



## **Last Minute Header Snatches Highlander's Win**

**1st Nov:** Northeast United were denied three points by FC Goa as the visitors equalised in added time to end the game 2-2 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. With this result, the Highlanders extended their unbeaten run to 3 games in Indian Super League 2019-20 and have secured 5 points from their first 3 games and remain 4<sup>th</sup> in the table.

It was Hugo Boumous who got the first goal of the game in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute of the game to give FC Goa the lead. In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute, Asamoah Gyan equalised for the home side and Redeem Tlang gave the hosts the lead in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute. Manvir Singh scored the equaliser for FC Goa with the last touch of the game. The match ended 2-2.

Coach Robert Jarni made two changes to the starting eleven as Wayne Vaz and Pana were left out to make way for Nikhil Kadam and Mislav Komorski.

FC Goa had the upper hand in the initial few minutes as the hosts weathered the Goa pressure. Subhasish Roy Choudhury made a good save from a Brandon Fernandes shot. Following that, left-back Rakesh Pradhan had to make a good sliding tackle to stop Jackichand Singh in his tracks.

On the other end, Asamoah Gyan then had a good attempt at goal in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute but Nawaz saved the shot with his left foot. Meanwhile, Kai Heerings and Subhasish Roy Choudhury made sure that FC Goa didn't get the early lead as they made some very good tackles and saves.

Hugo Boumous finally gave the Gaurs the lead in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute, Subhasish came off his line trying to clear the ball but Boumous went past Subhasish and put the ball into an open net to make it 1-0 in favour of FC Goa.

Asamoah Gyan had the chance of the game three minutes later to equalise for Northeast United but the Ghanian hit the ball straight into the hands of Nawaz from a one-on-one situation. It was the best chance of the game for the Highlanders. Northeast United had two more good efforts in the first half but both went just wide of the mark.

The scoreboard at half time read Northeast United 0-1 FC Goa. In the second half, Northeast United came out as a completely different team. They had more ball possession and their overall play improved a lot compared to the first half.

In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute, Rakesh Pradhan played a through ball for Asamoah Gyan past Goa's defender Mourtada Fall. The Ghanian didn't make any mistake this time around as he curled the ball past Nawaz from an acute angle to give the Highlanders the equaliser they had been searching for.

In the 67<sup>th</sup> minute, Coro unleashed a venomous shot from inside the box but Subhasish made a superb save, this time with his feet to deny FC Goa the lead.

NorthEast United made a substitution in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute with an intent to change the tactics a bit. Nikhil Kadam was substituted and Putea came in his place. Northeast United were then forced to take off Kai Heerings with an injury and Shouvik Ghosh replaced the injured defender.

The substitutions worked wonders for Northeast United FC as a fantastic move led to the second goal for the Highlanders. Martin Chaves made a darting run down the left flank beating two FC Goa defenders before pulling the ball back for Redeem Tlang who finished it off with a nice left-footed shot from just outside the box. The scoreboard read 2-1 in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute in favour of the hosts.

FC Goa then tried to get back into the game but NorthEast's defence kept them silent leaving no room for error. Leudo had an attempt at goal from a free kick in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute but Goa's custodian Nawaz fisted the ball away.

An off-the-ball rash foul on Martin Chaves saw Seminlen Dounyel of the visitors receive a red. FC Goa from the resulting free-kick scored the equaliser when Jahouh's long floating delivery was headed onto Manvir's path by Mourtada Fall and Manvir reacted quickly and headed the ball past a diving Subhasish Roy Choudhury to secure a point for FC Goa. And with that being the final action of the game, NorthEast United were left disappointed having to share a point with FC Goa with a scoreline of 2-2.

The Highlanders will now travel to Hyderabad to play newcomers Hyderabad FC on 6<sup>th</sup> of November.