



Maximiliano's Late Penalty Gives Jarni's Men Their Second Victory

6th Nov: NorthEast United continued their unbeaten run in the Hero Indian Super League 2019-20 with a 0-1 win away to newcomer Hyderabad FC at the Gachibowlli Stadium in Hyderabad. With the win, The Highlanders moved to the top of the table with 8 points.

It was Argentine Maximiliano Bomber who scored from the penalty spot in the 86th minute making it 0-1 for the visitors.

Coach Robert Jarni decided to go forward with a stable set-up and made no changes to his side from the draw against FC Goa. The Highlanders got their first opportunity in the opposition's half from a corner in the early minutes but Martin's corner didn't trouble the hosts' defence.

There was action on the other end as Hyderabad's forward Marcelinho's shot from close range was needed to be parried away by NorthEast's custodian Subhasish to keep his goal intact. The hosts kept on attacking and created a couple more chances in the following minutes which were dealt well by the Highlanders' defence.

NorthEast then had a chance in the 16th minute off a set-piece after Redeem was brought down just outside the opposition's box. Martin Chaves stepped up for the free-kick and whipped in a beautiful cross but it was dealt well by the Hyderabad defence. It was then the hosts who dominated the game for the majority of the first half but NorthEast's resilient defence didn't allow them to land a shot on target and the first half ended goalless.

Right at the beginning of the second half coach Jarni took a brave attacking approach and made two changes; Mislav made way for Wayne Vaz whereas Nikhil was replaced by Maximiliano Barreiro. Just two minutes into the second half and the substitution almost brought a positive result as Maxi found Redeem with an exquisite chip who then landed a perfect acrobatic volley but the hosts' keeper made a fine save to deny Redeem's third goal of the season.

As the Highlanders were trying to build pressure on the hosts' defence coach Jarni had to make his third and final change of the game in the early minutes of the second half after Asamoah Gyan had to come out with an injury being replaced by Panagiotis Triadis. Moments later NorthEast had their second chance of the half to open the scoring. Reagan Singh put in a perfect cross from the right to find the run of Pana inside the box who tried to flick the ball in but yet again the goalkeeper denied the Highlanders their first goal.

It was then the hosts who yet again had a few half chances but Subasish, as well as the defence led by Kai Heerings, kept the danger away. It was in the 84th minute when NorthEast finally had the golden chance to break the deadlock. Captain Jose Leudo tried his luck from outside the box but his shot hit the defender's hand and the referee didn't think twice to award the penalty to the visitors.

In the absence of Asamoah Gyan, Maximiliano Barreiro stepped up to take the spot-kick and made no mistake to put the ball in the back of the net after sending the keeper to the wrong side and making it 0-1 in favour of the Highlanders. And with this goal, the Argentine also opened his scoring tally for NorthEast United in the Hero ISL.

The Highlanders then kept going and created a few more chances from both the wings and of the counter but didn't manage to trouble the Hyderabad goalkeeper and wasn't able to make any change to the scoreline. NorthEast United was able to hold on to the one-goal lead till the full-time whistle and clinch their second victory of the season.

The Highlanders will resume action after the international break when they will host Mumbai City FC on the 27th of November at the IGA Stadium in Guwahati.