

Tampines Rovers beat Hougang United 5-0: Higashikawa Scores Four

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Tampines Rovers beat Hougang United 5-0 on Sunday 22 November 2026, and Hide Higashikawa did the damage with four goals. The Stags had won a thriller against Ratchaburi only four days earlier, so this was a statement of depth as much as firepower. Here is how it unfolded.

How Tampines Rovers beat Hougang United

Coach Nazri Nasir made four changes from the midweek win. Raoul Suhaimi, Takeshi Yoshimoto, Faris Ramli and Shah Shahiran all came back into the starting XI, with Shah wearing the captainâ??s armband. It did not take long for the rotation to pay off.

Higashikawa opened the scoring in the sixth minute, finishing a move set up by Yuki Kobayashi. After that the Stags controlled the tempo against a Hougang side sitting bottom of the table, though Zharfan Rohaizad was needed to keep the goal intact. His save in the 51st minute stopped the hosts from dragging themselves back into the contest.



Source: Tampines Rovers FC official website (tampinesrovers.com)

Yokoyama and Higashikawa finish the job

The second goal came in the 54th minute, and it was a lovely piece of timing. Shodai Yokoyama came off the bench and scored with his first touch, helped by a deflection on the way in. Nine minutes later Hougangâ??s Washington Jaramillo handled the ball in the box, and Higashikawa stepped up to convert the penalty for 3-0.

The late flurry made it a rout. Substitute Kenshin Yamazaki crossed for Higashikawa to score his third in the 79th minute, and Yokoyama then set him up for a fourth in the 82nd. Hougangâ??s Oakley Cannonier hit the post in the 89th minute, which was as close as the home side came to a consolation goal.

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Source: Tampines Rovers FC official website (tampinesrovers.com)

The Ratchaburi comeback that set the tone

The Hougang win followed a dramatic night at Jalan Besar Stadium on Wednesday 18 November, when Tampines came from behind to beat Thailandâ??s Ratchaburi FC 3-2 in the ACC Shopee Cup, the ASEAN Club Championship. Pablo Insua put the visitors ahead in the first half, and Robert Å½ulj restored their lead from the penalty spot after a handball.

Tampines refused to fold. Seiga Sumi levelled with a solo goal just before the break, Higashikawa made it 2-2 in the second half, and substitute Jacob Mahler headed in a stoppage-time winner from a Kobayashi corner. It was the clubâ??s first win of the 2026/27 ASEAN campaign, and it lifted the Stags to four points after two matches in Group A. Higashikawa was named Shopee Star of the Match that night, and he followed it up with four goals at the weekend. For more on the competition, read our report on the Shopee Cup Group B matchday 2 results.

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Source: Tampines Rovers FC official website (tampinesrovers.com)

What the numbers say about this Tampines side

Eight goals in two matches across two competitions tell part of the story. Rotation matters as well. Nazri used a different mix of players in each game, and goals came from the bench in both, with Mahler in midweek and Yokoyama on Sunday. In a congested schedule that mixes SPL weekends with continental trips, that flexibility is gold.

The clean sheet is just as important. Zharfan was sharp when called upon, and the defence did not repeat the lapses that cost them against Ratchaburi. Tampines have conceded plenty on their continental travels, so a shutout at Hougang is a welcome sign.

A busy week in the Singapore Premier League

Elsewhere in the SPL, Lion City Sailors went top with their own five-goal win, which we covered in our Lion City Sailors 5-0 Geylang International report. Tampines will want every point they can collect. You can follow all our local football coverage in the LBRD Sports section.

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Source: Tampines Rovers FC official website (tampinesrovers.com)

Next up: Shanghai Shenhua at home

There is no time to dwell. Tampines host Shanghai Shenhua in the AFC Champions League Two on Thursday 26 November 2026, which the club describes as the final home group fixture. Knockout qualification is already out of reach after defeats to PKR Svay Rieng (5-1 at home and 2-0 in Phnom Penh), and Shenhua won the first meeting 2-1 on 17 September with a Yang Shuai header, after Faris Ramli had pulled one back for the Stags.

That leaves pride and performance as the motivation. A strong display against a Chinese Super League side would give the squad real momentum, and it would show how far this group has come. After Sunday, confidence is clearly not a problem. Higashikawa will be the man to watch, and Nazri has options everywhere he looks.

All match details in this article come from the Tampines Rovers FC official match reports and the ASEAN Club Championship coverage.

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