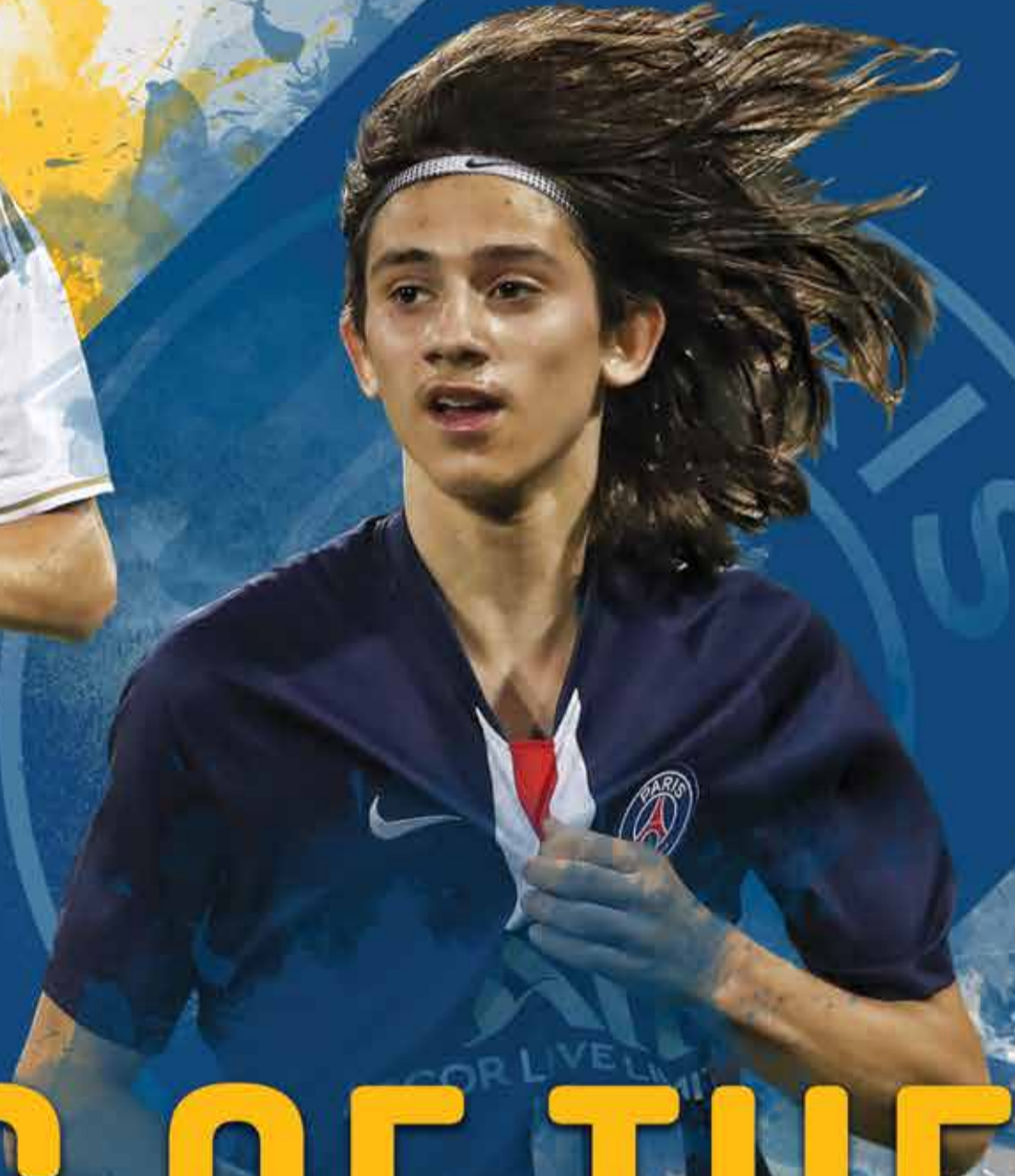


DAILY NEWS

Friday 21 Feb 2020

ALKASS[®]
INTERNATIONAL CUP



STARS OF THE FUTURE SHINE

 PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN **5/0**  FC ZENIT SAINT PETERSBURG

 REAL MADRID CF **7/0**  KASHIWA REYSOL

TIM CAHILL

FROM OZ TO AL KASS



ASPIRE

ACADEMY

It has been a long road travelled for Tim Cahill, in a professional football career that spanned five countries, seven clubs and more than 20 years.

His playing days may have drawn to a close, but his involvement in the sport he loves has taken a new direction via an ambassadorial role for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The Australian legend has also embarked on gaining his UEFA coaching badges and, for the past week or more, the youngsters of Aspire Academy have benefitted from Cahill's warmth, wisdom and will to win, after he took up an offer to be part of the local team's coaching staff for Al Kass 2020.

Aspire's progress in the tournament was cruelly curtailed on Wednesday evening, after losing their quarter-final clash against Inter Milan 1-0 despite dominating the game for long periods. But Cahill is in no doubt that his charges will emerge stronger for the experience.

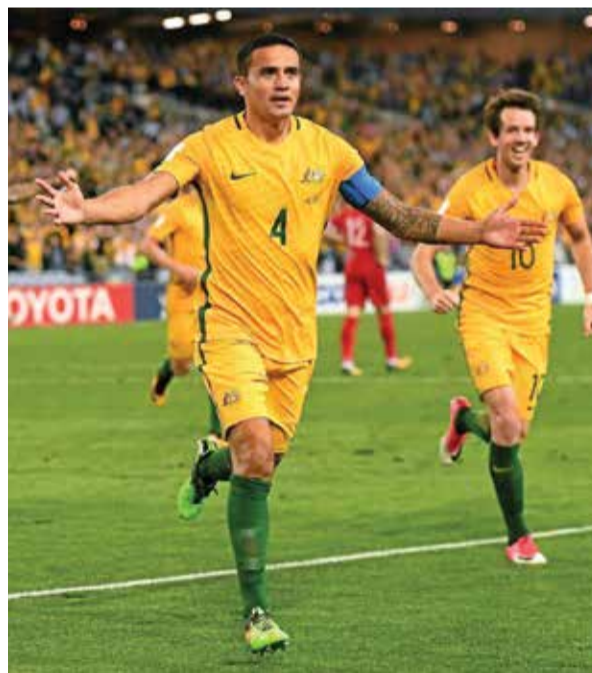
"I'm proud because we showed our style and put our presence in the game and pushed them in the end," he reflected. "Aspire Academy has a lot of talents, and now it's about making sure we keep growing this talent and nurturing it and giving more for the future."

The team is really upset, but it's a really good reaction because you can see how much this means to them as a collective group. We will work to help them create more chances, and we will take a lot of positives from this tournament."

Watching over the talented Under-16s, Cahill may well have reflected on his own formative years in the game back in Australia. One of his former coaches, John Doyle, recalled: "I was coaching Tim's older brothers and, as a five-year-old, he would come to watch them and join in wherever possible. At this young age, he was already very competitive, keen to learn and tried to emulate his brothers."

Remarkably, in the early years he wasn't recognised for representative honours, but as a 16-year-old with Sydney United he was given his chance.

"ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL LEARNING DIFFERENT RUNS, HE WAS HARD TO DISPOSSESS, DISPLAYED GREAT ATHLETICISM AND HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED THE ART OF JUMPING HIGH, DESPITE HAVING TO IMPROVE HIS BODY WORK AND TIMING REQUIRED IN WINNING THE BALL IN THE AIR."



Cahill's progress at the semi-professional Sydney United was so rapid that by the age of 18 he had made his debut for Millwall, who were then in the third tier of English football. He spent six years with the South East London side, winning a Second Division title in 2001 and reaching the FA Cup Final in 2004. Despite finishing on the losing side, Cahill's career was blossoming, and that summer he joined Premier League side Everton for what turned out to be a bargain fee of £1.5m. By now, he had developed a fearsome reputation as a highly competitive attacking midfielder, and the Australian became a 'True Blue' legend at Goodison Park. In 2006, he became the first Everton player in 18 years to make it onto the top-50 shortlist for the Ballon D'Or.

Cahill left the Blues in 2012, having plundered 68 goals in 278 appearances. Bidding farewell, he said: "I want to thank everyone at Everton, from the club to tremendous supporters. It has been a privilege to be an Everton player for the past eight years, and it was a very difficult decision to leave. I will always support Everton, and I wish the club the best of luck in the future."



Cahill's next stop on his globe-traversing journey was the US, where for three years he plied his trade with the New York Red Bulls, winning the Major League Soccer Supporters' Shield in 2013. China soon followed, with Cahill spending 2015 with Shanghai Shenhua before a short spell with Hangzhou Greentown ended in the summer of 2016.

Things went full circle when he returned to his homeland to play for Melbourne City, before a nostalgic - and brief - return to Millwall in January 2018.

Cahill's 21 years as a footballer culminated in the Indian Super League with Jamshedpur, for whom he scored twice in 11 games before hanging up his boots last spring.

If Cahill's club career was outstanding, his achievements in the green and gold of his country were perhaps even more remarkable. Making his debut for the Socceroos in 2004, Cahill went on to earn 108 caps and score 50 international goals – a national record which cemented his position as one of Australia's greatest ever sportsmen.

He played in four World Cups between 2006 and 2018, becoming the first player to score for his home country in a finals tournament.



Arguably, his personal highlight came in the 2014 finals in Brazil when he fired home a brilliant volley in a 3-2 loss to The Netherlands.

Cahill's storied international career included four appearances against Qatar, scoring a couple of goals along the way. The nation's football-loving residents are likely to be seeing much more of him in the months and years ahead, as he represents Qatar on the world stage as an official ambassador for the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy.

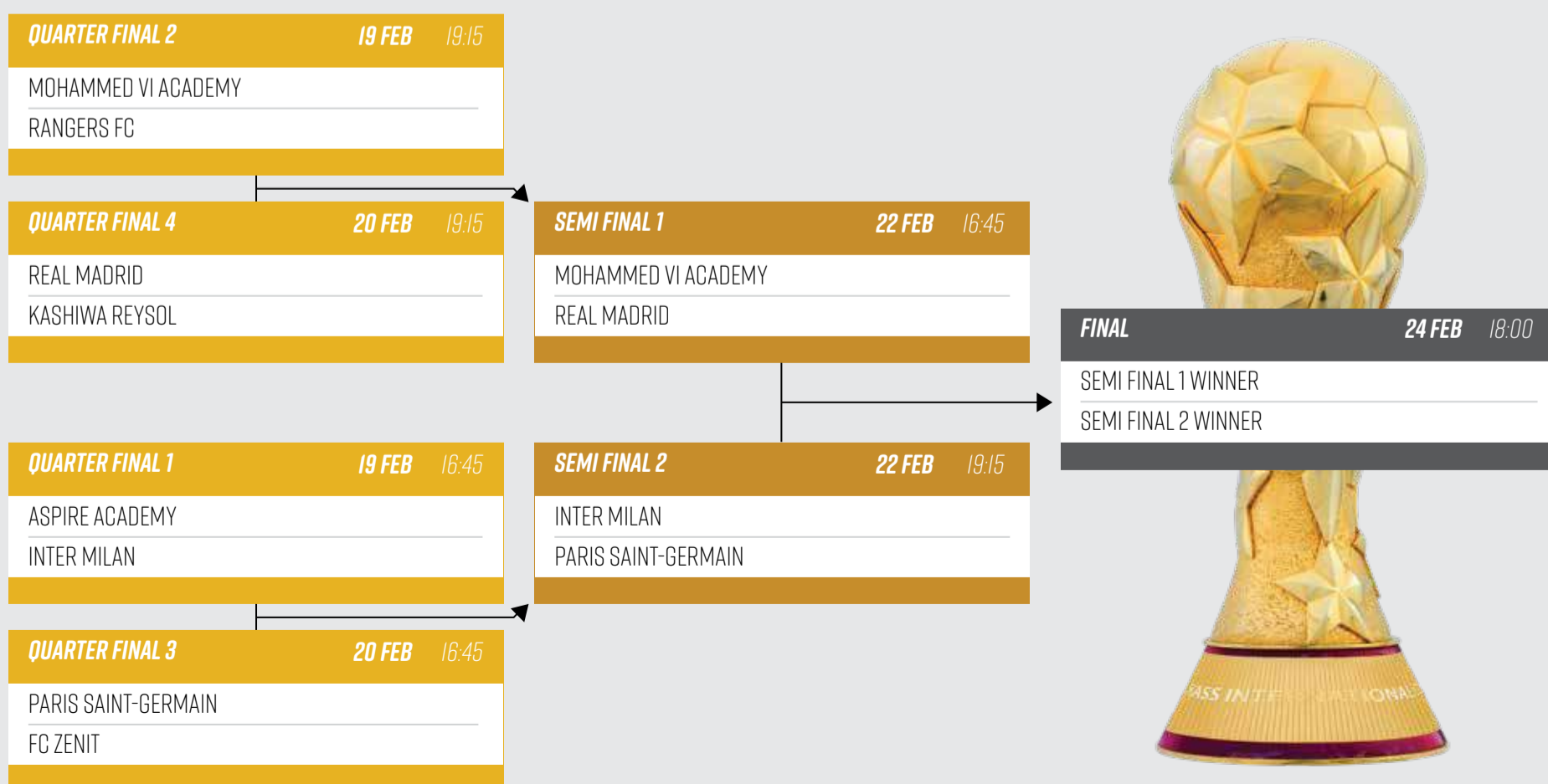
"IT'S THE BIGGEST TOURNAMENT EVER TO COME TO THE MIDDLE EAST," CAHILL ENTHUSED. "TO HOLD THIS TOURNAMENT AND TO SHARE IT

WITH THE WORLD – AND TO BE IN A PLACE WHERE IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE – THAT'S WHAT FOOTBALL DOES. FOOTBALL IS GIVING BACK TO THIS REGION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SHARING ITS CULTURE, VALUES AND LIFESTYLE."

The Australian legend is not only an official ambassador for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022; he is also a wonderful advertisement for the global game, and his story will doubtless prove inspirational for the Qatari kids he is now coaching. From Oz to Al Kass, it has been quite the journey for the Sydney



ROAD TO THE CUP



HOUSNI HAT-TRICK SENDS FORMER CHAMPIONS PSG INTO THE SEMI-FINALS



Three-time champions Paris Saint Germain produced the most dominant display of the tournament as they smashed five unanswered goals past FC Zenit St Petersburg to reach the last four of the 2020 Al Kass International Cup.

Player of the match Ilyes Housni took the plaudits with a fine hat-trick but it was a night when all of the PSG players impressed, and Zenit has no answer.

In fact, the Russians – who have conceded 14 goals in three matches - could have lost by many more as PSG created a host of chances with Jouvence Americo and Wilson Odobert enjoying fine matches on the flanks.

The opener came on 13 minutes courtesy of a superb curling effort by Housni. Ismael Gharbi, the two-goal hero in PSG's 3-0 victory over Kashiwa Reysol, began the move with a delightful cross-field pass to find Americo wide on the left, and he fed the ball inside to Housni who curled a brilliant effort beyond Zenit keeper Bogdan Moskivchev.

It was a goal reminiscent of Hassan Aqboub's effort of 24 hours earlier when the Moroccan curled home an almost identical shot during Mohammed XI Academy's victory over Glasgow Rangers.

The longer the half went on, the more comfortable PSG seemed, and whenever Zenit did attack the Parisian defence was resolute with skipper El Chadaille Bitshiabu leading by example with an assured performance at the back.

Odobert crossed for Housni in the closing stages of the first half but his tame effort failed to trouble Moskivchev, although the Russian keeper was soon picking the ball out of the net after the same pair combined again to great effect.

Housni picked up the ball on the left and jinked past Iuri Koledin before crossing for Odobert to head home from close range in the second minute of added on time. It was a goal PSG fully deserved but the Russian defending should have been better as Odobert had far too much space.

Akim Belokhonov came on for Ilia Rodionov at half-time and within five minutes he had missed two glorious opportunities, but from then on it was all PSG.

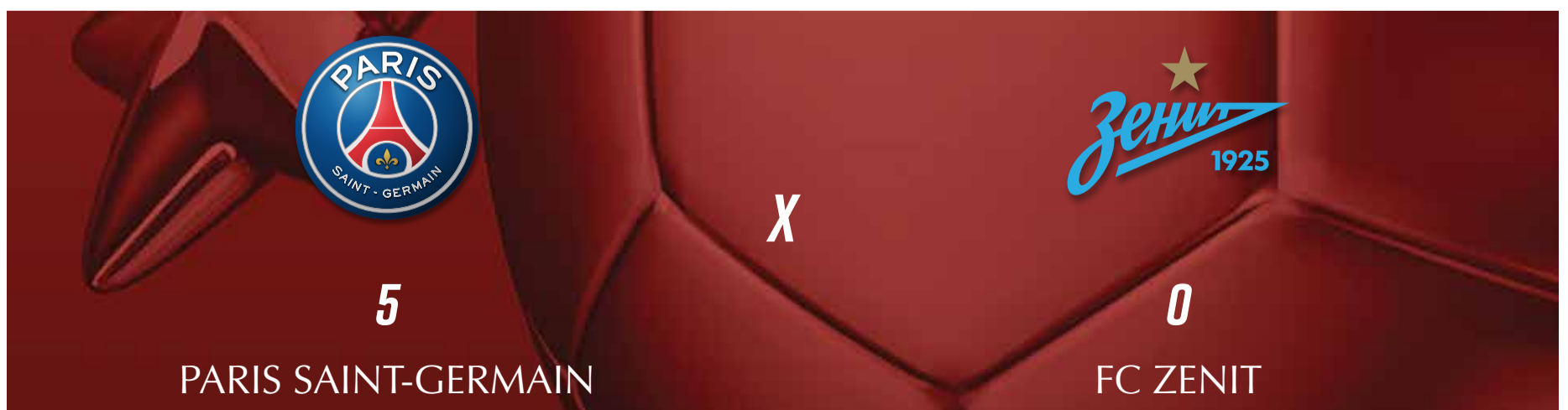
PSG extended their lead on 58 minutes when Americo found the impressive Vimoj Mungu on the left and he crossed for Gharbi to sidefoot home.

Americo had a penalty appeal turned down and was then denied by a point-blank save from Moskivchev. The keeper pulled off another fine save from Mungu but the ball fell invitingly to Yohan Tade who had an open goal but somehow shoot wide.

PSG were creating wave after wave of attacks and Bitshiabu fired over after Americo set up yet another opening, but the French did grab a fourth when Housni netted his second of the match. Tade teed up the long-haired striker and he scored at the second time of asking after Moskivchev had saved his first effort.

There was still time for Housni to complete his hat-trick when firing home Enzo Tayamoutou's cross on 87 minutes. It was the fourth goal of the tournament for Housni, who had netted with a perfectly-executed chip in the 2-2 draw with Barcelona during the group stages.

PSG will now face Inter Milan in the semi-finals, which is likely to be a tighter affair as the Italians have conceded just two goals in their three matches so far, despite making several changes throughout the competition.





PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GK Henri Maton	MF Ayman Kari
DF Hugo Florent	FW Ilyes Housni
DF Vimoj Mungu	MF Ismael Gharbi
DF El Chadaille Bitshiabu ©	FW Jouvence Americo
MF Warren Zaire Emery	DF Gloire Capitao
FW Wilson Odobert	



FC ZENIT

GK Bogan Moskvichev ©	MF Igor Kozlov
DF Iuri Koledin	DF Pavel Kulakov
DF Sergei Muradian	FW Nikita Luzan
DF Ilia Kirsh	FW Kirill Stolbov
FW Aleksei Filimonov	DF Evgenii Tonevitskii
MF Ilia Rodionov	



PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Ilyes Housni

“ I am happy with the result of this match. We scored many goals. I scored 2 and I would like to thank the team for scoring the other three goals. I am looking forward to winning this cup!

”

THE EXPERTS SAY...

RHODRI WILLIAMS

“

I fancy PSG right from the start. The team is very strong, and throughout the tournament, they've just seemed to gain more and more confidence. Just watching the players, (some of which are), 13 years of age, they're just balanced, skilled, and got great composure. This is a complete side (of the game). I like PSG. You just look at that team, and there's no weakness.”

“Let's not forget Zenit St Petersburg were involved in two games, where they lost (5-3) against Real Madrid and had a 4-4 draw with Sporting CP. So, they've certainly entertained us, and they've also learned a lot. My favorite goal (in the tournament so far) is still Nikita Luzan's from their first game against Real Madrid. But defensively, they just couldn't cope with PSG today, and I'm not sure who could've.”

On mental toughness at this stage of the competition:

“I think (mental strength) plays a part (at this stage). We heard from Zenit St Petersburg Team Manager Roman Veriaskin, who told us about the emotional situation that his players found themselves in, during their tough games. You have to show (both) mental and physical strength. For Zenit, I think it was one step too far today.”

”

PSG COACH



Herve Guegan

“
 Zenit played two days ago, so we knew it will be difficult for them physically, so our strategy was to press immediately and that made the team really tired, the players gave a lot, we had a lot of opportunities to score and eventually it happened to be a good match. We now need to recover very well and get back fresh for the semifinals.
 ”

FC ZENIT TEAM MANAGER



Roman Veriaskin

“
 It was a good game, we tried to play good football, good passes and long ball. In the end, the question is who is more fresh, unfortunately we were no lucky in this one, but again it was a good game.
 ”

FANS FROM THE PITCH





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RAMPANT REAL IN SEVENTH HEAVEN AFTER CRUSHING KASHIWA



Real Madrid took their tally to 16 goals in just three matches as they swept aside 2018 runners-up Kashiwa Reysol to reach the semi-finals of the Al Kass International Cup.

The 2017 champions have produced some sensational attacking play in this tournament and they tore apart Kashiwa to set up a last-four clash with tournament debutants Mohammed XI Academy.

Kashiwa began with a very defensive outlook and the ball rarely left their half in the opening 20 minutes as they were content to sit back and soak up constant Real Madrid pressure.

The Japanese side did have a promising counter-attack on 25 minutes when Isshin Takizawa broke the offside trap to latch onto a long ball but he was unable to create a shooting opportunity.

The match's first shot on target came on 27 minutes when inspirational midfielder Nico Paz sent a long-range effort that keeper Takumi Itoh failed to hold but there was no one to follow up.

Real finally made the breakthrough on 30 minutes when Samuel Exposito won the ball and fed Yeray Lancha, who sent skipper David Jimenez away down the right. His well-placed cross found the head of Abraham Nobrega who netted his first goal of the tournament.

Exposito went close to extending Real's lead but his curling shot from the left went just past the post but then two goals in as many minutes killed off Kashiwa's hopes of reaching their third successive semi-final.

Real went 2-0 up on 39 minutes and again Exposito began the move. He found Lancha, who showed neat skill before playing the ball wide to Abraham on the right wing and he sent in a cross towards Exposito who had burst into the box. He slid in to try and add the finish but Kashiwa defender Kai Adachi challenged and sent the ball into his own net.

Just a minute later it was 3-0 as Lancha found Dave Pecellin (Pece) who teed up Abraham to send in a brilliant long-range effort that Itoh just got a hand to but was unable to keep out.

Real added a fourth in the first minute of added on time when Abraham played the ball into the feet of player of the match Lancha who turned Toru Nishimura and then had a simple finish.

Having scored four goals in 16 minutes, Real would have wanted the half to carry on. It had been a dominant 45 minutes with

all eight shots coming from Real, who also enjoyed 60% possession.

Real brought on Eric Gomez for the start of the second half and he took just four minutes to find the net. Exposito played the ball to Gomez and he beat Itoh from a very tight angle.

Ito was beaten again just three minutes later as Gomez crossed for Abraham who laid the ball back to Pece who sent in a low shot past the keeper.

It took until the 87th minute for Real to add a seventh, and it came in bizarre circumstances. Pece turned the ball onto his left foot and sent a shot crashing onto the bar with the ball hitting Jaime Amaro and going in, without the midfielder knowing much about it.

It was a superb performance from the Spaniards, who had 21 shots to Kashiwa's one and had 64% of the possession.

7
REAL MADRID

X

0
KASHIWA REYSOL



REAL MADRID

GK Guillermo Sunico	FW Abraham Nobrega
DF David Jimenez ©	MF Nicolas Paz
DF Manuel Serrano	FW Samuel Exposito
MF Alex Sanchez	FW David Pecellin
MF Marc Cucalon	DF Diego Jurado
FW Yeray Lancha	



KASHIWA REYSOL

GK Takumi Itoh	DF Kai Adachi
DF Go Otsuki ©	DF Toru Nishimura
DF Ryunosuke Hanamatsu	DF Ryoga Tanaka
MF Takumu Nakamura	FW Isshin Takizawa
FW Ota Yamamoto	MF Tsubasa Ikebata
MF Fuaruzansana Mohamado	



PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Yeray Lancha

“

It's a perfect night!!! I was honestly surprised to receive the prize, but this is a pay off for the whole team's work because everyone played a very good game today!

”

THE EXPERTS SAY...

NICK SUMMERBEE

“

I didn't see this coming at all. A little bit disappointed, considering Kashiwa have been doing really well, especially beating Barcelona. (Today) they never really engaged with (Real Madrid), and they never really made it difficult. Real Madrid has some of the best players in the world at that age. You have got to get something out of it.

You have got to compete. Usually, Kashiwa have a big saying in every tournament, but with this game, I can't work it out. It was too easy for Real Madrid. In this tournament, I thought they were going to build momentum and learn from what they did before, but they didn't do that. They were just possibly not good enough in the end.”

On what's next:

“We are now looking at Real Madrid and PSG. But I think Mohammed VI Academy are a difficult side and aggressive, they will probably make it hard for Real Madrid. They got that fight (in them) and they really want it. They could cause an upset. They could do what Kashiwa should've done (tonight).

”



REAL MADRID COACH

Tristan Celador

“

I did not expect this type of game, in my head I imagined another kind of complicated match with less goals. In previous editions, we had Kashiwa put us in difficult situations but today the Real players followed the plan and performed very well, so I'd like to congratulate them

”



KASHIWA REYSOL TEAM MANAGER

Takuya Odagiri

“

This was a tough game, but we didn't expect (this result). But of course, It's been a good experience to participate in (Al Kass) tournament. We learn a lot. Even though we lost the match today, but we learned a lot, and we'll hopefully be coming again next year.

”



TOP SCORERS



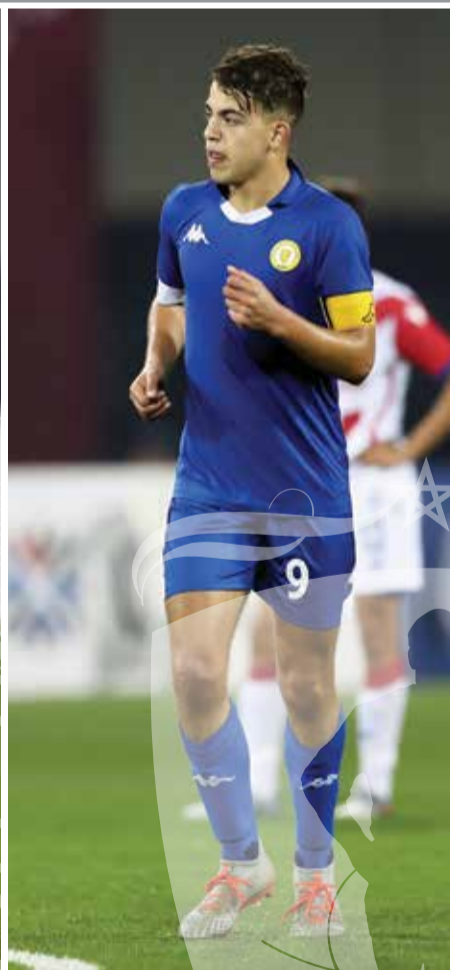
CHARLIE LINDSAY

5 GOALS



DAVID PEGELLÍN GARCIA

4 GOALS



OMAR SADIK

4 GOALS



ILYES HOUSNI

4 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	16:45	5
	2	Aspire Academy	3-1	Suwon Samsung	19:00	5
Fri 14.02.	3	Inter Milan	3-1	Mohammed VI Academy	16:45	4
	4	FC Zenit	3-5	Real Madrid	19:00	4
Sat 15.02.	5	Suwon Samsung	2-3	Rangers FC	16:45	5
	6	Kashiwa Reysol	2-1	FC Barcelona	19:00	5
Sun 16.02.	7	Altinordu FK	0-3	Mohammed VI Academy	16:45	4
	8	Real Madrid	4-1	Sporting Clube de Portugal	19:00	4
Mon 17.02.	9	Aspire Academy	4-4	Rangers FC	16:45	5
	10	Paris Saint-Germain	2-2	FC Barcelona	19:00	5
Tue 18.02.	11	Inter Milan	0-1	Altinordu FK	16:45	4
	12	Sporting Clube de Portugal	4-4	FC Zenit	19:00	4
POSITION 9 - 12						
Wed 19.02.	13	FC Barcelona	4-0	Altinordu FK	16:45	5
	14	Suwon Samsung	0-1	Sporting Clube de Portugal	19:15	5
QUARTER FINALS						
Wed 19.02.	15	Aspire Academy	0-1	Inter Milan	16:45	4
	16	Mohammed VI Academy	3-2	Rangers FC	19:15	4
Thu 20.02.	17	Paris Saint-Germain	5-0	FC Zenit	16:45	5
	18	Real Madrid	7-0	Kashiwa Reysol	19:15	5
PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8						
Fri 21.02.	19	Rangers FC	VS	Kashiwa Reysol	16:45	4
	20	Aspire Academy	VS	FC Zenit	19:15	4
SEMI FINALS						
Sat 22.02.	21	Winner Game No. 16	VS	Winner Game No. 18	16:45	5
	22	Winner Game No. 15	VS	Winner Game No. 17	19:15	5
PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8						
Sun 23.02.	23	Loser Game No. 19	VS	Loser Game No. 20	16:45	4
	24	Winner Game No. 19	VS	Winner Game No. 20	19:15	4
POSITION 3 - 4 & FINAL						
Mon 24.02.	25	Loser Game No. 21	VS	Loser Game No. 22	15:30	5
	26	Winner Game No. 21	VS	Winner Game No. 22	18:00	5

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