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**Title : ISL SF PREVIEW - ATK have edge vs Chennaiyin**

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Chennaiyin FC will have to draw heavily on team spirit as they get ready to play their firstleg 'home' semifinal away from home against defending champions Atletico de Kolkata here at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex on Saturday evening. Apart from lacking support of their passionate fans, Chennaiyin will miss the services of three key players in Saturday's showdown. While Mehrajuddin Wadoo and marquee Brazilian midfielder Elano Blumer are suspended, another Brazilian midfielder Raphael Augusto is out of ISL with an injury .

Chennaiyin, having lost both their home and away league matches to ATK this season, will go into the second semifinal as underdogs, but they remain an unpredictable side and ATK cannot afford to take them lightly. Two well-versed and experienced coaches Marco Materazzi (Chennaiyin FC) and Antonio Habas (Spain) admitted at the pre match press conference to having high regard for each other.

“In the semifinal it's impossible to choose a favourite team. There is no pressure on us even if this is an away match from us. We will play to win,” said Habas.

“They (ATK) are a good team with great attitude and they also have a great coach. It will be a good match tomorrow,” said Materazzi While Chennaiyin FC have in their ranks the top contenders for Golden Boot and Golden Glove Steven Mendonza (11 goals) and goalkeeper Edel Bete ATK have Canadian striker Iain Hume who has scored 10 goals including two-hat-tricks and is second in the scorers' list. Similarly , ATK's Indian goalkeeper Amrinder Singh has figured in 11 of 14 games and close on the heels of Bete. Incidentally , Cameroonian Bete was ATK's No 1 keeper in ISL-1.

Like Chennaiyin, which will miss their marquee player Elano (four yellow cards in league stage), ATK too will have to do without their star striker Helder Postiga. The former Portuguese World Cupper, who injured in ATK opening game in LS-2, is yet to attain full fitness, and even though he has travelled with the team to Pune, Postiga does not figure in Habas' scheme of things.

Materazzi's boys, on the other hand, have hit form at the right time and are on a fourmatch winning streak. The fact that they have stayed back in Pune after their last league match against FC Pune City , means they would be quite familiar with the playing conditions. Apart from Hume, ATK have in their line-up Indian medio Arata Izumi, who has been a revelation in the attacking hird. They also have a livewire n South African Sameegh Douie and the versatile Spaniard Borja Fernandez.

It will be a homecoming of sorts for Arata, who has made Pune his home after giving up his Japanese passport seven years ago. ATK have have won hree of their last four league matches and look in fine fettle to retain their crown.



ATK's Iain Hume (right) during a practice session in Pune on Friday