

Singapore 0-7 Brazil: Lions take a Vinicius hat-trick lesson in the Mizuho Blue Challenge

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Singapore 0-7 Brazil is not a scoreline anyone wanted at the National Stadium, but the Lionsâ?? heavy defeat on 17 November 2026 came with a purpose. Gavin Leeâ??s side closed the November FIFA window with a lesson in speed, pressing and finishing against five-time world champions. Here is what happened, and why the coach calls it a box ticked on the road to the Asian Cup.

How Singapore 0-7 Brazil unfolded in the Mizuho Blue Challenge

Brazil needed only nine minutes. Bruno Guimaraes found Vinicius Junior inside the box and the Real Madrid forward slotted past Izwan Mahbud. Six minutes later Vinicius combined with Endrick and fired in again, and in the 21st minute he completed his hat-trick with a tap-in from an Estevao cross.

Izwan had denied Vinicius moments before that third, so the keeper was not idle. Singaporeâ??s first real moment arrived in the 23rd minute, when Ilhan Fandiâ??s shot from the edge of the area was deflected for a corner. Bournemouth forward Rayan had a goal ruled out in the 25th minute, but Endrick made it 4-0 in the 31st with a left-footed finish into the bottom corner.



Source: Football Association of Singapore official website (fas.org.sg)

Ilhan almost pulled one back in the 36th minute. Ryhan Stewart swung in a cross from the right and the forward headed it wide. Singapore went in at 4-0 down, but they had at least shown they could get into the final third.

The second half started the same way the first had ended. In the 51st minute the Lions failed to clear a corner and Estevaoâ??s shot took a deflection on its way in. A minute later came Singaporeâ??s best chance of the night: Farhan Zulkifli beat Wanderson down the left, cut inside and drove a shot that goalkeeper Lucas Perri pushed round the post.

The late goals and the penalty that was not

Rayan beat the offside trap in the 65th minute and rounded the onrushing Syazwan Buhari to make it six. Allan completed the scoring in the 74th with a low shot that took a deflection off Raoul Suhaimi before beating Syazwan.

There was one more flicker of hope. In the 77th minute substitute Shawal Anuar went down inside the box and referee Alireza Faghani pointed to the spot, but an on-field VAR review overturned the decision. Seven goals conceded, no penalty, and a long night for a home crowd that stayed to applaud the players at the end.

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Source: Football Association of Singapore official website (fas.org.sg)

Brazil arrived without head coach Carlo Ancelotti and Barcelona forward Raphinha. According to the Football Association of Singapore, both were sent off after Tatsuhiro Sakamotoâ??s winner in Brazilâ??s 3-2 defeat to Japan on 14 November. Even so, the visitors still had Vinicius, Endrick,

Estevao and Arsenal duo Gabriel Magalhaes and Bruno Guimaraes in the squad.

What Gavin Lee took from it

Lee was not hiding from the margin. â??The way and speed that they press you, you have no space and time,â?• he said after the match. â??Sometimes it looks like an easy mistake, but itâ??s actually because they are so good at defending.â?•

His pre-match message had been simple: be brave. â??It was about being brave enough to be us and not allowing the context to shape or define us,â?• he said. He pointed to spells where Singapore created chances from the outside and played through the Brazilian press, which suggests the plan was not simply to sit deep and hope.

The bigger idea is the Asian Cup. Lee said the two fixtures, against Paraguay and Brazil, were lined up to take away the element of surprise of facing a World Cup team when Singapore arrive at the tournament. â??Thatâ??s kind of a check in the box,â?• he noted. It was a harder lesson than the opener, which Paraguay won 4-1 after Song Uiyoungâ??s header had levelled the game in the 30th minute; our Singapore v Paraguay report has the details.

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Source: Football Association of Singapore official website (fas.org.sg)

Asian Cup road: a longer runway

The timing of the Asian Cup has changed too. On 3 November the AFC moved the tournament in Saudi Arabia from its original 7 January to 5 February 2027 window to 23 December 2027 to 21 January 2028, citing exceptional circumstances in the region. That gives Leeâ??s group close to a year to turn the Brazil experience into something useful.

Domestic football will feel the shift as well. With the January window freed up, clubs can reshape their calendars, as we explained in our look at the Lion City Sailors and the SPL. The same players who were stretched across club and country this autumn now have clearer weeks to train, and ACL Two nights like BG Pathum United v Lion City Sailors become part of the same development story.

A 7-0 loss will not sit comfortably, and nobody connected with the Lions will pretend otherwise. But the details matter: the Lions kept creating chances through Ilhan, Farhan and Ryhan Stewart, and Lee has a clear picture of the gap to be closed. The next step is turning exposure into habit at home.

For more on the national side and the rest of the calendar, see more Sports coverage on Little Big Red Dot.

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