



Albirex Shake-Up: Dylan Pereira And Naoki Yoshioka Join Geylang As Mid-Season Transfers Reshape Singapore Premier League

Description

Albirex Niigata Singapore are undergoing one of their most significant mid-season rebuilds in recent memory, with four notable player departures and a key arrival at affiliate club FC Jurong reshaping the White Swans' squad ahead of the second half of the 2026 Singapore Premier League season.

Within the space of 72 hours, the Japanese club's Singapore operation has confirmed the permanent departures of two midfielders to local rivals Geylang International, the expiry of a key goalkeeper loan, a contract conclusion, and the signing of a former Lion City Sailors player for their development affiliate – changes that will test the depth of Albirex's squad at precisely the stage of the campaign where consistency matters most.



Albirex Niigata Singapore face a significant squad rebuild as the Singapore Premier League enters its second half. Source: Albirex Niigata Singapore official website (albirex.com.sg)

Pereira And Yoshioka Head To Geylang

The headline news came on 21 June when Albirex confirmed that midfielder Dylan Pereira has joined Geylang International FC on a permanent transfer. A reliable contributor to the White Swans' midfield throughout his time at the club, Pereira's departure leaves a clear gap in the engine room that Albirex's recruitment team will need to fill promptly.

On the same day, Japanese midfielder Naoki Yoshioka also completed a permanent move to Geylang International – a second significant loss of midfield quality in a single transfer window announcement. The back-to-back signings represent a considerable strengthening of Geylang's central options for the remainder of the 2026 campaign, and signal genuine ambition from a club looking to climb the standings in what promises to be one of the SPL's most competitive second halves in recent years.



Dylan Pereira has made the permanent switch from Albirex Niigata Singapore to Geylang International FC. Source: Albirex Niigata Singapore official website (albirex.com.sg)

Zulqarnaen And Koga Also Depart

The outgoing activity does not end with the two Geylang transfers. Goalkeeper Zulqarnaen Suzliman â?? who had been a standout performer during his loan spell at the White Swans, providing reliability and shot-stopping quality that helped Albirex maintain defensive solidity â?? departed on 22 June as his loan agreement reached its conclusion. The Singapore international returns to his parent club, and his absence will be keenly felt.

Takahiro Koga also bids farewell to the White Swans, with the Japanese playerâ??s contract at Albirex Niigata Singapore reaching its natural end. Koga made meaningful contributions during his tenure, and his departure adds to the sense that the club is entering a period of genuine transition.



Naoki Yoshioka joins Dylan Pereira in making the permanent move from Albirex to Geylang International FC. Source: Albirex Niigata Singapore official website (albirex.com.sg)

Akram Azman Arrives At FC Jurong

Amid the departures, there is a positive addition to the wider Albirex organisation. The club announced that Akram Azman will join affiliate side FC Jurong from the start of the 2026/27 season, arriving from Lion City Sailors. FC Jurong serve as the development and feeder arm of the Albirex organisation in Singapore, and Azman – a player with solid Singapore football pedigree – brings quality and National League experience that should strengthen Jurong’s own aspirations in the second tier of the domestic game.

The Challenge Ahead For The White Swans

Albirex Niigata Singapore have long been one of the benchmark operations in the Singapore Premier League – lauded for their developmental philosophy, technical discipline, and consistent ability to integrate Japanese players with local talent to produce a cohesive, competitive team. Losing four players of this calibre in a single window is not a crisis for a club of Albirex’s structural depth, but it is a challenge that demands a swift and intelligent response from the coaching and recruitment staff.

The second half of the SPL season will determine which clubs can maintain the standards set in the opening months and which will fall away under the accumulated pressure of a long campaign. [Lion City Sailors, who continue their continental commitments in the Shopee Cup](#), will be among the teams Albirex must match if they are to remain competitive in a title race that appears wide open.

For supporters of Singapore football more broadly, the volume of transfer activity is an encouraging sign of a league with genuine competition and enough quality to make the movement of experienced players meaningful. The weeks ahead will reveal whether Albirexâ??s squad depth is sufficient to absorb these departures â?? and whether Geylangâ??s new signings can truly alter the balance of power in the second half of the 2026 Singapore Premier League season.

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