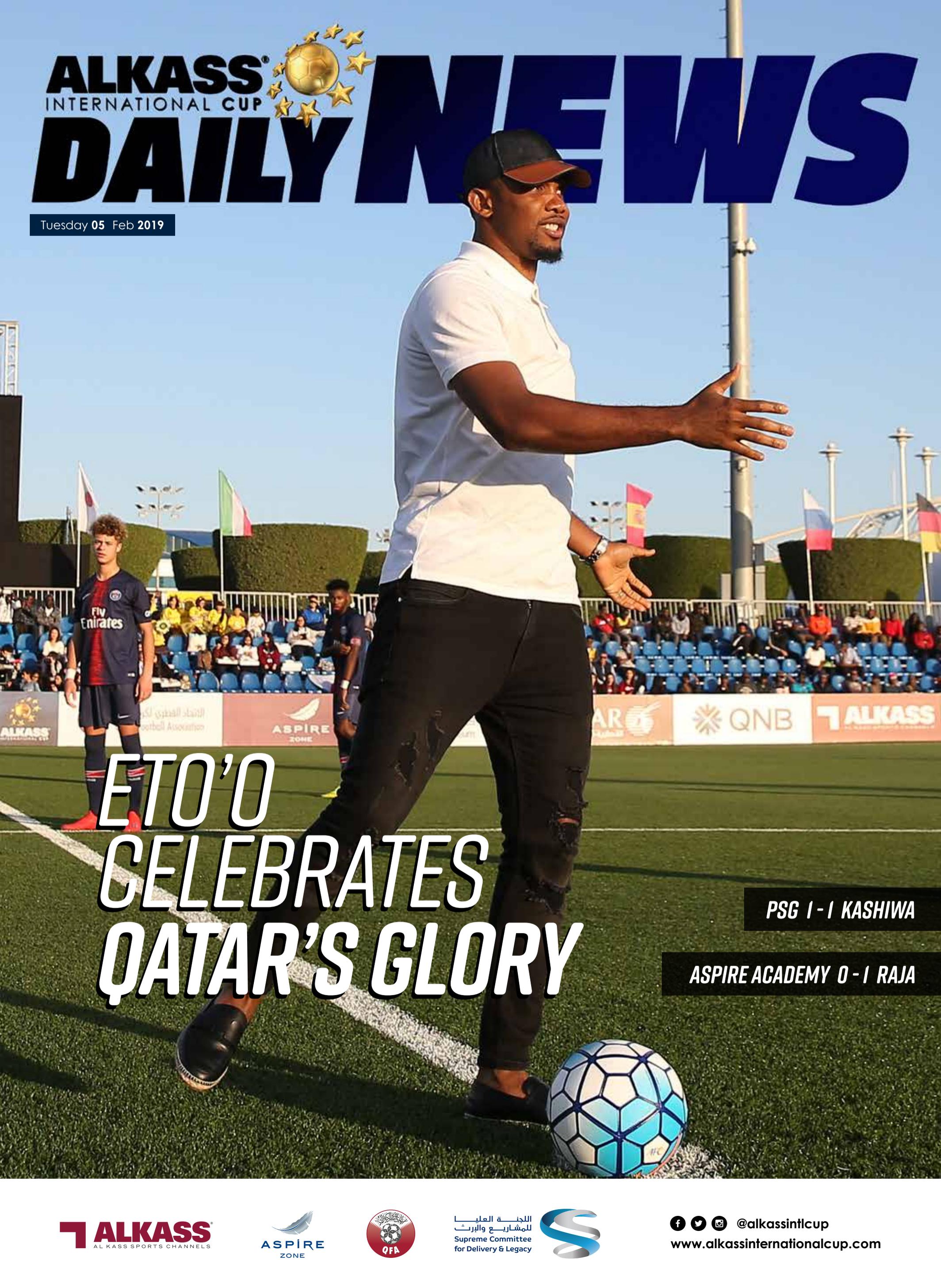


ALKASS[®] INTERNATIONAL CUP DAILY NEWS

Tuesday 05 Feb 2019



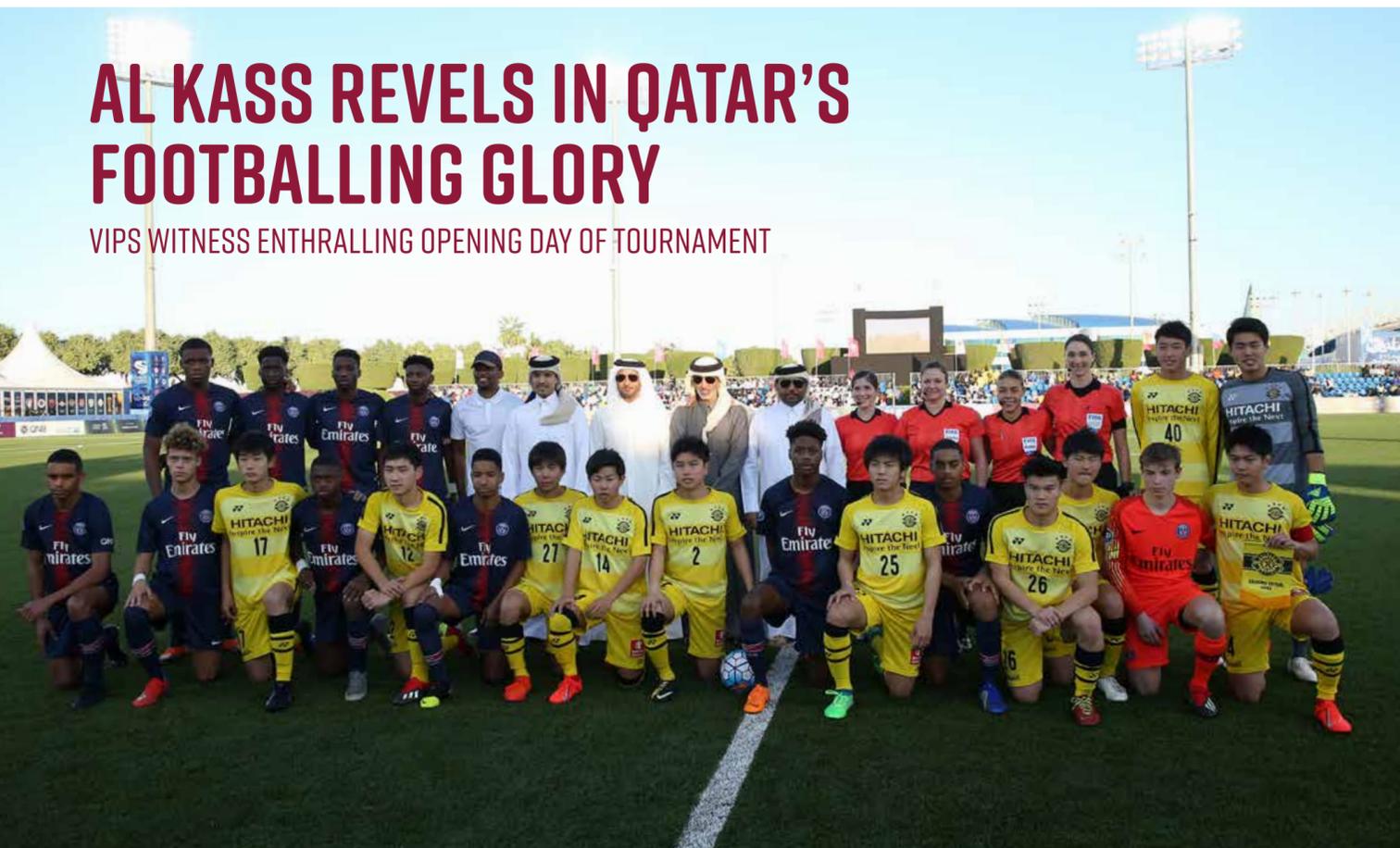
ETO'O CELEBRATES QATAR'S GLORY

PSG 1-1 KASHIWA

ASPIRE ACADEMY 0-1 RAJA

AL KASS REVELS IN QATAR'S FOOTBALLING GLORY

VIPS WITNESS ENTHRALLING OPENING DAY OF TOURNAMENT



Kicked off by Barcelona and Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o, the opening day of the 2019 Al Kass International Cup took place amidst a carnival atmosphere, following Qatar's heroic triumph in the AFC Asian Cup. The eighth edition of the world-class youth tournament is once again showcasing some of the world's most talented young players before an enraptured audience in Doha.

The event was attended by various Qatari dignitaries, including H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani, President of Qatar Football Association; H.E. Hassan Abdullah Al-Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy; Mr. Essa Bin Abdullah Al-Hitmi, General Manager of Alkass Sports Channels; Mohamed Khalifa Al-Suwaidi, President of Aspire Zone Foundation; Jassim Al Buainain, Secretary General of Qatar Olympic Committee; Nasser Al Khater, Assistant Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy; Mansour Al Ansari, General Secretary of Qatar Football Association and Hani Ballan, CEO of Qatar Stars League.

The globally resonant nature of the tournament was reflected by the attendance of several international dignitaries, including Nurmakhmad Kholov, Russian Ambassador to

Qatar; Pasquale Salzano, Italian Ambassador to Qatar; Belen Alfaro, Spanish Ambassador to Qatar; Seiichi Otsuka, Italian Ambassador to Qatar; and Mr. Pierluigi Collina, FIFA's referees committee Chairman.

In a festive atmosphere, 2018 cup winners Paris Saint-Germain drew 1-1 against last year's runners up, Kashiwa Reysol, in a game that caught fire late on. In the second match, Morocco's Raja Casablanca narrowly prevailed by a single goal over Aspire Academy.

Interview from The Terraces
On the sidelines of both matches, we asked fans and supporters what drew them to Aspire Academy today. This is what they had to say:

"I have come here today because Al Kass brings my home team to Doha."
Aziz, Raja Casablanca supporter

"Al Kass brings Morocco back to us, so we come to support our team all the way to the cup."
Walid and Issam, Raja Casablanca supporters

"Al Kass is a window into the future. Had you been here a few years ago, you may have seen some of the players that won the Asian Cup last week. Maybe we're seeing tomorrow's world champions playing here today."

Abdulrahman, Qatari football enthusiast

"I come here to see my friends play. Qatar winning the Asian Cup has inspired all of us, and now everybody wants to win the World Cup as well. This mission begins here."

Jassim, Aspire Academy supporter

"After what happened last week with the Qatari national team, I want to see football every day."
Mohammed, Aspire Academy supporter

"Al Kass is a rare opportunity to see future football stars play up close. I come here every year, and it has been more than once that we've seen one of the players in their clubs' senior teams thereafter. Also, I want to see PSG win again."
Thierry, Paris St. Germain supporter.

"The atmosphere is just fantastic at Al Kass. You'll never come so close to world-class football as you are here. It's a celebration and definitely better than watching at home."
Janice, Australian football enthusiast and Kashiwa Reysol supporter.

AL KASS: WHERE ELITE COACHES FLOURISH



The Al Kass International Cup has become notable worldwide for the young players it has hosted who have gone on to star at the top level. Qatar's victorious Asian Cup team is the most recent and glorious example, but many other veterans of the tournament are now sprinkled across the world's top leagues.

And, it's not only players who have graduated from Al Kass to grace the global game – its coaches too. In 2017, Marco Rose managed Red Bull Salzburg to their second consecutive Al Kass semi-final and, three months later, led his young protégés to victory in the UEFA Youth League – the U19s equivalent of the Champions League.

Red Bull Salzburg's management took a keen interest in Rose's achievements, and put him in charge of the senior team later the same year. The 42-year-old German has continued to demonstrate the world-class coaching prowess that he previously displayed at Al Kass, leading Salzburg to the Austrian Championship and the semi-finals of the UEFA Europa League in his first season in charge.

In this exclusive interview, Rose speaks about his memories of the Al Kass International Cup, his coaching philosophy, and his views on the development of football in Qatar.

Marco, you participated in the "Al Kass International Cup" in Doha with the U-17 team of Red Bull Salzburg in 2016 and 2017. What memories have you kept of this tournament?
It was valuable experience for all of us. I was particularly impressed by the perfect organisation, the incredible infrastructure and

the small adventures on our off days off, like the desert safari.

How important are such tournaments for the development of young players?
Competing at this high international level is an important factor in the development for all young players.

Just a few months after your participation in the 2017 Al Kass Cup, you gained international attention coaching Red Bull's U-19s to victory in the UEFA Youth League. On the way to the title, Salzburg defeated teams like Benfica, Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Atlético Madrid and FC Barcelona. What was the secret behind this huge success?
To win such a title, many things have to come together. Basically, our structure in developing young players, our game idea and our concept in the academy laid important foundations for this achievement. Then, we also had a great team with high individual quality and the willingness to give everything. Every victory has made the guys stronger, and we have never lost our fun and coolness.

Events like the "Al Kass International Cup" are a good stage for many talents. The challenge, of course, is the step from junior to professional player. Some former players of the tournament, such as Adrien Rabiot, Kingsley Coman and Achraf Hakimi have become successful players in great teams. In your opinion, what are the most important qualities a young player has to have in order to make it to the top?
If a young player participates in this

tournament, he has already taken small steps in his career. In order to establish yourself in professional football, the most important factor is being able to deal with obstacles and to assert yourself at the absolute top level.

The step from youth to professional business is something you have also achieved as a coach. After winning the UEFA Youth League you were promoted to coach of the professional team of Red Bull Salzburg in the 2017/18 season. What was the biggest change for you in this transition?
The transition was not that big. Essential aspects are that in professional football you will be, above all, measured on results, and players are picked up at a different level in certain areas than youth players. For me as a coach, my job at FC Red Bull Salzburg is still focused on developing the players and our own game idea.

In 2022, Qatar is hosting the FIFA World Cup, where the country's national team is going to face big footballing nations. How do you assess the development of football in Qatar? As we are having this conversation*, Qatar has just made it the final of the Asian Cup and has shown that development is in full swing. The decisive factor will be to constantly confirm these results and continue on this positive path.

*) This interview was conducted on January 29, 2019, three days before Qatar recorded a historic victory in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. Pictures: ©RB/GEPA

TOP PLAYERS - MATCHDAY ONE

MATCH 1

Tidjany Chabrol,
Paris Saint Germain FC
1 goal for PSG in their 1-1 draw with Kashiwa Reysol

MATCH 2

Oussama Zemraoui,
Raja Club Athletic
1 goal in 1-0 victory over Aspire Academy

HONOURS EVEN BETWEEN PSG & KASHIWA FOLLOWING EXPLOSIVE FINALE

Paris Saint-Germain and Kashiwa Reysol shared the spoils in the opening match of Al Kass 2019, following a pulsating encounter that exploded into life in the last few minutes.

Barcelona and Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o performed the ceremonial kick off to get the game underway, with Reysol's combative striker Yuki Shimizu catching the eye in the early stages. However, it was midfielder Naito Saito who went close to opening the scoring for the Japanese on six minutes, his short-range effort smothered by Romain Sallard, who also confidently claimed the resultant corner with a minimum of fuss.

The French keeper was called into action again soon after, when Hayato Fujimoto crossed well from the right and Shimizu planted a firm header that Sallard did well to save. He was quickly establishing himself as PSG's standout performer, and had to once again react quickly to keep out Daichi Sugawara's curling effort direct from a corner.

Almost 20 minutes passed before PSG had a chance of note, after the ball ran under Kashiwa centre back Hayato Tanaka's foot to let in Samuel Noireau, whose hard and low drive forced a good save from Masato

Sasaki. By now, the game had settled into a familiar pattern, with Reysol dominating possession with patient build-up play, while PSG sought to break swiftly on the counter.

The first half drew to a close with Kashiwa in the ascendancy, but unable to break the deadlock due to a resolute Parisian defence.

PSG are the only club apart from Aspire Academy to have participated in all eight editions of the tournament, and are also the record holders, having taken the cup home on three occasions. Meanwhile, Kashiwa Reysol are competing for the fifth time. Both sides are therefore familiar fixtures at Aspire Zone.

However, Al Kass 2019 is notable for the introduction of several new elements. VAR is being used for the first time, and the tournament also boasts an all-female match officials roster. Canadian referee Carol Anne Chennard acquitted herself well in this opener, content to let the play flow whenever possible.

Ten minutes into the second period, Noireau went close with a fine drive that Sasaki could only parry, but the danger was cleared

by Reysol's alert backline. By now, the game was developing into a full-blooded encounter, typified on the hour mark when Sugawara saw yellow following a thundering challenge on Hubert Muamba.

On 70 minutes, hard-running attacker Noireau was withdrawn for Edouard Michut, and the French side's attacking threat was blunted as a result. Kashiwa continued to fashion the better chances, but Sallard performed admirably to keep the French side from conceding.

And - implausibly and against the run of play - PSG appeared to have stolen a winner with five minutes remaining, when Tidjany Chabrol forced the ball home following a frenzied goalmouth scramble. It was desperately cruel on Kashiwa, yet they refused to be beaten, pouring forward and snatching a sensational 92nd minute leveller when substitute Hidetaki Maei crashed a rising effort in off the bar.

The capacity crowd at Aspire Academy had witnessed a thrilling finale to an engrossing game - one that has already set a high watermark for Al Kass 2019.

PARIS SAINT GERMAIN FC

- GK Romain Sallard
- DF Thierno Balde
- DF Gaylord Kitenge
- DF Abdoulaye Kamara
- DF Hubert Mbuyi Muamba
- DF Soumaula Coulibaly
- MF Hervé Malebe
- FW Tidjany Chabrol
- FW Isaac Karamoko
- FW Kenny Nagera (C)
- FW Samuel Noireau



KASHIWA REYSOL

- GK Masato Sasaki
- DF Hayato Fujimoto
- DF Ibuki Toda (C)
- FW Yuki Shimizu
- MF Sohki Tamura
- DF Fumito Okihara
- DF Takuma Otake
- MF Naito Saito
- FW Shun Nakajima
- MF Daichi Sugawara
- DF Hayato Tanaka



MAN OF THE MATCH

Tidjany Chabrol - PSG
MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Rhodri Williams - Al Kass Analyst

"It's always exciting when this tournament starts.

There is added excitement this year because of some new changes - we've got VAR being used, and then you see the president of the Qatar Football Association here, you see Pierluigi Collina, the most famous referee in the world here with FIFA.

It was nice to see the first game with PSG - they've won it three times and are the reigning champions.

You want them to get off to a good

start because they always give tremendous performances.

Also, Kashiwa Reysol are always playing exciting football.

Sometimes opening games can be a little bit cautious, but I'm glad that we saw a good game and two goals. I think 1-1 was probably a fair reflection of the match."

MATCH SCORE



X



PARIS SAINT GERMAIN FC

KASHIWA REYSOL

C

GROUP

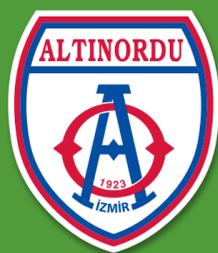
AL KASS 2019 TEAMS



FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

"We are looking forward to participating in this high-class tournament where our players will gain valuable experiences on and off the pitch."

Representing Germany in the Alkass International Cup 2019, Bayern Munich FC is one of the best sides in the Bundesliga. Founded in 1900, it has been one of the most successful football clubs in Germany's history, with a record of 28 national titles and 18 national cups. Moreover, Bayern Munich FC has a total of five UEFA Champions League Cups to their name, and they won the FIFA Club World Cup in 2013. The team is captained by a world class goal keeper, Manuel Neuer. The youth academy, Bayern Munich Junior Team, was established in 1902 and many of its players have graduated to be regular players in Germany and the Bundesliga. The Junior Team have won the U17 Bundesliga five times, with their most recent achieved in 2017. The U17 Bayern Munich have participated on two previous occasions in the Alkass International Cup, in 2015 and 2017. They bring 7 International Players with them to this year's tournament: Lucas Copado, Luca Denk, Tusuf Kabadayi, Moritz Mosandl, Nemanja Motika, Thorben Rhein, and Toman Reinelt.



ALTINORDU FK

Representing Turkey in the Alkass International Cup 2019 is Altinordu F.K. Founded in 1923, Altinordo FK is a Turkish football club based in the city of Izmir. Altinordo FK aims to provide the young talents with the practices and education needed to help them grow to be worldwide stars.



ETOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHE

"Our goal is to take full advantage of the experience that will pit us against the best clubs in the world to situate ourselves in our work."

For the first time in Alkass International Cup history Tunisia will be represented by Etoile Sportive Du Sahel at the Alkass International Cup 2019. ESS was founded in 1925 it is also considered one of the best clubs in Tunisia. The club's infrastructure is made up of five football pitches, restaurant, fitness room, club hotel, physiotherapy center. The centre has allowed the club to export talents to Europe, like Aymen Abdennour, Mohamed Amine Chermiti, Yassine Chikhaoui, Mohamed Ali Nafkha, Ammar Jemal, Karim Haggui, Seif Ghezal and several other players, and it especially allowed the players to be constantly competitive to win local and continental titles. International level players include Slimen Ahmed, Bilel Mghanem, Falleh Med Aziz, and Sontalma Sidible.

D

GROUP

AL KASS 2019 TEAMS



REAL MADRID CF

"It's my second year in this tournament and we're going with the goal of doing our best. We will certainly give our best because this is our objective everywhere we go."

Representing Spain in the Alkass International Cup 2019 is Real Madrid. With a record 10 Champions League/European Cup titles to their name, Real Madrid can justifiably claim to be the most successful football team in European history. Founded in 1902, Los Blancos have since dominated domestic football for long spells and, along with their age-old rivals FC Barcelona, have come to represent the essence of Spanish footballing excellence. Current first-team players include global superstars Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema, Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos and Sergio Ramos. The youth team is one of the world's most successful academies – La Fabrica (the factory), which has been responsible for producing some of the most talented individuals ever to have played the game. Graduates include Raul, Iker Casillas, Juan Mata, Samuel Eto'o and Esteban Cambiasso. The academy players train at Real Madrid Ciudad (Real Madrid City), a \$140m complex that also hosts the senior squad.



FC SPARTAK MOSCOW

"It is nice to see top level teams in the tournament's schedule. We hope it goes the best way, and the players show their best qualities and enjoy their experience here in Qatar."

Representing Russia at the Alkass International Cup 2019 is FC Spartak Moscow, Russia's most successful football team, which was founded in 1922. With a record of ten Russian Championships, it is 83rd in the UEFA club rankings. The Football School associated with the club was founded in the 1930's, but did not become an official Academy until the 15th of October 2009. The Academy is named after Spartak's legendary player Fyodor Cherenkov. With over 400 appearances for the club, the fans regard him as the greatest player in history. The academy now runs ten teams, the youngest of which were born in 2011. FC Spartak Moscow Academy brings with them 11 International players.



SUWON SAMSUNG F.C

"We are extremely pleased to attend one of the world best youth football competitions. We sincerely appreciate all people involved in organising this event."

Representing South Korea at the Alkass International Cup 2019 is Suwon Samsung. The team was founded 24 years ago in 1995, and since then Suwon Samsung have managed to become one of the most famous clubs in Asian Football. They have achieved four K League 1 wins, four FA Cups, and two AFC Champions League cups. The youth academy of the club is known as Suwon Samsung Bluewings Academy, and was founded in 2007. Their youth team is currently competing in the K League Junior and the Korea National Youth Football League.



RAJA EDGE OUT HOSTS IN A BAD-TEMPERED AFFAIR

Red cards outnumbered goals as a bad tempered match saw Moroccan side Raja Casablanca edge out hosts Aspire Academy in the second match of the tournament. With Qatar's memorable victory over Japan to lift the Asia Cup still fresh in the minds, hopes were high of another Qatari success. That first Asia Cup win had been achieved with valuable contributions from former Aspire Academy graduates but the feel-good factor disappeared as Raja proved the better of the two teams. Just as in Abu Dhabi three days earlier, VAR played a major role in the outcome, but this time it was not in favor of the Qataris. A late penalty awarded for handball with the assistance of VAR had led to Qatar's third goal against the Japanese but on this occasion a similar decision led to the only goal of the game. Minutes before Oussama Zemraoui's successful spot-kick, referee Umpierrez of Uruguay had ruled out a Raja goal for offside after Chiboub Abdennabi found the net. In the end, it didn't matter as Aspire lost their discipline in the second half as they ended the game with six yellow cards, two of which became reds. The game was physical from the start but both sides created opportunities. Raja displayed plenty of skill and Zemraoui put Abdennabi through on goal only for his effort

to be blocked by the determined hosts. Mekki Tombari had Aspire's best chance of the opening half but his on-target effort was blocked by Yahya Laamech and went out for a corner. The hosts appealed for a spot-kick 10 minutes before the break when skipper Mostafa Kadira went down in the box after being caught by goalkeeper Yassine Zoubir, but the referee was unimpressed. The game sprang to life on 37 minutes when Raja midfielder Anas Mlitach sent in a low drive from just outside the penalty area and Balideh could only parry the ball into the path of Abdennabi who was quicker to respond than Aiash and fired home. Raja's celebrations were cut short though as the referee ruled the effort out for offside after consulting the TV screen. Aspire's reprieve was short-lived however as on the stroke of half-time the ball was launched high into the box and Aiash's efforts to nod the ball back to his keeper saw the ball brush off his head before hitting his hand, and this time VAR went against the Qataris. Zemraoui made no mistake from the spot to give the Raja a half-time lead, much to the delight of their sizeable and vocal support.

The early stages of the second half saw

Abdennabi fire over twice in a matter of seconds, and Aspire then went close when substitute Mohammad Alsukhun neatly backheeled in the box to find Alhadhrami but his left-foot effort was blocked. Aspire's hopes were then dealt a blow as Aiash caught Raja substitute Elhoussine Rahimi and despite protesting that he had played the ball he was shown a second yellow card. Aspire refused to give in though and Tombari forced a one-handed save from the keeper as they pressed for an equalizer. Kadira then won and took a free-kick after being caught high – leading to a yellow card for match-winner Zemraoui – but the skipper's resulting effort went over the bar. Kadira became the second Aspire player to see red when his reckless challenge on El Khalfy led to him being sent off, having been booked earlier. That left Aspire's hopes in tatters and Raja comfortably held on for a deserved victory.



ASPIRE
ACADEMY

X



RAJA CLUB ATHLETIC

0

ASPIRE ACADEMY

1

RAJA CLUB ATHLETIC

MATCH SCORE

ASPIRE ACADEMY

- GK Yousef Balideh
- DF Mohamed Aiash
- MF Mostafa Kadira (C)
- MF Faisal Azadi
- FW Abdulrahman Al-Abdulrahman
- MF Naif Alhadhrami
- FW Mekki Tombari
- DF Khaled Bin Sabaa
- DF Muhammad Zidan
- DF Abdulla Al-Sulaiti
- MF Jassem Abdulsallam



RAJA CLUB ATHLETIC

- GK Yassine Zoubir
- DF Walid Haouzi
- DF Adham El Khalfy
- DF Abdelkhalek Chourouki (C)
- DF Yahya Laamech
- MF Rayane Mourajid
- MF Oussama Zemraoui
- MF Anas Mlitach
- FW Chiboub Abdennabi
- FW Reda Smaili
- MF Ismail El Idrissi El Arari



MAN OF THE MATCH

Oussama Zemraoui - RAJA
MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Nick Summerbee – Al Kass Analyst

“We saw quite a few interesting situations in the game – it was a bit of a learning curve for Aspire.

They lost a couple of players, so it was difficult for them. When you're on your way to being a professional footballer to play with your first team, you make a lot of mistakes along the way.

Sometimes you lose your cool. You have got to learn to handle situations like that.

We had a lot of Tunisian and Moroccan fans; they have a lot of passion for

football and we should always bring them into the competition because of what they do.

They sing all the way, they get into the party atmosphere, and that will help them a lot.

We have just seen a wonderful atmosphere with Qatar winning the Asian Cup.

We want crowds and we want people enjoying football. “

Qatar

الوعد ٢٠٢٢
See you in 2022

www.sc.qa    @roadto2022



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.

From the stadiums where football history will be made to infrastructure, accommodation and transport, the SC and our stakeholders are making sure that Qatar is ready to welcome the world in 2022.

We aim to showcase Qatar's unique identity through a 2022 FIFA World Cup™ which connects people in a shared celebration of football and our region. Every fan will have an unforgettable and seamless experience in Qatar, feeling at home as they, their friends and families explore an amazing world of experiences with hospitality at its heart.

Hosting the tournament is already creating a lasting legacy. Through infrastructure, education, football for development, support for regional innovation and a dedication to improving workers' welfare, our efforts are forging a better future for Qatar, the Middle East, Asia and the world.

When you need help to develop your business, you can rely on our experience.

Enhance your global aspirations with our renowned trade finance products and services. Together, we can open doors worldwide.



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	Position 9	16:35	4
	14	Position 11	19:00	4

QUARTER FINALS

Sun. 10 Feb	15	1st Group A	16:35	5
	16	1st Group C	19:00	5
Mon. 11 Feb	17	1st Group B	16:35	5
	18	1st Group D	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Tue. 12 Feb	19	Loser Game No. 15	16:35	4
	20	Loser Game No. 16	19:00	4

SEMI FINALS

Wed. 13 Feb	21	Winner Game No. 15	16:35	5
	22	Winner Game No. 16	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Thu. 14 Feb	23	Loser Game No. 19	16:35	4
	24	Winner Game No. 19	19:00	4

POSITIONS 3 - 4 & GRAND FINAL

Fri. 15 Feb	25	Loser Game No. 21	16:35	5
	26	Winner Game No. 21	19:00	5

ORGANIZERS



OFFICIAL MEDICAL PARTNER



OFFICIAL SPORTSWEAR PARTNER



OFFICIAL CARRIER



OFFICIAL HOTELS



OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY



OFFICIAL WATER PARTNER



BRANDING PARTNER



OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION PARTNER

