

BG Pathum United v Lion City Sailors: Ilhan Faces Old Club

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BG Pathum United v Lion City Sailors is the biggest game of the Sailorsâ?? continental campaign so far. The Singapore champions travel to True BG Stadium on Thursday 26 November 2026, with kick-off listed by the club at 8.15pm, for a Group F clash that could shape the knockout race in the AFC Champions League Two.



Source: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg)

BG Pathum United v Lion City Sailors: the stakes in Group F

The Sailors arrive as leaders. Their 5-0 thrashing of Adelaide United at Jalan Besar on 5 November was their biggest-ever winning margin on the continental stage, beating the 4-0 win over Thailandâ??s Muangthong United. Matthias PhaÃ«ton scored twice, with Bailey Wright, Kyoga Nakamura and Ilhan Fandi also on the scoresheet, in front of nearly 1,900 fans after a 90-minute lightning delay.

BG Pathum are the Sailorsâ?? main rivals. The Thai League 1 side beat Tai Po 4-1 on the same night, with Bosnian forward Marin Jurina hitting a hat-trick, to move into second place. One match remains after this one, so a result in Pathum Thani could go a long way to settling who finishes first.

Head coach Mark Jackson has not hidden his ambition. After the Adelaide win, he said the target is to win the ACL Two this season, while accepting that his squad can still get stronger. That kind of honesty is rare, and it tells you where the dressing roomâ??s head is.

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Sailors on an eight-match winning run

Momentum is the Sailorsâ?? best weapon. Their 5-0 win over Geylang International on Sunday 22 November, which took them to the top of the Singapore Premier League for the first time this season, was their eighth straight victory in all competitions. In that run they have scored 31 goals and kept seven clean sheets.



Source: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg)

Toni DatkoviÄ? scored just before half-time, PhaÃ«ton tapped in his eighth goal in 12 Sailors appearances, and Lennart Thy added a double, one from the penalty spot, to reach the 60-goal mark for the club. Substitute Ilhan Fandi headed the fifth. It was a complete display, and you can read the full story in our report on the Sailorsâ?? 5-0 win over Geylang.

Jackson admitted the only concern was the international break disrupting rhythm. It did not. Even he said his side controlled the game for 75 minutes, and that is the standard the Sailors must bring to Thailand.

Players to watch

- **Matthias PhaÃ«ton:** the Guadeloupe international has seven goals in 11 appearances for the club and a knack for the spectacular, like his solo run against Adelaide.
- **Lennart Thy:** the German has 60 goals and an eye for the big occasion, and his flick set up Kyoga Nakamuraâ??s first Sailors goal.
- **Bailey Wright:** the centre-back scored his 18th goal for the club against Adelaide and has become a leader at the back.

Ilhan Fandi and the old-club storyline

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The most intriguing subplot is personal. Ilhan Fandi spent 2024 to 2026 on the books of BG Pathum United, including a loan spell at Buriram United last season, before returning to Singapore in the off-season. During his time in Thailand he was named Young Player of the Tournament at the 2024/25 ASEAN Club Championship.

The Singapore international scored against Adelaide, and again against Geylang as a substitute, and now he has a chance to show his old club what they are missing. Jackson has used Ilhan from the bench to devastating effect, pairing him with Ryhan Stewart, so expect him to feature at some stage.



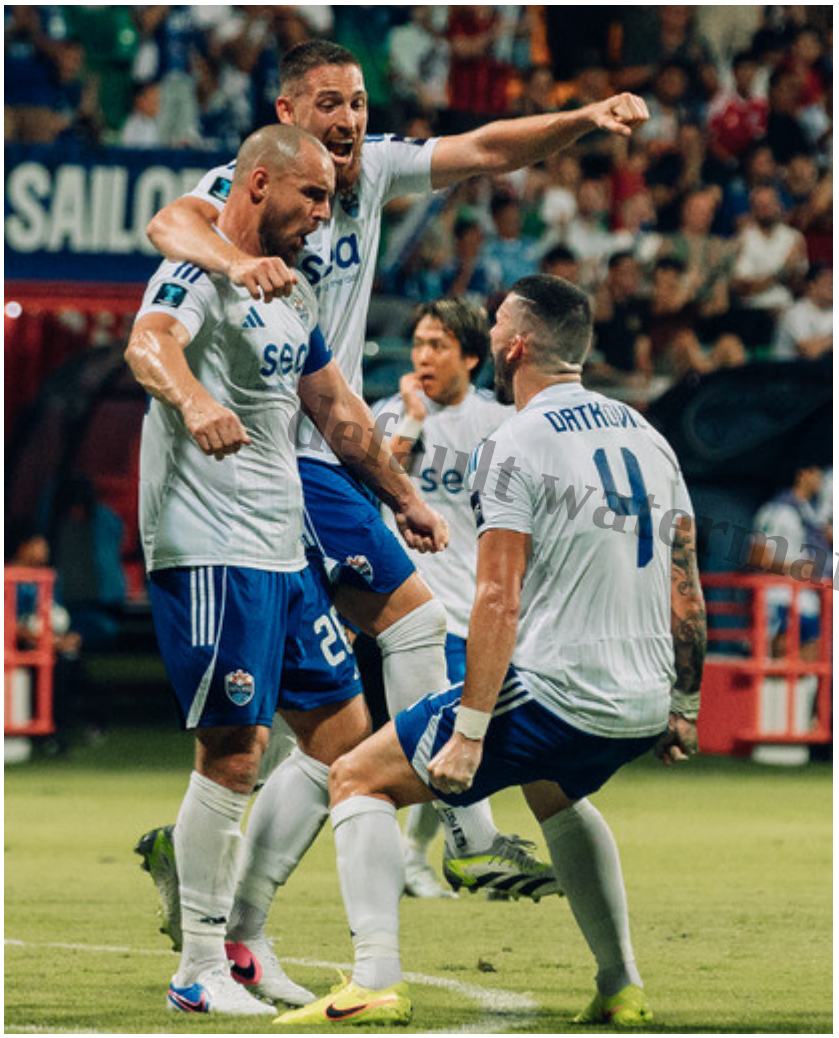
Source: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg)

Looking beyond Thailand

After the trip to Thailand, the Sailors return to league action against the Young Lions at Jalan Besar Stadium on Sunday 29 November, at 7.30pm. The SPL restart has been moved to 22 January 2027 after the AFC Asian Cup postponement, so this is the final domestic stretch of the year. Our guide to

the rescheduled Sailors fixtures has the full picture.

For Singapore football, a win in Thailand would make a statement. It would also cap a hugely successful month for local sides, after Tampines Roversâ?? 5-0 win over Hougang United. Find all our football coverage in the Little Big Red Dot sports section.



Source: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg)

Prediction: a tight, tactical match against a Thai side that will not give the Sailors space. But this team scores goals for fun, and we back them to take at least a point.

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