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ConIFA WFC: Key stories from the second set of group matches

Gursimran Hans 3rd June 2018 RATE THIS ARTICLE

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The second set of group games from the ConIFA World Football Cup provided a fair share of drama and shocks with some teams booking their spot in the knockout rounds whilst others will move into the placement round to determine ranking after finishing outside the top two.

Group A

Barawa began the day against Cascadia at Colston Avenue, Carshalton.

Staines striker Mo Bettamer put the hosts into the lead on nine minutes by heading down a in at the back post.

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Josh Doughty, <u>scorer against Ellan Vannin</u>, got the equaliser clipping at the near post after a Charlie Gregory cross. Cascadia star Maxwell Oldham delivered a dangerous cross that clipped on of Hector Morales's knee, to put Cascadia 2-1 in front. It ended that way. Barawa thought well but Cascadia earnt their first victory at the tournament.

Richard Whitley and Sam Caine were on target for the second match running with two second-half goals to beat Tamil Eelam.

The day ended with the league table as follows - 1. Ellan Vannin (6 points and + 5 GD), 2. Barawa (3 points and +3 GD), 3. Cascadia (3 points and -2 GD), 4. Tamil Eelam (0 points and -6 GD).

Ellan Vannin will play in the quarter-finals whilst Tamil Eelam have been knocked out. Whoever gets the best result on the day out of Barawa and Cascadia in their matches against Ellan Vannin and Tamil Eelam will progress. If both sides match the same result, Cascadia will have needed a five-goal swing in goal difference.

Group B

Both games in Group B at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium in Enfield were featured on The National Student.

Karpatalja beat Abkhazia 2-0 and Northern Cyprus eventually beat Tibet 3-1.

The day ended with the league table as follows - 1. Northern Cyprus (4 points and +2 GD, with 4 goals scored), 2. Karpatalja (4 points and +2 GD with 3 goals scored), 3. Abkhazia (3 points with a +1 GD) and 4. Tibet (0 points with a -5 GD).

Tibet will not progress further regardless of their result against Karpatalja. If Northern Cyprus beat Abkhazia and Karpatalja drop points, both sides will progress with Northern Cyprus as group winners. If both win, both go through. Northern Cyprus need just a point to go through while Abkhazia need a win, a draw will mean they require Karpatlja to lose by more than one goal. Karpatalja can win the group if they beat Northern Cyprus's result.

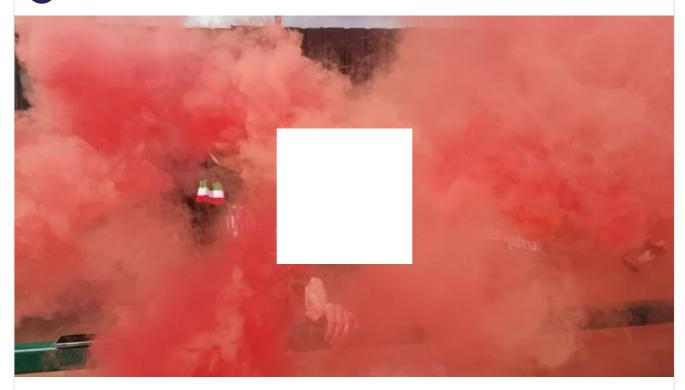
Group C

Szekely Land beat Matabeleland 5-0 in Haringey, in a game which was attended by Romanian football legend Laszlo Baloni, who won the European Cup with Steaua Bucharest and gave Cristiano Ronaldo his professional debut. The game saw two lively set of fans.

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Matabeleland's goalkeeper was sent off a Toni Schumacher on Harold Battison style foul. Despite the announcement Liverpool legend Bruce Grobbelaar will play for the Matabeleland team at some point, he wasn't the player chosen to come on.

Szekely Land put them to the sword after that with an Istvan Fulop penalty giving them the lead.





WATCH: Watch Szekely Land take the lead against Matabeleland from the penalty spot from among the home fans



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Arthur Gyorgyi got a goal from the edge of the box with a great strike before Szilard Magyari got one either side of half-time and Laszlo Hodgayi added a fifth in stoppage time.

Padania faced Tuvalu at Coles Park straight afterward, winning comfortably 8-0 to match the biggest win of the tournament.

Federico Como's smart finish got the party started in the eighth minute before the Caronnese man doubled the lead four minutes later. Ricardo Ravasi glanced a header in for 3-0 before Guilo Valente made it 4-0 after just over half an hour.

Corno sealed his hat-trick in the 37th minute and Valente added a sixth before half-time. Tuvalu forced a good save but any hopes they could win the second half where dashed when William Rosset fired in a volley, Valente completed his hat-trick late on, just after Stefano Baldan picked up a green card for unsporting behaviour resulting in a manadatory substitution.





They may have lost 8-0 but they were clapped and sung off the pitch like heroes. We go again Tuvalu, then against Matabeleland

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The league table ended the day as follows - 1. Padania (6 points and + 13 GD), 2. Szekely Land (6 points and a + 9 GD), 3. Matabeleland (0 points and a -10 GD), 4. Tuvalu (0 points and - 12 GD).

Padania and Szekely Land have reached the quarter-finals. The winner of their match will progress as group winners, with Padania taking top spot in a draw. Matabeleland and Tu have been knocked out and will play in the placemount round. The winner of their game finish 3rd in the group, with Matabeland taking the spot in case of a draw.

Group D

United Koreans of Japan played out another 0-0 draw with Kabylie in Bracknell. Chances came few and far between for both sides with an amazing late save denying UKJ the win.

A Kabylia player was taken off injured and required first aid and an ambulance, his identity is not public due to political concerns regarding the team but he is believed to be in a stable condition.

Panjab then took on Western Armenia in Slough, FC Nitra forward Vahagn Militosyan rifled home the only goal in the 14th minute. The match was very physical with Western Armenia picking up five yellow cards and Panjab four. Panjab were not able to find a way back into the side and failed to cope with the physical intensity of Western Armenia, who despite being put under pressure at several points, did what was required to win the game.

The league table as it stands is - 1. Western Armenia (4 points, +1 GD), 2. Panjab (3 points, +7 GD), 3. United Koreans of Japan (2 points, 0 GD), 4. Kabylia (1 point, -8 GD).

No team is mathematically confirmed their spot in the quarter-finals or mathematically knocked out by Kabylia's goal difference mean they require a massive swing. Western Armenia will qualify with a draw over Kabylia. A win will win them the group and so will a draw if Panjab can only draw with the United Koreans of Japan, a draw combined with a win of more than 1 goal for United Koreans of Japan will win UKJ the group and Western Armenia will qualify second. A Panjab win will see them qualify and win the group if Western Armenia do not win. A draw will be enough to qualify with Kabylie needing a win by a 15 goal margin, should this occur, Western Armenia's already inferior goal difference will see them eliminated. The United Koreans of Japan will qualify with a win and can win the group if Kabylie beat Western Armenia and they win by more than two goals in case of a draw. A draw will be enough if Western Armenia lose by 2 or more goals. Kabylie need to win against Western Armenia to progress and need a 15 goal swing over Panjab.

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