

// FCBU EMERGE CHAMPIONS



FCBU players and staff celebrate their BDFA Super Division triumph after their final league game

FC Bengaluru United emerged champions in the Citrus Ventures-sponsored BDFA Super Division League 2020-21 title after an intriguing battle for honours.

FCBU, who were involved in a 4-team battle for honours including defending champions BFC, last year's unbeaten runners-up Kickstart FC Karnataka and MEG, earned their maiden title with just one loss and one draw in their 12-game campaign.

The final stretch of the 13-team league was an intense battle for supremacy and FCBU took the first step with a 4-0 win over MEG.

Despite a 2-1 loss to Kickstart, their first in the League, FCBU came up with a last-gasp winner against BFC in a 3-2 thriller and that placed them as the favourites.

With BFC being shocked by Eagles 0-1, FCBU won their final game against FC Deccan and won the league with the others yet to complete their engagements.

Kickstart stuttered early with a shock loss to Students Union and then a draw with FC Deccan and a further late 0-1 loss to MEG left them chasing the leaders.

BFC made up for their loss to FCBU with a 2-1 late win over Kickstart and took second place finishing a point behind the Richard Hood-trained FCBU while Kickstart had to settle for fourth place behind MEG.

Bangalore Eagles, the only Associate Club were rewarded with a 5th place finish while Students Union put behind them a poor 2019-20 season with a 6th place finish.

Income Tax FC was totally outplayed by all the other 12 teams and with zero points were relegated to A Division along with Ozone FC who did not participate in the league this season.

KSFA President Mr. N.A Haris, BDFA Chairman Dr. S.L Anthony and Mr. Vinod Menon –CEO of Citrus Ventures, the sponsors along with other KSFA and BDFA officials took part in the prize distribution.

Mr. Gaurav Manchanda, Managing Director of Nimida Sports, who own FC Bengaluru United was delighted after FCBU's win. "Kudos to our FC Bengaluru United boys who stayed on top of their game and remained steadfast in their commitment right through the league. Credit to all the coaches, support staff and everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure game plans were in place, training sessions were on point and the focus on winning unwavering."

"I would also like to thank the KSFA and BDFA for successfully organizing the league in what are undoubtedly unique and challenging circumstances. We had 13 teams participating and the league was extremely competitive, making it a great experience for players and those who watched the games as well!" (BDFA Super Division League points table on Page2)



FC Bengaluru United club officials and players receive the winners trophy



BFC officials receiving the runners-up trophy



// PRESIDENT SPEAK

The Karnataka State Football Association has managed to complete two of its elite leagues – the KSFA's Intimacy Karnataka Women's Super Division League and the BDFA's Men's Super Division League.

FC Bengaluru United, one of the clubs whom KSFA admitted less than three seasons ago, did well to win the hotly-contested Men's Super Division League, a result of their focused effort. The club has made one unsuccessful attempt to make it to the I-League and will again be making a bid along with runners-up Kickstart FC. KSFA would be delighted if at least one of the two qualifies for the I-League as this will be a tremendous boost to the local football fraternity.

Kickstart FC Karnataka have also booked a berth in the Hero IWL and as and when the two competitions are organized by AIFF, with the fear of Covid disruptions looming large, Karnataka will be backing their respective bids to win laurels for the state.

This season's new rule of forcing the Super Division men's clubs to have a minimum of two players under 21 years of age in their playing XI has been a success with all 13 clubs cooperating and now we have a good stock of young players who can be groomed further.

Similarly in the Women's Super League, KSFA introduced a rule that two Karnataka-based players must be in the playing XI and that resulted in about 30-plus state girls gaining the much-needed experience playing alongside top players from outside the state in the 10-club competition.

The KSFA also has the task of grooming and growing local players from within the state while it also has to respect the right of private clubs in the upper division to field the best squads in their interest. Our officials have been nudging and reminding the top clubs to field local players and one of their reasons for looking elsewhere is the lack of discipline and professionalism in the highly-skilled local players.

The KSFA is also attempting to try and educate and inculcate a sense of discipline among the local players and this has already started with our KSFA Inter Area League for juniors and veterans. Punctuality, fair play, respect for the match officials and their decisions are all being drilled into the young boys.

The Inter Area League, which has 11 local areas in Bengaluru competing almost every Sunday morning in a home and away League, in the under-16 and veterans categories, is in its final stage. Thanks to the help and cooperation of the local area ground in-charge and BBMP, and the voluntary support of former players, this league will go a long way in throwing up young talent.

Yes, Covid has crippled us in a large way, but by organizing Covid Testing facility in the stadium for the competing clubs, and following protocols, KSFA has managed to negotiate a handful of events safely.

We pray and hope the situation improves as KSFA and its affiliated District Football Associations have planned a lot of activity in the season ahead.

N. A Haris President, KSFA

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AFC Instructor and AIFF Chief of Coach Education Mr Savio Medeira with the coaches who attended the three-module AFC B Diploma course organised by the KSFA at the FSV Arena in Bengaluru

11 COACHES FROM STATE EARN AFC B DIPLOMAS

Dogged by the Covid pandemic, the KSFA-organised AFC/AIFF B Diploma course finally concluded at the FSV Arena and later when the results were announced it was a remarkable success for coaches from the city. KSFA has, over the last two years, been investing a lot of time and effort in conducting AFC and AIFF- approved coaching course, with a focus on developing both coaches and grassroots football in the state. KSFA's first ever B License course, under the able guidance of the instructor Mr. Savio Medeira, Head of Coach Education, All India Football Federation held the first module of the AFC/AIFF B Diploma course between November 5 to 11 in 2019. The second module was held between January 17 – 23, 2020 and finally more than a year later, the coaches assembled for the final module from February 16 to 20, 2021. It was an astounding feat for Karnataka football as 11 out of the 12 C Licensed coaches passed the AFC/AIFF B Diploma course with Saad Ansari being the odd man out. A total of 21 coaches featured in the final module. The successful coaches from Karnataka are: Shiva K Nagaraju, Murthy Manjunatha, Anup Peter Arulraj, E Shiva Mani, Xavier V Kumar, M G Ramachandran, Sidharth Bhatia, Mohsin Rasheed, Premnathan Kamalanathan, Jeevan Jayaraj and Shiva Gajendran. Commenting on the course, Mr. Savio Medeira said, "I would like to thank KSFA for hosting the Course and it wouldn't have been possible without the help and cooperation from the members of the State Association."

"It was a pleasure to be in Bengaluru and more important the way KSFA has transformed its mindset in understanding the importance of Coach Education." "I would say it was very well-handled by the coordinator Prashant. He made sure every demand of the course was met and he was very prompt in everything," said the AIFF's coaching education chief. "Let us work together for the development of better coaches, in turn for developing players who will in the future make our Indian National Team Better," said the former Indian international.

Prashant Murthy, the course coordinator for all three modules said, "Savio sir is a superb instructor and it was a learning experience to be on the sidelines of this course. I must say the coaches from Bengaluru were all spot on and perhaps the fact that most of them were handling academies, and clubs helped them. The FSV Arena is a great facility." While KSFA welcomes the new B Graduates and wishes them the very best, it is our dream that in a few years from now every club in the state should have a qualified coach.

KWL WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE: KASHMIR'S AFSHAN

It was Afshan Ashiq's second visit to Bengaluru in less than a year but this time she was in the limelight for most part of her stint as a goalkeeper. The girl from Kashmir, who first hit the headlines as a 'stone pelted' and then was in the spotlight when in the company of fitness icons and sportspersons like Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, celebrity nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, and actor-model Milind Soman, at the virtual conference with none other than the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi conducted as part of the 'Fit India' movement's first anniversary last year.

Afshan came in 2020 as part of the Baroda Football Academy (Gujarat) which took part in the Hero Indian Women's League 2020 held in Bengaluru and was hardly noticed. However, BUFC, the runners-up and a powerhouse of women's football in Karnataka had their first goalkeeper Crystal injured while their second keeper Vinaya was engaged in her college education in France. Chitra Gangadharan, the former Indian skipper and goalkeeper and head of BUFC drafted in Afshan who was with PIFA in Mumbai under Anjali Shah for the Intimacy Karnataka Women's League 2021.

"It was a double bonus for me as I was without competitive action due to Covid and I was going to play under Chitra madam in a highly competitive league," Afshan told Haft Time. "Compared to Mumbai this is a superb league, so much to learn, without doubt the best league in the country," she said. "My experience with the BUFC team was great. It made a huge difference. Last time I just came played and went. But with BUFC, they had quality coaches, good training facilities, and highly-engaging training sessions."

"Chitra madam pointed to me that I had to keep my temper under control, focused on my temperament. 'You have to be calm as you will see the game like no one else on the field and you have to guide the team', she used to tell me." "Though we did not win the league the last one month here has been a tremendous experience. My dream is to play for Indian and what better way than to learn from a former Indian goalkeeper and Indian captain," said the 5 feet 11 inch tall Afshan. "This KSFA League was a great platform for all the girls who played as our parents, relatives and friends watched us play live. After every game my mum and other friends and relatives used to call me and tell me they enjoyed the game. It made all of us happy," Afshan added. The KSFA President Mr. N A Haris presented Afshan with a memento as a token of encouragement to the Kashmiri star. The KSFA President Mr. N A Haris presented Afshan with a memento as a token of encouragement to the Kashmiri star.



KSFA President Mr N A Haris handing over a memento to Afshan of BUFC

BDFA SUPER DIVISION 2021									
16.03.21									
RANK	TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	FC BENGALURU UNITED	12	10	1	1	38	7	31	31
2	BENGALURU FC	12	10	0	2	38	10	28	30
3	MEG FC	12	8	2	2	28	17	11	26
4	KICKSTART FC	12	8	1	3	35	7	28	25
5	BANGALORE EAGLES FC	12	7	3	2	19	11	8	24
6	STUDENTS UNION FC	12	6	2	4	18	15	3	20
7	ASC FC	12	5	3	4	20	12	8	18
8	FC DECCAN	12	4	3	5	28	18	10	15
9	BANGALORE INDEPENDENTS FC	12	3	2	7	15	21	-6	11
10	YOUNG CHALLENGERS FC	12	3	1	8	21	30	-9	10
11	BANGALORE DREAMS UNITED	12	2	2	8	6	27	-21	8
12	ADE FC	12	1	2	9	4	30	-26	5
13	INCOME TAX FC	12	0	0	12	6	68	-62	0

Points tables

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Mr. N.A Haris, KSFA President hands over the Intimacy KWL champions trophy to Kickstart FC

KICKSTART ARE CHAMPS; OVER 3 LAKH WATCH KWL LIVE

The Kickstart FC Karnataka women's team retained the Intimacy Karnataka Women's Super Division Football League title with an unbeaten record in the 10-team competition organized by the Karnataka State Football Association.

An exciting league, which had attracted some of the top women players in the country, went down to the wire with results of the final two games holding the key to the title fight.

On March 18, 2021, the final two games of the third edition of Karnataka's top women's event had Maatru Pratishtana FC on 17 points taking on Misaka United FC on 18 points while last year's finalists Kickstart FC (20 points) had their task cut out against BUFC (19 points).

A BUFC win would have given them the title, while a Misaka win and a draw in the other game would have earned them the second spot. But Maatru Pratishtana, with a goal by their prolific scorer Jyoti, defeated Misaka 1-0 and moved into second place before the final league was played.

But Kavya, who emerged as the leading scorer, saved her best against BUFC and her strike helped Kickstart upset all calculations and win 1-0 to retain their supremacy in Karnataka women's football. The win also earned them a spot in the Hero Indian Women's League, an AIFF competition for 12 top clubs of the country.

Kavya of Kickstart (top striker), Jyoti of Maatru Prathistana (best midfielder), Komal Kumari of BUFC (Best Defender) and Jyoti Tamung of Misaka (Best Goalkeeper) received special awards.

Apart from the top four, the others who occupied the spots on the ladder in that order were Bengaluru Braves, Parikrma FC, Rebels Women's FC, Indian Football Factory, Slamzers Belgaum and Bengaluru Soccer Galaxy.

KSFA President Mr. N.A Haris along with former Indian international Gumphe Rinne, Arshi Yasin, Co-founder – The Bridge, representatives of the sponsors VNH Naidu Hall, officials from KSFA, BDFA and Referees Committee and former Indian women players from Karnataka took part in the prize distribution.

KSFA President Mr. N.A Haris said, "This event has created history of sorts. This was the first time an entire state Women's Super Division was broadcast LIVE. Over 3 lakh people across 50+ countries watched the League LIVE on the YouTube and Facebook channels and we thank The Bridge for partnering with us."

"We also thank our sponsors VNH Naidu Hall for their support in making this women's event a grand success."

"This year the competition was of a very high level and we are delighted to win again and represent Karnataka in the Hero IWL. We will be putting up a very competitive team in the IWL," Mr. Shekar Rajan - Chairman of Kickstart FC said.

Ms. Arshi Yasin - Co-Founder of The Bridge added, "Staying true to our core values at The Bridge, we took up this project with the view of bridging the gap in women's football in our country. We hope that The Bridge can continue this fruitful collaboration with the KSFA for a long time."



Best Goalkeeper Jyoti Tamung of Misaka United FC



Best defender - Komal Kumari of BUFC



Best Midfielder Jyoti of Maatru Prathistana FC



Top striker of Intimacy KWL - Kavya of Kickstart FC Karnataka

Intimacy KARNATAKA WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2021 POINTS TABLE										
RANK	TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	
1	KICKSTART FC	9	7	2	0	40	3	37	23	
2	MAATRU PRATHISTHANA FC	9	6	2	1	31	8	23	20	
3	BANGALORE UNITED FC	9	6	1	2	20	10	10	19	
4	MISAKA UNITED FC	9	6	0	3	26	9	17	18	
5	BENGALURU BRAVES FC	9	3	3	3	14	9	5	12	
6	PARIKRMA FC	9	4	0	5	19	14	5	12	
7	REBELS FC	9	3	1	5	18	18	0	10	
8	INDIAN FOOTBALL FACTORY	9	2	1	6	11	21	-10	7	
9	SLAMZERS BELGAUM	9	2	1	6	11	31	-20	7	
10	BANGALORE SOCCER GALAXY	9	0	1	8	6	65	-59	1	

Points tables



Passionate supporters cheer their teams



Intimacy KWL 2020-21 runners-up Maatru Pratishtana FC

// NAMMA DISTRICTS' FOOTBALL



KSFA, BFC trials in Mysore



Start of a football game in Mysore



KSFA, BFC trials in Mandya



KSFA, BFC trials in Belgavi



KSFA, BFC trials in Shivamogga



KSFA, BFC trials in Dharwad



Aspiring footballers in Kalaburagi after a training session



Shimoga District Football Association officials receive KSFA President Mr. N.A Haris on his visit to the district



KSFA, BFC trials in Uttara Kannada District



Catch them young ...two Belgavi kids



Mandya DFA officials receive a BFC jersey from the BFC coaches