

Services, Punjab enter Santosh Trophy semi-finals

Punjab and Services qualified for the semi-finals of the 62nd Santosh Trophy national football championship here Monday.

In a well contested last league round match of Group 'A' at Bakshi Stadium here, Services defeated hosts Jammu and Kashmir 3-2 while Punjab thrashed Kerala 5-0 .

Services striker Raleng was again in his top form to remain top scorer. He was in action from the very start, scoring from the right wing in the ninth minute to give 1-0 lead to his team at the end of first half.

Rohit Kumar, the wing-back of the hosts levelled the score in the 12th minute of the second half that boosted the morale of host team to put an evoked fight till the end.

Raleng by his brilliance scored his second goal in the 26th minute after right-out Shaji D'silva's right footer beat Jammu and Kashmir goalie Vikramjeet in 63rd minute.

Hosts were down by three goals but still kept their fight. On a whispering header Ishfaq Ahmad scored in the 75th minute.

In the second match of the day, Punjab dominated the proceedings after changing the sides.

Highlight of the second half was a brilliant hatrick by Balraj Singh after Sakatar Singh made an opener in the 10th minute of the half. Balraj scored three goals in a hurry within 12 minutes to outplay Kerala and Baljit added to the tally in the last minute to end the game 5-0 in favour of Punjab.

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