



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP FOOTBALL

# TECHNICAL REPORT

President cup 2024\2025



كأس  
الرئيس

كرة القدم  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

# كأس رئيس الدولة

كرة القدم  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

2025



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرة القدم  
FOOTBALL

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## THE INVISIBLE PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

The analytical and technical reading of The President's Cup Matches constitutes a distinctive feature, as it reveals the invisible part of the tournament. The analysis that is based on accurate and reliable criteria contributes to performance development; and provides support to technical staff in identifying strengths and weaknesses, then taking appropriate steps to improve the work.

Football remains in constant need for further studies as well as critical and analytical insights, as it has become a central part of communities' activities across diverse cultures and traditions. Playing football has become a common practice shared by all the people of the world. Therefore, analyzing a tournament such as The President's Cup is not merely about information or technical readings — it is a process of highlighting the identity of this tournament that is dear to the hearts of UAE people and residents in this beloved country.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this book.

**H.E. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan**

President  
UAE Football Association



## A TECHNICAL REFERENCE

The publication of a specialized book analyzing the matches of The President's Cup is a positive step, as it enriches the tournament and provides insight into its technical reality. This book serves as a technical reference for all football stakeholders, including specialists, fans and others who are working in the football sector.

Under the leadership of His Excellency Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Football Association seeks to develop every department and division; and encourage the human resources that are working in UAE Football Association or collaborating with it, to exert their utmost efforts for the best of UAE Football.

This publication is part of the initiatives that accompany The President's Cup — the most prestigious tournament — which attracts a wide sector of viewers inside UAE and abroad. We are confident that the content of this book will assist followers in analyzing the matches and uncovering their secrets and intricacies.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this book.

### **Mohammed Hazzam Al Dhaheri**

General Secretary  
UAE Football Association

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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

2025



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرة القدم  
FOOTBALL

## Technical study group

### Preparation



Noel Kaseke



Eduardo Thomaz de Oliveira



Houriya Hussain Altaheri

### Production



Jamal Alhassani



Jan Van Winckel

### Design



Mohamed Abdelfattah



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TEAMS PROFILE



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FOOTBALL

2025



# MATCH INFORMATION ROUND 16



ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرويهده FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization : 1-5-3-2 Mid-to-low Block.

- The back five remained compact, with the three center-backs positioned narrowly to prevent central breakthroughs.
- Central midfielder dropped between the lines to cover the space between the center-backs and full-backs.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- The team began build-up play with a back four, supported by a deep lying holding midfielder.
- Full-backs and wingers overlapped frequently to stretch the opponent's shape across the width.
- Created numerical superiority in the midfield, helping control possession phases and dictate the game tempo.



ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كؤوم FOOTBALL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: High Press 1-4-3-3 → Mid-Block 1-4-4-2

- The structure aimed to force play wide and deny central penetration through compact positioning.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

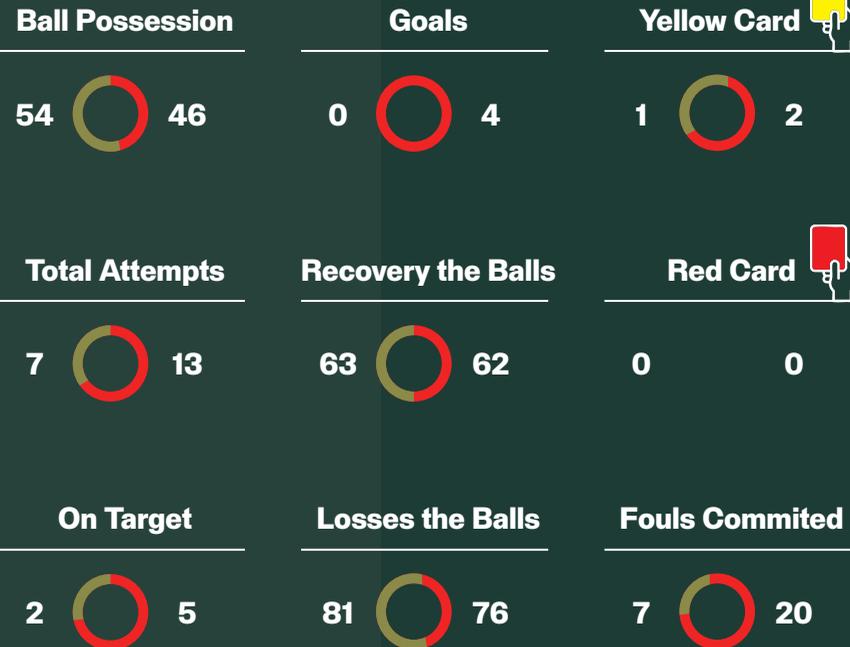
- emphasizing width through overlapping full backs.
- Combination plays through central areas supported penetration in the final third.
- The approach emphasized pace and physicality, particularly from high-positioned fullbacks who exploited the wide channels and supported attacking transitions.



### TEAM FORMATION



## MATCH STATISTICS



■ HATTA ■ AL AIN



Goals

## MAN OF THE MATCH



## ▶ Matías Segovia

Al Ain FC

Position: Right Striker

Contribution: 2 Assists | ⚽ 1 Goal

ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP FOOTBALL

## Tactical Match Overview

The match demonstrated the effectiveness of combining high pressing with a compact mid-block, which reduced spaces between the lines, forced play into wide areas, and established control over the midfield.

Offensively, quick transitions, wide play, and organized entries into the box played a key role in creating tactical superiority, compared to slower, possession-based buildup.

The game reflected the superiority of modern tactical trends that gave Al Ain a clear edge in securing the result, including:

- High pressing integrated with a mid-block defensive structure
- Fast transitions instead of slow buildup
- Direct and vertical attacking play





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرويهدم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization : 1-4-4-2, structured in a mid-to-low defensive block.

- Wide wingers engaged the opponent's full backs to protect flanks and limit progression.
- At times, applied high pressing, splitting into two compact units pressing man-to-man.
- Wingers dropped deeper during low blocks, forming a temporary back five or six to close central spaces.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization : 1-4-4-2

- Used a direct attacking approach with a fast striker and a strong target man.
- Wingers showed pace and agility, exploiting space behind the defense and delivering crosses.
- Focused on playing in the opponent's half, capitalizing on wide areas and space penetration.



ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كروم القدم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization 1-4-4-1-1 mid-to-low defensive block,

- both striker and attacking midfielder dropping deep to support.
- aggressive central pressing and physical dominance to regain possession quickly.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization 1-4-2-3-1

- Used a back three in build-up, with the right-back tucking in and left-back pushing high.
- two holding midfielders and fast wingers.
- Formed a box midfield behind a front line of three attackers.
- Created central overloads, then switched play wide to full-backs or the right winger for crosses

## MATCH STATISTICS

### Ball Possession



### Goals



### Yellow Card



### Total Attempts



### Recovery the Balls



### Red Card



### On Target



### Losses the Balls



### Fouls Committed



■ DIBBA FUJEIRAH ■ BANIYAS

▶ Goals

## MAN OF THE MATCH



## Fawaz Awana

Bani Yas

Position: Central Midfielder

ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

## Tactical Match Overview

The match demonstrated the effectiveness of combining a well-structured mid-to-low defensive block with quick attacking transitions. This approach effectively closed central spaces, forced play out wide, and limited the opponent's ability to penetrate—particularly after the red card, which altered the game's flow.

Baniyas capitalized on key modern tactical principles that gave them a clear advantage in securing the result:

- Compact and disciplined defensive block
- Fast and direct transitions from defense to attack
- Vertical play with dynamic use of wide areas
- Smart off-the-ball movement to create numerical superiority and optimize attacking positions.





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كؤومم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: Mid-Low Block 1-5-3-2

- The holding midfielder dropped into the backline to create a five-man defense.
- The compact block aimed to close central spaces and force the opposition to play wide.
- Defensive shape remained deep and narrow to minimize threats in the final third.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- flexible positioning during build-up.
- Progression focused on short passes and central combination play.
- Wingers provided width and 1v1 threats, while the striker dropped between lines to link play and open spaces behind the defense.



ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كروكيت FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 across all phases

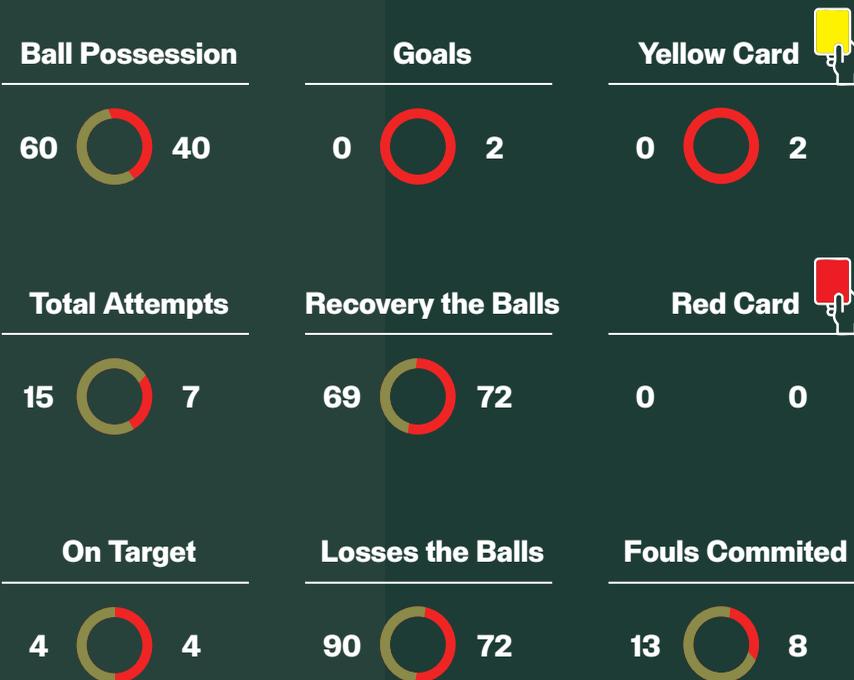
- The team maintained a consistent 1-4-4-2 shape during high press, mid-block, and low-block phases.
- Defensive focus was on closing central spaces, with the striker initiating the press and wingers narrowing in to support midfield compactness.
- The structure was designed to enable quick attacking transitions, utilizing the pace and individual quality of the front players after ball recovery

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 formation

- Buildup through central areas with vertical passes and quick combinations.
- Width was provided by overlapping full backs, while the front two worked to disrupt the opposition's defensive line and exploit spaces in behind.

MATCH STATISTICS



■ AL NASR

■ SHARJAH

▶ Goals

MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **Caio Lucas**

Sharjah

Position: Striker

Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

Sharjah demonstrated high tactical efficiency by implementing a well-disciplined 1-4-4-2 mid-to-low block, combined with fast attacking transitions. This approach effectively limited Al Nasr's access through central areas, forced play toward the flanks, and minimized attacking threats—especially after Sharjah gained a numerical advantage.

Key tactical principles that gave Sharjah the upper hand included:

- A compact and layered defensive block maintaining central control
- Quick and vertical transitions upon ball recovery
- Effective use of wide areas through overlapping full-backs and wingers
- Intelligent off-the-ball movement to stretch the opponent and open attacking channels





ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرو القدم FOOTBALL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 Mid-to-Low Block

The team maintained strong horizontal compactness across phases.

- Wingers dropped deep to support the full-backs, forming a 1-5-3-2 defensive shape in the final third. This contributed to closing spaces and blocking vertical passes. The structure aimed to protect central areas and enable quick ball recovery, allowing the team to launch fast attacking transitions through tactical discipline and organized positioning.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- Clear emphasis on wide play the left full-back pushed high, while the right winger held width to stretch the field, creating a 1-3-2-2-3 attacking shape.
- Two holding midfielders supported the build-up by positioning ahead of the center-backs and linking to the advanced midfield line.



### TEAM FORMATION





ROUND 16



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خوارشم FOOTBALL



TEAM FORMATION



KEY FEATURES

Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 Mid-to-Low Block

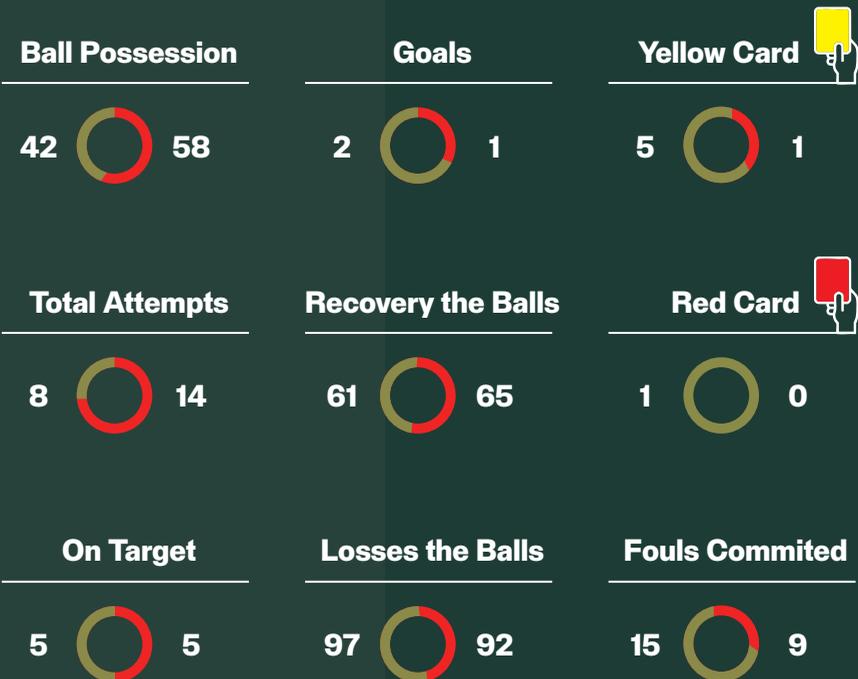
- The striker initiated the press from the front line to disrupt the opponent's build-up from the back.
- The wingers maintained wide positions to block the flanks, but this left the central half-spaces exposed.
- The team struggled to execute quick attacking transitions, which reduced their ability to exploit the spaces behind the opponent's defensive line.

Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- The team transitioned into a 1-3-4-3 formation, with full-backs and one holding midfielder advancing high up the pitch, while the second holding midfielder dropped in to create a back three.
- Their offensive strategy focused on delivering crosses into the box, capitalizing on aerial strength, technical ability, and numerical superiority in the penalty area.

MATCH STATISTICS



■ AJMAN

■ KHORFAKKAN

▶ Goals

MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **J. Flemmings**

**Ajman**  
Position: Left Winger  
Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

**Tactical Match Overview**

Ajman's performance showcased the effectiveness of wide play and defensive organization. The team effectively exploited flank overloads, maintained a compact mid-to-low defensive block, and executed quick transitions, allowing them to control key moments throughout the match.

Khorfakkan struggled to cope with Ajman's width and intensity. Their only goal came from a late penalty, with minimal threat posed during open play.

Key tactical factors behind Ajman's advantage:

- Flank overloads through overlapping full-backs and wingers
- Compact defensive block minimizing space between lines
- Fast transitions utilizing pace on the wings
- High pressing phases generating turnovers in wide areas





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرويهدم FOOTBALL

## KEY FEATURES

### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1 → 1-4-4-1-1

- The team applied high pressing in a 1-4-2-3-1 shape during early buildup phases.
- On retreat, they shifted into a compact 1-4-4-1-1 mid-block, closing central areas and maintaining defensive discipline.

### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- Featured a creative playmaker, two wide 1v1 wingers, and a strong target striker.
- Build-up from the goalkeeper and center-backs, with full-backs advancing to stretch the field.
- Transitioned to a 1-4-3-3 in open play, with full backs pushing wide and the right winger rotating inside.
- Key attacking aim: Break the first defensive line, create central overloads, or isolate wingers for direct threats.



## TEAM FORMATION





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كؤوسهم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-5-3-2

- Mid-block defensive structure with five defenders, focusing on closing central spaces and maintaining horizontal compactness.
- Stability and low-risk defending were prioritized by reinforcing the backline and limiting penetration through the middle.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-3-1-4-2

- Transitioned into a 1-3-1-4-2 structure when attacking, with the second striker dropping deeper to link play and overload midfield areas.
- Buildup from the goalkeeper and center-backs, with full-backs advancing high.
- The main striker stayed high to threaten the defensive line, while the left-back pushed forward to provide width.
- The offensive aim was to break the first defensive line and create central attacking options or isolate wide players in 1v1 situations

MATCH STATISTICS



■ AL WASL

■ AL WAHDA

▶ Goals

MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **Ali Saleh**

Al Wasl  
Position: Right Winger  
Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

**Tactical Match Overview**

Al Wasl showcased strong attacking fluidity, effectively utilizing central corridors to disrupt Al Wahda's defensive structure. The team executed quick combination play through the middle and exploited spaces between the lines with intelligent off-the-ball movement. Al Wahda struggled defensively, particularly on set pieces, where poor clearance led to costly moments.

Key tactical factors behind Al Wasl's success:

- Central overloads via fast, short passing combinations
- Third-man runs creating space and disorganizing the backline
- Set-piece vulnerability exploited by maintaining pressure
- Sustained pressing in advanced zones to quickly recover possession





## ROUND 16



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending: ▶

Tactical organization : 1-4-2-3-1 → 1-4-5-1 High to Mid Block

- The team applied high pressing in a 1-4-2-3-1 structure, with the striker directing pressure toward the flanks to force the opponent to play wide.
- When retreating into a mid-block, the team shifted to a compact 1-4-5-1 shape, with central midfielders pressing aggressively to close central spaces and push play toward the wings.

#### Attacking: ▶

Tactical organization : 1-4-5-1 → 1-4-3-3

- The team started with a flexible 1-4-5-1 formation, dynamically adapting in possession and transitioning into a 1-4-3-3 setup during open play, as the full-backs pushed forward to support the flanks.
- Build-up play began from the goalkeeper and center-backs using short passes, with a clear focus on early crosses created through numerical overloads in wide areas.
- In attack, the team relied on the mobility of the front three in open spaces with midfield support playing a key role in maintaining possession and executing transitions efficiently.



### TEAM FORMATION





ROUND 16



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FOOTBALL



TEAM FORMATION



KEY FEATURES

Defending:

Tactical organization : 1-4-4-2 (Mid-to-High Block)

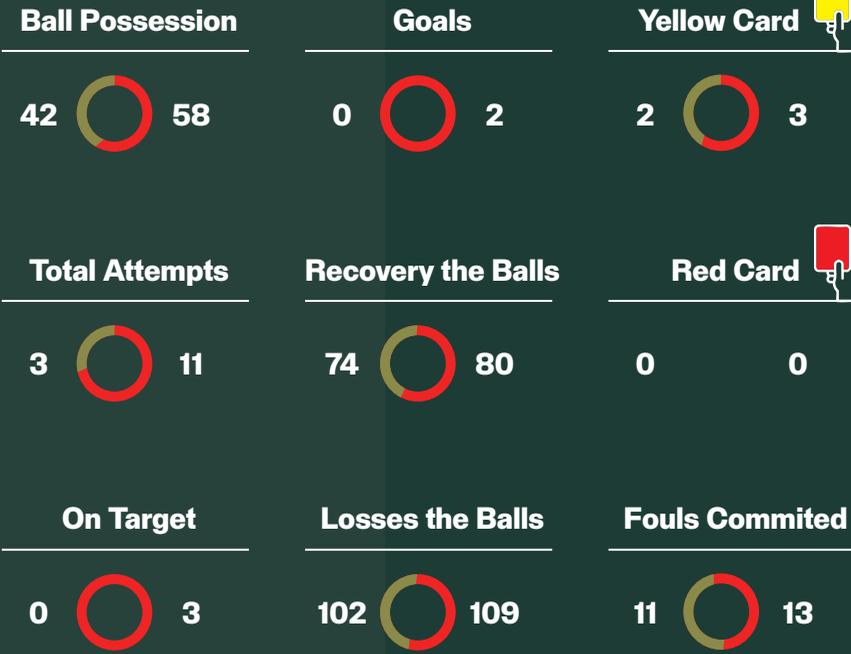
- Both strikers initiated pressing actions, forcing the opponent to build through central areas.
- The main tactical principle focused on creating overloads on the flanks to quickly regain possession and launch fast attacking transitions.

Attacking:

Tactical organization : 1-4-4-2

- Buildup through a wide back four and overlapping full backs to stretch the field.
- The right winger had positional freedom to drift inside and act as a secondary playmaker.
- Relied on quick, technical wingers for 1v1 situations and a tall, aggressive striker effective in finishing with both feet and head.
- Focused on central penetration and final-third runs supported by full-back overlaps.

## MATCH STATISTICS



■ DIBBA AL HISIN ■ SHABAB AHLI



Goals

## MAN OF THE MATCH



**Breno Cascardo**

Shabab Ahli  
Position: Defensive Midfielder

ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP FOOTBALL

### Tactical Match Overview

Shabab Al Ahli delivered a dominant second-half performance, driven by the physical presence and technical impact of key substitutes who shifted the momentum of the match.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Shabab Al Ahli's Success:

- Strategic substitutions that injected energy and attacking intent
- Physical dominance in crucial 1v1 situations
- Smart positional rotations that exposed defensive gaps in the final phases





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرو القدم FOOTBALL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization : 1-5-4-1 → 1-4-1-4-1 High to Mid Block

- Compact focused on minimizing space between the lines and playing on the counter.
- High pressing 1-5-4-1 structure with the striker initiating pressure and midfielders applying man-to-man marking.
- In a mid-to-low block, they shifted to a 1-4-1-4-1, with wingers leading pressure from wide areas.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization : 1-4-3-3

- Creating numerical superiority in central areas through quick short passes and intelligent off-the-ball movement, while the pace of the wingers and direct transitions facilitated penetration into the final third. The striker acted as the focal point in the attacking line, drawing the defensive line and opening spaces for midfielders and wingers to exploit behind the opposition's backline.
- The striker acted as a reference point, drawing defenders and opening running lanes for midfielders and wingers to attack the space behind the opposition.



### TEAM FORMATION





ROUND 16



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كؤومم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization : 1-4-2-3-1 (mid-to-high block)

- Press led by the striker to force play toward the flanks.
- The team overloaded wide zones defensively, with midfield support covering inner channels and maintaining central compactness.
- Aggressive pressing in wide areas was a key factor, effectively disrupting the opponent's buildup play.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization : 1-4-2-3-1 → 1-2-4-3-1

- Buildup with short, quick passing to isolate wingers in 1v1 situations and deliver early crosses or cutbacks.
- In open play, the fullbacks advanced high, while one holding midfielder dropped to support the buildup, forming a back three.
- Offensive play emphasized width and the ability to shoot from outside or penetrate the box using overlaps and sharp movement.

## MATCH STATISTICS



■ AL JAZIRA

■ AL OROOBA

▶ Goals

## MAN OF THE MATCH



## ▶ Oumar Traore

Al Jazira

Position: Right Winger

Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP FOOTBALL

### Tactical Match Overview

Al Jazira earned a deserved 1-0 victory by maintaining consistent possession in the second half and capitalizing on pace and individual skill on the flanks to create key chances.

### Key Tactical Factors behind Al Jazira's win:

- Controlled possession to dictate the rhythm of the game
- Greater attacking intensity in the second half through wide play
- Superiority in 1v1 situations due to technical individual quality
- Well-structured defensive shape that effectively neutralized the opponent's threats





ROUND 16



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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرو سدم FOOTBALL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 zonal structure.

- In high press they shifted into a 1-4-3-3 shape, with the striker initiating the press and the wingers positioned wide to control the opponent's fullbacks.
- The defensive approach focused on blocking central areas, forcing the opponent to play wide, and dealing with crosses through strong numbers inside the box.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-3-3

- With two holding midfielders and a free No.10 responsible for controlling play in the final third.
- The left winger (right-footed) was fast and skillful in 1v1 duels, while the right winger (left-footed) cut inside to link up and create chances centrally.
- A physically strong target striker was used to hold up play and connect with advancing midfielders.
- The team focused on crossing from inside channels, supported by high fullbacks, and utilized early long balls from the back to build through second-ball situations.



### TEAM FORMATION





ROUND 16



كأس رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
كرويهدم FOOTBALL



### TEAM FORMATION



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-1-1 and 1-4-4-2 mid-to-low block

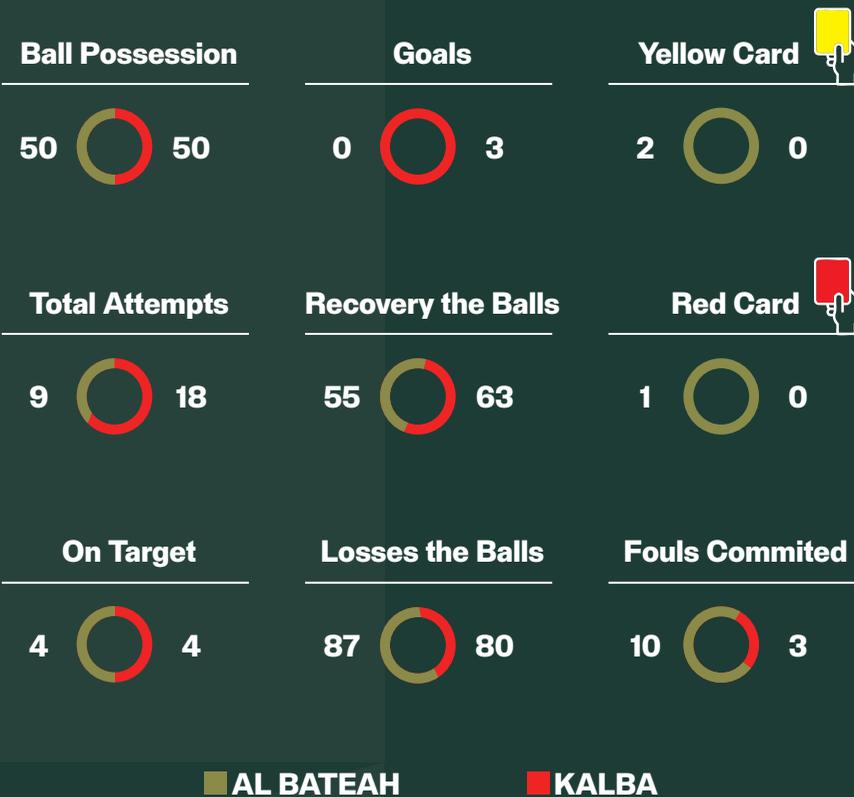
- When defending deep the striker initiated the pressing by directing play toward the flanks to regain possession in wide areas.
- The defensive strategy focused on closing central spaces and overloading the flanks to disrupt buildup and win the ball back.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- With two holding midfielders, a central playmaker, and two quick wingers supporting a target striker.
- On the ball side, consistent rotations between the fullback and holding midfielder to control tempo and initiate buildup.
- Relied on wing play, using the pace and dribbling skills of the wingers in 1v1 situations.
- The striker physically strong, effective at holding the ball and aggressive in attacking open spaces.
- The attacking approach was driven by the individual quality of the front three, with the No.10 creating chances through central areas.

MATCH STATISTICS



MAN OF THE MATCH



**M. Ghayedi**  
Kalba  
Position: Striker  
Contribution: 2 Assists | ⚽ 2 Goals

Tactical Match Overview

Kalba dominated the match through a combination of tactical discipline and attacking sharpness. Their coordinated high pressing and intelligent wing play allowed them to control the tempo even before gaining a numerical advantage. Fluid movement, positional rotations, and direct transitions proved decisive in securing the result.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Kalba's Success:

- Coordinated high pressing with advanced positioning
- Effective 1v1 duels on the flanks and wide overloads
- Intelligent positional rotations involving midfielders and the No.10
- Fast attacking transitions and aggressive pursuit of second balls
- Compact defensive block that limited Al Bateah's attacking penetration



### Defensive Football Trends – Round of 16

#### Defensive Organization Principles

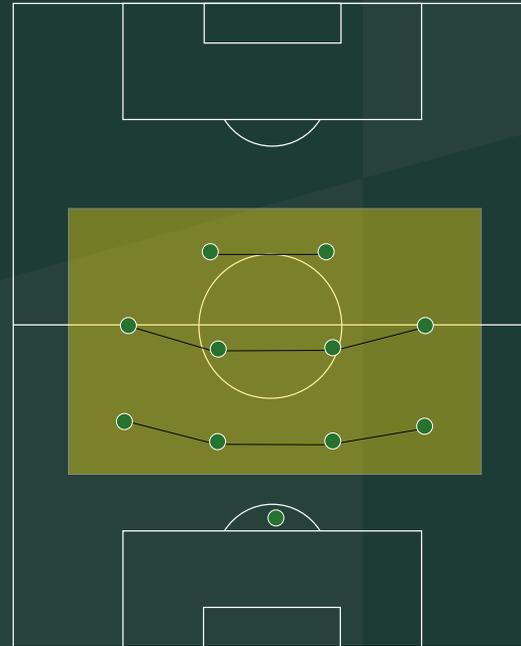
- Most teams adopted a mid-block 1-4-4-2 shape
- focusing on reducing space between lines and forcing opponents wide.
- Defensive units remained compact and disciplined, prioritizing structure over aggressive pressing.

#### Pressing and Transition Behavior

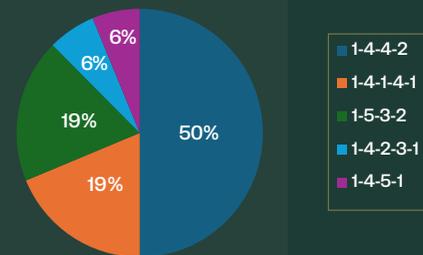
- High pressing was minimally used (only 15% success rate), with teams preferring organized retreats into mid or low blocks.
- Defensive transitions were reactive but structured, aiming to regain shape quickly rather than press.

#### Goalkeeper Role in Transitions

- Goalkeepers played a key role in initiating counter-attacks through fast distribution, especially after ball recoveries. Their positioning in buildup phases was more conservative to avoid risk under pressing



Mid-Low Block Defensive structure



### Offensive Football Trends Round of 16

#### Build-Up Phase:

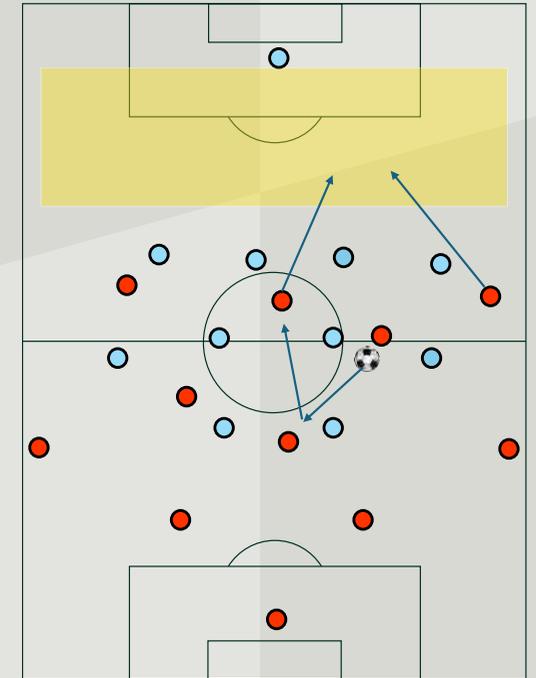
- Short passes & combinations through central areas

#### Final Third:

- Play through the wings
- Strong striker to hold the ball and create depth

#### Transition Phase:

- Quick, direct attacks after ball recovery



- 20 goals scored with an average of 2.5 goals scored per match.
- Most common type: goals inside the box

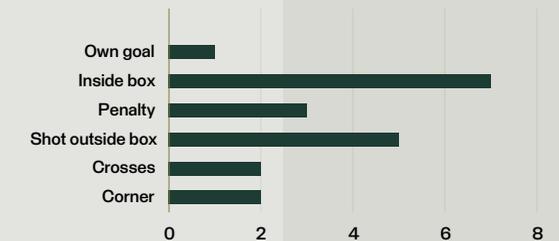


90% of the goals were scored from winning position during the game

SITUATION IN WHICH THE GOALS WERE SCORED



#### Goals Scored





كؤاس  
الرؤساء

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THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

2025



# MATCH INFORMATION

## QUARTER FINAL



## QUARTER FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-4-2 - mid-to-high block

- Due to their dominance in possession, they faced minimal threats throughout the match.
- Conceded only one shot on target — a long-range effort that led to Ajman's equalizer.

#### Attacking:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-4-2

- Freedom in the final third to express individual quality.
- Strong chemistry among forwards consistently disrupted Ajman's defensive shape.
- Overloaded central areas by inverting technical wingers, creating wide spaces for overlapping full-backs to deliver crosses.



### TEAM FORMATION





## QUARTER FINAL



### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending: ▶

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 Mid-to-Low Block

- Relied on counterattacks to exploit spaces behind the lines.
- Struggled to close the flanks, allowing dangerous crosses and wide entries.

#### Attacking: ▶

- Lacked attacking effectiveness throughout the match.
- Struggled with slow transitions and limited creativity in wide areas.
- Found it difficult to penetrate the opponent's box or create clear chances.

### TEAM FORMATION





QUARTER FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS

ATTACKS



CROSSES



SHOTS



BALL POSSESSION



BALL POSSESSION



AERIAL DUELS



SHOTS AGAINST



Shabab Al Ahli

Ajman



MAN OF THE MATCH



**Mateusao**

Shabab Ahli

Position: Striker

Contribution: 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

Shabab Al Ahli asserted their dominance in the second half through structured wing play and effective exploitation of the spaces behind Ajman's back line. Both goals were the result of well-executed crosses — the first from a precise cut-back inside the box, and the second from a deep cross to the far post, finished with a header.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Shabab Al Ahli's Success:

- Effective use of wide areas to stretch the defensive shape
- Tactical discipline in build-up play and entry into the final third
- Clinical execution of crossing opportunities in key areas
- Intelligent positioning and well-timed runs inside the box





## QUARTER FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-1-4-1 | High Press Structure

- Defended with a compact and organized high press to disrupt the opponent's build-up early.
- The right winger dropped deeper to support defensively on the flank and double up in wide areas.
- Displayed strong defensive solidity, conceding only 3 shots on target throughout the match.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1

- Control possession and maintain overall balance but lacked precision in final actions.
- Full-backs pushed high and wide, while wingers inverted to create central overloads and support quick striker runs in behind.
- Width was utilized effectively through overlapping full-backs, but crossing accuracy was poor



### TEAM FORMATION





## QUARTER FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-2-3-1 | Mid-to-Low Block with Occasional High Press

- Struggled to contain Al Ain's attacks and allowed multiple dangerous entries
- The goalkeeper was decisive, saving all 4 shots on target to keep the match competitive.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization : 1-2-5-3

- Build up with a 1-2-5-3 shape, placing three players in front of the defensive line for progression.
- Full-backs stayed low and wide during own-half possession to support buildup and stretch the field.
- The team aimed to isolate their fast, technical wingers in 1v1 situations to break lines and deliver crosses.



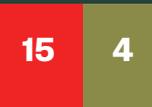
### TEAM FORMATION



QUARTER FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS

SHOTS



PASSES OPPONENT BOX



PROGRESSIVE PASSES



SHOTS INSIDE THE BOX



BALL POSSESSION



BALL POSSESSION



AL JAZIRA

AL AIN

Goals

MAN OF THE MATCH



**R. Mierez**

Al Jazira

Position: Striker

Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

The match highlighted Al Ain's tactical dominance in the final third, where they combined structured possession with vertical progression and wide play. Despite creating more chances, the team lacked clinical finishing and efficiency in decision-making inside the box.

Al Jazira remained competitive through disciplined transitions, intelligent combination play, and crucial saves from the goalkeeper.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Al Ain's Edge:

- Structured buildup with 84% success rate in progressive passes
- Effective positional control with 58% possession
- 67% shot accuracy from inside the box, though final execution was inconsistent
- Combined wide play and vertical passes to consistently reach the final third

Key Tactical Factors Behind Al Jazira's Resistance:

- Relied on quick transitions and combination play in isolated moments
- Maintained compactness with a mid-to-low defensive block
- Goalkeeper performance was critical, saving 4 out of 4 shots on target





QUARTER FINAL

KEY FEATURES

Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-1-1 | Mid Block

- Strong central cover from the holding midfielder. The striker initiated the press, supported by the playmaker in a mid-block.
- Maintained compactness and forced play wide.

Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-1-3-2 → 1-4-1-4-1

- Started in a 1-4-1-3-2, then shifted to 1-4-1-4-1 in possession for better balance.
- Controlled midfield through Siaka and Gimenez, with transitions supported by the holding midfielder.
- Focused on central penetration and used wide players like Ali Saleh and Adama Diallo for width and crossing.



TEAM FORMATION





## QUARTER FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2

- Struggled to defend balls in behind the backline, mainly due to a lack of pace among defenders.
- Had difficulty containing central overloads created by Al Wasl's inverted wingers and a striker dropping between the lines for link-up play.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-3-3

- Focusing on direct attacks through a physical striker as the main target.
- Relied on the creativity of the left winger (right-footed) to break down defensive lines.
- Wing play lacked precision



### TEAM FORMATION





QUARTER FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS

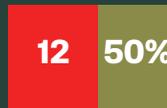
SHOTS



AERIAL DUELS



SHOTS INSIDE THE BOX



RECOVERIES



BALL POSSESSION



BALL POSSESSION



KALBA

AL WASL

Goals

MAN OF THE MATCH



N. Gimenez

Al Wasl

Position: Attacking Midfielder  
Contribution: 2 Assists | 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

Al Wasl were deserved winners, delivering a well-balanced performance that combined central creativity, wide attacking threats, and physical presence up front. Their control of the midfield tempo, ability to break lines through quick combinations, and direct play on the flanks consistently troubled Kalba's defensive structure.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Al Wasl's Success:

- Superior creativity and control in central midfield
- Pace and 1v1 quality on both flanks
- Physical dominance and link-up play in the frontline
- Consistent use of overloads and width to stretch Kalba's defensive block





QUARTER FINAL

KEY FEATURES

Defending: ▶

Tactical organization 1-4-1-4-1 | Mid-to-Low Block

- Compact mid-to-low block to facilitate quick transitions into space.
- Applied aggressive central coverage to deny space between the lines and disrupt Sharjah's creative buildup.
- Maintained strong defensive discipline, effectively limiting Sharjah's ability to generate clear scoring opportunities.

Attacking: ▶

Tactical organization 1-4-2-3-1

- Direct Play with Wide Delivery Focus
- Baniyas had limited attacking moments due to their primarily defensive setup.



TEAM FORMATION





## QUARTER FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2

- Maintain compactness and cover central areas.
- Applied counter-pressing immediately after losing possession, allowing them to quickly regain control and disrupt Baniyas' transition play.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-2-3-1 | Possession-Based Play

- Providing attacking balance and positional stability.
- The front four attackers displayed high technical ability and individual creativity, with freedom to interchange positions.
- Their interplay in central zones created overloads that opened space wide for overlapping full-backs.



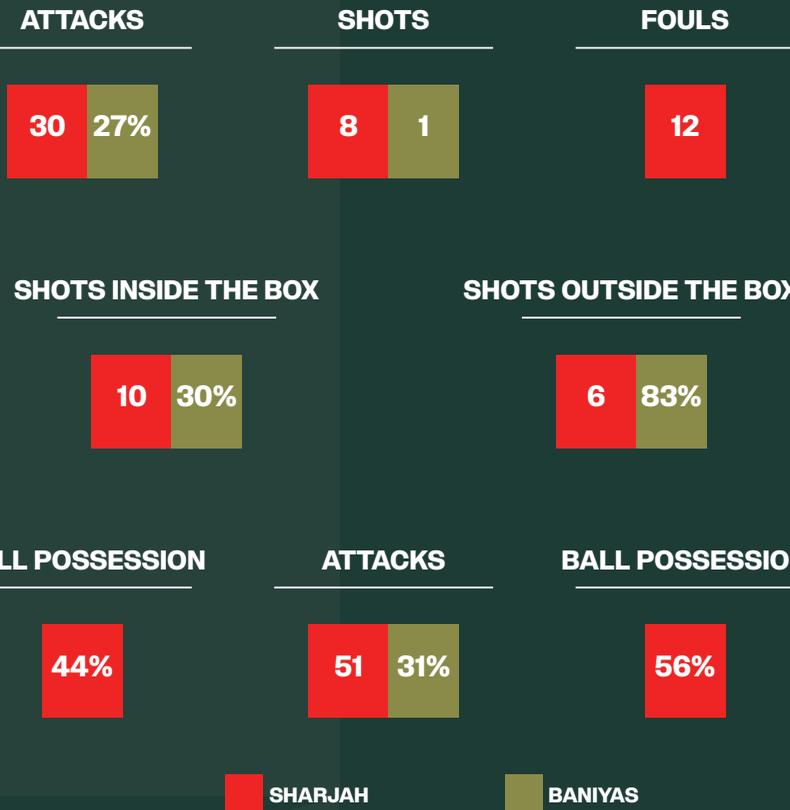
### TEAM FORMATION





QUARTER FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS



MAN OF THE MATCH



**Caio Lucas**  
Sharjah  
Position: Striker  
Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

Sharjah were deserved winners, dominating possession and consistently applying pressure in the final third. Their superior chance creation and technical cohesion gave them a clear edge over Baniyas.

Key Tactical Factors Behind Sharjah's Success:

- Controlled possession and dictated the game tempo
- Fluid attacking movements with creativity and freedom in the final third
- Constantly disrupted Baniyas' defensive shape through intelligent positioning and quick combinations



### Defensive Football Trends – Quarter-Final

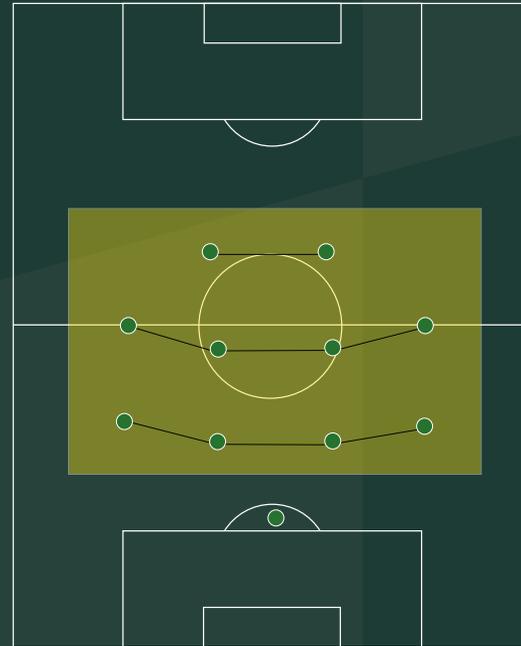
#### Defensive Organization

- The dominant defensive trend across the last 8 matches was the use of the 1-4-4-2 formation, adopted by 4 of the 8 teams. This setup provided a balanced and controlled structure, allowing teams to defend in mid-to-low blocks and capitalize on transitional moments.

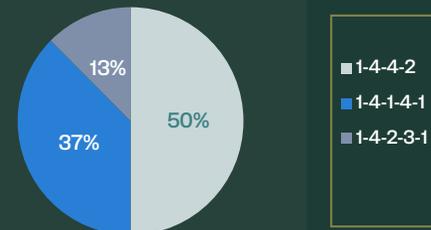
#### Pressing and Transition Behavior

- The quarter-finals revealed a clear shift toward structured, compact defending combined with strategic transitions, favoring control over high-risk pressing, and emphasizing the value of balance between defense and attack.

All 8 teams demonstrated compact central defending, with disciplined positioning that enabled aggressive duels and rapid attacks into space once possession was regained.

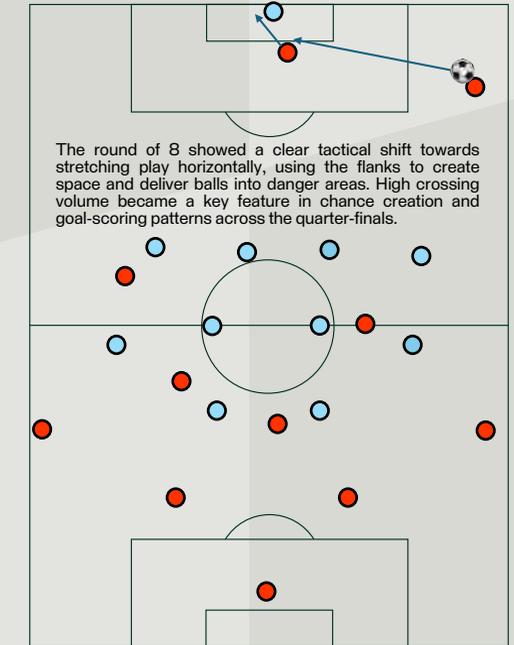


Mid-Low Block Defensive structure



### Offensive Football Trends Quarter-Final

- The quarter-final matches were tactically defined by a strong emphasis on wing play, with most goals and key attacking sequences originating from crosses into the box — either from the byline or wide areas.
- Attacking the space behind defensive lines, with a focus on building attacks through individual brilliance of wingers.
- Using wide overloads and early deliveries into the penalty area.



The round of 8 showed a clear tactical shift towards stretching play horizontally, using the flanks to create space and deliver balls into danger areas. High crossing volume became a key feature in chance creation and goal-scoring patterns across the quarter-finals.

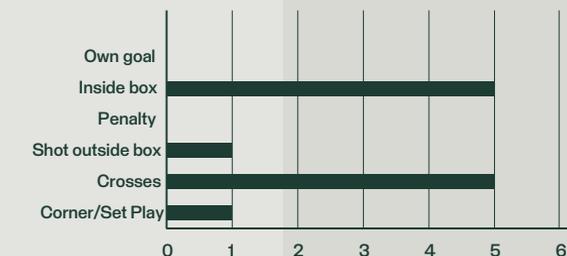
5 of the 7 goals coming from crosses into the box.



SITUATION IN WHICH THE GOALS WERE SCORED



### Goals Scored





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الرؤساء

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FOOTBALL

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MATCH INFORMATION  
SEMI-FINAL



## SEMI-FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 mid-to-high block

- Compact central zones forced opponents wide, minimizing direct chances through the middle.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-3-3

- Positional Freedom and Rotations
- Exploiting Space Behind the Line
- breaking the defensive line with well-timed runs and passes.



### TEAM FORMATION





## SEMI-FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-4-2 | Mid-to-High Block

- Looked to match Sharjah's structure during defensive phases.
- Struggled to handle the individual quality of Sharjah's forwards, particularly in central zones.
- Most recoveries came deep: 47 out of 102 in the defensive third, reflecting sustained pressure

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization : Shifted to a 1-4-3-3

- With two holding midfielders controlling tempo and distribution.
- Dominated central areas in the first half using the extra man in midfield.
- Attacking play focused on wide wingers with pace and 1v1 ability.



### TEAM FORMATION

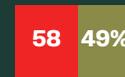




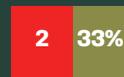
SEMI-FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS

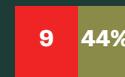
ATTACK WITH CROSSES    RECOVERY - LOW ZONE    RECOVERY - MEDIUM ZONE



SHOTS INSIDE THE BOX



SHOTS INSIDE THE BOX



THROUGH PASSES



BALL POSSESSION



BALL POSSESSION



AL JAZIRA

SHARJAH



MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **Caio Lucas**

Sharjah

Position: Striker

Contribution: ⚽ 2 Goals

Tactical Match Overview

Sharjah earned a well-deserved win by showing better physical strength and tactical control, especially in the second half. They forced Al Jazira's wingers to defend deep, which reduced the opponent's threat on the sides and gave Sharjah control of important areas on the pitch. Substitutions in the second half added more energy and direct play, helping them use the space behind the defense. Sharjah were more focused in key moments, took their chances well, and stayed compact in defense. Their good organization, smart movement in attack, and strong game decisions gave them the edge.





## SEMI-FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 | Mid BLOCK TO -LOW BLOCK

- Prioritized compactness over high pressing
- Aimed to control central spaces and disrupt build-up early.
- force long balls and win second-ball duels.

#### Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-3-4-1-2

- Began with a 3-at-the-back system to counter the press and control midfield.
- Switched to back four for more direct transitions and second-ball focus.
- Numerical advantage (3v2) centrally to control tempo and win duels.
- Relied on long passes into the final third



### TEAM FORMATION





## SEMI-FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-4-2

- Applied immediate counter-pressing after losing possession high up the pitch.
- Focused on central compactness and dual striker pressing.
- Focus on regaining possession immediately after loss, especially in high zones.

#### Attacking:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-2-3-1

Central Overload Strategy

- Dropping striker created numerical superiority in midfield, facilitating progression through central channels.

Inverted Wingers + Overlapping Full-Backs

- Wingers moved centrally, while full-backs pushed into advanced wide areas to stretch the opposition.

Efficient Positional Attacks

- Produced structured attacks with clear execution, converting central overloads into quality shooting chances.



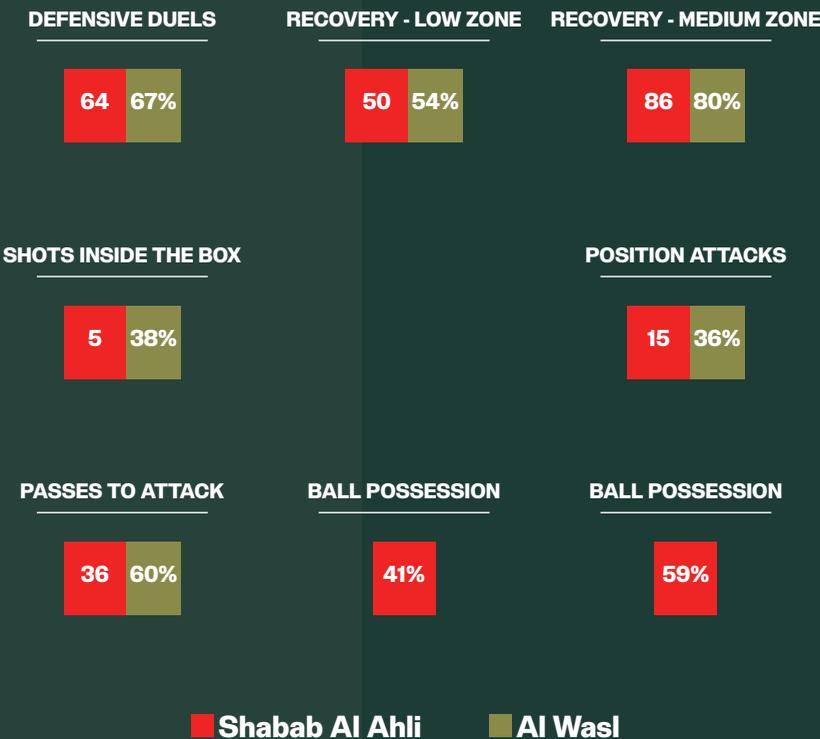
### TEAM FORMATION





SEMI-FINAL

MATCH STATISTICS



MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **Yuri Cesar**

Shabab Ahli  
Position: Left Winger  
Contribution: ⚽ 1 Goal

Tactical Match Overview

Shabab Al Ahli emerged as narrow winners in a fast-paced and physically demanding contest. Their tactical edge came from aggressive high ball recoveries, particularly in the attacking third, which disrupted Al Wasl's buildup. The turning point of the match came after a red card to an Al Wasl midfielder, allowing Shabab to control the tempo and apply sustained pressure. Offensively, they created central overloads through a dropping striker and inverted wingers, enabling wide full-backs to advance and deliver. Despite a standout performance from Al Wasl's goalkeeper, who made 11 key saves, Shabab Al Ahli's tactical discipline and numerical advantage proved decisive.



# The Modern Tactical Trends In The Semi-Final Round

## Defensive Football Trends – SEMI-FINAL

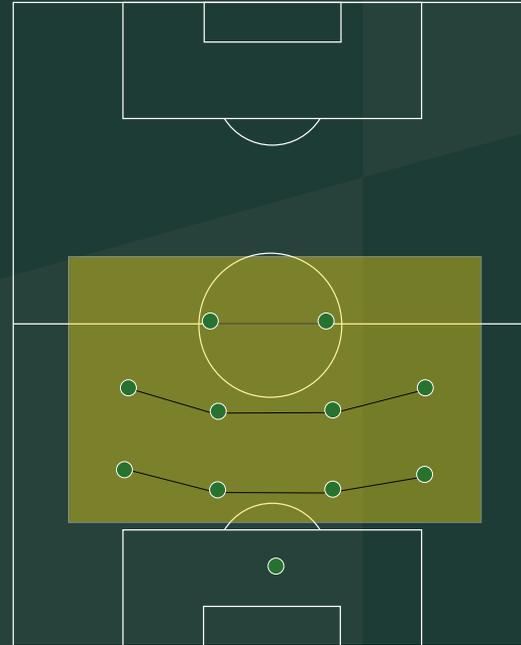
### Defensive Organization

- 1-1-4-4-2 as the Predominant System
- Deployed 16 times across 14 matches, accounting for 57% of all formations used.
- Teams favored a mid-to-low block approach for compactness and control

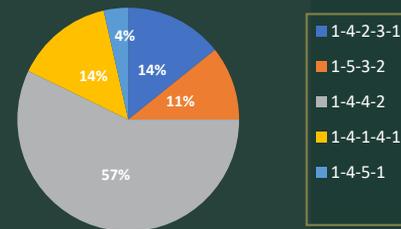
### Pressing and transition behavior

- A common pattern across all teams: the two strikers initiated pressing actions, aiming to disrupt early buildup centrally.
- The midfield supported closely, especially in transitional phases.

The 1-4-4-2 defensive system defined this year's President Cup — offering structure, balance, and reliability. With both finalists using it from start to finish, it has proven to be the foundation of tactical success in this tournament.



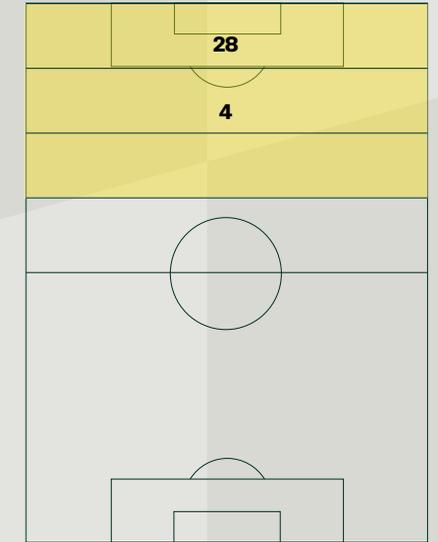
### Mid-Low Defensive Structure



## Offensive Football Trends - SEMI-FINAL

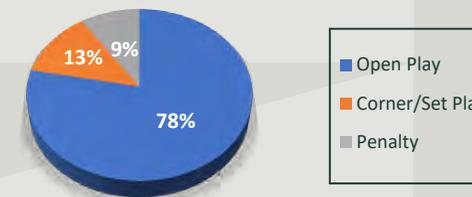
- Teams' heavy reliance on wingers, with 53% of goals originating from crosses delivered from wide or deep positions.
- Prioritized fast, technically skilled wingers, particularly in 1v1 situations and strong striker who could link up or attack space

The attacking identity of the 2024–2025 President Cup has been shaped by explosive wingers, wide service, and physical striker combinations, reinforcing a tactical preference for width, directness, and second-ball dominance.



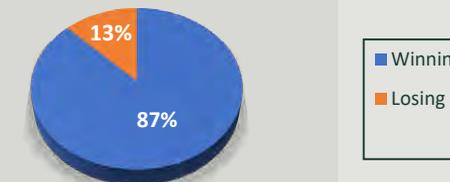
GOALS SCORED DURING ALL MATCHES IN THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

### Goals Breakdown



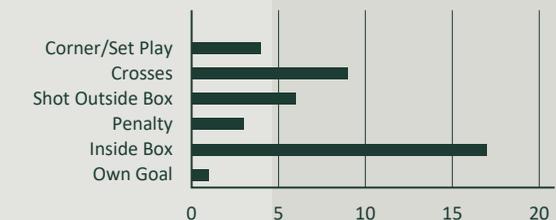
87% of goals scored from the winning position and the team that scored first won 13 of the 14 matches.

### SITUATION IN WHICH GOALS WERE SCORED



total of 32 goals scored in 14 matches with an average of 2.3 per game.

### Goals Scored





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# MATCH INFORMATION

## THE FINALISTS

## THE FINALISTS



SHABAB AHLI HEAD COACH: PAULO SOUSA (54YEARS)

PREFERRED FORMATION : 1-4-4-2

TOTAL NUMBER OF TITLES WON: 14

2024/2025 SEASON RECORD

GAMES PLAYED	WIN	DRAW	LOSE	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST
41	29	10	2	96	44

CUP FINAL RECORD- 5 FINALS PLAYED 2 WINS AND 3 LOSES

HEAD-TO-HEAD 2024/2025- 2 WINS 3 DRAWS 1 LOSS(PENALTIES)

Shabab Ahli have predominantly used the 1-4-4-2 formation the entire season. Offensively they have threat coming from the wingers who invert and play from the half spaces, the two conventional strikers and from the attacking full backs.  
(Positional Attacks)

The relationship between the wingers and the full backs is important for Shabab attacking aspect and penetration in the Attacking third with the inverted winger's ability to score from central areas an added threat.

Match	Positional Attacks	With Shots	% Efficiency
vs Al Wasl	42	15	35.7%
vs Ajman	37	15	40.5%
vs Dibba Al Hisn	37	7	18.9%



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SHARJAH HEAD COACH: COSMIN OLAROIU (55 YEARS)

PREFERRED FORMATION : 1-4-4-2

TOTAL NUMBER OF TITLES WON: 22

2024/2025 SEASON RECORD

GAMES PLAYED	WIN	DRAW	LOSE	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST
37	24	6	7	61	29

CUP FINAL RECORD- 11 FINALS PLAYED 9 WINS AND 2 LOSES

HEAD-TO-HEAD 2024/2025: 1 WIN (PENALTIES) 3 DRAWS 2 LOSE

Sharjah adopted the 1-4-4-2 and occasionally 1-4-2-3-1. They have relied on the relationism of the front 4 who have the freedom to move, and their link up play and understanding of the others intentional movement and pass looking to play through in behind the defensive line or create those shooting chances from outside the box and passes inside the box.

Match	Positional Attacks	With Shots	% Efficiency
vs Al Jazira	30	7	23.3%
vs Bani Yas	34	12	35.3%
vs Al Nasr	38	10	26.3%

The above table shows the main chance creation Positional Attack with a total of 116 positional attacks from 3 matches, with 35 shots from Positional Attacks. 30% of attacks end in a shot.

Player	Key Passes	xA	Assists
Cartabia (10)	9	0.93	1
Yuri César (57)	7	0.79	1
Bala (77)	5	0.42	1
Rikelme (LB)	2 (crosses)	0.14	1

General Analysis

The table above highlights the team's collective strength and the key players who play a crucial role in driving the team's overall performance.

Team Strength:

The team demonstrates clear defensive excellence through a well-organized 1-4-4-2 structure, combined with highly effective counter-pressing immediately after losing possession.

They also display high levels of aggression within the middle block, with the two holding midfielders excelling in individual duels and showing great aerial ability.

Key Player:

Cartabia plays a pivotal role in the team's attacking structure, intelligently positioning himself in the right half-spaces.

He consistently contributes to chance creation and energizes the team's offensive efforts in the final third.



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FOOTBALL

النهائي  
FINAL 2025

The above table shows the main chance creation Positional Attack in relationism of the front players with a total of 102 over 3 matches and 29 shots from Positional Attack. 28.4% of attacks end in s shot.

Player	Key Passes	xA	Assists
Caio (7)	1	0.60	-
F.Ben Arbi (10)	2	0.64	2
Luan (7)	2	0.69	2
Camara (LB)	-	0.59	1
Biro	1	0.24	1

General Analysis

The table above highlights the team's collective strength and the key players who play a crucial role in driving the team's overall performance.

Team Strength:

Defensively, Sharjah are well-organized in a 1-4-4-2 structure, maintaining a solid mid-block that effectively forces opponents to play through central areas.

In these zones, the team displays aggression and dominance, making it difficult for the opposition to create clear goal-scoring opportunities.

Key Player:

Caio plays a pivotal role in the team's attacking success, consistently posing a threat across the front line and demonstrating high efficiency in front of goal, as evidenced by his contribution of four goals.





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# MATCH INFORMATION

## FINAL



FINAL

KEY FEATURES

Defending:

Tactical organization: 1-4-4-2 mid-block

- Compactness & Width Control Aggression & Game Disruption.
- Fatigue Impact: In the second half, energy levels dropped, and the team became more stretched, but they still managed to minimize clear-cut opportunities

Attacking:

Tactical organization: 1-4-3-3

Positional Freedom & Rotation:

- Front four created flexible and rotating positions to disrupt defensive lines.

Open Play

- Few clear chances created through positional play. Relied heavily on second-ball recovery and direct build-up.

Transition to attack:

- Emphasis on quick, forward, and direct play targeting advanced players.

Impact of Substitutions:

- Late changes improved central control and vertical progression. Team came close to equalizing but were denied by top-class goalkeeping.



TEAM FORMATION





## FINAL

### KEY FEATURES

#### Defending:

Tactical Organization: 1-4-4-2 mid-to-low block

- Successfully limited central penetration by blocking access through the middle and forcing play into wide areas.

#### Attacking:

Tactical Organization: 1-3-3-3-1 \ 1-3-3-2-2.

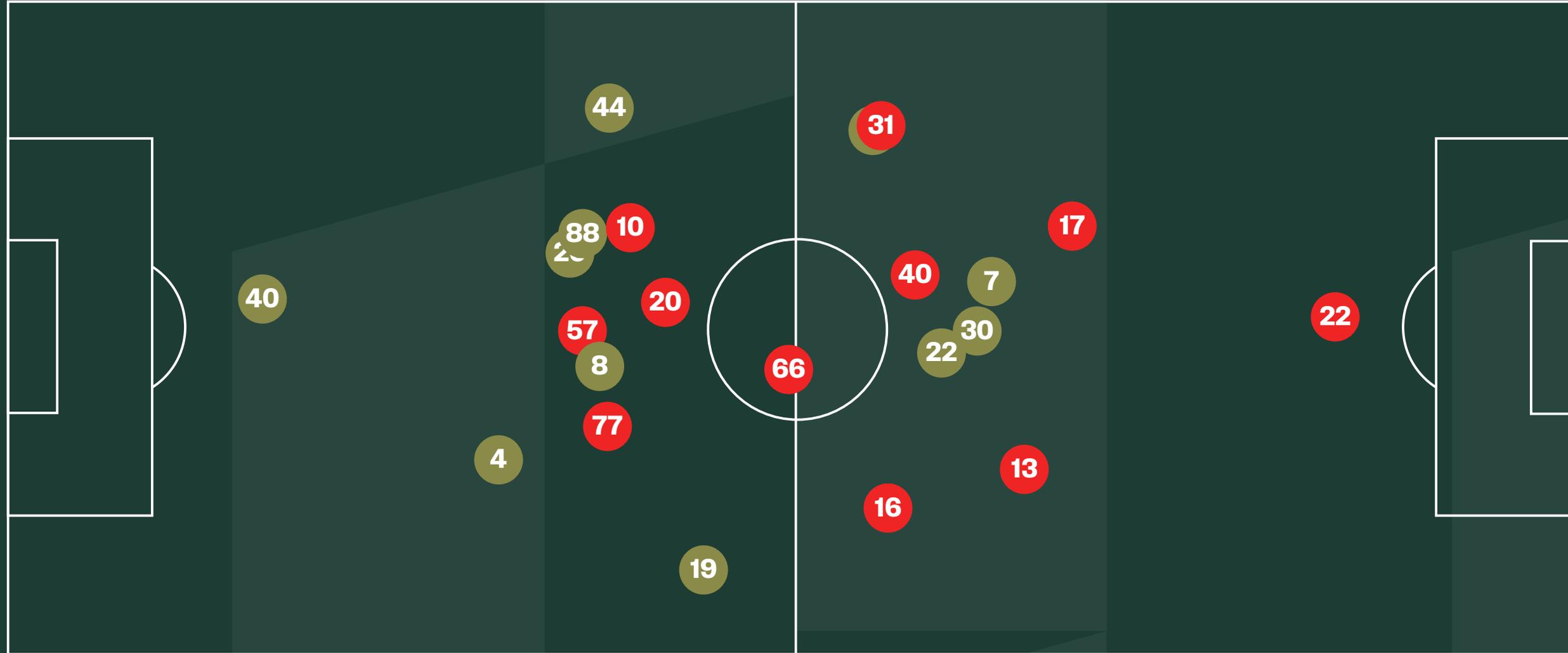
- Both full-backs pushed high in line with one holding midfielder, creating overloads on the flanks and supporting width.
- Overloaded the central areas to dominate possession. Used numerical advantage to dictate tempo and circulation
- Used quick one-tuos in pockets of space before switching wide when blocked centrally.



### TEAM FORMATION



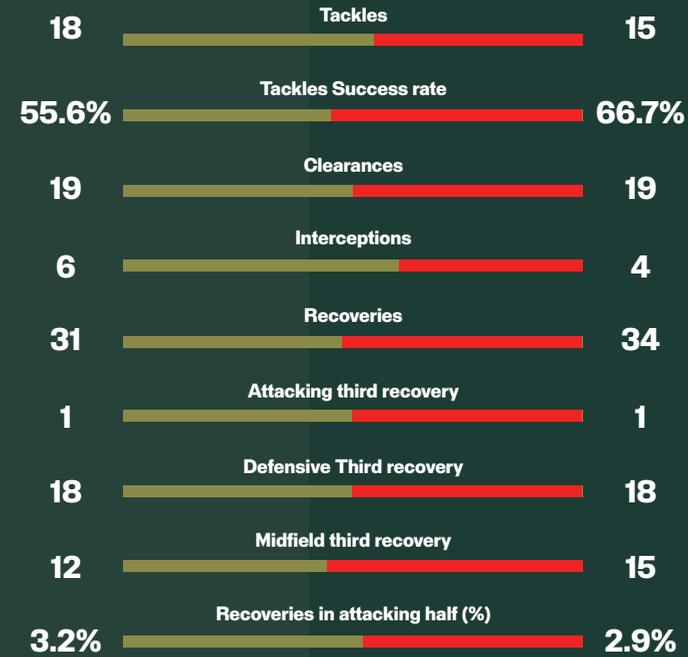
AVERAGE POSITIONS DURING THE FINAL



55 18 23 10 13 1 24 21 11 18 4 23 7 26

## MATCH STATISTICS

### MATCH DEFENSIVE STATISTICS



■ Shabab Al Ahli ■ Sharjah

▶ Goals

## MAN OF THE MATCH



▶ **Yuri Cesar**

Shabab Ahli

Position: Left Winger

Contribution: ⚽ 2 Goal

## FINAL

### Tactical Match Overview

Shabab Ahli edged a tight final played mostly in the middle third (50.3%). Sharjah's defensive third saw 20.9%, while Shabab's was at 28.8%.

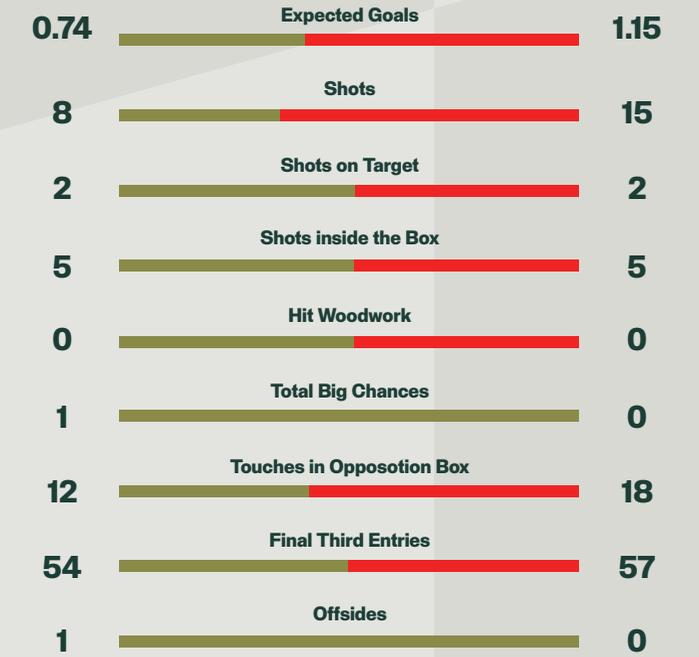
In the first 40 minutes, Sharjah had a 55.7%-win probability, but after Shabab took the lead, it flipped—reaching 76.7% by the 76th minute, with Sharjah's chances dropping to 4.1%.

Shabab Ahli's starting XI gave them control, more possession, and greater attacking threat, which proved decisive in the outcome.



### MATCH OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

#### Attacking

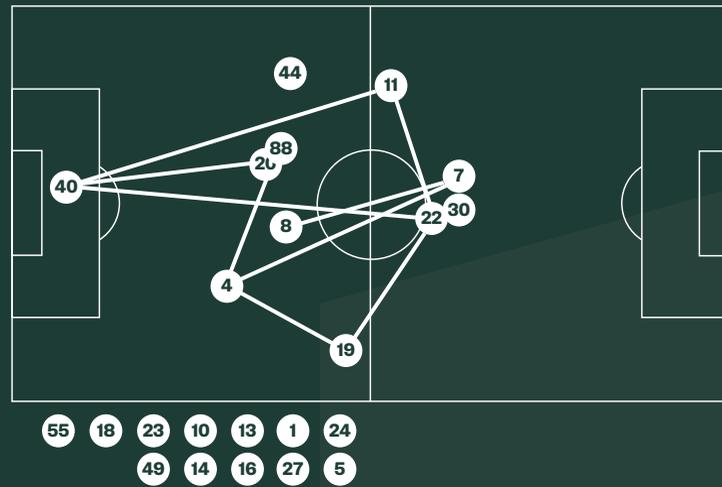


■ Shabab Al Ahli ■ Sharjah

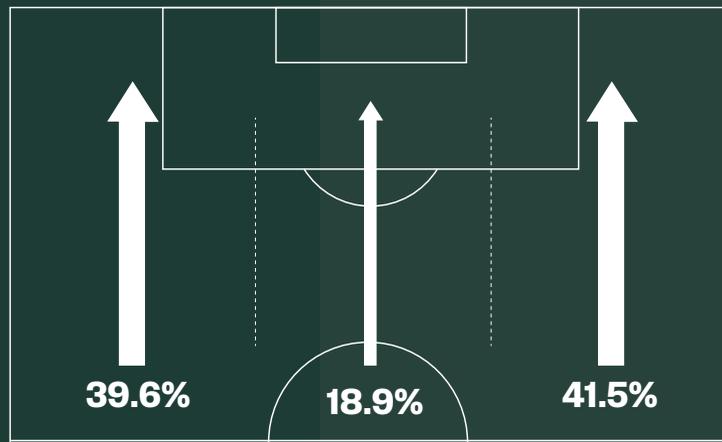


# The Modern Tactical Trends In Final Round

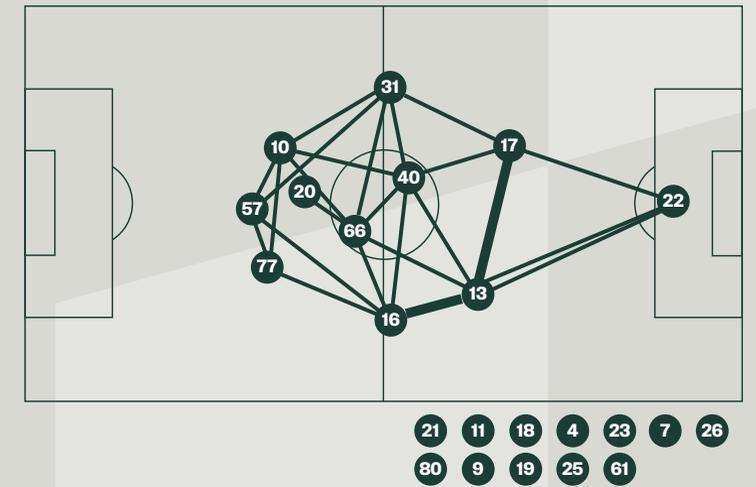
Sharjahs passing graph playing direct each time they had possession.



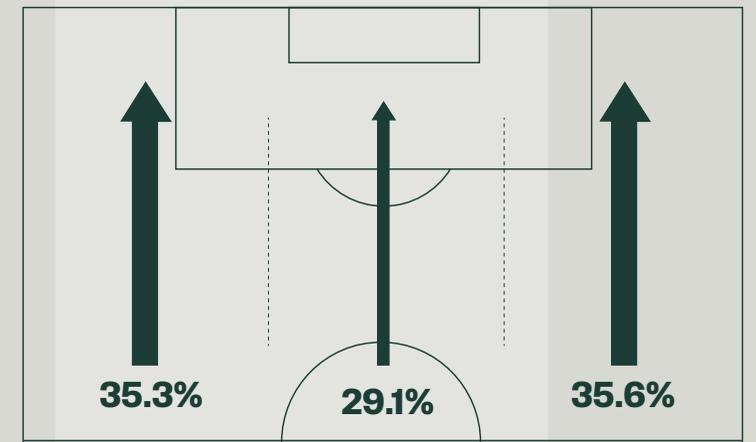
Sharjahs Attacking trend attacks from wide with crosses.



Shabab Ahli passing patterns and combination overload from the center.



Shabab Ahli balanced attacks from all three corridors. Their ability to combine and use their full backs and attack centrally worked well.



CHAMPIONS



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EMIRATES  
AL ALUMINIUM

القابضة  
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كؤاس  
الرئيس

كرة القدم  
THE PRESIDENT'S CUP  
FOOTBALL

