



v



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

HERO ISL 2020-21
13TH DECEMBER, 2020
7:30 PM IST
FATORDA STADIUM

Official Merchandise Partners



Sportwalk



Photo by ISI

KERALA BLASTERS FC SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Albino Gomes
Bilal Husain Khan
Muheet Shabir Khan
Prabhsukhan Singh Gill

DEFENDERS

Abdul Hakku
Bakary Kone
Costa Nhamoinesu
Jessel Carneiro
Lalruatthara
Nishu Kumar
Sandeep Singh

MIDFIELDERS

Ayush Adhikari
Facundo Pereyra
Jeakson Singh
Vicente Gomez
Rahul KP
Givson Singh
Nongdamba Naorem
Lalthathanga Khawlhing
Prasanth K
Ritwik Das
Rohit Kumar
Sahal Abdul Samad
Seityasen Singh
Denechandra Meitei

FORWARDS

Gary Hooper
Jordan Murray

HEAD COACH

Kibu Vicuna



BENGALURU FC FC SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu
Lalthuammawia Ralte
Lara Sharma
Sharon

DEFENDERS

Ajith Kumar
Biswa Darjee
Francisco Gonzalez
Joe Zoherliana
Juanan
Namgyal Bhutia
Parag Srivas
Pratik Chaudhari
Rahul Bheke
Wungngayam Muirang

MIDFIELDERS

Ajay Chhetri
Amay Morajkar
Cleiton Silva
Dimas Delgado
Erik Paartalu
Harmanjot Khabra
Suresh Wangjam
E Lalchhanchhuaha
Thoi Singh

FORWARDS

Deshorn Brown
Edmund Lalrindika
Kristian Opseth
Leon Augustin
Ashique Kuruniyan
Naorem Singh
Sunil Chhetri
Semboi Haokip
Udanta Singh

HEAD COACH

Carles Cuadrat

PRE-MATCH THOUGHTS

KIBU VICUNA, THE HEAD COACH

"We were upset and disappointed with our performance especially in the midfield against FC Goa. But, I believe in the team and have full confidence in every player and what we're doing as a team. We are trying to improve in the attacking department, especially in the final third. We have to create more and more chances and we hope that we will be able to do that and get a better result in the upcoming game.

There are many ways to play in attack – we have used one striker so far and we can also use two or three strikers. This is one of the things that we are thinking about. We are trying different possibilities, based on various strategies and the players available. Bengaluru FC is a very good team with good players and a good coaching staff. I noticed that they changed their formation in the last couple of games.

For us, it will be a big challenge as we are also missing our captains, Cidoncha and Costa. We never thought we would be winless after four matches. But that's what happens sometimes, its football. We kept making mistakes in those games and we have been working to rectify them. Therefore, I think we will be able to perform well against BFC."

NISHU KUMAR

"KBFC is a very big club and it is an honor to play for them. It was a difficult decision to make the move from BFC and playing against them will be an emotional affair.

Obviously we were all very upset after the defeat against FC Goa. We made many mistakes and some of them cost us the win. But, we have had one week since that match and I believe that the team has recovered well.

We have worked hard on correcting those errors, and care will be taken so that we do not lose points in our upcoming fixtures, starting from the game against BFC. The atmosphere won't be the same without the fans. But, this is a match that we have to take seriously. This is a very important game; it is the Southern Derby and we have to win this.

And of course, I'm a Blasters player now – so if I score, I will celebrate!"

MATCH PREVIEW

Still in search of their first win of the season, Kerala Blasters FC will be taking on rivals Bengaluru FC in Matchday 5 of the ISL 7. The Yellow Army has 2 points from 4 games so far, while the Blues are still undefeated in the league and have 6 points from an equal number of games.

We are coming off the back of a 3-1 loss to FC Goa, but the boys have had time to regroup and examine the mistakes made in that game. Bengaluru FC, on the other hand drew 2-2 against Northeast United FC in their last game, having looked defensively susceptible on a number of occasions. For this Southern Derby clash, all eyes will no doubt be on our summer signing Nishu Kumar, who will be facing his old club for the first time this season.

Our offensive unit has yet to fire on all cylinders this season, and there is no doubt that gaffer Kibu Vicuna will be focused on ensuring we do not draw a blank in this crunch tie. There is a possibility that we might see both Jordan Murray and Gary Hooper start together upfront, with Nongdamba Naorem and Facundo Pereyra providing the firepower from the flanks.

Vicente Gomez has been colossal in our midfield so far, and we might see Puitea and Sahal Samad start alongside him. The absence of Sergio Cidoncha due to injury and his subsequent return to Spain and defender Costa Nhamoinesu due to his red card in the previous match will be felt, but we believe that the boys have more than enough quality to step up and deliver. In the backline, we expect Lalruatthra to come in place of Costa, with the Mizoram player very well-versed in the stakes involved in this fixture, having featured against BFC multiple times in the past.

The key battles will be fought in midfield and out wide, with Dimas Delgado and Udanta Singh in fine form and involved in almost every attack Bengaluru create. The Blues have quite the aerial threat as well, with defender Juanan especially lethal from corners. Sunil Chhetri and Kristian Opseth are yet to hit their strides, but there is no doubt that the task will be cut out for our defence in this tie.

Having beaten Bengaluru FC for the first time the last time we faced them, there is no doubt that the boys will be giving their all to repeat that feat tonight. Come on lads!

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