

# Golden Eagles end I-league campaign on a high

Dempo Sports Club produce a sensational comeback to defeat title-chasing Gokulam Kerala FC 4-3 at the EMS Stadium, Kozhikode

Team Herald  
sports@herald-go.com

**KOZHIKODE:** In a match that had all the drama, goals and tension of a classic season finale, Dempo Sports Club produced a sensational comeback to defeat title-chasing Gokulam Kerala FC 4-3 at the EMS Stadium, here, silencing a packed home crowd and ending their I-League 2024-25 campaign in unforgettable fashion.

Down by two goals inside the opening 11 minutes, thanks to a blistering brace from Thabiso Brown, Samir Naik's men showed grit, guile and remarkable character to flip the script. Cristian Damian Perez (21', 90+4') led the charge with a brace of his own, while Kapil Hoble (34') and Didier Brossou (71') chipped in to seal the win.

The game, billed as a must-win for Gokulam Kerala FC to stay in the title hunt, was supposed to be a coronation. Instead Dempo SC turned it into a statement, a thunderous reminder that the Golden Eagles have arrived, and they're here to compete with the best.

Gokulam Kerala FC wasted no time making their intentions clear. Barely four minutes in, Brown muscled past Dempo SC captain Shaheer Shaheen to slot past Ashish Sibi for the opener. The EMS Stadium erupted. When Brown added his second seven minutes later, a simple tap-in from Ignacio de Loyola's low cross it felt like the script was writing itself.

But Dempo SC, wounded yet unfazed, responded like a side with nothing to lose and everything to prove. They grew into the game with composure, probing passes and clever movement pinning Gokulam Kerala FC back. The reward came in the 21st

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Dempo Sports Club players celebrate after scoring a 4-3 thrilling win against Gokulam Kerala FC at the EMS Stadium, Kozhikode, on Sunday

minute when Cristian Perez rifled in a rocket from the edge of the box. The Argentine's strike was pure venom a thunderclap that cut through the tension.

By the 34th minute, the comeback was complete. A peach of a cross from Marcus Joseph split the Gokulam Kerala FC defence wide open and Kapil Hoble, arriving with precision, buried it with confidence. From 0-2 to 2-2, Dempo SC had wrestled back momentum with style.

Before the break, Gokulam Kerala FC tried to restore control twice coming inches away. De Loyola's thunderous volley struck the post and another point-blank header was somehow tipped over by Sibi, whose shot-stopping once again proved crucial.

The second half began,

Sibi was again called into action, this time acrobatically tipping a goal-bound header onto the bar the kind of save that swings momentum. When Mashoor Shereef picked up his second yellow in the 64th minute, Gokulam Kerala FC's grip on the title began to loosen.

Dempo SC, ever-alert, sensed their moment. In the 71st minute, Didier Brossou towered over his marker and thumped home a bullet header from a Perez delivery a deserved lead and poetic reward for the Ivorian work-

horse. Although, Brown completed his hat-trick minutes later to level the tie at 3-3, Dempo SC's spirit never wavered.

With Gokulam Kerala FC throwing bodies forward in a desperate bid to salvage their title hopes, Naik's men held their nerve. Deep

into stoppage time, Nesto Dias sparked a counter, and when his effort was parried, Perez was in the right place the perfect poacher's finish with the outside of his boot into the top corner.

Cue delirium on the Dempo SC bench. The travelling squad swarmed Perez as the referee blew the final whistle.

Against the odds, under pressure, away from home Dempo SC had delivered a masterclass in resolve and ruthlessness.

For Gokulam Kerala FC, heartbreak, for Dempo SC, a performance to savour and one that sets the tone for a promising future. Ending their campaign in seventh place might not tell the full story, but nights like these do.

The Golden Eagles, back in the I-League after nearly a decade, have shown they belong. And as the final whistle echoed across Kozhikode, it was clear Dempo SC are writing a new chapter and it's only just begun.



# Garhwal Utd FC, Krida Prabodhini qualify for IWL 2 final round

HERALD PICS



Garhwal United FC, Delhi, champions of Indian Women League 2 Cluster Group A along with the officials at the Duler Stadium, Mapusa



Krida Prabodhini, Pune, runners-up along with the officials

Team Herald  
sports@herald-go.com

**MAPUSA:** Unbeaten Garhwal United FC Delhi carried on their winning streak as they trounced host FC Tuem by 9-0 margin in the Indian Women League 2 (IWL2) match played at the Duler Stadium, here.

Garhwal United FC and Krida Prabodhini thus qualify to the final round of IWL2 from Group A. Sanifida Nongrum did most of the damage netting in four goals. Rupali, Frangancy, Herrangkhongkam, Deepika Pal and Iarapleng added their names to the scorers list.

In the morning deciding match, Krida Prabodhini Pune managed to stun Surchi Sangha West Bengal by 2-1 margin.

Krida eves scored a goal in each session of play through their striker Sumayya, while Riya Duley

## INDIAN WOMEN LEAGUE 2

scored for Surchi Sangha. Surchi Sangha should have surged ahead in the 20th minute but Krida Prabodhini goalkeeper Hritika Bandsode thwarted Oinam Devi off a pass from striker Moirangthem Devi.

Just five minutes later, Krida Prabodhini's Su-

mayya Sheikh darted inside the rival territory from the left flank and scored from an acute angle, 1-0.

One failed to understand why Surchi Sangha coach substituted striker Moirangthem Devi by bringing in Riya Duley at half an

hour break, which slowed down the Surchi attacks.

Just seven minutes into the second session and Krida Prabodhini almost doubled their lead when Sumayya Sheikh was thwarted by Surchi Sangha custodian.

However in the 55th

minute, Divya Pawar sent an intelligent through pass to overlapping Sumayya Sheikh who beat the on-rushing Surchi custodian and scored, 2-0.

As the match progressed, Surchi Sangha's Pukhrambam Devi and Krida Prabodhini's strikes came off the horizontal bar.

In the 84th minute, Surchi Sangha's Pukhrambam Devi was sent off for double caution. Once again Krida goalkeeper came to her teams rescue by blocking Oinam Devi strike.

Finally in the 89th minute, substitute Riya Duley pulled a goal off Oinam Devi assist, 2-1.

# Liverpool's rare loss delays title march, Southampton relegated

AFP

**AFF, LONDON:** Liverpool slumped to just their second Premier League defeat this season as Fulham clinched a shock 3-2 win over the runaway leaders, while Southampton were relegated in record-setting time after a 3-1 loss at Tottenham on Sunday.

Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday left Liverpool needing just 11 points to secure a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title.

Arne Slot's men were unbeaten in 26 league games and looked set to take another step towards the title when Alexis Mac Allister's stunning strike opened the scoring. But poor defending allowed Ryan Sessegnon, Alex Iwobi and Rodrigo Muniz to turn the game around for Fulham.

The Reds appear to be running out of steam after challenging in four competitions for most of Slot's largely impressive first season since replacing Jurgen Klopp. But Liverpool are still almost certain to win their first title since 2020 with only seven games remaining for second-placed Arsenal to catch them.

After a Champions League exit to Paris Saint-Germain and League Cup final defeat to Newcastle, Liverpool edged Everton 1-0 in a feisty Merseyside derby on Wednesday to get back to winning ways.

However, their lethargic effort against Fulham might delay the title party for a little while longer.

In north London, Brennan Johnson struck twice in the first half and Mateus Fernandes' late reply was too late to stop bottom-of-the-table Southampton crashing back to the Championship.

Beaten for the 25th time in 31 games, Southampton are the first Premier League team to be relegated with seven matches still to play.

AFP



Fulham's Italian-born Nigerian defender Calvin Bassey (right) vies for the ball against Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah during the English Premier League match at Craven Cottage in London on Sunday

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS**  
**Brentford 0 Chelsea 0, Fulham 3 (Sessegnon 23, Iwobi 32, Muniz 37) Liverpool 2 (Mac Allister 14, Diaz 72), Manchester United 0 Manchester City 0, Tottenham 3 (Johnston 13, 42, Tel 90+6-pen) Southampton 1 (Fernandes 90). Saturday: Aston Villa 2 (Rogers 13, Malen 15) Nottingham Forest 1 (Jota 57), Crystal Palace 2 (Mateta 3, Munoz 55) Brighton 1 (Welbeck 31), Everton 1 (Ndiaye 49-pen) Arsenal 1 (Trossard 34), Ipswich 1 (Delap 16) Wolves 2 (Sarabia 72, Strand Larsen 84), West Ham 2 (Fullkrug 61, Bowen 68) Bournemouth 2 (Evanilson 38, 79).**

Ipswich and Derby were relegated with six games left in 1994-95 and 2007-08 respectively. Ivan Juric's side are also still one shy of matching Derby's 2007-08 record low Premier League total points of 11.

Juric, whose team are without a win in their last seven league matches, admitted this week that avoiding the record low points tally is Southampton's only target for the rest of their dismal season.

Southampton were pushed to the brink of relegation when fourth-bottom Wolves came from behind

to beat Ipswich 2-1 on Saturday, leaving Saints 22 points from safety.

Their slide down to the second tier was confirmed 315 days after they clinched promotion by beating Leeds in the Championship play-off final at Wembley. Tottenham have been in turmoil themselves for much of the season, with fan protests against chairman Daniel Levy before and during the game underlining the depth of the problems in north London.

But under-fire boss Ange Postecoglou, who was jeered by Tottenham fans during Thursday's defeat

at Chelsea, earned a little breathing space at Southampton's expense.

Trying to avoid their lowest finish since 1993-94 -- when they came 15th -- Tottenham's first win in five league games lifted them to 13th place. It was a much-needed boost before their Europa League quarter-final first leg against Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday.

Cole Palmer was left on the bench for almost an hour as fourth-placed Chelsea's winless run on the road continued with a 0-0 draw at Brentford.

Blues boss Enzo Maresca raised eyebrows by dropping England forward Palmer despite his side's battle to qualify for the Champions League.

Chelsea have a UEFA Conference League quarter-final trip to Legia Warsaw on Thursday, but Maresca's priorities were questioned following the Blues' insipid display.

# YC Manora win; Cuncolim Union, Mandopa SC draw 3-3

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**MAPUSA/RAIA:** Youth Club of Manora registered a fluent 3-1 win over A A de Moira in the GFA Division I League match played at Poriat ground, Calangute, on Sunday. Prefen Rebello put YC Manora ahead in the 14th minute of play with a neat placement 1-0.

On crossing ends, YC Manora doubled their lead through Gerito Fernandes in the 63rd minute only to find YC Moira outfit come back into the match with striker Sanket Jotkar entering the 18-yard box drilled a stiff grounder into the far corner of the goal 2-1.

However, Arhan Shaikh scored Manora's insurance goal to make it 3-1. Cuncolim Union and Mandopa Sporting Club played a 3-3 draw at SAG ground, Benaulum.

Wilson Fernandes scored a brace and Tyson Carvalho scored one goal for Cuncolim Union. Charles Miranda, Laxman and substitute Samson Bernard scored a

goal each for Mandopa SC

**IWL 2: Sesa FA, Mumbai Knights FC score big wins**

Sesa FA eves trounced Tungabhadra by 4-0 margin in the IWL 2, Group C played at Sirsaim ground.

Pushpa Parab scored a goal in each session of play with Sushmita Jaday and Aniela Barretto pumped in two more goals. In the next match, Mumbai Knights FC trounced North East United FC by 5-0 margin. Delfiya Pereira netted a hatrick with Kamchan Rawat and Rebecca adding their names to the scorers list.

**AIFF Sub Junior Youth League: Salgaocar FC win**

Salgaocar FC continued their impressive run in the AIFF Sub Junior Youth League 2024-25 with a resounding 4-0 victory over Sesa FA at Tilak Maidan, Vasco. After a tightly contested first half that ended goalless, Salgaocar FC's young

guns took center stage. Elmer Fernandes struck twice, while Daison Colaco and Sneyden Gomes chipped in with one goal each, sealing the win for Salgaocar FC.

This convincing victory has propelled Salgaocar FC to second position in the league standings. The team is set to face Dempo SC at Ella ground, Old Goa, on April 8. With momentum on their side, Salgaocar FC

is looking to build on this win and make a strong statement in the league.

**Verna Veterans enter semis**

Verna Veterans needed the luck of the tiebreaker to knock out Vasco Veterans 6-5 and become the first team to enter the semi-finals of Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup football tournament played at Santa Cruz ground, on Sunday.

Despite their best efforts, the teams were locked goalless at the

end of regulation time with Verna and Vasco both going close in either half.

In the tie-breaker, Verna were successful through Phillip, Johnny, Sandeep, Remedios, Vincent and Raymond, while Shaikh, Nelson, Krishna, Agostinho and Luis converted their penalties for Vasco. Verna now await the winners of the quarterfinal clash between Nuvem Veterans and St Anne Veterans.

**MALBHAT YUVA SPORTS AND CULTURAL CLUB**  
**MARGAO - GOA**  
**DRAW**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize 6728**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize 2134**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize 7857**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Prize 9197**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Prize 3622**  
**Consolation Prizes**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 4563, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2333 3<sup>rd</sup> 0892,**  
**4<sup>th</sup> 2722, 5<sup>th</sup> 5958, 6<sup>th</sup> 8831,**  
**7<sup>th</sup> 7457, 8<sup>th</sup> 4638, 9<sup>th</sup> 8198**  
**10<sup>th</sup> 0886**

**LAST SHOW**  
**PRINCE JACOB**  
**75<sup>th</sup> PRODUCTION PRESENTS**  
**TIATRA**  
**SANT PADRE PIO**  
**SUNDAY**  
**13th APRIL**  
**3:30PM**  
**RAVINDRA BHAVAN**  
**MARGAO**