

DAIY NEWS

Monday 11 Feb 2019

GLASGOW, DOHA, WHO ELSE WILL GO FAR??

TODAY'S QUARTER-FINALS



RANGERS FC **7/0** ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL

ALTINORDU F.K. **0/1** ASPIRE ACADEMY

ALKASS
INTERNATIONAL CUP



RANGERS DEMOLISH ESS TO SEND SHOCKWAVES THROUGH AL KASS

Rangers progressed to the semi-finals of Al Kass 2019 with a performance that strongly suggests they have the talent to become champions. Ecoile Sportive du Sahel – who had been so impressive in their opening 3-2 defeat of Bayern Munich - were simply blown away in windy conditions that the Tunisians struggled to adapt to.

The Glasgow side adopted a positive approach from the first whistle, with Kai Kennedy going close early on, firing a low shot from the edge of the area that keeper Ahmed Slimen only just got his hand to.

Both Kennedy and Nathan Young-Coombes were looking lively, and when Ahmed Guermiti hacked the latter down with a cynical challenge that somehow avoided a yellow, it was clear that the ESS backline was struggling to cope. Rangers were certainly not intimidated by the physical challenge, and right back Harris O'Connor was the first to go into the referee's book for a similar late tackle.

The Scots were beginning to take control, and should have gone ahead on 20 minutes when Arron Lyall showed great close control in the area before pulling the ball back to Leon Thomson, whose first time effort rolled narrowly and agonisingly wide. Thomson, who has only just turned 15 years of age, caught the eye throughout.

The ESS defenders were simply unable to cope with the attacking threat of Young-Coombes, who finally broke the deadlock on 38 minutes, turning on the edge of the area to power home a first-time shot that gave Slimen no chance.

Rangers were in danger of running riot, yet were almost pegged back just before the break when Koussay Rejeb got away down the right, and Lewis Budinauckus had to be



alert to rush out of his area and clear the danger.

With 45 minutes played, Tunisian coach made the highly unorthodox decision to make two substitutions. The new additions spent a matter of seconds on the field of play before the referee blew for half time, and their impact on the second half was minimal.

Normal service was resumed straight after the restart. Kennedy battled through a series of challenges to supply Young-Coombes 20 yards out, and the effervescent forward lifted the ball over Slimen to double his tally.

A minute later, Rangers put the result beyond doubt when Ciaran Dickson supplied Lyall, who took a touch before firing into the bottom left corner to make it 3-0.

To the credit of ESS, they continued to compete, and captain Mohamed Fallah's powerful run and shot through the middle almost brought an immediate response, only for the highly impressive Budinauckas to tip the ball over. However, any hopes of a comeback were swiftly extinguished, as Rangers poured forward once more. Matthew Henderson's powerful shot was saved and Young-Coombes was first to the rebound to complete his hat-trick.

Mindful of greater tests ahead, Rangers coach David McCallum wisely withdrew Young-Coombes for Christopher McKee on the hour mark. However, there was no let up in Rangers' approach, and they were

five goals to the good soon after, when Lyall skipped down the right before crossing low to leave McKee with the simplest of finishes.

With 17 minutes remaining, ESS were reduced to 10 men when Nassim Khadher was dismissed for raking his studs down the back of McKee's leg, a cynical foul picked up by VAR. The Glasgow striker showed no ill effects and soon helped himself to a second – Rangers' sixth – after Alex Lowry chested the ball down and hammered a half volley which Slimen spilled for McKee to tap home. And, astonishingly, there was still time for him to complete his hat-trick, poaching another from close range as Rangers confirmed their utter domination.

The 7-0 scoreline could have been even greater had it not been for the heroics of Slimen in the Tunisian goal. He made a series of great saves, and was hardly at fault for any of the goals.

Rangers have strength in depth throughout their squad, as evidenced by McKee coming on as a substitute and bagging three goals. Their defence is solid, their keeper looks highly assured and, in Kai Kennedy, the Glaswegians have a midfield fulcrum who effortlessly dictates play. Meanwhile, their striking options are genuinely terrifying.

The winners of the Real Madrid and Kashiwa Reysol match will face Rangers in the semi-final. After this performance, the young Glaswegians will fear no one.

RANGERS FC

- GK Lewis Kevin BUDINAUCKAS
- DF David Kyle MCCLELLAND (C)
- DF Harris David OCONNOR
- MF Ciaran DICKSON
- MF Kai Alexander KENNEDY
- MF Murray Joseph MILLER
- DF Leon John Phillips THOMSON
- MF Cole MCKINNON
- DF Matthew HENDERSON
- FW Arron John LYALL
- FW Nathan Jay YOUNG COOMBES



ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL

- GK Ahmed SLIMEN
- DF Yosri GANDOUZ
- FW Oussama ABID
- MF Dhaker BELKACEM
- MF Mohamed Aziz FALLAH (C)
- FW Ahmed GUERMITI
- MF Makram KRIFA
- FW Bilel MGANNEM
- DF Koussay REJEB
- MF Omran DZIRI
- MF Nassim KHADHER



MAN OF THE MATCH

Nathan Jay Young Coombes,
Rangers FC
MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Rhodri Williams -
Al Kass Analyst

The Aspire team that played today look ready to take up on any challenge and play their best game against any team in the tournament. Therefore, Aspire Academy has got a shot at claiming the title. Not many people know about Altinordu FK but if you read about them, they are solely focused on the development of young players, and by 2020, Altinordu FK's president wants the whole of the first team to be filled with homegrown talent. That is a breath of fresh air and is truly a wonderful approach!

MATCH SCORE



X



7

RANGERS FC

0

ÉSS



**NICK
SUMMERBEE**

FAMOUS NAMES COUNT FOR NOTHING IN FOOTBALL

A question for all you sports trivia fans out there: What do George Weah, Zinedine Zidane, Paolo Maldini and Diego Simeone have in common? Answer: they all have children who've played in the Al Kass International Cup.

There are a total of 240 youngsters in the 12 squads competing for the trophy this year, but one name stands out from the crowd: Real Madrid striker Andri Gudjohnsen, whose father Eidur attained legendary status playing for Iceland, Chelsea and Barcelona. Andri has caught the eye in his two appearances so far, but does a famous name help or hinder progress in the long-term?

I've lost count of the number of times I've been asked that question. I enjoyed a long career as a professional footballer in England, playing almost 500 times for the likes of Manchester City, Sunderland and Swindon Town. I look back now and I'm proud of what I achieved, because I know how difficult it is to make the grade. And yet, I know that my achievements will never be judged in isolation, because football is in my blood and runs through generations of my family.

My grandfather, George, was also a professional player who spent 12 years at Preston North End - one of the giants of the English game at the time - as a teammate of the great Bill Shankly. Unfortunately, the

Second World War meant that the football league was suspended for seven years, so my granddad's promise was never fulfilled.

But his son - my Dad - certainly fulfilled his promise. Mike Summerbee is a bona fide Manchester City legend, and don't just take my word for it - goal.com named him as the club's seventh greatest player of all time. When you consider the talent contained within the current side alone, that's some accolade. As part of City's 'holy trinity' of the late 1960s and early 70s alongside Colin Bell and Francis Lee, my Dad won the league, FA Cup, European Cup Winners Cup and League Cup in the space of just three years.

When I was a boy, he'd take me along to watch City up and down the country, and I was always aware of the recognition he'd get wherever we went. I'd stand pitch-side, seeing up close the talent, aggression and determination that marked out the great from the good. And there was never any doubt in my mind about what I wanted to do when I grew up, because football was everything in my family.

My Dad never tried to influence me one way or another. Although he was always there for me if I needed advice and support, he didn't push me in the direction of the football pitch. Of course, he was only too aware of the pitfalls that lay ahead, and there were

certainly times when having a famous father made things more challenging for me.

As an apprentice at Swindon, one of the coaches seemed to think that I was only there because of my Dad's reputation, and he told me that I'd never make it. That was all the incentive I needed to prove him wrong. Glenn Hoddle took over as manager and converted me from a centre forward to a winger, and my career took off from there.

When I found out that Manchester City wanted to sign me, it was a dream come true, as I'd supported them all my life. However, the club was going through a difficult time, and this was reflected by poor results on the pitch.

Throughout my time at City, I was often compared unfavourably to my Dad, but this just motivated me to work harder. And that, above all else, is what every young player has to do - regardless of their background.

Over the past eight years, the Al Kass International Cup has proven itself as a magnificent breeding ground for upcoming talent, but it goes without saying that they won't all reach the top level - and that includes the boys with famous fathers who've played at the tournament.

Perhaps the most successful of this select group is Timothy Weah. He holds the record for the highest number of goals scored in a single game at Al Kass, having helped himself to five for PSG against Shanghai Greenland Shenhua in 2016. Still just 18, Weah has progressed through the ranks in Paris and is now on loan at Celtic, where he has scored three times since the turn of the year.

Meanwhile, Daniel Maldini is developing well as part of AC Milan's youth set-up, having played as a striker at Al Kass 2018, although it was difficult to assess the youngster's true potential during his time in Doha as his side were disappointing throughout.

Gianluca Simeone was part of the River Plate squad that made it to the quarter-finals in 2015, going out to Arsenal in a game that is chiefly remembered for the Argentineans sparking a mass brawl on the final whistle - an incident which Simeone somehow found himself at the centre of. The young forward has subsequently failed to hit the heights, and left River Plate last month without making a senior league appearance. On the other hand, older brother Giovanni is making waves in Italy, and recently plundered a

hat-trick for Fiorentina in a 7-1 Coppa Italia demolition of Roma.

Enzo Zidane played for Real Madrid at Al Kass back in 2013, and was sent off for violent conduct after only nine minutes in a group game against Aspire Academy. His younger brother Luca enjoyed more success in goal for Madrid the following year, captaining his team to the final where they lost on penalties to Aspire International.

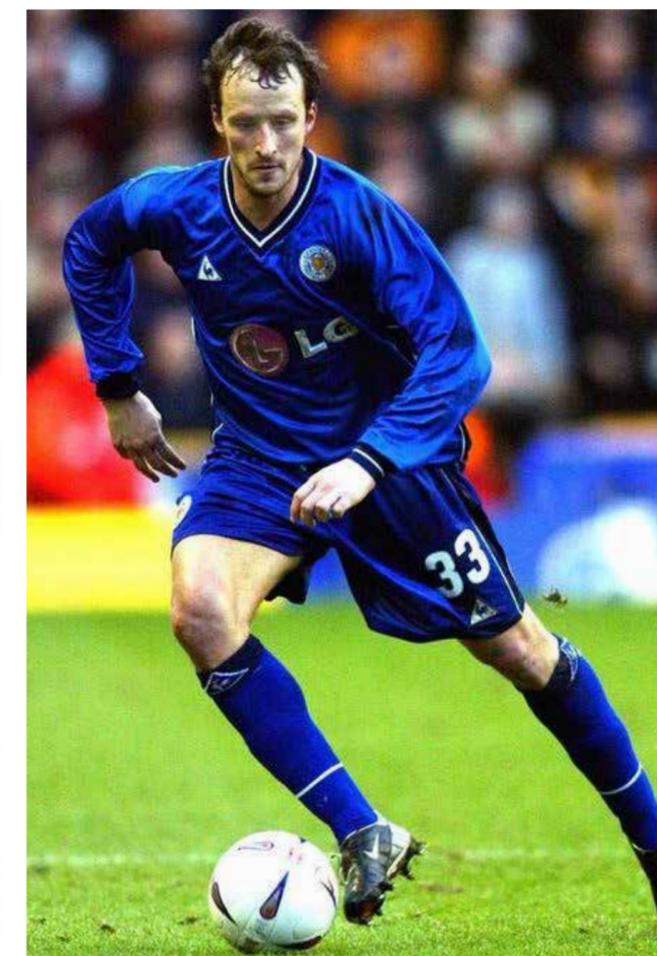
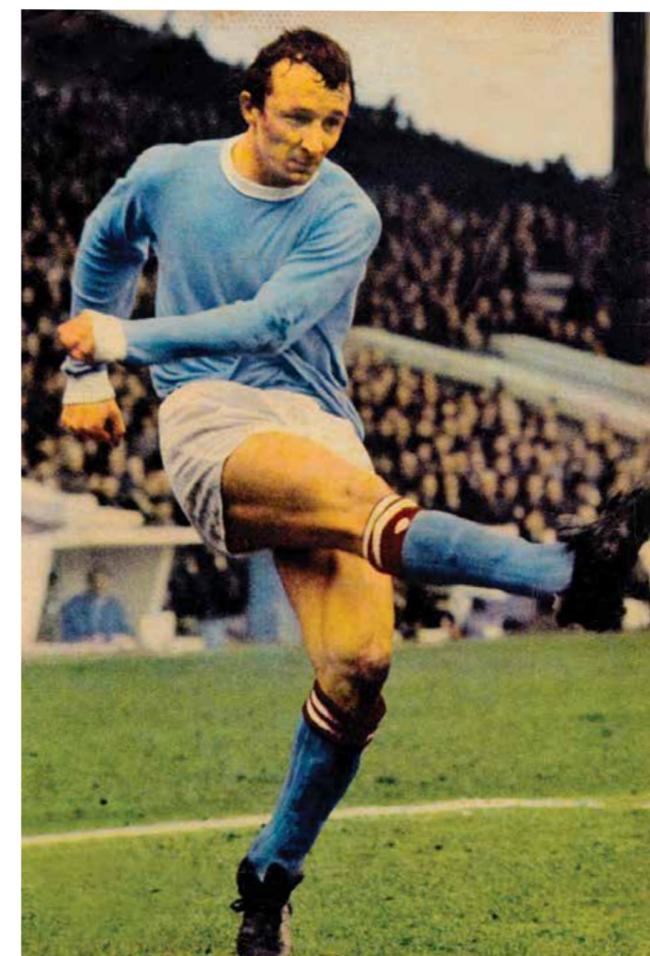
However - perhaps unsurprisingly - neither Enzo nor Luca have progressed at the same rate as their famous father. Luca remains at Madrid but, at the age of 20, has made just one league appearance for Los Blancos, and is their third choice keeper. Enzo, meanwhile, left Real in 2017 without featuring in La Liga, moving on to Alaves where he only played twice. Now 23, he is currently registered with Lausanne in Switzerland, but on loan at Majadahonda in Spain's second tier.

Andri Gudjohnsen will be leading the line today in Madrid's quarter-final tie against Kashiwa Reysol. Interestingly, his background is similar to mine, because both his father and grandfather were professional footballers.

He will have had it drummed into him from an early age that, if he is to succeed, he has to be completely single-minded. Put simply, there isn't a defender in the world who will pull out of a tackle with him just because he has a famous surname, and mental toughness can be just as important as physical talent.

I can relate to the kids coming through whose fathers are legends of the game. They're not getting preferential treatment, because they still have to produce where it matters - on the field. There are only 11 names on the teamsheet each week and if you're not performing, you won't be one of them - no matter what your name is.

Nick Summerbee is an analyst and commentator for Al Kass Sports Channels





ASPIRE REACH SEMIS AND DREAM OF ANOTHER QATARI SUCCESS STORY

Hot on the heels of Qatar's Asian Cup success, Aspire Academy raised hopes of another triumph for the nation when they reached the semi-finals of the Alkass International Cup.

A hard-fought 1-0 win over Turkish side Altinordu set up a last-four clash with either Roma or Spartak Moscow.

Aspire went close on seven minutes when Fahad Al-Abdulla sent his shot narrowly wide on but it was only a temporary reprieve for Altinordu as Khaled Bin Sabaa sent a fine curling shot into the net two minutes later.

Receiving the ball from Abdulrahman Al-Abdulrahman, he gave Emirhan Emir no chance with a finely executed finish and it turned out to be the only goal of the game.

On the half-hour mark, Aspire skipper Mostafa Kadira was initially booked but the VAR officials alerted the referee that it was a case of mistaken identity and in fact it was Al-Abdulrahman who should have been cautioned. He was arguably lucky to escape a red card as his elbow connected with Altinordu midfielder Tayfun Tatli.

Altinordu's best chance of the first half came in the 35th minute when Yigit Celtik sent in a free-kick from the right and Tunahan Ozturk's neat backheel went narrowly wide.

The Turks were badly missing someone who could put the ball in the net as Enis Destan, who had scored both of their goals during the group stages, was unavailable.

Five minutes before the break, Kadira went

close to doubling the advantage when his effort was saved by Emir but then hit the Aspire midfielder and looped over the keeper but Rahmi Kaya tracked back to clear. The hosts finished the half strongly and Al-Abdulla forced a fine save from the keeper. Aspire also started the second half well and Mekki Tombari saw his 48th minute effort deflected wide after good work from Al-Abdulrahman.

Tatli then sent a powerful effort wide as Altinordu pushed for an equalizer, but Aspire remained well organized and allowed the Turks very few clear chances. Aspire tried to make sure of victory and Osamah Altairi found Bin Sabaa who beat one player before forcing a fine save.



X



ASPIRE ACADEMY

MATCH SCORE

0

ALTINORDU F.K.

1

ASPIRE ACADEMY

ALTINORDU F.K.

- GK Emirhan EMIR
- DF Furkan METIN (C)
- DF Rahmi Salih KAYA
- DF Ravil TAGIR
- FW Tunahan ÖZTÜRK
- MF Tayfun TATLI
- MF Efe Mustafa ÇETIN
- FW Serkan KAYIKÇI
- FW Sarper ÇAGLAR
- MF Yigit Emre ÇELTIK
- FW Salih KAVRAZLI



ASPIRE ACADEMY

- GK Yousef BALIDEH
- DF Mohamed AIASH
- MF Mostafa KADIRA (C)
- MF Faisal AZADI
- FW Abdulrahman AL-ABDULRAHMAN
- FW Mekki TOMBARI
- DF Khaled BIN SABAA
- DF Muhammad ZIDAN
- DF Abdulla AL-SULAITI
- MF Fahad AL-ABDULLA
- MF Jassem ABDULSALLAM



MAN OF THE MATCH

Khaled BIN SABAA, Aspire MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Nick Summerbee – Al Kass Analyst

I would say Rangers' performance today was the best performance in this tournament so far. They have shown they can play quality football, be aggressive, create chances and I feel there is more to come from them. They want to play against the strongest teams in this tournament and the players have amazing confidence and a strong winning spirit. We have had a couple of games with big scores over the years but today Rangers distinguished themselves as two of their players scored hat-tricks. Steven Gerrard, the Rangers first-team manager, will probably be keen to have an eye on these boys after that performance.



ROAD TO THE CUP

QUARTER FINAL 1	10 FEB	16:35
RANGERS FC		
ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL		

QUARTER FINAL 4	11 FEB	19:00
REAL MADRID CF		
KASHIWA REYSOL		

QUARTER FINAL 2	10 FEB	19:00
ALTINORDU FK		
ASPIRE ACADEMY		

QUARTER FINAL 3	11 FEB	16:35
AS ROMA		
FC SPARTAK MOSCOW		

SEMI FINAL 1	13 FEB	16:35
RANGERS FC		
WINNER 4		

SEMI FINAL 2	13 FEB	19:00
ASPIRE ACADEMY		
WINNER 3		

FINAL	15 FEB	17:45
WINNER 1		
WINNER 2		



TOP SCORERS



17 ILYA GOLYATOV
FC SPARTAK MOSCOW **FW**
3 GOALS



7 CHRISTOPHER COLIN MCKEE
RANGERS FC **FW**
3 GOALS



20 NATHAN YOUNG COOMBES
RANGERS FC **FW**
3 GOALS



RANGERS IN SEVENTH HEAVEN WHILE ASPIRE ASPIRE TO REACH THE FINAL

Glasgow Rangers produced the performance of the tournament so far when smashing seven unanswered goals past Etoile Sportive Du Sahel.

Nathan Young-Coombes and Christopher McKee both scored hat-tricks as the Scots totally dominated against a Tunisian side that finished with 10 men. Rangers will now play the winners of Monday's quarter-final between Real Madrid and last year's runners-up Kashiwa Reysol and recent signing Young-Coombes is in no doubt who he wants to face.

"We want to play the best teams so I want to face Real Madrid in the semi-finals," said player of the match Young-Coombes. Former Chelsea youngster Young-Coombes,

who has enjoyed a fine tournament, opened the scoring on 38 minutes with a low right-foot shot and he added two more early in the second period, including a lovely dink over the keeper.

Arron Lyall netted in between the former England Under-15 international's second and third, and Christopher McKee took over the goalscoring duties with an 18-minute hat-trick to complete a 7-0 victory.

By contrast, the second game of the night was a much tighter affair as hosts Aspire Academy recorded a popular victory over Turkish second tier side Altinordu.

The Turks, who follow Bilbao's formula of developing a home-grown team, have won

many friends this week but they were edged out as Khaled Bin Sabaa scored the only goal of the match with a wonderful curling effort. Bin Sabaa, the man-of-the-match, also went close in the closing stages as Aspire booked their place in the last four.

Bayern Munich finished ninth in the competition after beating Raja Casablanca 2-0 in their play-off match, Luca Denk scoring both goals, in the 43rd and 54th minutes. The play-off match for 11th place saw last year's tournament winners PSG defeat Suwon Samsun 5-4. Daniel Labila scored a hat-trick and Tidjany Chabrol also scored, while Taehyeon Kim put through his own net. Yong Joon Cho scored twice for Suwon, for whom Intaek Hwang and Hojun Son also scored.

TODAY'S QUARTERS



×



16:35

AS ROMA

FC SPARTAK MOSCOW



×



19:00

REAL MADRID

KASHIWA REYSOL

Qatar

الوعد ٢٠٢٢
See you in 2022

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See You in 2022

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) is well advanced in the planning and delivery of host country operations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™.

The SC is also making rapid progress in building stadiums and other infrastructure, and ensuring the tournament and its preparations contribute to Qatar's sustainable development.

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GAMES SCHEDULE

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
 Aspire Academy	 Paris Saint Germain FC	 FC Bayern München	 Real Madrid CF				
 Rangers FC	 AS Roma	 Altinordu FK	 FC Spartak Moscow				
 Raja Club Athletic	 Kashiwa Reysol	 Etoile Sportive Du Sahel	 Suwon Samsung F.C				

DATE	NO.	TEAMS	TIME	VENUE
Mon. 4 Feb	1	Paris Saint Germain FC	16:35	5
	2	Aspire Academy	18:45	5
Tue. 5 Feb	3	FC Bayern München	16:35	4
	4	FC Spartak Moscow	18:45	4
Wed. 6 Feb	5	Raja Club Athletic	16:35	5
	6	AS Roma	18:45	5
Thu. 7 Feb	7	Altinordu FK	16:35	4
	8	Real Madrid CF	18:45	4
Fri. 8 Feb	9	Aspire Academy	16:35	5
	10	Kashiwa Reysol	18:45	5
Sat. 9 Feb	11	FC Bayern München	16:35	4
	12	Suwon Samsung F.C	18:45	4

POSITIONS 9 - 12

Sun. 10 Feb	13	Raja Club Athletic	16:35	4
	14	Suwon Samsung F.C	19:00	4

QUARTER FINALS

Sun. 10 Feb	15	Rangers FC	16:35	5
	16	Altinordu FK	19:00	5
Mon. 11 Feb	17	AS Roma	16:35	5
	18	Real Madrid CF	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Tue. 12 Feb	19	Etoile Sportive Du Sahel	16:35	4
	20	Altinordu FK	19:00	4

SEMI FINALS

Wed. 13 Feb	21	Rangers FC	16:35	5
	22	Aspire Academy	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Thu. 14 Feb	23	Loser Game No. 19	15:00	4
	24	Winner Game No. 19	17:45	4

POSITIONS 3 - 4 & GRAND FINAL

Fri. 15 Feb	25	Loser Game No. 21	15:00	5
	26	Winner Game No. 21	17:45	5

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