Lion City Sailors vs BG Pathum: Mark Jacksonâ??s ACL Two debut at Jalan Besar

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Lion City Sailors host BG Pathum United in their **ACL Two 2026/27 Group F** opener tonight, **Thursday 17 September 2026**, at Jalan Besar Stadium. Kick-off is **6pm** SGT. It is Mark Jacksonâ??s first official match on the touchline after his work visa cleared earlier this week.

The Sailorsâ?? own preview frames the night as the start of a new continental chapter under the Englishman, who won the 2023/24 AFC Cup with Central Coast Mariners and coached Buriram United into the ACL Elite quarter-finals last season.

Why BG Pathum matters

BG Pathum finished fourth in Thai League 1 last season to reach ACL Two. The visitors arrive with new faces including Ryan Edwards, Anthony Belmonte, Fabio Kaufmann and 1.95m Brazilian striker JoÃ£o Magno, who scored twice at the weekend. The Thai core still includes Chanathip Songkrasin, Kritsada Kaman and captain Sarach Yooyen.

Jackson told the pre-match press conference he faced Pathum in pre-season while at Buriram and knows their coach and shape. He also said the turnaround is tight, so he will not load new ideas overnight, but he expects a positive home performance.

Sailors context

Captain Hariss Harun pointed to the home crowd at Jalan Besar and to Jacksonâ??s knowledge of Thai football as edges for the group-stage start. The club reached the AFC Cup final in May 2025 and wants a deeper run than last seasonâ??s group exit.

Full previews and team notes sit on lioncitysailorsfc.sg. Kick-off: 6pm SGT, Jalan Besar Stadium, Thursday 17 September.

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