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Title : COACH SPEAK - We have best team now: Habas

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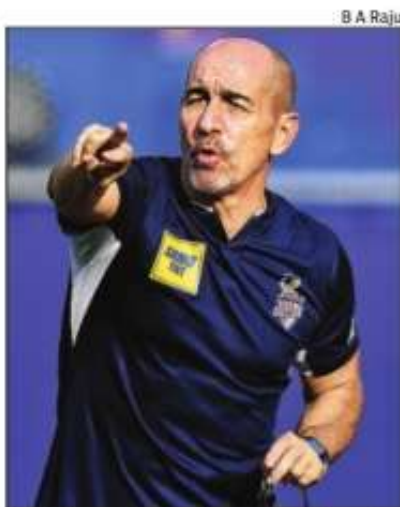
Atletico de Kolkata (ATK) go into the Indian Super League with the baggage of being the defending champions. But coach Antonio Lopez Habas refuses to dwell on it, for him it's history. "I do not want to talk about being defending champions and put undue pressure on ourselves. Past is past. We will all start from zero and will look to gain three points from each match," said the Spaniard.

Habas also believes that he has a better-prepared squad than last year and that anyone can steal the show. "We have made some changes to our squad. I think we have the best team now. I have 26 champions in the side. I want to see what is in store for us this season and am waiting for the competition to commence."

Portugal national and ATK marquee player, Helder Postiga is up for the ISL challenge. The youngest marquee player in the tournament knows he has big shoes to fill but he is ready. "I have come from Portugal and playing here is challenge for me. I wanted to try few new things in football and this is the best opportunity for me," said Postiga. "I have never taken my place in a team for granted. I love to fight for a spot, be it here or in the Portugal national side. The pressure of competing brings out the best in me."

Both Habas and Postiga said that a good pre-season in Spain will help them succeed. "Pre-season is always very important. It is more than just the matches and training. It is the time when the team bonds. We have many new faces in our squad and they fitted into the side with ease in Spain," said Habas, who won the award for the best ISL coach a few days back.

Postiga too echoed his coach's views. "This is the first time I am playing India and I already feel a connect with the country , thanks to the Indian players in the side. It is very important to know your teammates, it helps to read them on the field. When you know more people and travel in the same bus for training and competitions and I think it is good for us on the pitch as well."



Atletico de Kolkata coach Antonio Lopez Habas in Chennai on Friday