Dempo SC fight it out until final whistle to secure a draw

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

FATORDA: Dempo Sports Club fought until the final whistle to secure a dramatic 2-2 draw against Namdhari FC in an intense I-League showdown at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Thursday.

A late equaliser from debutant Marcus Joseph ensured the Golden Eagles avoided defeat after surrendering their first-half lead.

HERALD PIC

Dempo Sports Club and Namdhari FC players vie for the ball at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Thursday

Dempo SC started brightly, controlling possession and pressing high up the pitch. Under the guidance of coach Samir Naik, their fluid passing disrupted Namdhari's rhythm, creating early opportunities.

However, Juan Mera couldn't capitalise, and Joseph was unlucky when his effort struck the woodwork in the 40th minute. Their persistence finally paid off in first-half stoppage time when Pruthvesh Pednekar's pinpoint cross found Seigoumang Doungel, who powered a header past the static Namdhari FC defence.

The second half saw a resurgent Namdhari FC make tactical adjustments, bringing fresh energy onto the field. The visitors gradually took control and levelled the score in the 65th minute through Akashdeep Singh, who curled a sensational strike into the top corner from the edge of the box.

Buoyed by the equaliser, Namdhari FC pressed harder, coming close through Jaskaranpreet Singh and David Mills, but Dempo SC goalkeeper Ashish Sibi stood firm. The pressure eventually broke Dempo SC's resistance in the 83rd minute when Cledson Carvalho Da Silva beat the offside trap and clinically headed home his ninth goal of the campaign.

Just when it seemed Namdhari FC would snatch all three points, Dempo SC refused to back down. With time running out, Joseph produced a moment of brilliance in the 87th minute. The new signing latched onto a long ball, showed immense composure to round off Namdhari FC's goalkeeper Jaspreet Singh, and slotted his shot past two desperate defenders to send the home crowd into raptures.

The result left Namdhari FC in second place with 25 points, trailing Churchill Brothers by two. Meanwhile, Dempo SC sits in eighth with 18 points from 14 matches, ruing their missed chances but drawing encouragement from Joseph's impactful debut.

RESULT

Dempo SC 2 (Seigoumang Doungle 45', Marcus Leric Jr Joseph 87') Namdhari FC 2 (Akashdeep Singh 65', Cledson Carvalho Da Silva 83')

Ajaraie breaks goal-scoring record in NorthEast win

AGENCIES, JAMSHEDPUR: NorthEast United FC secured a 2-0 triumph over Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League match played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, here, on Thursday.

Alaaeddine Ajaraie scripted history as he scored another brilliant brace, storming to 20 goals in the 2024-25 season. He broke Ferran Corominas (2017-18) and Bartholomew Ogbeche's (2021-22) joint record for the most goals by an individual in a single ISL campaign (18 goals).

ISL

This was also the first time NorthEast United FC registered a win on the road against Jamshedpur FC in six matches in ISL history. This win keeps Juan Pedro Benali's men well within the mix of the playoffs, as they climbed to the fourth spot with 32 points from 21 matches to their name.

RESULT

Jamshedpur FC 0
NorthEast United FC 2
(Alaaeddine Ajaraie 6' 81')

ISL FIXTURE

Odisha FC vs Hyderabad FC at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, at 7.30 pm

Faheez nets four in Sesa FA's win

Calangute Association down Churchill Brothers

HERALD PIC

Sesa FA's custodian Sapam Singh blocks Pax of Nagoa's Nickson Castanha free-kick at Duler Stadium, on Thursday

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Mohammed Faheez's four-goal blitz enabled Sesa FA to walk past Pax of Nagoa SC in the Goa Professional League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Thursday.

For Sesa FA's Faheez struck four goals two in each session of play while for Pax of Nagoa SC Jesloy Moniz and Joseph Clemente pulled two goals.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Both the teams played almost on equal footing in the first quarter of the match.

In the 25th minute, Sesa FA's U-21 Sankalp Kankonkar set up Mohammed Faheez inside the 18-yard box, but the latter failed to keep his strike inside the goal framework.

However, finally at the half an hour mark, Faheez found Clencio Pinto on the right flank who in turn sent a long low cross back to Faheez inside the penalty box, who slammed the ball into the goal, 1-0.

At the other end, Pax of Nagoa SC should have equalised in the 37th minute as they were awarded a free-kick when Sesa FA's Daniel Gomes tackled Pax of Nagoa SC's striker Beneston Barretto outside the penalty box, but direct free-kick by Nickson Castanha came off the far post.

Two more free-kicks by Nickson came off the defender and goalkeeper.

In the 45th minute, Faheez was at the right place at the right time to connect a deep cross inside the Pax of Nagoa SC's 6-yard box from Thokchom Singh to make it 2-0.

Pax of Nagoa SC coach Mateus Costa came with two substitution upfront Schubert Pereira and Stephen Satarkar at the start of the second session which saw them score in the 56th minute of play.

Desmon Pereira's free-kick inside the goal area was tapped into the goal by Jesloy Moniz, 2-1.

However, in the very next minute, Sesa FA's Faheez netted his hat-trick by controlling a floater from Kirtikesh Gadekar and after rounding off Pax of Nagoa SC's custodian Antonio D'Silva placed the ball home, 3-1.

In the last quarter of the match, Pax of Nagoa SC brought tremendous pressure on the rival citadel but Sesa FA's custodian Sapam Singh brought three outstanding saves from inside the 18-yard box to deny Nickson Castanha, Schubert Pereira and Josley Gomes strikes.

Finally, in the 81st minute, Pax of Nagoa SC's Joseph Clemente nodded the ball into the goal off a long free-kick from defender Aditya Salgaocar, 3-2.

Pax of Nagoa SC went all out in search of an equaliser but in the stoppage time unstoppable Faheez pumped in his fourth goal to complete the rout, 4-2.

In another match, Calangute Association downed Churchill Brothers FC 2-0 at SAG ground, Benaulim, on Thursday.

Samuel D'Souza gave the lead to Calangute Association in the 35th minute and later Jovito Fernandes doubled the lead in the 67th minute.

GOA DIARY

GFA Women's Futsal League

PANJIM: The Goa Football Association has informed that the clubs, who are interested in participating in the GFA Women's Futsal League 2024-25, should send their entries to the GFA office by February 22.

Sao Jose de Areal SC to hold football selection trials on Feb 15

RAIA: Sao Jose de Areal Sports Club will conduct football selection trials for GFA Division I League on February 15, at Cuncolim ground, at 7 am. Interested players should contact Bersal Viegas at the venue.

Vaidya Family Memorial Cup at Cuncolim

RAIA: Cuncolim Union will organise an all-Goa inter-village football tournament for Vaidya Family Memorial Cup 2025, from February 17, at the government school playground, Cuncolim. In all, 16 top teams will participate. The winners and runners-up will be awarded cash prizes of Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000, respectively, besides trophies. The inaugural match will be played between Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, and Navelim Sporting Club. The final will be played on March 9.

Rangarajan Memorial Mormugao Taluka School Chess Championship on Feb 16

PANJIM: Regina Mundi High School, in association with the Mormugao Taluka Chess Association (MTCA), is set to host the 3rd T S Rangarajan Memorial Mormugao Taluka School Chess Championship on February 16, at Regina Mundi High School Hall. This event is exclusively for schools in Mormugao taluka, with a limited entry of 120 participants and aims to promote chess among young students and provide a competitive platform for budding talents. The winners, joint runners-up, and top performers across different age categories will be honored with trophies, recognizing their strategic skills and dedication to the game. The tournament is sponsored by Venkatramanan T S in memory of his late brother T S Rangarajan, an ardent supporter of chess. For more details, interested schools should contact Mormugao Taluka Chess Association.

India Khelo Football launches Tyger-IKF Season 5 City Talent Hunt in State

PANJIM: After the resounding success of Tyger-IKF Season 4, India Khelo Football (IKF) has announced the kick-off of Tyger-IKF Season 5 City Talent Hunt – this time making its debut in Goa on February 16, at Sesa Football Academy, at 9 am. A landmark initiative in a football-crazy State building on its track record of successfully placing promising talents with major clubs from the Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League, IKF is set to extend its scouting reach. This season marks the first-ever trial conducted in the State. The IKF has joined forces with Sinquerim Sports Club to ensure the smooth execution of the selection trials, under the able leadership of Laxman Hadfadkar, Sinquerim Sports Club has been appointed as the regional execution partner (REP) for Goa, reinforcing IKF's commitment to local engagement and talent development. The selection trials are open to boys and girls born between 2008 and 2015. Interested players should register online at indiakhelofootball.com/season5.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA U-13 Girls League (North): Laxmi Prasad SC vs El Shaddai S&CC, at Sinquerim ground, 4 pm. **(South):** Compassion SC vs Union of Chinchinim Villagers, at Kings School ground, 4.30 pm

GFA U-13 Division I League: Geno FC vs Salgaocar FC, at Parra ground, 4.15 pm

Batora United Women's Football Festival Cup (final): Livval Sports Club, Benaulim, vs Sesa Football Academy, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm

17th all Goa Seraulim Panchayat Cup (semi-final): Nuvem Sports Club vs Guardian Angel SC, at Seraulim panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

Vagator PYSC humble PVC Parra

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Vagator PYSC had an easy outing as they registered a 4-2 win over PVC Parra in the Goa Football Association's Division II North Zone play-offs match played at Vagator ground, on Thursday.

Both teams started earnestly and played almost on equal terms but once Vagator PYSC got their acts together there was no looking back for them as they went into the breather with 3-1 margin.

GFA LEAGUES

For Vagator PYSC, Tyson Carvalho, Shelford Fernandes, Jonathan D'Costa and Rutik Bandodkar scored, while for PVC Parra Sahil Jalmi netted a brace.

U-13 Div I League: South Goa Utd win

South Goa United easily outwitted Goa Police 8-0 in the U-13 Division I League match played at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, on Thursday. Macklan Menezes scored four, while Savion Fernandes, Cullen Agnelo Mello, Jovan Colaco and substitute Mohammad Asif Mirchi Kasim scored a goal each for South Goa United.

DBO Fatorda enter finals

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, got the better of USC Seraulim 4-1 to enter the final of Seraulim Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament at Seraulim panchayat ground, on Thursday.

Roque Borges, Edgar Noronha, Shubert Colaco and Richie Vaz scored a goal each for Don Bosco Oratory, while Shashank Shanke pulled a goal back for USC Seraulim.

Meanwhile, Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, booked the final berth of 17th all Goa inter-village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football tournament organised by United Sports Club Seraulim defeating hosts United Sports Club Seraulim 4-1, at Seraulim panchayat ground, on Thursday.

In a well-contested semi-final, Don Bosco Oratory's Roque Borges opened the scoreline in the 6th minute with a powerful header and Edger Noronha doubled the lead in the 21st minute. And before the half time, Shashank Shanke of USC Seraulim pulled one goal back in the 24th minute. At half time, the score remained 2-1 in favour of Don Bosco Oratory.

Changing over, Shubert Colaco scored the third goal in the 31st minute for Don Bosco Oratory. Then USC Seraulim got a penalty when Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda handled the ball, which was wasted.

As the match progressed, Don Bosco Oratory made the issue safe by scoring the fourth goal through Richie Vaz in the 59th minute.

Shashank Shanke of USC Seraulim was awarded the man-of-the-match by Kennedy D'Souza.

BPS Open from Feb 16

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: More than 200 entries have been received for participation in the upcoming second edition of the Baale BPS Open 2025, an all-Goa ranking tennis tournament, set to commence on February 16, at the BPS Sports Club, Margao.

According to the organisers, in the tournament's open category, nine participants have registered in the U-10 category. For the U-14 category, 33 participants have registered. In the U-18 category, 27 have registered. 11 pairs have registered to participate in the mixed doubles category, while 20 pairs have registered for the men's doubles event and four pairs for the ladies doubles event.

The premier Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tournament will feature six teams competing for the title in an exciting showcase of skill and determination.

SportsBalcao clinch SJAG Inter-Media Futsal title

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

KADAMBA PLATEAU: SportsBalcao emerged as the champions of the SJAG Inter-Media Futsal Tournament organised by the Sports Journalists Association of Goa (SJAG), after a commanding 3-0 victory over Prudent Media in the final at the Kicks and Flicks Futsal Arena, here, recently.

Lisvan Rodrigues, Jeniton D'Silva, and Drake Dias found the net for the victorious team, securing a well-deserved triumph in a battle of the tournament's two unbeaten sides. Prudent Media started aggressively through Kavish, but SportsBalcao goalkeeper Worrel D'Souza stood firm with a series of outstanding saves, earning him the Player of the Final award.

The breakthrough came when Lisvan Rodrigues unleashed a thunderous strike from his own half, leaving Prudent Media's goalkeeper Clive Alvares with no chance. Clive, who delivered consistent performances throughout the tournament, was later adjudged the Best Goalkeeper.

Jeniton and Drake then combined effectively in attack, each scoring to seal the title for SportsBalcao.

HERALD PIC

SportsBalcao team and supporters with the trophy along with Santa Cruz MLA Rodolfo Fernandes at the Kicks and Flicks Futsal Arena, Kadamba Plateau, recently

Drake, who finished as the tournament's top scorer, was named Player of the Tournament.

In the semifinals, SportsBalcao edged past AIR 1-0, with Sanger Serrao netting the decisive goal, while Prudent Media secured their place in the final with a 3-0 victory over Prime. Earlier in the group stage, SportsBalcao registered dominant wins, defeating Goa365 (9-1) and Electronic Media (2-0).

The tournament featured 10 teams, showcasing competitive futsal action among Goa's media fraternity. A special award was presented to Navhind Publications' Kishor Kamat, recognising him as the oldest player in the competition.

Chief guest Santa Cruz MLA Rodolfo Fernandes congratulated both teams, commending their efforts and fitness. "It's inspiring to see journalists actively engaging in sports. I encourage them to continue playing and staying fit. Congratulations to SportsBalcao on their title win and to Prudent Media for their spirited performance."

Mandrem, Siolim, Mitra Veterans move ahead

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Mandrem Veterans had to wait for the penalty shoot-out before they got the better of Goa Police Veterans 3-1 in the 3rd All Goa Siolim Veterans football tournament organised by Siolim Veterans at St Anthony's Church ground, Siolim, on Thursday. In an exciting game, Mandrem Veterans, won in a tense penalty shoot-out. Despite Goa Police Veterans dominating the match, their inability to convert chances proved costly.

VETERANS FOOTBALL

In earlier matches, hosts Siolim Veterans defeated Cunchelim Veteran 2-0. Anthony Fernandes and Alexander Fernandes scored for the winners. Mitra Veterans had an easy outing as they downed Arsenal 3-0. Mitra Veterans scored in the very fifth minute of the match from the boots of Milagris. Arsenal tried hard to equalise but the Mitra Veterans defenders stood like a rock. Before the breather, Benit doubled the lead for Mitra to make it 2-0. A few minutes before full time, a self-goal was scored by one of the defenders of Arsenal thus making the score, 3-0.

Chief guest Narendra Gad (former player of Dempo Engineering, Dempo SC and Salgaonkar SC) presented the best player award to Claudio Pacheco of Mitra. Guest of honour was Laxmikant, former player of FC Siolim and Dempo SC.

Special guest Francisco Fernandes (former GFA Vice-President) was also present. Special invitee was Pravin Govekar, former player of FC Siolim and Siolim Veterans.