



Singapore vs Thailand: Lions Hunt Glory as ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 Semi-Final Arrives at Jalan Besar

Description

The Singapore Lions face their biggest test of the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 campaign this Saturday, 15 August, when seven-times champions Thailand arrive at Jalan Besar Stadium for the first leg of their **Singapore vs Thailand ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 semi-final**. With Singapore's National Day spirit still coursing through the island, Gavin Lee's men have the chance to write another chapter in the Lions' proud tournament history.

How Singapore Reached the Semi-Finals – Grit, Ilhan Fandi and Unbeaten Resolve

Singapore's path to the last four was not built on flashy football – it was built on character. Coach Gavin Lee's side went through four gruelling group stage matches unbeaten: victories over Cambodia and Timor-Leste bookended hard-fought, hard-earned draws against Group A heavyweights Vietnam (0-0) and Indonesia (1-1). Ten points from twelve. Second in the group behind the defending champions.

The match against Indonesia at Jalan Besar Stadium on 8 August was the defining moment. With the Indonesians needing a win and taking the lead through Ragnar Oratmangoen just two minutes into the second half, the Lions refused to wilt. Ilhan Fandi – carrying forward the legacy of one of Singapore's greatest footballers, Fandi Ahmad – stepped up in the 66th minute, turning a defensive error into an equaliser that sent Singapore through.



Source: ASEAN Football Federation official website (aseanfootball.org)

“I am very proud of the players and staff,” said Lee after the match. “It has not been an easy journey. Even before the tournament began, I do not think many people gave us much of a chance in this group. For us to dig deep, grind out the performances and secure the results is a very satisfying feeling as a coach. Now we have to recover and go again.”

Lee’s side also showed pleasing tactical discipline. They managed yellow card risks carefully, kept their shape against Indonesia’s pressure, and demonstrated a collective resilience that bodes well for a semi-final against far sterner opposition. For more on Singapore’s progress, read our full report on [how Singapore and Vietnam advanced to the semi-finals](#).

Thailand – The Seven-Times Champions Who Conceded Zero Goals



Source: ASEAN Football Federation official website (aseanfootball.org)

If Singapore's group stage campaign was about character, Thailand's was about dominance. Anthony Hudson's side – who took over from Masatada Ishii as head coach in October 2025 – went through the entire group phase without conceding a single goal. Four wins from four matches, twelve points, zero goals against. The War Elephants are in form that is almost frightening.

Their wins came against Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, and finally Myanmar – a 2-0 victory in Bangkok secured by penalties from Worachit Kanitsribumphen and Jehhanafee Mamah. Thailand advance to the last four for a record 14th time in the tournament's history. Hudson, who has now gone 10 matches unbeaten since taking charge, is focused on recovery before turning his attention to Singapore.

"I'm really pleased with the result, really pleased with winning our games, clean sheets, and qualifying for the semi-finals," said Hudson. "The plan, as you can see tonight, is that the players needed to put in a performance and get a result, and a lot of players were incredibly fatigued. The first focus is they need to recover. And then on Monday we have to get going, totally focused on the game plan for Singapore."

Singapore vs Thailand: The Battle for ASEAN Supremacy

This is a semi-final between two of the ASEAN region's most storied footballing nations. Thailand claim seven titles; Singapore hold four. The Lions' most recent triumph came in years past, and Lee's young squad is hungry to add to that legacy. Thailand, meanwhile, are a machine that has not conceded in four matches and has the weight of history and momentum behind them.

Jalan Besar Stadium will be rocking on Saturday evening. Singapore's National Day celebrations may have officially passed on 9 August, but the patriotic fire will be burning bright. A home semi-final, with Ilhan Fandi leading the line and a united squad behind him, gives Singapore every reason for optimism. The Lions are unbeaten in the tournament; Thailand have not conceded a goal. Something

has to give.

The second leg follows shortly after, with Thailand hosting in Bangkok if the tie is level on aggregate. It promises to be a two-legged thriller that the entire region will be watching closely. Follow our [Sports section](#) for full coverage as the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 reaches its climax, and catch up on the broader Singapore sporting scene with our [Singapore Asian Games 2026 preview](#).

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