



Nguyễn Quang Hải: Vietnam's Small Giant Eyes ASEAN Cup Glory

Description

As the **ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026** reaches its semi-finals this weekend, one name keeps surfacing in the conversation about the tournament's finest: **Nguyễn Quang Hải**. The Vietnam captain, nicknamed the country's "Small Giant", carries his side into a last-four tie against Malaysia, and his story is the latest instalment in the tournament's *Driven to Glory* series.

From Ấng Anh to Vietnam's talisman



Quang Hải orchestrates play in front of the Vietnam support. Image: SPORTFIVE

Quang Hải's journey began as a football-mad youngster in Ấng Anh, on the outskirts of Hanoi, before he grew into one of Vietnam's most celebrated players. Slight of frame but big on influence, he has long been the creative heartbeat of the national side, the player team-mates look to when a

match needs unlocking. That blend of vision, set-piece quality and nerveless finishing is exactly why the “Small Giant” tag has stuck.

The semi-finals: who plays whom

The tournament, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, has its final four locked in. The fixtures are:

- **Sat 15 Aug** “ Singapore v Thailand, Jalan Besar Stadium, 9pm (SGT)
- **Sun 16 Aug** “ Malaysia v Vietnam, Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium, 9pm
- **Tue 18 Aug** “ Thailand v Singapore, Rajamangala Stadium, Bangkok, 8pm (local)
- **Wed 19 Aug** “ Vietnam v Malaysia, Má»¹ Á·Á–nh National Stadium, Hanoi, 8pm (local)

For Singapore fans, the tie to circle is the Lions’ semi-final against Thailand at a sold-out Jalan Besar on Saturday night, with the return leg in Bangkok on Tuesday. On the other side of the draw, Quang Há»£i and Vietnam face a familiar rival in Malaysia over two legs.

Why it matters

A deep run would add another chapter to Quang Há»£i’s regional legacy, and with the semis finely poised, the “Small Giant” could yet decide where the trophy heads. For more on the road to the last four, see our [Cincinnati Open 2026 Preview: Zverev Leads the Charge as Qualifying Kicks Off](#) and [Tottenham Transfers 2026: How Roberto De Zerbi Is Building a Title Contender](#).

Information from the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 media release, on behalf of SPORTFIVE. Images: SPORTFIVE.

Date Created

12/08/2026

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