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**Title : ISL REPORT - Arata seals it for ATK**

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**Nets A Brace As Defending Champs Snatch Dramatic 3-2 Win vs Blasters**

Arata Izumi's winner in added-on time helped Atletico de Kolkata snatch a thrilling 3-2 win over Kerala Blasters in a thrilling ISL encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday .

All eyes were on ATK's Canadian striker Iain Hume, who played for Blasters last season, but it was Arata who stole the show with a double strike that sealed Kerala side's fate. Arata not only negated the effort of Blasters' substitute Antonio German, who had helped the hosts draw level twice in the game, but also helped ATK rediscover their winning touch.

It was ATK's third successive win over the Blasters. The victory took them to fourth place on the points table with 13 points from nine matches. Blasters, on the other hand, remained rooted to the bottom of the table with eight points from nine games and now need a Herculean effort in the remaining games to keep their semifinal hopes alive.

Blasters dominated possession in the first half, but they couldn't prise open the rival de fence. Sanchez Watt seemed to be struggling with his fitness in the middle and this affected Blasters' moves.

It was ATK who took the lead in the 29th minute against the run of play . ATK's Gavilan Martines collected the ball from a throw-in and his cross found an unmarked Mohanraj Nallappan at the far post. The defender needed no second in vitation to head past Blasters goalkeeper Stephen Bywater to give the visitors the lead.

Blasters head coach Terry Phe lan responded by replacing Watt with Antonio German. The substi tution had an immediate impact as German came close to scoring three minutes after taking the field. Blasters defender Bheke played the ball to Dagnall from the right and the Englishman crossed the ball to German who found himself with some space inside ATK box. He chested the ball down but his shot was off the mark.

German, however, made amends soon after. Blasters were awarded a penalty in the 42nd minute when Denzil Franco brought Josu down inside the box and German converted the resultant penalty with a neat placement.

Both teams pressed hard for the lead in the second half but their efforts didn't bear fruit till the 84th minute. Aratai got past Bheke, and much to the delight of the ATK bench , his intended high cross dipped on to the far upright and went in, leaving goalkeeper Bywater rooted to his spot.

ATK's lead, however, lasted less than a minute as the Blasters restored parity through German. Pulga got past Franco with a brilliant run on the left-flank and crossed the ball to German, who scored with a powerful drive past ATK goalkeeper Amrinder.

But with seconds before the final whistle, Blasters were guilty of leaving Arata unmarked and paid the price for it. He collected a cross from Doutie and slotted the ball home to seal victory .



ATK's Arata Izumi celebrates after scoring his second goal on Tuesday