

## Karnataka, Bengal enter Santosh Trophy football semis

The last day of the quarter final league for the National Championship for 62nd Santosh Trophy witnessed a big upset Tuesday as Karnataka defeated Goa by a solitary goal to qualify for the semi-finals.

While Karnataka was desperate for a goal, it looked the Goa boys were playing for a draw from the start.

The defensive strategy cost Goa heavily as its players never looked in their rhythm against underdogs Karnataka.

The only goal of the match came in the 60th minute.

The captain of the Karnataka team, Xavier Vijaya Kumar, led from the front to score the decider and then the team slowed down the game till referee Dinesh Nair blew the final whistle.

Goa, with eight professional footballers who play for reputed clubs, missed as many as four clear chances.

In the other quarter final, a 1-1 draw with Maharashtra was enough to give West Bengal second place with five points in the Group B, while Karnataka topped the group with six points.

Maharashtra took the lead two minutes before the end of first half through their striker Soccor Velho.

West Bengal fired in the equaliser in the 12th minute of second half through Jayanta Sen.

Services will take on West Bengal in the first semi-final Thursday and Karnataka will play Punjab Friday in the second semi-final.

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