

HERO ISL 2020-21
15TH JANUARY, 2021
7:30 PM IST
TILAK MAIDAN STADIUM



v



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Official Merchandise Partners



Sportwalk



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 Khawlhing
Prasanth K
Ritwik Das
Rohit Kumar
Sahal Abdul Samad
Seityasen Singh
Denechandra Meitei

FORWARDS

Gary Hooper
Jordan Murray
Subha Ghosh

HEAD COACH

Kibu Vicuna



Photo by ISL

SC EAST BENGAL SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Debjit Majumder
Rafique Ali
Mirshad Michu
Sankar Roy

DEFENDERS

Abhishek Ambekar
Anil Chawan
Daniel Fox
Gurtej Singh
Lalramchullova
Mohamed Irshad
Narayan Das
N Rohen Singh
Rana Gharami
Samad Mallick
Scott Neville

MIDFIELDERS

Aaron Amadi-Holloway
Anthony Pilkington
Bikash Jairu
Eugeneson Lyngdoh
Haobam Singh
Jacques Maghoma
Loken Meitei
Milan Singh
Mohammed Rafique
Sehnaj Singh
Surchandra Singh
Matti Steinmann
Wahengbam Luwang
Yumnam Singh

FORWARDS

Balwant Singh
CK Vineeth
Girik Khosla
Harmanpreet Singh
Jeje Lalpekhluva

HEAD COACH

Robbie Fowler

PRE-MATCH THOUGHTS

KIBU VICUNA, THE HEAD COACH

"As a team, we are trying to improve the balance and not concede goals while creating chances offensively. The most important thing is not conceding goals, but to score against your opponent. If you concede but you score more than you concede, the morale is high - which is what happened in the match against Jamshedpur FC.

Every game is different and so it will be different against SC East Bengal as well. Right now, what we are doing is looking at the players we have and the structure we are more confident in and trying to put the best team possible. It's true that Gary Hooper and Jordan Murray performed well together in the last game, but we will see.

When you have to correct things, you have to look for the best formation. During the season, you also have physical problems and injuries and suspensions. We are always looking for the best formation for every game. We are also working on how to be more competitive against the teams as our objective is to get the three points, against SC East Bengal and in our remaining games as well."

JUANDE

"I am excited to come to India and play for Kerala Blasters FC. We have a good team and a good coach and we have shown how good we are.

I saw a lot of KBFC and ISL games during quarantine. I think we only need to fix the small details. I have come here to help. So it's not much pressure for me as I have played football my entire life and I want to contribute to the team. I have good confidence in this team and our abilities."

MATCH PREVIEW

After a hard-fought win against Jamshedpur FC, the boys are upbeat and raring to take on SC East Bengal. With 10 points in 10 games, SC East Bengal is immediately above us on the points table - so it is an important clash for us.

SC East Bengal has been finding their form recently, in their maiden season of ISL. After a difficult start, they have collected nine points from the last five games. The addition of Nigerian Bright Enobakhare has lifted them on the field. The ever-reliant Matti Steinmann, the mercurial midfielder Jaques Maghoma and Irish winger Anthony Pilkington are leading the side, although Pilkington has missed the last few games. Captain Scott Neville was solid in the last fixture against Bengaluru FC, and will test our offensive abilities. The Robbie Fowler-coached side is putting up inspirational performances as they battle for a place in the top 4 and are riding high on the back of a 5-match unbeaten streak, but we have found form as well.

The win against Jamshedpur FC has made us more confident and the boys will be looking to deliver another clinical performance. Jordan Murray, with his brace against the Red Miners, will look to put up another solid performance against the Red and Gold Brigade.

Facundo Pereyra was a cut above everyone else on the pitch in our victory against Owen Coyle's side and with 2 assists to his name, the Argentinian will be ready to make his mark again. After Costa's maiden goal for us, the defensive stalwart won't mind getting his name on the score sheet again as well. With Bakary Kone uncertain to feature, the onus on leading the backline will be on the Zimbabwean as well.

The likes of Sahal Abdul Samad, Jeakson Singh, Vicente Gomez are providing invaluable contributions to our midfield and there is no doubt that they will be eager to face off against the Kolkata-based side.

Watch out for the battles between Bright and Costa, Steinmann and Vicente, Sahal and Maghoma and Hooper and Murray against Fox and Neville. It was Jeakson's last-gasp strike that helped us draw the tie against SC East Bengal in December, and the youngster has been in fine form of late and will be keen to make his mark again.

This is a huge game for the boys, and we are certain they will not hold anything back.

Come on, KBFC!

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