

SEASON  
2020-21

## ARAVIND REDDY

THE MAN WITH THE  
MOST MINUTES

## ROOKIES CUP IV

THE BEST ROOKIE  
TALENT IN THE CITY

## HFL WOMEN'S

THE GAME BELONGS  
TO EVERYONE

## HYDERABAD FC

THE FOCUS ON  
GRASSROOTS

### INCLUDING

- YOUTH CUP
- MINI HFL
- HFC SEASON  
REVIEW

# HFL MAG

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SEASON 2020-21

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After an underwhelming first outing in ISL, the Nizams were out to prove that they're in for some serious business.

# Director's Note



It's been an extremely tough year for everyone because of COVID and we at HFL have tried our best to keep football going whenever it's been permissible and possible. 481 players have played in the HFL since the restart after the lockdown and I've absolutely loved the spirit of competition, camaraderie and talent on display. We've made new rules and regulations to ensure that everyone gets playtime and also done the Footies awards, eDugout and eHFL to keep everyone engaged and involved.

Lastly I want to say thank you to everyone for keeping their faith in us and making us the most popular league in the city and I hope everyone stays safe, follows the COVID guidelines, gets vaccinated and football can resume soon.

A socially distanced hug to all of you!

Love and Regards,

**Murad Jasani**



HFL always strives for enriching the grassroots football experience of Hyderabad. Our commitment and resolve has strengthened further in the past year which saw us partner with Hyderabad FC and provide an opportunity for every category of player out there including the women.

Football is a passion we share like many of you and the sport indeed makes us forget the challenging times at least momentarily when all of us are on field. We are excited to bring more football to Hyderabad as & when the situation permits and we would love to have your support like we've had for the past 6 years.

Please ensure the safety of yourself and the ones around you and we will hopefully defeat this pandemic together.

See you on the field soon.

**Adil Mistry**



# HFL Cup

## UNLOCK FOOTBALL

The first ever league after the pandemic, HFL Cup had two age categories (Open and U-18).



HFL Mag



2020-21



# ZODIAC UNITED CROWNED DOUBLE CHAMPIONS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

The stage was set for football to return after a complete halt in March 2020 due to the pandemic, and it was back with a bang. The first edition of the HFL Cup was conducted with 16 participating teams.

The Cup saw two categories; Elite (Open) and Plate (U-18) for the season opening tournament. This tournament saw the footballing elite of Hyderabad compete alongside the amateurs, with teams drafted through an auction process.

This was the first time that HFL introduced rules & regulations to ensure every player gets guaranteed game time. This was a step towards ensuring every footballer in the city gets equal opportunity to play the game and showcase their talent.

After 3 week of exhilarating action; Zodiac

United, Prime Deccan, Super Clusters and Rampagers qualified for the semi-finals of the Elite league and the Plate league had Zodiac United Jr. & Onslaught FC Jr. battling out in the finals.

Zodiac United triumphed over Prime Deccan with a scoreline of 4-2 to be crowned the HFL Cup (Elite) Champions, whereas the junior team had their work cut out and won on penalties against a resolute Onslaught.

**TOTAL TEAMS: 16**

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 156**

**VENUE PARTNERS:**

- FOOTBALL PARK, JUBILEE HILLS
- RAMPAGE ARENA, FILM NAGAR
- PLAY THE FIELD, MADHAPUR

HFL CUP





**Shaik Umair**  
*Zodiac United*

12 Goals  
4 Assists  
3 MVP

**GOLDEN  
BALL**



**Shaik Umair**  
*Zodiac United*

12 Goals  
4 Assists  
3 MVP

**GOLDEN  
BOOT**



**Mustafa Kamal**  
*Super Clusters*

4 Clean Sheets  
1 MVP

**GOLDEN  
GLOVE**



**Omar Dawood**  
*Rampagers FC*

8 Goals  
1 Assist

**BEST  
DEFENDER**



**Zubair Sultan**  
*Onslaught FC*

7 Goals  
2 Assists  
1 MVP

**BEST  
MIDFIELDER**



**Mohd. Saududdin**  
*Onslaught FC*

4 Goals  
2 Assists  
3 MVP

**GOLDEN  
BALL**



**Satish Kumar**  
*Zodiac United*

6 Goals  
1 Assist  
1 MVP

**GOLDEN  
BOOT**



**Ayaan Ahmed**  
*Onslaught FC*

2 Clean Sheets  
2 Assists  
1 MVP

**GOLDEN  
GLOVE**



**Talha Anzar**  
*Zodiac United*

3 Goals  
3 Assists  
1 MVP

**BEST  
DEFENDER**



**Tajjamul Hussain**  
*FK7 FC*

3 Goals

**BEST  
MIDFIELDER**



NOV - DEC 2020

# Youth

C U P



## A DRAMATIC COMEBACK SCRIPTS FK7 VICTORY

Two goals in the final minute saw FK7 turn the finals on its head to take the game to penalties.

The first ever HFL Youth Cup saw 7 teams and 70 participants compete for the title.

The bright young footballers from the age group of 13 to 19 years converged at Prime Hitex in late 2020 to showcase their skills and compete for the HFL Youth Cup.

Continuing the new regulation, the organisers ensured that each player from every team got guaranteed play time. The two week action saw a closely contested league competition and a top-3 battle which was decided only on the final day of the league stage. The league

toppers, SpeedForce academy directly qualified for the finals and the remaining spot was decided in an eliminator match between FK7 Jr. and Zodiac United.

FK7 Jr. held their nerves in a penalty shootout after the game ended in a 2-2 draw, which saw FK7 Jr. face SpeedForce in a historic final.

A red card in the last minute and 2 goals saw the scorline at 4-4 and penalty shootout ensued, wherein FK7 Jr. came out on top for the second time in the day to clinch the trophy.

A jubilant FK7 Jr. posing with their trophy after their win over SpeedForce Academy at Prime Hitex, Madhapur.

**Mirza Faris was the hero of the final for scripting an epic comeback in the final minute.**



## THE BEST PERFORMERS

### ➔ Golden Ball



**Ahamad Khan**

5 Goals  
3 Assists  
1 Clean Sheet

### ➔ Golden Boot



**Fardeen Ahmed**

10 Goals  
1 Assist  
2 MVP

### ➔ Golden Glove



**Ali Hussaini**

1 Clean Sheet  
Least goals conceded

### ➔ Best Defender



**Shaik Saleem**

6 Goals  
3 Assists  
1 MVP

### ➔ Best Midfielder



**Adekpe Koffi**

8 Goals  
4 Assists  
2 MVP





# ARAVIND REDDY



COVER STORY





**Tell us something about your footballing journey.**

I've always been inclined towards sports and play both cricket and football. With HFL doing so many leagues throughout the year, cricket has actually taken a backseat. I've also played the A-Div league and absolutely love the game.

**How was your experience during the last year playing HFL tournaments?**

I loved every minute of it. I've even played through injury because I don't want to miss out. Every game in the HFL right from the Rookies tournament to the Mini HFL has been so competitive and I've made lots of new friends too.

**How does it feel to be the player who has played the maximum minutes in HFL last year and to win the Best Defender award in Mini HFL?**

It's been brilliant starting off playing in the HFL Cup and I haven't missed a single tournament after that. Although I got personal recognition for the previous tournaments, the Mini HFL was most satisfying as we reached the finals but failed at the last hurdle. Hopefully next time I will have a winners medal to add to my achievements in the HFL.

**Tell us about your footballing idol/role model.**

I love Sergio Ramos. According to me he is the most complete defender. Technically very strong, solid at the back, good organiser, leader and can score goals too which I love doing too.





**What is your advice to budding footballers of the city?**

Work hard in training. That's the only way to get better. I see a lot of young talented players but they just want to play tournaments and don't want to work hard on their skills and that is why they get outplayed against the top players. It's not lack of talent that stands out it's the lack of practice that keeps them from shining.

**What are your thoughts on Hyderabad FC's season and your favorite player from the team?**

It was so heartening to see Hyderabad FC do so well this season. Not just the results but the style of play was very impressive. Unfortunately we couldn't make it to the play offs but hopefully next season, if the situation improves and we have crowds allowed back into stadiums I would love to go cheer them on and win a top 4 spot. As a defender you always look at what the defenders are doing in whatever match you watch. My absolute favourites in the team last year were Chinglensana Singh and Akash Mishra.

“

**I SEE A LOT OF YOUNG TALENTED PLAYERS BUT THEY JUST WANT TO PLAY TOURNAMENTS AND DON'T WANT TO WORK HARD ON THEIR SKILLS AND THAT IS WHY THEY GET OUTPLAYED AGAINST THE TOP PLAYERS.**

”



*Aravind Reddy played 3 HFL tournaments which saw him play 26 matches and 780 minutes of football, the most by any player in HFL during 2020-21.*



JAN - FEB 2021



ROOKIES CUP IV



# Hyderabad FC promoted the Rookies Cup to focus on grassroots and unearth new talent in the city.

Hyderabad FC and Hyderabad Football League partnered once again to promote grassroots football in the city. With the fourth edition of Rookies Cup, the focus was back on amateur footballers in the city.

A total of 8 teams competed in the league plus knockout format to claim the title along with cash prize. This was the first time ever that the Rookies tournament involved prize money.

All the 8 teams were equally poised & well balanced, as was evident on field with the uniform level of competition throughout. The four teams that made the knockouts were Super Clusters, Hawk FC, BT FC & United Studz FC.

Hawk FC defeated USFC 1-0 in the first semifinal and Super Clusters overcame the challenge of BT FC with a similar scoreline.

The finals saw Super Clusters edging past Hawk FC with the scoreline at 2-1 at the end of the match. Parashuram Chenji was awarded the MVP for the finals for his crucial contribution in both the goals.

**Total Cash Prize: INR 15,000**

**Total Teams: 8**

**Total Participants: 80**

**Venue: FoodBall Park, Jubilee Hills**

A jubilant Super Clusters FC at the closing ceremony.



Photographer: Rahul Pavan





( L )

## **Golden Boot**

Quadir Khan

8 Goals

( R )

## **Golden Glove**

Ayan Khan

4 Clean Sheets



## **Golden Ball**

Aftab Rahman

2 Goals

8 Assists



( L )

## **Best Defender**

Minhaj Sadaf

7 Goals

2 Assists

( R )

## **Best Midfielder**

Adekpe Koffi Antoine

7 Goals

1 Assist





WOMEN'S





JAN - FEB 2021

# HFL WOMEN'S

PROMOTED BY HYDERABAD FC

# 2

The second edition of HFL Women's saw 5 teams & 41 players compete in the only women exclusive 5-a-side league conducted in the city.

The format involved not just the league but a separate Knockout tournament as well. Women's Football Foundation (B) were the runaway champions of both the formats.

In the final of the league, Women's

Football Foundation (B) defeated Champions Football Academy (A) comprehensively, slotting 4 goals without a reply. Simran Katyal opened the scoring followed by a brace by Tanvi Raju and a goal by Olives. Simran Katyal was adjudged the MVP for the finals.

WFF (B) defeated the same opponent in the Knockout Cup to make it 2 trophies in a day. CFA (A) were the runner-up for both the formats.





SIMRAN KATYAL  
BEST DEFENDER

3 Clean Sheets  
3 Goals  
7 Assists



LEZA PETER  
BEST MIDFIELDER

3 Goals  
1 Assist



DISHA PANDEY  
GOLDEN GLOVE

3 Clean Sheets

TANVI RAJU  
GOLDEN BOOT

12 Goals

ALEKHYA M.  
GOLDEN BALL

3 Goals  
3 Assists



BEST PERFORMERS



# ***NIDA ADEEL***



WOMEN'S FEATURE





## **How long have you been playing football? How did it all start?**

I've been playing football for more than 2 years now. As I was already an athlete and interested in sports, I had joined the football coaching at my school along with the boys.

## **Tell us something about your most memorable football story.**

My most memorable football story is when I got selected as a part of the junior state team and we had a wonderful camp experience followed by the tournament in Maharashtra.

## **How was your experience during HFL - Women's?**

HFL Women's was great as it gave an opportunity to girls to showcase their talent & interest and it was overall very well organized.

## **What would be your advice to all women footballers in the city?**

Although pursuing football as women is harder than for men, don't let anything hold you back from your passion and you will discover new opportunities will come your way if you keep going and you may inspire other girls.





**Tell us about your footballing idol/role model.**

My footballing idol is Alex Morgan who plays for the US Women's national team. I admire how she cuts past defenders and how she was one of the youngest players to get drafted. She has also donated to many funds supporting women's football and is a great captain too.

“

**DON'T LET ANYTHING HOLD YOU BACK FROM YOUR PASSION AND YOU WILL DISCOVER NEW OPPORTUNITIES WILL COME YOUR WAY IF YOU KEEP GOING AND YOU MAY INSPIRE OTHER GIRLS.**

”

**What are your thoughts on Hyderabad FC's season and your favorite player from the team?**

My favourite player from the team is Asish Rai and although Hyderabad FC had a good season, I think it has the potential to not only come in 5th place but to win the ISL.

*Nida Adeel was the captain of Women's Football Foundation (B) who won the HFL Women's - Season II.*





MAR - APR 2021



# MINI HFL



# SFA Triumph

*SpeedForce Football Academy defeated Blitz FC 2-1 in the finals of the Mini HFL, promoted by Hyderabad FC.*



**The highly anticipated third edition of Mini HFL concluded on 11th April, 2021** after SpeedForce Football Academy were crowned the champions and Blitz FC finished as runner-up. The Champions won a cash prize of INR 40,000 and Runner-up got a cash prize of INR 25,000.

A total of 12 teams and 134 players competed for the Mini HFL title in the month of March & April. This was the first time ever that an HFL tournament was open for individual as well as team registrations, ensuring everybody got a chance to compete against the best players of Hyderabad.

Zodiac United & Invincibles FC qualified for the semi-finals alongside SpeedForce and Blitz, edging out Brindavan FA on Goal Difference (GD). Blitz FC defeated Zodiac United 4-1 and SpeedForce overpowered Invincibles FC 9-2 to book their places in the finals.

The final was witnessed by few of Hyderabad FC representatives, who were really impressed with the talent on showcase and enjoyed their evening watching some exciting & competitive football.

At the closing ceremony, best players and managers from each team were awarded alongside the best performers of the tournament by the Hyderabad FC representatives.



*Aryan Ranpise and Adekpe Koffi Antoine won the Best Young Player and Best Foreign Player respectively at the Mini HFL.*

Photographer: Rahul Pavan



# ***BEST PERFORMERS***

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**Golden Glove**  
**Vishruth Pulluru**

*5 Clean Sheets  
1 Assist*



**Golden Boot**  
**Mohd. Ahtesham**

*19 Goals*



**Golden Ball**  
**Ibrahim Ali**

*7 Goals  
9 Assists*



**Best Defender**  
**Aravind Reddy**

*5 Clean Sheets  
6 Assists*



**Best Midfielder**  
**Zubair Sultan**

*9 Goals  
17 Assists*



# ***HYDERABAD FC***



***FUTURE IS US***





## THE HYDERABAD BASED FRANCHISE TURNED QUITE A FEW HEADS WITH THEIR IMPRESSIVE SEASON

After a disappointing first outing in the Indian Super League, Hyderabad FC was looking to quickly turn around their fortunes and prove their status as a premier club in the division. The intent was backed by the signing of Manolo Marquez who came along with a tide of success which no outsider anticipated.

The club strengthened its squad with the signings of experienced players, local and international. In spite of a bio-bubble and a different format of pre-season, the team acted as a unit from the moment go. The Nizams remained unbeaten for the first 5 games, scoring 9 points and netting 6 goals, including 2 clean sheets. As the season progressed, the going got tougher with a few international players getting injured and a string of bad results (losing 3 in a row).

The results and injuries didn't deter the side determined to battle against all odds, with the youngsters stepping in at the big stage and showcasing to the world just how good they are. The gaffer's belief in his youngsters and the strength of each individual saw the club progress strength by strength and cemented their place as a play-off contender in the second half of the season.

The club were in great form backed by a true fighting spirit which was evident when they drew against the eventual runner-up ATK playing with just 10 men for the entire game. The club was on an unbeaten run for 11 games and their playoffs qualification were in their own hands with the final league game to be played against FC Goa. A win would ensure HFC would qualify for the playoffs in just their second season but to their disappointment and the thousands of fans back home, they could only garner a draw in their final game and ended just short of the coveted playoff spot.

Hyderabad ended their season with just 3 defeats and showed the nation their huge potential for the coming seasons. 6 players from the team earned their call up for Team India and that is a testament to the incredible season the team had. The club's clear focus on the youngsters alongside an experienced foreign contingent backed by a great coach only points to a solid foundation for the upcoming seasons.



*I am really proud of the effort my boys put in throughout the season. Yes, it was disappointing to not reach the playoffs but the spirit and fight the players showed in tough situations is that mark of a champion group. This is just the start and we hope we can improve and take the next step in the coming seasons.*



**Manolo Marquez**  
Head Coach



**Varun Tripuraneni**  
Co-Owner

*After a forgettable 19-20 season, this season was a real breath of fresh air. But it was not a complete surprise as the planning for the season started over a year ago. We knew playing in a bio-bubble would be difficult and had to choose personnel accordingly. And after the results they produced, I think every member of the squad deserves kudos for the fight they have shown throughout the season.*

*It is also heartening to see the amount of support we received from Hyderabad and the fans in the city. From visits to Goa, to screening and social media greetings, the fans of this club constantly make us feel special and I hope that the team made everyone of these fans proud!*

*Personally, it was a breakthrough season for me and I will never forget this year. Our biggest strength has been the togetherness of everyone in the squad and the fact that we fight as a team on the field. We will not let our heads down after finishing outside the top-4 as we know we can push further next season.*



**Akash Mishra**  
Player



**Asish Rai**  
Player

*Under coaches like Manolo and Thangboi Singto, the young squad at HFC had a lot to learn in this campaign. We had a group of players who were never ready to give up and I am really proud of my team's performances in the 2020-21 ISL season. We will work harder, come back stronger and will give it our all next season as well.*





Hyderabad FC representatives at the closing ceremony of Mini HFL III

## Hyderabad FC & Grassroots

Hyderabad FC has a clear vision and plan for the development of grassroots football in the city of Hyderabad. Through a comprehensive grassroots calendar, HFC aims to engage people all over the city through HFC football schools, baby leagues, coaching clinics, competitive tournaments and leagues and youth teams. Attracting more and more people to play football even at the corporate and amateur level, to uplift the football culture in the city is a big part of the club's long-term plans.

As a part of this plan Hyderabad FC has partnered with HFL to regularly conduct amateur football leagues for various age groups and genders, amplifying #FootballForEveryone. Since 2020 Hyderabad FC has helped with pushing the Rookies Cup III, HFL Women's I, Mini HFL III, Rookies Cup IV & HFL Women's II and reach more people. Having Hyderabad FC players, management and coaches at the finals as chief guests was certainly an added motivation for all the players.











We at the HFL would like to thank Hyderabad FC for prioritizing the development of football at all levels and trusting us to be part of this process. We promise to walk shoulder to shoulder with them in this journey and administer more quality tournaments and leagues in the years to come.



# eDugout

With a halt in outdoor activities due to the pandemic last year, team HFL decided to get some footballing action to everyone right on their fingertips by conducting a virtual football quiz.

The quiz was conducted live in multiple rounds and the top 3 won gift hampers worth INR 10,000. A total of 127 participants participated over the weekend and below is a look at the final 10 of the first ever HFL eDugout.

Pos		Player	Score
1		Sulaiman Syed Irshad	26190
2		Rayyan Ahmed	21760
3		Mohammed Maaz	19470
4		Sarfraz	19050
5		Syed Mushraf	19030
6		Syed Ayaan Yousuf	18500
7		Jayanth Kumar	18490
8		Venkata Sai Charan	18410
9		Junaid Majid Ali	18400
10		Mohammed Kamran	18360

# The Footies

## Annual Awards

To celebrate football and the huge talent pool in Hyderabad, the first HFL Annual Awards - The Footies, were conducted at the end of 2020 to award & recognise the footballing community, voted by fans.

A total of 16 categories with 4 nominations in each category were announced and voting took place to determine the winner from each category. Below are the list of winners from The Footies 2020.

*Best Debut Player - Mirza Firas*

*Best Debut Manager - Farhaan Ahmed*

*Young Player of the Year - Talha Anzar*

*Goalkeeper of the Year (U19) - Dharanidhar Reddy*

*Player of the Year - Mohd. Taheruddin*

*Goalkeeper of the Year - Mohd. Faisal*

*Marquee of the Year - Muhammed Zaidh*

*Women's Player of the Year - Surbi Jain*

*Rookie of the Year - Fathe Arhaan*

*Foreign Player of the Year - Adekpe Koffi*

*Best Venue of the Year - Play, The Field*

*Manager of the Year - Mohd. Wasif*

*Team of the Year - FK7 Jr. (Youth Cup)*

*Fan of the Year - Hafeez Ataur Rahman*

*Comeback of the Year - FK7 Jr. (Youth Cup)*

*Spirit of the Game - Sam Paul*



# Testimonials



## **Akshay Kumar**

For me, after the lockdown, HFL was the best thing that has happened. Can surely say this is the best tournament I've ever played for. It was a wonderful experience overall.



## **Thanuja**

My first experience with HFL has been inspirational. It's been a great platform to step out of my box and experience competition.



## **Rohit Aloysious**

HFL has become a platform for a lot of football enthusiasts in Hyderabad to come together & showcase their talent. It has been an immense experience for me.



## **Krisha**

HFL is an amazing platform for all the girls of Hyderabad. Special thanks to the team for starting women's football in Hyderabad.



## **Mirza Imran Baig**

I have always loved and praised the HFL. Best football league in Hyderabad without any doubt. The level, speed and competitiveness is unmatched.



## **Zakriya Mohiuddin**

HFL is the only reason for which football is alive in the city. To be honest, there is no other league in Hyderabad like HFL.



## **Shashanth Kumar**

The best pro league in Hyderabad. Great experience and love the competitive spirit on field. Can't wait for the next season.





# HFL MAG

SEASON 2020-21

[info@thehfl.in](mailto:info@thehfl.in)

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+91-9133662193

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[www.thehfl.in](http://www.thehfl.in)

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