

ALKASS U17 UPDATES

**TEAMS GIVE THEIR BEST IN EXCITING,
RAIN-DRENCHED MATCHES IN DOHA!** *DAY 04*

ONE-ON-ONE: MIGUEL HEITOR, DEPUTY TOURNAMENT MANAGER
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN TAKING AN EARLY LEAD IN THE RANKING CHART

P.9
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RECAP: 15.02.2025

The third day of the Alkass International Cup saw an intense clash between Aspire Academy and Rangers Football Club, with both teams settling for a 1-1 draw — the first of the tournament. Aspire, in their red kits, took the lead early in the second half when Javier Rubio, their number 20, slotted home a well-timed strike in the 55th minute. The goal seemed to ignite Aspire’s confidence, but Rangers, playing in blue, responded strongly. Just before the break, Alfie Hutchison pulled the Scottish side level, scoring an equalizer to make it 1-1. The second half was a tense affair, with both teams pushing hard for the win. Rangers’ goalkeeper, Jaden Millarvie, emerged as a standout performer, making several crucial saves to deny Aspire’s attacking efforts. Despite numerous opportunities from both sides, neither team could find a breakthrough, and the match ended in the first draw of the tournament, leaving each with a point in the standings. Both teams now turn their attention to their upcoming fixtures, hoping to build on their performances in this hard-fought encounter.



Seattle Sounders put on a commanding performance against Moroccan side Mohammed VI, securing a 3-0 win in the Alkass International Cup. Ashton Riggs opened the scoring in the 16th minute, and forward Omar Said Hassan doubled Seattle’s lead in the 31st. Mohammed VI had a chance to pull one back before halftime, but a VAR review overturned a potential penalty. The second half was heated, with multiple yellow cards and a red card for Mohammed VI captain Oualid Ibn Saleh. Seattle sealed the victory late in the match when Callum Lyons found the net, ensuring a dominant result for the American club.



MATCH 1: REAL MADRID CF VS AL AHLY FC

The fourth day of the Alkass International Tournament kicked off with one of the most highly anticipated matches, featuring Al Ahly FC against Real Madrid. Just over 10 minutes into the game, Al Ahly midfielder Adam Youssef received a red card, putting his team at a disadvantage early on. Real Madrid missed a penalty but soon took the lead when Santiago Nogales' shot deflected off Al Ahly's Mohamed Abdelhady and found the back of the net, making it 1-0. In the second half, Madrid appeared less focused, wasting multiple opportunities to extend their lead. Despite the missed chances, they held on to their advantage, securing a 1-0 victory.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE CALM AND CONCENTRATE DURING THE MATCH. THEY SHOULD TRY TO DO THE SAME THING AS WHEN THEY TRAIN."

-ALVARO LOPEZ BERMEJO

REAL MADRID HEAD COACH



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



PRESS CONFERENCE: REAL MADRID CF VS AL AHLY FC



Despite losing 0-1 against the tournament's defending champions Real Madrid, Al Ahly Head Coach Oussama Sayed Hassanein believes his team played better than their first match with Kashiwa Reysol. Addressing a post-match press conference, the Egyptian coach expressed his satisfaction with his team's better performance, adding that his players displayed better defense than their first match.

Hassanein said stressed that 10 of the players at the match were aged 14 years old, and to be able to go up against a strong physical team like Real Madrid was a great competition.

.There are a lot of good takeaways in the match. We played great defensively, tried to play our game, and pushed forward in the front field. Even though they are a big team, we put up a great match up against them. They are a well-known team, I congratulate them on the win. But we were putting up a fight and with the score being one nil, it shows great resilience from both of our players. They have proven themselves and hopefully we'll learn from our mistakes and do better in the next match," he added.

Also addressing the media after the match, Real Madrid Head Coach Alvaro Lopez Bermejo stressed that his team showed a very balanced match and dominated the game. He said the players tried to make the game more balanced and tried to score another goal, but didn't manage.

Responding to a question on the possible reasons for the missed opportunities, the Spanish coach said it can be "technical ability of the players who are trying to score the chances, or also a bit of relaxation because the team has players who were more totally dominating the game; but also it's a tournament under 17 and under 16, we can get nervous and that plays a part in the scoring of the game".

Bermejo went on to congratulate Al Ahly and noted that they showed why they are a great academy

MATCH 2: PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC VS KASHIWA REYSOL

The second match of the day featured Paris Saint-Germain taking on Kashiwa Reysol. In the 11th minute, PSG's Romeo Garnier found the net, but the goal was ruled offside. However, just two minutes later, he redeemed himself by scoring again, giving PSG a 1-0 lead. The second goal came when Kashiwa Reysol's goalkeeper, Kaito Miyoshi, failed to secure the ball after a powerful shot from Souleyman Zeghadi, allowing PSG to extend their lead to 2-0 by halftime. In the second half, a brilliant pass from Noah Tiehi set up Romeo Garnier for his second goal of the match, making it 3-0 for PSG. Kashiwa Reysol managed to pull one back with a late goal from a foul. The match ended 3-1 in favor of PSG, securing them three valuable points.



"WE STARTED THE MATCH STRONG, LOST CONTROL BRIEFLY WITH A FEW MISPLACED PASSES, BUT QUICKLY RECOVERED AND CAPITALIZED ON KASHIWA REYSOL'S MISTAKES."

***- YANNICK DUMAS
PSG HEAD COACH***



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS: PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC VS KASHIWA REYSOL



PRESS CONFERENCE: PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC VS KASHIWA REYSOL



Japanese team Kashiwa Reysol are not giving up and remain resolved to keep fighting their game despite losing 1-3 to Paris Saint-Germain in their second match, said Head Coach Tatsuro Shida while addressing a post-match press conference.

Shida added that it was a tough game for their side, but the team will keep its strategy and correct some mistakes on the sidelines, particularly by focusing on the mark.



Also addressing the media, Paris Saint-Germain Head Coach Yannick Dumas stressed that his team started the match strong, though the boys did lose the ball a couple of times, he reiterated that the players quickly recovered.

Dumas added that the team used Kashiwa Reysol's mistakes to their advantage and got a 3-1 lead.

Asked on the probability of winning their fourth title win in the tournament's history, Dumas said, "We're focused on taking our match day-by-day, every team here plays high level competition, and we're focusing on getting the points and moving on to the next round and we hope to capture the championship and then head back home".

ONE-ON-ONE: MIGUEL HEITOR, DEPUTY TOURNAMENT MANAGER

The tournament is coming back four years after the pandemic, how special is the 10th edition this year? The tournament itself is special. This is a showcase for young talented players to show their potential, their skills; and for them to compete against players from other continents with different playing styles and mentality is a great opportunity. It's like a small World Cup and we have great clubs participating at the tournament. Also, we have so many talents that emerged to become international players from the previous editions, like Fabio from France national team and a former player for Paris Saint-Germain is one of the great examples from the first edition.

Four days into the tournament and everyone is intense, how do you see the games going and the response of the teams in the matches? We are having great teams playing in the tournament with great intensity. I can see from the coaches and also from the players they are taking this tournament very seriously. From the feedback I am getting from the talks I'm having, it's all about the experience, but also each team wants to reach the furthest possible reaching the final. I'm looking forward to seeing the semi-finals.

The boys are expected to play at their best, but at the same time you want them to have fun too. What other activities can they enjoy while in Doha? My colleagues are taking care of the entertainment during their free time. I know Real Madrid went to Sealine to experience the culture, and it's fantastic for them to see the beauty of Qatar and also to understand this culture and heritage. They are also very focused on the tournament, on their free days they have some training sessions at Aspire Academy. I'm sure my colleagues will have some other offers to teams to keep them busy and entertained as well.

You have been involved from the first edition, how has the tournament grown and what does it mean to you personally? It's been growing immensely, and it's really special for me. When I was invited to be part of the organising committee, I was very happy and honoured, because of the level and standards of the competition; and also the cause of the tournament, which is to give opportunity to new talents to aspire one day to become professionals. We are also giving opportunity to the Aspire Academy football players to play against high level clubs. And the strategy and vision from the decision-makers in Qatar is amazing; and to be part of this project for me is an honour.

Any plans lined up already for the next tournament that football teams and fans across the world can look forward to? The organising committee and decision-makers will look to the next season as well. The tournament will continue and the dates and the teams that will join in the next edition will be decided in due time. It's a bit early to unveil and for now we'll focus on this tournament first.





RANKING SCHEDULE: 16.02.2025

#	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DRAW	LOSS	POINTS
1		2	2	0	0	6
2		2	1	0	1	3
3		2	1	0	1	3
4		2	0	0	2	0

PHOTO OF THE DAY



GROUP A		GROUP B	
	ASPIRE ACADEMY		REAL MADRID CF
	MOHAMMED VI FA		PARIS SAINT GERMAIN F.C.
	RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB		AL AHLY FC
	SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC		KASHIWA REYSOL

DATE	NO.	TEAMS		KICK-OFF
Thursday 13.02	1	Aspire Academy 	vs 	Mohammed VI FA 15:30
	2	Rangers Football Club 	vs 	Seattle Sounders FC 17:50
Friday 14.02	3	Real Madrid CF 	vs 	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 15:30
	4	Al Ahly FC 	vs 	Kashiwa Reysol 18:00
Saturday 15.02	5	Aspire Academy 	vs 	Rangers Football Club 15:30
	6	Mohammed VI FA 	vs 	Seattle Sounders FC 18:00
Sunday 16.02	7	Real Madrid CF 	vs 	Al Ahly FC 15:30
	8	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 	vs 	Kashiwa Reysol 18:00
Monday 17.02	9	Aspire Academy 	vs 	Seattle Sounders FC 15:30
	10	Mohammed VI FA 	vs 	Rangers Football Club 18:00
Tuesday 18.02	11	Real Madrid CF 	vs 	Kashiwa Reysol 15:30
	12	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 	vs 	Al Ahly FC 18:00
POSITION PLAYOFF (8-5 Pos.)				
Wednesday 19.02	13	Group A Pos. 3	vs	Group B Pos. 3 15:30
	14	Group A Pos. 4	vs	Group B Pos. 4 18:15
SEMI-FINAL				
Thursday 20.02	15	Group A Pos. 1	vs	Group B Pos. 2 15:30
	16	Group B Pos. 1	vs	Group A Pos. 2 18:15
POSITION 4 & 3				
Saturday 22.02	17	Loser Game no. 15	vs	Loser Game no. 16 13:15
	FINAL			
	18	Winner Game no. 15	vs	Winner Game no. 16 16:00

