

HERO ISL 2020-21
07TH JANUARY, 2021
7:30 PM IST
GMC STADIUM BAMBOLIM



V



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Official Merchandise Partners



Sportwalk



Photo by ISL

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
Jeackson Singh
Vicente Gomez
Rahul KP
Givson Singh
Nongdamba Naorem
Lalthathanga Khawthring
Prasanth K
Ritwik Das
Rohit Kumar
Sahal Abdul Samad
Seityasen Singh
Denechandra Meitei

FORWARDS

Gary Hooper
Jordan Murray
Subha Ghosh

HEAD COACH

Kibu Vicuna



ODISHA FC SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Ankit Bhuyan
Arshdeep Singh
Kamaljit Singh
Ravi Kumar

DEFENDERS

Gaurav Bora
George D'souza
Hendry Antonay
Jacob Tratt
Kamalpreet Singh
Mohd Sajid Dhot
Saurabh Meher
Shubham Sarangi
Steven Taylor

MIDFIELDERS

Baoringdao Bodo
Cole Alexander
Isak Vanlalruatfela
Jerry Mawihmingthanga
S Lalhrezuala
Nandhakumar Sekar
Paul Rmfangzauva
Samuel Lalmuanpuia
Thoiba Singh
Vinit Rai

FORWARDS

Daniel Lalhlimpuia
Diego Mauricio
Laishram Singh
Manuel Onwu
Marcelo Pereira

HEAD COACH

Stuart Baxter

PRE-MATCH THOUGHTS

KIBU VICUNA, THE HEAD COACH

"We are working in training, it's the only way we can improve. The good thing is that we created chances against Mumbai City FC. The bad thing is that we didn't score. If you want to score goals, you have to create chances and we are working to try to improve in this aspect.

The games are coming thick and fast and it's going to be hard, intense for recovery. Sometimes, we don't have enough time, not only us but for all the teams. You are playing every three days, it's difficult to recover. Every player is different; there are some players, that in one day, they recover. Other players need 2-3 days to feel better. But, it's going to be difficult for all the teams, so we cannot help it but work better as a team to deal with it.

Every game is different and we know that. We respect the Odisha team. In my opinion, watching their games they didn't deserve to lose the last match against SC East Bengal. In football everything is possible. Until the last day, everything is possible. We have to believe."

SEITYASEN SINGH

"We are working more under the new coach, we are learning a lot. We are focusing on this Odisha match, we are focusing well. The boys understand the fans want us to win each game and we would love to give them the win.

We will try to take the opportunity to score and take three points, and give it our all."

MATCH PREVIEW

A massive game awaits Kerala Blasters FC as we take on Odisha FC at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim. After a 2-0 defeat against Mumbai City FC, we are keen to return to winning ways against the Juggernauts. With six points in eight games, this game will be crucial for us to move higher up on the table and make one final push for the playoff spots.

Odisha FC have under-performed in this season so far and are coming on the back off a 3-1 loss to SC East Bengal. Stuart Baxter's side is yet to get a win and is languishing at the bottom of the table. However, they are still a very good side with some great talents in their lineup - Diego Mauricio, Marcelinho, Cole Alexander, Gaurav Boda, Steven Taylor and Arshdeep Singh, being some of them.

The boys will be keen to get all 3 points in this game, drawing confidence from the improved 2nd half performance in the last game against the Islanders. Our Aussie forward Jordan Murray is itching to get more goals and has been a live-wire on the field so far.

Costa Nhamoinesu might start in defence, but it remains to be seen who starts alongside him. The backline will, however have its task cut out against the likes of Mauricio

and Manuel Onwu who were both unlucky to not score against SC East Bengal in their last match. It remains to be seen if Gary Hooper and Bakary Kone will return to match-fitness for the clash, but even if they do not we have enough quality in our ranks to bag all 3 points.

Our midfield stalwart Vicente Gomez will be key to our chances as his battle with Cole Alexander will likely decide the fate of the game. Having registered over 290 successful passes in the ISL so far, he has acted as a shield for our backline and provided a creative outlet with his silky passes to Rahul KP, Sahal and Murray upfront. Gomez also has a goal to his name, but his most critical contributions have come during defending including 33 tackles, 17 interceptions, 8 clearances and 10 blocks.

Odisha FC's leaky defence will no doubt be noted by head coach Kibu Vicuna and the boys who will be looking to put pressure on their backline and get an early lead. This game will be a test of our character and resilience but we will be backing the boys through and through!

Come on KBFC, #YennumYellow !

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