

ALKASS U17 UPDATES

DAY 01



PRESS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: U17 ALKASS TECH. MEETING

Doha, Qatar: Alkass U-17 International Cup is back for its 10th edition. Four years after its last games were held in Doha in 2020, the tournament is back with more action and new surprises for football fans from across the world. Eight teams are competing this year to win the championship and the grand prize of \$50,000 + trophy and gold medals from 13-22 February 2025 at Aspire Pitch 5. Competing teams include Aspire Academy, Mohamed VI FA, Rangers Football, Seattle Sounders FC, Real Madrid CF, Paris Saint-Germain F.C, Al Ahly FC, and Kashiwa Reysol. At a press conference on Wednesday, organisers announced that this year's tourney will also feature a new daily award, the 'Best Player of the Match' for every game throughout the tournament.

“After a four-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament is back.”

– MR. ALI AL MUFTAH
Tournament Manager

ASPIRE ACADEMY VICTORIOUS IN OPENING
MATCH AGAINST MOHAMMED VI 4-1 P.4

JULIAN DRAXLER SIGNS PRIZE FOOTBALL FOR
WINNING TEAM P.3

PROFILE: TAMEEM AL-QADI P.5

ALKASS INTERNATIONAL CUP 2025 KICKS OFF WITH A GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

The 10th edition of AlKass International Cup officially commenced this evening with a spectacular opening ceremony held at Aspire Zone in Doha, Qatar. The prestigious youth football tournament, known for showcasing the best under-17 teams from around the world, began with an electrifying celebration that highlighted Qatar's commitment to developing young footballers and promoting international sporting excellence.

Several honoured guests attended the event, including His Excellency Mr. Jassim bin Rashid Al Buainain, President of the Qatar Football Association (QFA), and Mr. Badr Al Meer, CEO of Qatar Airways, the tournament's official sponsor.

The official inauguration was conducted by Mr. Essa Al Hitmi, General Manager of AlKass Sports Channel, alongside Mr. Julian Draxler, a player from Al-Ahly Sports Club. The presence of Draxler, an internationally recognised footballer, added further prestige to the occasion, inspiring the young athletes preparing to compete in the tournament.

The AlKass International Cup has gained global recognition for its role in nurturing young footballers, providing them with an opportunity to compete against top-tier teams from various countries. This year's tournament will once again bring together promising talents from renowned football academies, offering them a platform to showcase their skills and gain valuable international experience.



GERMAN INTERNATIONAL DRAXLER SIGNS PRIZE FOOTBALL FOR WINNING TEAM OF THE 10TH EDITION



World Cup winner with Germany and Al Ahli midfielder Julian Draxler arrived at Aspire Academy Pitch 5 for the honorary kick-off of the Alkass Qatar Airways International Cup opening match between Aspire Academy and Mohammed VI.

Prior to the match, Draxler signed an official football of the competition, which will be awarded to the winning team of the whole tournament, along with the grand prize of 50,000 USD.



ASPIRE ACADEMY VS. MOHAMMED VI FA



The Alkass International Cup for U-17 made its long-awaited return after a five-year hiatus, kicking off on February 13, 2025. The opening match took place at Aspire Pitch 5, featuring Qatar-based Aspire Academy U-17 and Morocco-based Mohammed VI Football Academy. Aspire Academy wore blue, while Mohammed VI played in red. The game saw its first breakthrough in the 26th minute when Aspire Academy's player number 10, Tameem Nasser Al-Qadi, converted a penalty following a VAR review, putting his team ahead 1-0. Later, a collision between Omar Morsy and Ayman Ezzarky led to another VAR check, awarding Mohammed VI a penalty. Player number 6, Bachir Kitab, successfully scored in the 41st minute, leveling the match at 1-1.

However, just before halftime, Aspire Academy's captain, Zaid Faisal Ktit, netted the third penalty of the game in the 43rd minute of extra time, giving his team a 2-1 lead. Aspire Academy started the second half with intensity, as Tameem Nasser Al-Qadi scored again, the first non-penalty goal of the match—extending the lead to 3-1. The game took another dramatic turn in the 67th minute when an injury incident resulted in a red card for Mohammed VI and another penalty for Aspire Academy. The penalties-filled match concluded with a dominant 4-1 victory for Aspire Academy.



SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC VS. RANGERS FC

Rangers Football Club and Seattle Sounders FC faced off in the second match of the highly anticipated Alkass International Cup. This edition of the tournament showcases promising young footballers aiming to become the next big talents in the sport. Rangers, who won the trophy in 2019, returned to the competition with high expectations. All eyes were on the team as they made their comeback. The breakthrough came in the 76th minute when Rangers scored the first goal of the match. This momentum led to a second goal securing a 2-0 victory for Rangers.

“I WAS THINKING ON THE BENCH HOW I AM GOING TO IMPROVE AND COME ON AND IMPACT THE GAME”

***– ASHTON PATTON
RANGERS PLAYER***

ONE-ON-ONE: ASPIRE ACADEMY'S TAMEEM AL-QADI

You scored two goals including the first one, how did that feel like?

I was very satisfied to score for the first goal, but I couldn't do it without my team. My team helped me a lot including our new coach who has been with us for only three weeks now.

How was your team leading up to the tournament?

I was always ready, the whole team was ready. For us, we're one team, one hand, we had one heart, we believed in ourselves, especially when we were one man down with red card in the first minute; it was a little bit difficult. But we believed in ourselves because we were one team.

Who are your football icons?

I have three players. In Qatar, Akram Akif, obviously one of the best players in Qatar and Asia, two-time best player in Asia; and Neymar and Messi.

"I'M IN THE FAMILY OF ATHLETES WHO HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN NAMES. AND NOW I HAVE TO DO MY OWN NAME INSHALLAH."

How do you see yourself progressing in your football careers 10 years from now?

My goal is the World Cup in November, U-17 World Cup, it's to make the country proud with the national team hopefully. And after the World Cup, we'll see what's next, but now my main focus is Alkass Cup for the next two games to get the nine points.

Your message to other young Qataris looking up to you?

Work hard, believe in yourself, and obviously believe in Allah, the most important thing, pray. And your family, the most important thing, take care of your family, your dad, your mom, and the rest comes later.



