

The Highlanders' unbeaten streak comes to an end against ATK

7th Dec: NorthEast United FC suffered the first loss of the Hero Indian Super League season 6 against ATK by a scoreline of 0-3. The match kicked off at 7.30 PM at the IGA Stadium in Guwahati.

David Williams opened the scoring for the visitors in the 11th minute and Roy Krishna doubled the visitor's lead by the 35th minute. Roy Krishna scored his second and ATK's third in the fourth minute of additional time late in the second half.

Robert Jarni made one change to his side as Kai Heerings made his comeback in the starting eleven replacing Mislav Komorski after serving his two-game suspension. Both the teams started the game looking for an early goal for their side and both created chances upfront. In the 3rd minute, NorthEast United had their first chance of the game when Puitea's long ball found Asamoah Gyan upfront who chested the ball down before trying to poke it past the keeper only to see his attempt being saved by the keeper. Unfortunately for Gyan he got injured in the process and was replaced by Maxi Barreiro in the 9th minute.

It was in the 11th minute when the visitors opened their scoring breaking the deadlock. Prabir Das's cross from the left was headed well by David Williams and the forward's looping header went past Subhasish to find the back of the net. In the 23rd minute, ATK had another chance from the left but Subhasish didn't let Roy Krishna's shot go past his near post. ATK's next chance came in the 35th minute when Roy Krishna slotted past Subhasish after sending Wayne Vaz the wrong way and making it 0-2 for the visitors.

Despite conceding two goals, The Highlanders kept going and came closer to getting a goal back in the 40th minute when Triadis's attempt from outside of the box saw a fully stretched opposition keeper parry it away to safety. NorthEast United did have a couple of chances in the remaining minutes of the half but they weren't able to put much pressure on the opposition's defence and the first half ended 0-2 in favour of ATK.

The Highlanders started the second half on a better note and showed their attacking intent from the get-go to decrease the deficit. NorthEast had a chance from a free-kick in the 60th minute after Maxi was brought down; Triadis stepped up to take the set-piece but despite having a few half chances NorthEast didn't manage to put the ball on target. A few minutes later, Subhasish had to be at his best to deny David Williams his second goal. Puitea tried his luck from the distance a couple of minutes later but the Mizo midfielder couldn't put his shot on target.

In the 70th minute, Jarni made his second substitution by bringing on Nikhil Kadam to replace Redeem in search of a goal. Three minutes later, Martin Chaves decided to have a go at goal from the distance but he too couldn't put his effort on target. Though the Highlanders kept pushing looking for an opening, they couldn't find the target in the remaining minutes and the referee added on 4 additional minutes at the end of regulation time and it was at the final minute when Roy Krishna beat the offside trap and found himself one on one with Subhasish from a

counter and the ATK forward was able to beat Subhasish to find the back of the net and make it 0-3 for ATK at full-time.