

ALKASS U17 UPDATES

**FESTIVAL OF GOALS AS MOHAMMED VI
THRASH AL AHLY 5-0**

DAY 07



RECAP: 18.02.2025

Under rainy conditions, the sixth day of the Alkass International Tournament featured a thrilling battle between Real Madrid U-17 and Japan's Kashiwa Reysol. Raul Banica put Real Madrid ahead early, scoring the only goal of the first half.

Kashiwa Reysol fought back in the second half, with Juki Uetake netting a well-earned equalizer to level the score at 1-1. Despite continued pressure, Kashiwa couldn't find a winner, and the draw was enough to secure Real Madrid's place in the semi-finals



The second match of the day between PSG and Al Ahly began at a slow pace but came to life in the 33rd minute when Abdelaziz Said put Al Ahly ahead. Backed by a passionate crowd, Al Ahly pushed hard in the second half, seeking to extend their lead but couldn't break through PSG's defense.

Just when it seemed Al Ahly would hold on for the win, Noha Tiehi struck in the 86th minute and again six minutes into extra time, securing a dramatic 1-1 draw for PSG in the final moments.

MATCH 1: ASPIRE ACADEMY VS KASHIWA REYSOL



Kashiwa Reysol secured a hard-fought victory over Aspire Academy to claim fifth place at the U17 AL KASS International Cup, capping off their campaign with a statement win.

Despite the match being a placement fixture, both sides played with the intensity of a knockout clash, pressing high and committing numbers forward. Kashiwa Reysol showcased fluid build-up play and clinical finishing in the final third, while Aspire Academy responded with quick transitions and dangerous counterattacks. With end-to-end action and relentless attacking intent, it was a spectacle worthy of a final, proving that neither side was willing to settle for anything less than a win.

After a thrilling contest, the teams could not be separated in regulation time, forcing a nerve-racking penalty shootout. In the end, Kashiwa Reysol held their nerve from the spot, edging Aspire Academy 8-7 in a dramatic conclusion to an enthralling encounter.



“IT WAS A TOUGH DAY FOR BOTH TEAMS. WE WERE COMING FROM A GAME THAT WE LOST, AND WE COULDN'T GO TO THE SEMI-FINALS, SO YOU COULD FEEL THAT FROM BOTH SIDES.”

-ALVARO MEJIA PEREZ
 HEAD COACH OF ASPIRE ACADEMY

“WE COULDN'T ACHIEVE OUR TARGET WHICH IS TO BE THE CHAMPIONS, BUT AT LEAST WE WON THE LAST MATCH, AND WE ARE HAPPY TO WIN 5TH PLACE

-TATSURO SHIDA
 HEAD COACH OF KASHIWA REYSOL

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS:



PRESS CONFERENCE: ASPIRE ACADEMY VS KASHIWA REYSOL



It was a tough day for both Aspire Academy and Kashiwa Reysol with both teams coming from previous losses, but Aspire Academy Head Coach Alvaro Mejia Perez chooses to see the big picture with the improvements in his team, Perez said addressing the media at a post-match press conference.

The final match saw Aspire Academy placing 6th at the tournament after losing to Kashiwa Reysol through penalty shootouts.

Perez said the team found its timing during the second half and created three to four chances for a goal, but it was a tough day for both teams who missed the opportunity to reach the finals.

Perez admitted that the team was not happy for not making it through the next round, but he also stressed that he was pleased with his team's performance overall, adding that the players created a lot of chances during the games, and the team developed a stronger bond while playing together throughout the tournament.

Aspire Academy is expected to play in another two international tournaments this year.

After winning 5th place, defeating Aspire Academy, Kashiwa Reysol Head Coach Tatsuro Shida said the team wasn't able to achieve their target of winning the championship but were still pleased to win their final match at the tournament.

It was such a journey for the Japanese team, and Shida said the players tried their best to win every match they played. But one of the highlights of the team was their match against Real Madrid, where they scored a draw which highlighted the team's improved performance at the games, Shida added. Overall, the process was good and it was a very good experience, he stressed

MATCH 2: MOHAMMED VI FA VS AL AHLY FC



Mohammed VI Academy delivered a masterclass performance, overpowering Al Ahly with a 5-0 victory to claim seventh place at the U17 AL KASS International Cup on Wednesday.

The Moroccan side controlled the match from start to finish, pressing aggressively and capitalizing on defensive mistakes to secure a dominant win.

The opener came when Adam Boughazir showcased his striker's instincts, tapping in from close range. Their lead doubled when Bachir Kitab saw his penalty saved but quickly reacted to slot home, thanks to an assist from Driss Janati.

A third goal followed after a costly defensive error, as an under-hit back pass allowed Boughazir to intercept and finish with ease. The team's captain, Ayman Ezzarky, then put the game further out of reach with a composed strike, sealing an already commanding performance.

Mohammed VI didn't take their foot off the gas, and it was Boughazir who completed the rout, netting his third of the match to secure a hat-trick, the first of the tournament, and round off a five-star display.



“REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL RESULT, THE TOURNAMENT HELPED US TO DEVELOP ON SO MANY LEVELS.”

**-OSSAMA HASSANEIN
HEAD COACH OF AL AHLY FC**

“IT WAS A GREAT PERFORMANCE BY THE TEAM TODAY. THANKFULLY, THEY MANAGED TO KEEP THEIR SPIRITS HIGH UNTIL THE FINAL GAME.”

**-KHALID SEKKAT
HEAD COACH OF MOHAMMED VI**

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS:



PRESS CONFERENCE: MOHAMMED VI FA VS ALAHLY FC



Hassanein thanked the organisers of Alkass U-17 International Cup for the invitation to join the tournament, which he said was a learning curve for the team where they have identified some of their mistakes and weaknesses and will address them.

Speaking about the team's lackluster performance in their final game, Hassanein said the team had just played against Paris Saint-Germain which was less than 24 hours before their final match, so a lot of the players were tired and about four players on the team had injuries.

However, the head coach also reiterated some of the team's highlights during the Cup, such as putting a strong forefront against PSG, as well as going up against several different teams that have different playing styles like Kashiwa Reysol which had a lot of tactics and speed.

"Regardless of how we turned out in tournament and what the final results were, it gave us a chance to develop our levels and adapt to every situation," Hassanein added.



Also addressing the media, Mohammed VI Head Coach Khalid Sekkat stressed that the tournament taught the team a lot, such as identifying strengths and weaknesses which they will carry on to the next matches as the team further improves to be better.

Describing their final match where they scored the highest number of goals throughout the Cup so far, placing them on 7th place, Sekkat said the team started strong in the first half where they had a lot of chances, which just piled on to the second half.

"We had a lot of goals in this tournament, and trying to win is one of them. We also came out with a lot of other goals in terms of improving our players and raising their standards and levels. I thank God for the experiences that we had in this tournament. It gave us some insight, especially to our young players and how to carry themselves in terms of certain situations and how to adapt. A lot of benefits came from this participation," added Sekkat.

ONE-ON-ONE: KASHIWA REYSOL HEAD COACH, TATSURO SHIDA

You previously said that your team is not giving up despite the game results. Can you tell us more about the boys' resilience and their experience during the tournament? "During this tournament they learned how important physical skills are, but equally important as well is their mentality. They were also able to experience the atmosphere of the international games. So those are important to survive this kind of tournament".

You lost 1-3 during your previous match against PSG, but also scored a draw with Real Madrid. Now you placed 5th place overall, how has your team grown throughout the games? "First of all, the team has grown in terms of mentality. Our team has been concentrating on the matches. And they have been improving. The next point is defense. We are well-organised and showed good defence especially during our match with Real Madrid, where our performance is better than our PSG match".

Can you tell us about the popularity of football in Japan as well? "You know that in Japan, baseball is popular. But as a football coach, we at Kashiwa Reysol and other people in the soccer industry have a duty to promote the love and joy in playing soccer.

How do encourage your players to not be intimidated when facing bigger clubs and opponents? "The most important thing is to enjoy football first of all and don't be afraid with the challenge. That's the key factor to improve in techniques. And of course, PSG and Real Madrid are big teams, and everyone knows it. On the other hand, maybe only a few people know about Kashiwa Reysol. But it's most important that we share with our team that when they stand on the pitch, it's regardless of how strong or a big name their opponent is. They're all just football players".

You did a pep talk with your boys after winning against Aspire Academy in your final match. What did you tell them? It was two things, first we wanted to show appreciation to the organiser of the tournament. And secondly, we reminded the boys about the lessons we learned from losing especially with our match against Paris Saint-Germain. It's important to remind each of the boys in our team about having their own targets individually and to achieve them in the future. Communication is really important in our team. We also want to hear their opinion and build good relationships".





RANKING SCHEDULE: 19.02.2025

TEAM



PLACE

5th



6th



7th

8th



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 	4 vs 1 	Mohammed VI FA	15:30
	2	Rangers Football Club 	2 vs 0 	Seattle Sounders FC	17:50
Friday 14.02	3	Real Madrid CF 	2 vs 1 	Paris Saint-Germain F.C.	15:30
	4	Al Ahly FC 	0 vs 1 	Kashiwa Reysol	18:00
Saturday 15.02	5	Aspire Academy 	1 vs 1 	Rangers Football Club	15:30
	6	Mohammed VI FA 	0 vs 3 	Seattle Sounders FC	18:00
Sunday 16.02	7	Real Madrid CF 	1 vs 0 	Al Ahly FC	15:30
	8	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 	3 vs 1 	Kashiwa Reysol	18:00
Monday 17.02	9	Aspire Academy 	0 vs 1 	Seattle Sounders FC	15:30
	10	Mohammed VI FA 	1 vs 1 	Rangers Football Club	18:00
Tuesday 18.02	11	Real Madrid CF 	1 vs 1 	Kashiwa Reysol	15:30
	12	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 	1 vs 1 	Al Ahly FC	18:00
POSITION PLAYOFF (8-5 Pos.)					
Wednesday 19.02	13	Aspire Academy 	0 vs 0 	Kashiwa Reysol	15:30
	14	Mohammed VI FA 	5 vs 0 	Al Ahly FC	18:15
SEMI-FINAL					
Thursday 20.02	15	Seattle Sounders FC 	vs 	Real Madrid CF	15:30
	16	Paris Saint-Germain F.C. 	vs 	Rangers Football Club	18:15
POSITION 4 & 3					
Saturday 22.02	17	Loser Game no. 15	vs	Loser Game no. 16	13:15
	18	FINAL			
		Winner Game no. 15	vs	Winner Game no. 16	16:00

