiago Bernabeu, after whom the club's stadium was named.

LA FABRICA BEGAN LIFE IN THE NOW-DEFUNCT CIUDAD DEPORTIVA, WHERE THE FIRST TEAM ALSO TRAINED, AND MEMBER FACILITIES INCLUDED RECREATION ROOMS AND SWIMMING POOLS - AN INNOVATIVE DESIGN CONCEPT AT THE TIME.

Emilio Butragueno, Real director and former striker for the club and Spain, recalled: "The old Ciudad Deportiva had a central building. You would enter down a hallway to the right for the first team squad, to the left was for the Castilla (Reserve) team. At the end of the hall there was a very large locker room for all of the lower division teams."

The 'Factory' system arguably reached its zenith in the 1980s when many La Fabrica graduates helped the club to a glittering array of silverware, including five top-flight titles in a row and back-to-back UEFA Cup triumphs in 1985 and 1986.

AMONG THOSE HOMEGROWN HEROES WERE ACE MARKSMAN BUTRAGUENO, SWEEPER MANUEL SANCHIS, ATTACKING MIDFIELDER MARTIN VAZQUEZ, RIGHT MIDFIELDER MICHEL AND STRIKER MIGUEL PARDEZA.

Throughout this triumphant period, Malbo continued to preside over youth development in his role as Director of La Fabrica - astonishingly, a position he would hold for more than 50 years.

The modern world eventually caught up with Ciudad Deportiva, which began life on the outskirts of Madrid but had become absorbed into the northern suburbs of the city by the turn of the century. And, in 2005, the club moved to its fabled modern-day training headquarters Ciudad Real Madrid, located just outside the Spanish capital in Valdebebas.

The following year, Miguel Malbo passed away at the age of 91. His indelible mark on the club is commemorated by the Torneo Miguel Malbo youth competition, held annually in his honour.

And, his legacy continues to burn brightly at Real, with Valdebebas now home to 270 youth players and 12 teams, from U8s to U19s. La Fabrica director Jose Manuel Diaz explained: "When you arrive at Valdebebas, the locker rooms for the youngest players come first, until you get to the last one which is for Real Madrid Castilla. For the players, moving forward through the locker rooms helps them realise how they are advancing."

The interior design of Valdebebas mirrors the path laid out for Madrid's youngsters, who aim to work their way up through a pyramid system before reaching the very top and making into Real's first XI, the road to success being one where dedicated toil is the very least that is expected.

Current Real and Spain winger Lucas Vazquez is a product of La Fabrica. He joined the system in 2007 at the age of 16, and made his debut for the club's C-Team in the 2010-11 campaign. He then worked his way into the reserve side, helping them return to the Spanish league's second tier after a five-year absence in 2012. Vazquez went out on loan to Espanyol in 2014 before returning a year later, making his first team bow for Real that September.

"The pyramid closes in more as you go towards the top," he revealed. "It gets harder."



La Fabrica still plays a vital role for those that the club regard as the cream of their own crop. There are five other graduates alongside Vazquez in the current Real squad – striker Borja Mayoral, fellow forward Mariano Diaz and defenders Achraf Hakimi, Dani Carvajal and Nacho.

And, as well as continuing its rich tradition of developing playing talent, aspiring coaches also learn their trade at La Fabrica. In recent years, these have included former Real luminaries such as Raul, Xabi Alonso and Roberto Carlos. One way or another, 'The Factory' production line continues to roll.

***JOIN US AGAIN TOMORROW FOR THE STORY OF 'LA MASIA'**



ASPIRE SECURE TOP SPOT AFTER AN AL KASS GOALFEST



Hosts Aspire Academy and reigning champions Glasgow Rangers played out the first draw of this year's Al Kass International Cup, sharing the points after an eight-goal thriller.

Both sides were already assured of qualification so made plenty of changes from their respective victories over Suwon Samsung, Aspire fielding just four of the players who started the opener and Rangers selecting five of their first choice XI.

Rangers needed to win to top the group but they got off to a nightmare start, going behind after just two minutes. Abdulrahman Al-Dosari swung in a cross from the left but the Rangers defence dithered, allowing the alert Mobark Hamza to open the scoring.

It was 2-0 on eight minutes as Rangers' defence was again sloppy and Mohammed Al-Quraishi showed fine control before firing a left-foot shot past Scott Cowie.

Charlie Lindsay, named as Rangers' captain after an immense match-winning performance against Suwon, pulled the Glasgow side back into the match with a perfectly-flighted free-kick after 13 minutes to give Amir Katoul no chance.

A high-scoring start to the match saw Aspire restore their two-goal lead on 17 minutes when Talal Al-Raeesi was given plenty of space and he let fly from long range, sending the ball just out of Cowie's reach.

A fifth goal followed on 29 minutes as

Rangers reduced the arrears with a well-taken effort by powerful striker Adedire Mebude. Zak McKay sent a fine cross in from the right and London-born Mebude, whose brother Dapo recently made his Rangers debut at the age of just 17, held off two challenges before scoring with an angled drive.

Cowie gifted Aspire their fourth goal on 38th minutes when he parried Al-Quraishi's cross straight into the path of Abdulaziz Al-Naimi who made no mistake.

Rangers reduced the arrears to 4-3 on 41 minutes, Lindsay tucking the ball under the keeper after Mebude had flicked it into his path.

Cowie was replaced by Jack McConnell at half-time and he should have been picking the ball out of the net within two minutes. Abdulaziz Al-Naimi crossed and found Hamza in plenty of space but he fired over.

Rangers twice went close to equalizing just after the hour-mark, Zak McKay firing just over and Lindsay was then denied a hat-trick by the keeper's legs. Rangers appealed for a penalty as the ball hit skipper Mohammad Ali's hand before reaching Lindsay.

Rangers attacking play was impressive but they were sloppy at the back and on-loan

American professional Francis Jacobs, on his first start for the club, totally miskicked in his own area but Al-Dosari failed to take advantage.

Within seconds, Rangers broke up the other end and Robbie Ure, who netted against Suwon in the opener, fired over. Kyle Semple also went close for Rangers as they chased an equalizer, although they needed to win to top the group.

Rangers finally grabbed an equalizer in the 88th minute as Lindsay's flick sent through Ure and his shot was parried to Rory Wilson to score. Wilson had only come on two minutes earlier but there was a hint of offside about his goal.

The first-half goalfest had suggested the two sides were going to produce the highest score in Al Kass International Cup history, but the more subdued second period means the record remains at 10 goals in a game (Barcelona 6, Manchester City 4 in 2014 and Benfica 7, Aspire 3 in 2018).

Lindsay picked up his second Most Valuable Player (MVP) award of the tournament and is already established as one of the class acts this year.



ASPIRE ACADEMY

GK Amir KATOUL	DF Talal AL-RAEESI
DF Chalpan ABDULNASIR	MF Abdulaziz AL-NAIMI
DF Mohammed ALI (C)	DF Yousif ELNOIRI
MF Mobark HAMZA	MF Abdulrahman AL-DOSARI
MF Jassem ALSHARSHANI	MF Abdulrahman AL-NAIMI
FW Mohammed AL-QURAIISHI	



RANGERS FC

GK Scott Callum Jon COWIE	DF Zak David MCKAY
DF Kyle Andrew SEMPLE	DF Jake David WALLACE
MF Darren MCINALLY	MF Gavin Andrew GALLAGHER
MF Charlie LINDSAY (C)	MF Johannes Kristinn BJARNASON
FW Adedire AWOKOYA MEBUDE	MF Francis Newman JACOBS
DF Bobby DEANE	



PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Charlie Lindsay

“

Really happy about the trophy and the game. We worked our socks off for each other (as a team) and played really well. Unfortunately, we were not able to win but at least we got the draw. We know Aspire were tough, fit, and physical. For the first half, we weren't really there but for the second half, we came out and played a lot better, and all of our goals were of top quality. It was a fair draw.

– Charlie also claimed the MVP title for Rangers' last game against Suwon Samsung two nights ago

”

THE EXPERTS SAY...

NICK SUMMERBEE - COMMENTATOR

“

The quality of the two sides was really good which is why they scored so many goals. FC Rangers weren't very strong defensively and were quite vulnerable especially in the second half. I'm sure they'll improve that for the next game. All in all, I think these are two sides that can go through in the competition. Considering that there wasn't a lot to play for, as they both qualified to go through. But it was exciting to watch and they played a good game.

Looking to the next game, neither side has a problem scoring goals but they just need to sort themselves defensively. Both sides have a fighting spirit and very much equal as well. I look forward to seeing them in their next games and they both have a chance to go on and win it.

Are things starting to look clear as to who we may see in the finals?

Not at all, and this is my eighth year at Al Kass and for Rhodri Williams his 9th year! I think this will be the best year so far. Going into it, I thought because they're younger, maybe we wouldn't see quite the same quality, but I don't see that now, I see so many good sides. PSG, Barcelona, we don't speak about Inter Milan enough, FC Rangers, Aspire. There's so many teams - it's anyone's game! This will be the best year.

”

SC AMBASSADOR AND MEMBER OF ASPIRE ACADEMY'S COACHING STAFF FOR THE AL KASS TOURNAMENT

Tim Cahill

“

It was a good game and a fantastic result that puts us at the top of the group. And that's what we wanted! The boys played really well. We didn't want to concede that many goals but we're confident. We want to go on and score goals and attack.

”



RANGERS FC HEAD COACH

Brian Gilmour

“

We expected Aspire to be that tight. We knew they were a good team as we watched their first match and some analysis. We also faced them at this stage last year, so we knew they would be dangerous. What wasn't expected was probably the result and the number of goals in the game. It's now time to rest and recover, then look forward to the quarter-finals on Wednesday. We still don't know who our opponents are, but we have a plan for all three teams. We'll wait until it's finally decided and then (move) accordingly.

”



HEAR IT FROM THE FANS

A MAN-UNITED SUPPORTER, SAID

“

David Leadbetter: I watched two games so far. I watched Kashiwa Reysol, a very good team that beat Barcelona 2-1 the other night. I watched the Real Madrid game as well, which was a pretty exciting one. It's great to see these young lads playing.

”



CINDY JACOBS, PROUD MOTHER OF FRANCIS JACOBS - FC RANGERS NUMBER 20

“

Francis is the second generation of football players in our family; his dad was a football player and his two older brothers are also players. I was so proud of him tonight. We knew that Aspire was going to be a tough game and the first half was really difficult. But somehow the Rangers came back. The match was really fun. I sat with the Rangers' fans and they are truly the best fans! It was so nice to have some supporters.

”





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PSG HOLD BARCELONA TO SEND THEM CRASHING OUT OF THE AL KASS INTERNATIONAL CUP



Three-time champions Paris St Germain sent Spanish giants Barcelona crashing out of the Al Kass International Cup with a battling 2-2 draw at Aspire.

Barca, making their third appearance at the world-class youth tournament, have failed to reach the semi-finals in any of their visits to Doha.

The Spaniards have a great pedigree for producing world-class home-grown talent and their approach play was impressive against both Kashiwa Reysol and PSG but they ended up bottom of Group B with just one point.

Ilyes Housni had the first effort on goal after 12 minutes but goalkeeper Ander Astralaga, brought into the side after spending the opener on the Barcelona bench, was untroubled.

Barca skipper Alex Garrido then tried his luck with a low drive but couldn't get it on target. His effort came during a good spell, who had worked their way into the match after a positive start by the Parisians.

As Barca pressed for the opener Jan Coca

hit the post with a low right-foot drive but PSG quickly broke up the other end and thought they should have had a penalty when Housni went down, but Mohsen Yaqoub Darwish ruled that contact was minimal.

Jordi Coca, twin brother of Jan, was finding room down the right and he sent one shot across goal and then fired into the side netting just minutes later.

Barca enjoyed a strong finish to the half but were stunned by a PSG counter attack that saw them take the lead in the first of two minutes added on. Housni burst through the Catalan defence to get on the end of Ismael Garbi's through ball and sent a sublime lob into the net.

It was harsh on Barca, who had enjoyed 58% of the possession in the first half and had also had more shots than the French side.

Substitute Pascal Lemina made a great burst into the box at the start of the second half, showing great skill but not managing to find the finish that his build-up play deserved. Enzo Tayamoutou also went agonisingly close when bursting into the box and sending a curling shot just wide of the post.

Barca then found the net on 70 minutes but it was ruled out for offside. Jordi, who had earlier seen an effort well saved, flicked a superb ball between two French defenders and skipper Aleix finished well only to see his effort correctly ruled out.

Housni went close to his second two minutes later but Astralaga saved well with his legs. A goal would have left Barca needing to score at least three goals to qualify but they did grab a well-worked equalizer on 74 minutes. Pol Munoz sent a superb ball inside PSG left-back Vimoj Mungu and Jordi raced onto it to beat the keeper to send it into the net.

PSG went back in front when Tayamoutou scored on 81 minutes following a fine dummy by Gharbi but Barca levelled again four minutes later when 13-year-old Warren Zaire Emery brought down the impressive Jordi and the referee pointed to the spot. Alexei coolly sent Louis Mouquet the wrong way from the spot to set up a dramatic last five minutes.

Lemina should have given PSG victory with the final touch of the match when bursting clear, but his failure to hit the target mattered little as the Parisians still topped the group.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC 2 - 2 FC BARCELONA



PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC

GK Louis Moise MOUQUET	FW Ilyes HOUSNI
DF Hugo Florent LAMY	MF Ismael GHARBI
DF Vimoj MUNTU MUNGU	FW Jouvence AMERICO
DF El Chadaille BITSHIABU (C)	DF Gloire BUNGA CAPITAO
MF Warren ZAIRE EMERY	FW Younes EL HANNACH
FW Wilson Serge ODOBERT	



FC BARCELONA

GK Ander ASTRALAGA ARANGUREN	MF Antonio CARAVACA COMINO
DF Marc JURADO GOMEZ	FW Jan COCA AUSIN
DF Pol MUÑOZ MILA	MF Aleix GARRIDO CAÑIZARES (C)
DF Alex VALLE GOMEZ	FW Xavier MORENO HERNANDEZ
MF Adrià CAPDEVILA PUIGMAL	DF Sergi DOMINGUEZ VILORIA
FW Jordi COCA AUSIN	



PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Aleix Garrido Canizares

“It's been wonderful to play here at Aspire. The facilities, the equipment, everything is wonderful. I'm happy to have been a part of the tournament.”

THE EXPERTS SAY...

RHODRI WILLIAMS

“

Barcelona had lots of opportunities; they just didn't put the ball in the net. But that's the hard side of football. However, it was a great game to watch. I think PSG look extremely mature, composed and powerful, right from the start (of the tournament).

It will take (quite) some performance to beat PSG, I think. They look like the winners at this stage. There are still teams who can put in a brilliant performance, but I just think PSG really do look strong. We spoke today with Jean-François Pien, Director of the PSG Youth Academy, and it was fantastic listening to him talk about the 'PSG way', their principles, and philosophy. It's so clear and you can see it out on the pitch. It's actually lovely to watch.

”

PSG HEAD COACH

Herve Guegan

“

It was a very difficult game as Barcelona is a very good team. The play well and can keep the ball under pressure, so possession was difficult. We had a few technical mistakes, but we defended very well during the game and had a fighting spirit. When we recovered the ball, we managed to score. I think if we were lucky, we could've scored two more goals. But overall, it was a good game and I'm happy with the team. We're now qualified for the quarterfinals and the most important games are yet to come. We'll use this time to recover but we're definitely excited for our next game.

”



FC BARCELONA COACH

Sergi Mila Herrero

“

Pre-match quote

We trained a little bit in the morning, but just a little bit because we (soon) have a hard game against PSG so we tried to prepare as best as we can for the match.

Post-match quote

We played a good match and both teams had high performing players. Coming to a tournament like this, we are definitely looking for this kind of match. Unfortunately, we needed a victory to get to the quarter final and we didn't get that.

Of course, we are now disappointed but I think that we played well against a strong team. The Al Kass tournament is top level, the city is very nice, and the teams are always high level, so we hope to be here next year!

”



TOP SCORERS



OMAR SADIK

3 GOALS



CHARLIE LINDSAY

3 GOALS



NICOLÁS PAZ MARTÍNEZ

3 GOALS



DAVID PEGELLÍN GARCIA

3 GOALS

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GAMES SCHEDULES

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
 Aspire Academy	 Paris Saint-Germain FC	 FC Internazionale Milano	 Real Madrid CF
 Rangers FC	 FC Barcelona	 Altinordu FK	 FC Zenit Saint Petersburg
 Suwon Samsung	 Kashiwa Reysol	 Mohammed VI Football Academy	 Sporting Clube de Portugal

DATE	NO.	TEAMS	TIME	VENUE
Thu 13.02.	1	Paris Saint-Germain	3-0	Kashiwa Reysol
	2	Aspire Academy	3-1	Suwon Samsung
Fri 14.02.	3	Inter Milan	3-1	Mohammed VI Academy
	4	FC Zenit	3-5	Real Madrid
Sat 15.02.	5	Suwon Samsung	2-3	Rangers FC
	6	Kashiwa Reysol	2-1	FC Barcelona
Sun 16.02.	7	Altinordu FK	0-2	Mohammed VI Academy
	8	Real Madrid	4-1	Sporting Clube de Portugal
Mon 17.02.	9	Aspire Academy	4-4	Rangers FC
	10	Paris Saint-Germain	2-2	FC Barcelona
Tue 18.02.	11	Inter Milan	VS	Altinordu FK
	12	Sporting Clube de Portugal	VS	FC Zenit
POSITION 9 - 12				
Wed 19.02.	13	Position 10	VS	Position 9
	14	Position 12	VS	Position 11
QUARTER FINALS				
Wed 19.02.	15	1st Group A	VS	2nd Group C
	16	1st Group C	VS	2nd Group A
Thu 20.02.	17	1st Group B	VS	2nd Group D
	18	1st Group D	VS	2nd Group B
PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8				
Fri 21.02.	19	Loser Game No. 16	VS	Loser Game No. 18
	20	Loser Game No. 15	VS	Loser Game No. 17
SEMI FINALS				
Sat 22.02.	21	Winner Game No. 16	VS	Winner Game No. 18
	22	Winner Game No. 15	VS	Winner Game No. 17
PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8				
Sun 23.02.	23	Loser Game No. 19	VS	Loser Game No. 20
	24	Winner Game No. 19	VS	Winner Game No. 20
POSITION 3 - 4 & FINAL				
Mon 24.02.	25	Loser Game No. 21	VS	Loser Game No. 22
	26	Winner Game No. 21	VS	Winner Game No. 22

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