



Lion City Sailors Close In On Back-To-Back SPL Title After 3-0 Win Over Geylang

Description

The **Lion City Sailors** moved to the brink of back-to-back **Singapore Premier League** titles with a composed **3-0 win over 10-man Geylang International** at Our Tampines Hub on Sunday 26 April 2026. Goals from **Anderson Lopes**, **Rui Pires** and **Lennart Thy** capped a dominant display from the reigning champions, who now need just one more win against **BG Tampines Rovers** from their remaining three matches to retain their SPL crown. For Singapore football fans tracking the local game alongside the Champions League semi-finals this week, the message from Tampines was clear: the Sailors are not slowing down.

Sailors 3, Geylang 0: Title within touching distance

The Sailors arrived at Our Tampines Hub knowing that any kind of win would essentially put a hand on the trophy. They got more than that. After a controlled first half, Bart Ramselaar slipped **Anderson Lopes** through on goal in the 35th minute and the Brazilian forward produced a composed chipped finish to open the scoring.

The visitors carried that momentum into the break and broke the game open within a minute of the restart. **Rui Pires** reacted quickest to a loose ball after Geylang failed to clear a Diogo corner, slotting home only the second goal of his professional career.



Anderson Lopes opened the scoring with a composed chipped finish before half-time.
Image: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg).

From there, the Sailors looked the more likely scorers in every passage of play. **Lennart Thy** rattled the woodwork in the 49th minute, and **Song Uiyoung** hit the same upright shortly after with a clean volley. Geylangâ??s only meaningful response came in the 59th minute when **Riku Fukashiro** tucked the ball

into the net, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

The red card that ended it

Any lingering Geylang hopes ended in the 67th minute when **Shahdan Sulaiman was sent off** for handling a Toni Datkovic header that was bound for goal. Lennart stepped up to convert the resulting penalty for his 14th league goal of the season and to keep his SPL Golden Boot hopes alive. **Lionel Tan** was named Man of the Match in his first start under head coach Jesus Casas as the Sailors recorded their **11th clean sheet of the season**.

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Head coach Jesus Casas urges calm with the title now within touching distance. Image: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg).

Casas wants calm: “The job is not done”

Speaking after a sixth consecutive league win, head coach **Jesus Casas** praised his side's composure but warned against complacency.

"We deserved to win as we had the match under control. We created a lot of chances and pressed well, but we can still improve our finishing. These are three very important points, which put us in a strong position as we are now one game away from winning the title," said the Spaniard.

"Things are in our hands, so it's normal there will be pressure. We hope to seal it in the next match, so we need to stay calm and play as we normally do."

What this means for the title race

The Sailors now sit eight points clear of **BG Tampines Rovers**, with three matches remaining. They can mathematically secure the title with a win when they travel to BG Tampines on **Sunday 3 May 2026**, with the final home game of the season against **Albirex Niigata (S)** set for **10 May**.

BG Tampines Rovers, runners-up in both the league and the Singapore Cup last season, came into this campaign with new chairman Shungo Sakamoto and new head coach **Akbar Nawas**, who replaced Gavin Lee. The Stags will need to win their remaining matches and hope for an unprecedented Sailors collapse. Mathematically possible. Practically, very difficult.



The Sailors squad celebrate as the Singapore Premier League title moves within reach.
Image: Lion City Sailors FC official website (lioncitysailorsfc.sg).

Lionel Tan steps up: All of them are finals for us!

Man of the match **Lionel Tan**, making his 103rd appearance for the club, struck a similar tone after delivering a standout performance at the back.

“We took a while to get the first goal, but we came out strong in the second half,” he said. “This season hasn’t been easy for me, as every professional player loves to play more. But for me, it’s all about staying disciplined, keeping the hunger, and being ready when the opportunity comes.”

“Winning the league title has been our goal from the start. We have three games left, and all of them are finals for us. We will continue to play our football and fight for victory in each match.”

Beyond football: Loh Kean Yew and the local scene

Singapore’s wider sporting calendar continues alongside the football. Earlier this month, **Loh Kean Yew** made the quarter-finals of the **Badminton Asia Championships 2026** in Ningbo before falling to fourth seed Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei in three games. It was Loh’s third successive three-game match of the tournament, and despite the exit it was an encouraging run of form heading into the European tour and the build-up to bigger international targets later in 2026.

Final word

If the Lion City Sailors collect even three points away to BG Tampines on Sunday, the Singapore Premier League trophy will be heading back to the club for a second straight season. That is a huge moment for Singapore football, and confirmation of how far the project has come under sustained investment.

For more LBRD coverage of Singapore football, see our previous [Sailors and Loh Kean Yew round-up](#), and our [full LBRD Sports section](#). For the European football week, check our [Champions League semi-final preview](#).

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