

Lion City Sailors 5-0 Adelaide United: Phaeton Double Powers Group F Charge

Description

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Lion City Sailors 5-0 Adelaide United was as emphatic as the scoreline suggests. At Jalan Besar Stadium on Thursday night, Mark Jacksonâ??s side scored inside five minutes, led 3-0 at the break and moved to the top of Group F in the AFC Champions League Two with 10 points from four matches.



Source: AFC official website (the-afc.com)

Phaeton sets the tone

Adelaide backed off Matthias Phaeton in the fifth minute and the Guadeloupean forward needed no second invitation, finding the space to score. Bailey Wright, the former Socceroo, made it 2-0 from a corner in the 17th minute, a neat moment for a player facing Australian opposition.

Adelaide then gifted the third. They coughed up possession cheaply in the 41st minute, and Lennart Thy flicked Kyoga Nakamura through for a calm finish. Nakamura, the naturalised Singaporean international, was the only local in the Sailorsâ?? starting line-up, according to Australian reports.



Source: AFC official website (the-afc.com)

The early goal mattered more than it might appear. Adelaide had to chase the game from the opening minutes, and every attempt to push forward exposed more space behind them. By the time Nakamura finished off the third just before half-time, the contest was effectively over and the Jalan Besar crowd could enjoy the rest of the evening.

Fandi and Phaeton finish the job

The second half was more controlled but no less ruthless. Substitute Ilhan Fandi struck in the 71st minute, and Phaeton added his second four minutes later. He could have had a hat-trick, but he skied a penalty in the 88th minute, the only blemish on a one-sided night.

It followed the 2-0 win at Coopers Stadium on 29 October, which made the Sailors the first Singapore club to win a competitive match on Australian soil. Taken together, the two games are a 7-0 aggregate over the Reds. Our preview of the Adelaide match flagged the Group F lead as the prize, and the Sailors delivered.

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What Lion City Sailors 5-0 Adelaide United means for Group F

Adelaide stay on six points with two games left, against Tai Po and BG Pathum United. BG Pathum beat Tai Po 4-1 on the same night and leapfrogged Adelaide into second place, so the Sailors now have a healthy cushion and the knockout rounds in sight.

The result also carries a wider message. Australian sides have endured a tough week on the continent, and AAP noted that Adelaide, Melbourne Victory and Newcastle Jets have collectively won three of 13 continental games. For Singapore football, which does not always get this kind of headline, it is a welcome counterpoint.



Source: AFC official website (the-afc.com)

Why the scoreline matters

Beating an A-League side 5-0 is not a routine result for a Southeast Asian club. The Sailors have now beaten the same opponent home and away inside a week, 7-0 on aggregate, and the margin tells its own story. Phaetonâ??s pace and Wrightâ??s threat from set pieces were the difference, while three goals before the break meant Jackson could manage the second half and rotate his options.

It also shows what Singaporeâ??s flagship club can do when the pieces fit. The Sailors have a manager with a proven winning record, a forward line that is clicking, and a group table that now makes qualification look like a matter of when, not if. Ten points from four games is the kind of return that lets a coach plan ahead rather than scramble.

Mark Jacksonâ??s early impact

Jackson, who won a treble with Central Coast Mariners, arrived at the club about two months ago. He has quickly set a high-tempo, front-foot tone. The Sailors also thumped Tanjong Pagar 6-0 in the league recently, as our report from 25 October showed, and the confidence is obvious.

A mixed night for Singapore in Asia

It was not all celebration for Singapore clubs on Thursday. Tampines Rovers lost 2-0 away to Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng in Group G, with Thiago Alves and substitute Johannes Tartarotti scoring, and the Stags remain bottom of the group with four defeats from four.

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Next up

With the November international break upon us, several Sailors players will report for national duty. Ten Sailors have been named in the Lions squad for the friendlies against Paraguay and Brazil, as we covered in our Singapore Lions squad report. When club football resumes, the Sailors will be looking to close out qualification and stay in the Singapore Premier League conversation.

For more on Singapore and international sport, visit the Sports section.

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