

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE · LEAGUE STAGE (EAST) · MATCHDAY 2 · 2026-27



Kyoto Sanga *v* Ratchaburi

Commentary research notes

Kyoto's first home night in Asia against the Dragons, beaten 6-4 on the opening night

Intro script · line-up prep & script · match in numbers · storylines · head-to-head · team news · club notes · bios · stats

DATE

Tuesday 13 October
2026

KICK-OFF

19:00 local (JST)
11:00 UK time (10:00 UTC)

VENUE

Sanga Stadium by
Kyocera
Kameoka, Kyoto Prefecture

REFEREE

Qasim Al-Hatmi
(Oman)
VAR: TBC

CONTENTS

Kyoto Sanga v Ratchaburi

Scripted parts (01 intro, 02 line-up prep, 03 line-up script and the closing recap) are set in large type for reading on air and use no official competition or sponsor names. **FLAG** / 🚩 = unconfirmed. Team sheets were not out at build time.

KYOTO SANGA		RATCHABURI	ACL ELITE EAST	KICK-OFF
16th in J1 · 8 pts		6th in Thai League 1 · 7 pts	Kyoto 12th · Ratchaburi 13th (0 pts each)	19:00 JST · 11:00 UK
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Intro script

559 WORDS

≈ 4 MIN SPOKEN

SCORES IN WORDS

WEATHER: 21.8°C AT KICK-OFF, CLEAR, DRY (0% RAIN), LIGHT WIND

Good evening from Kameoka, a short train ride west of the old imperial capital, where the purple of Kyoto is out in force for a night unlike any in the club's history. Tonight, at the Kyoto Stadium, Kyoto Sanga play their first ever home match in Asia's premier club competition, and they welcome Ratchaburi of Thailand on the second matchday of the eastern league stage. Kick-off is seven o'clock local time. Before we go any further, a reminder: this is an entirely independent and unofficial broadcast, bringing you live, unaccredited commentary from our seat in the stands.

The context is simple and stark. Both sides lost on the opening night a month ago, both sit on zero points, and both know that a second defeat in an eight-match league stage would leave them chasing from the bottom third of a sixteen-team table. Only the top eight go through to the round of sixteen. The head coach of Kyoto, Ranko Popović, has called it a chance for a historic win. That's no exaggeration: Kyoto have never won a match at this level.

Their debut in Korea was a lesson in patience. Kyoto rotated heavily in Daejeon, left their defensive leader Yoshinori Suzuki and top scorer Rafael Elias out of the starting line-up, had one shot all night, and were beaten 1-0 by a long-range strike from Victor Bobsin that went in off the post with twelve minutes left. That was Kyoto's first ever away trip in continental football.

At home the picture is not much brighter. Kyoto are sixteenth in Japan's top flight after nine rounds, with two wins, two draws and five defeats, eleven goals scored and sixteen conceded. On Saturday they lost 1-0 at home to Machida despite twelve shots, and worse, Rafael Elias came off in the first half with a left shoulder injury. Whether the Brazilian can play tonight is the big team-news question.

If Elias can't go, the man in form is his compatriot Alex Souza, who came on against Machida and scored the winner against Okayama the week before. Everton Maceió, who started in Daejeon, and Marco Túlio, back after around five months out, give Popović more Brazilian options in attack.

Ratchaburi arrive in better domestic form. The Dragons are sixth in Thailand's top flight with seven points from four games, nine scored and three conceded. On Friday they beat Sukhothai 6-0. In Asia, though, their opener was chaos: three down at half-time at home to the Chinese champions Shanghai Port, they lost 6-4. The Madagascar international Njiva Rakotoharimalala came off the bench to score a 24-minute hat-trick, and Ekanit Panya added a fourth.

This is not new territory for Ratchaburi against Japanese opposition. Last season, in Asia's second-tier club competition, they took Gamba Osaka to extra time in the quarter-final, drawing 1-1 in Osaka before losing 2-1 after extra time at home, 3-2 on aggregate. There's real experience in their squad too, with the Spanish pair Jonathan Viera and Roque Mesa in midfield.

So, two sides who badly need a first win. Kyoto have home advantage and a crowd seeing this for the first time. Ratchaburi have shown they can score goals in bunches. Watch how Kyoto's back line copes with Ratchaburi's late runners, and whether Kyoto's attack, without its leading scorer, can turn possession into chances. The teams will be out shortly.

Line-up announcement prep

Probable XIs with one or two stats per player. Update once the team sheets are out, about 60 minutes before kick-off. Stats cover 2026-27, all competitions.

KYO

Kyoto Sanga

16th · 8 pts
Probable 3-4-2-1

Last result: Lost one-nil at home to Machida (10 Oct); Elias off injured after 29 minutes. **Formation:** Three at the back expected; 4-2-3-1 in Daejeon.



#	PLAYER	PREP STAT
GOALKEEPER		
90	HALLS Brazil · 27 ·	1.98m Brazilian; started in Daejeon (6 league apps)
BACK THREE		
15	Kodai NAGATA Japan · 24 ·	Started in Daejeon; 7 lge apps, 0 goals
50	Yoshinori SUZUKI Japan · 34 · 184	Ever-present: all nine league games; rested in Daejeon
40	Yusuke ISHIDA Japan · 23 · 175cm	1.76m; started in Daejeon; 4 league apps
MIDFIELD FOUR		
48	Ryuma NAKANO Japan · 24 · 166	Homegrown; 2 league goals, second only to Elias
10	Shimpei FUKUOKA Japan · 26 · 170	Academy product; captain in Daejeon
24	Hiroto MOROOKA Japan · 29 · 168cm	Press tip to start; only 1 league app this season
44	Kyo SATO Japan · 26 · 168	Ever-present: all nine league games; scored in the league cup
NUMBER TENS		
77	Haruki ARAI Japan · 28 · 170cm	All nine league games; 1 goal; started in Daejeon
38	EVERTON Maceió Brazil · 23 ·	On loan; started in Daejeon; scored in the national cup
STRIKER		
17	ALEX SOUZA Brazil · 25 · 180	Winner v Okayama (19 Sept); FLAG starts if Elias (shoulder) misses out



Ratchaburi

6th · 7 pts
Probable 4-2-3-1

Last result: Won six-nil at home to Sukhothai (9 Oct). **Formation:** 4-2-3-1 expected (as on the opening night).



#	PLAYER	PREP STAT
GOALKEEPER		
99	Kampol PATHOMAKKAKUL Thailand · 34 · 182	Vice-captain; 204 club apps since 2021 🏠, fourth on the all-time list
BACK FOUR		
27	Jesse CURRAN Philippines · 30 · 182	Philippines international (14 caps); usually a right-back, FLAG side to confirm
4	Jonathan KHEMDEE Thailand · 24 · 191	Started on the opening night
3	Tarek AGGOUN France 🏠 (club lists Algeria) · 28 ·	1 league goal; assisted Njiva's third v Shanghai Port
31	Sai VAN WERMESKERKEN Thailand · 32 · 178	Right-back; played in last season's continental final for Kawasaki; ex-Japan U23
DOUBLE PIVOT		
16	ROQUE MESA Spain · 37 · 172	Joined Swansea for £11m in 2017; ex-Sevilla and Valladolid
48	Scott ALLARDICE Scotland · 28 · 181cm	Dundee-born; played in the 2023 Scottish Cup final for Inverness
ATTACKING THREE		
21	Ekanit PANYA Thailand · 26 · 169	Thailand international, ex-Urawa; 3 league goals in 4 games
10	Jonathan VIERA Spain · 36 · 171	One Spain cap (2017); ex-Beijing Guoan, a future opponent; set up Njiva's second
6	TANA Spain · 36 · 169	Third on the club's all-time scoring list (25)
STRIKER		
92	NJIVA Rakotoharimalala Madagascar · 34 · 178	24-minute hat-trick off the bench on the opening night; 15 league goals last season; FLAG shirt 89 (wore 92 on the opening-night sheet)

FLAG Kyoto played 4-2-3-1 in Daejeon; a back four with Sato at left-back and Tawiah at centre-back is the alternative. Elias (9, shoulder) and Nagasawa (93) are the other centre-forward options. Ratchaburi started Rafael Bilú (7) and Bruno Mendes (9) on the opening night where Ekanit and Njiva are predicted.

Line-up announcement script

PROBABLE – team sheets not yet published at build time; replace with the confirmed XIs (due about 10:00 UK).

The team sheets are in here in Kameoka, and there's plenty to get through.

Kyoto first. Ranko Popović has made changes after Saturday's home defeat by Machida. In goal is the 1.98-metre Brazilian Hedhe Halls (#90), who was beaten only by a shot off the post in Daejeon a month ago.

In front of him, a back three: Kodai Nagata (#15), the ever-present Yoshinori Suzuki (#50), who has played all nine league games and comes in for his first appearance on this stage, and Yusuke Ishida (#40).

Ryuma Nakano (#48), the club's second-top league scorer with two, and Kyo Sato (#44) are the wing-backs. The academy-raised Shimpei Fukuoka (#10), captain in Daejeon, partners Hiroto Morooka (#24) in the middle.

Haruki Arai (#77) and the Brazilian Everton Maceió (#38) play behind Alex Souza (#17), who scored the winner against Okayama last month and leads the line with Rafael Elias (#9), the top scorer with five league goals, nursing a shoulder injury.

Ratchaburi, under head coach Worrawoot Srimaka: Kampol Pathomakkakul (#99) in goal, behind a back four of Jesse Curran (#27), Jonathan Khemdee (#4), Tarek Aggoun (#3) and Sai van Wermeskerken (#31).

Roque Mesa (#16) and Scott Allardice (#48) sit in front of them. Tana (#6), Jonathan Viera (#10) and Ekanit Panya (#21), who scored on the opening night, support the main man: Njiva Rakotoharimalala (#89), whose 24-minute hat-trick off the bench against Shanghai Port has earned him a start.

On the benches: for Kyoto, Shun Nagasawa (#93), Marco Túlio (#11), João Pedro (#6), the 19-year-old Yun Seong-jun (#25) and Temma Matsuda (#18). For Ratchaburi, Bruno Mendes (#9), Rafael Bilú (#7) and Chotipat Poomkaew (#88), who set up Njiva's first goal last time.

The Omani referee, Qasim Al-Hatmi, is bringing the two captains together. Kick-off in Kameoka is next.

SECTION 04

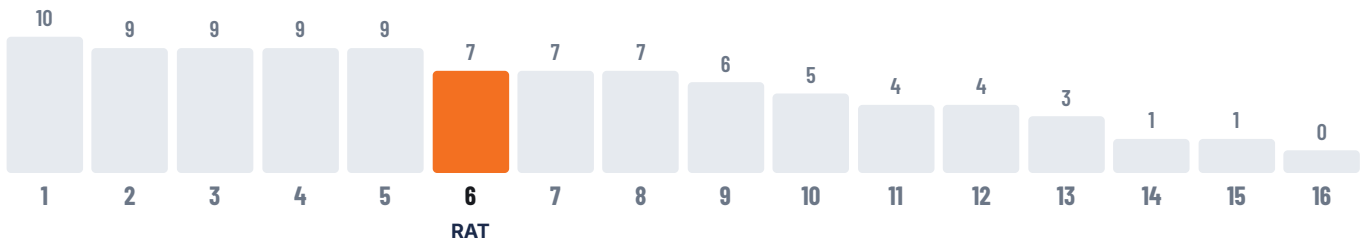
The match in numbers

Two clubs from different leagues, so every rank below is within each club's own league: Kyoto out of 20 (J1 League, nine games), Ratchaburi out of 16 (Thai League 1, four games). Kyoto concede more shots than anyone in J1 bar Gamba and JEF; Ratchaburi have the best defence in Thailand on goals conceded per game bar Prachuap.

J1 LEAGUE TABLE · POINTS BY POSITION



THAI LEAGUE 1 TABLE · POINTS BY POSITION



Tables correct as of Tuesday 13 October 2026, 10:26 UK (fetched at build time and cross-checked with the league sites). Kyoto: 16th, P9 W2 D2 L5, F11 A16, 8 pts. Ratchaburi: 6th, P4 W2 D1 L1, F9 A3, 7 pts. ■ Kyoto Sanga ■ Ratchaburi



Kyoto Sanga

16th

9 played 2-2-5 W-D-L 11-16 goals 8 pts

LAST SIX · ALL COMPETITIONS

L

L

W

W

D

L

Kashiwa Re
H · 2-3

Daejeon Ci
A · 0-1

Fagiano Ok
A · 2-1

Fujieda MY
H · 1-0

Machida Ze
A · 0-0

Machida Ze
H · 0-1



Ratchaburi

6th

4 played 2-1-1 W-D-L 9-3 goals 7 pts

LAST SIX · ALL COMPETITIONS

L

W

L

D

D

W

Ayutthaya
A · 1-2

Bangkok Un
H · 1-0

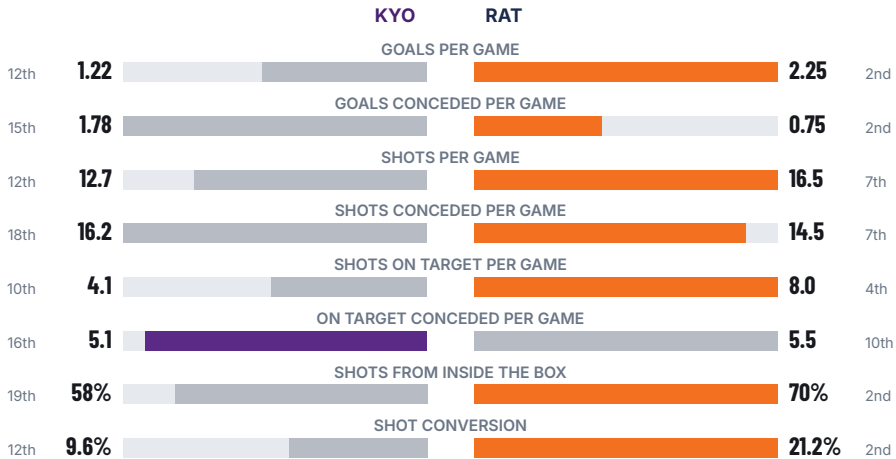
Shanghai P
H · 4-6

Rayong FC
A · 1-1

Ho Chi Min
H · 1-1

Sukhothai
H · 6-0

TEAM COMPARISON · DOMESTIC LEAGUE 2026-27 (RANK OUT OF 20 / 16)



Club-coloured bar = the better figure in each row; grey = the weaker. Ranks are within each club's own league (1 = best; for "conceded" metrics, 1 = fewest). Thai League 1 is four games old; shot figures there come only from games with full match statistics (Ratchaburi: two of four), so treat as indicative.

KYOTO SANGA · TOP SCORERS 2026-27

Elias	5 (5 lge)
Arai	2 (1 lge)
Nakano	2 (2 lge)
Sato	1 (0 lge)
João Pedro	1 (1 lge)
Everton	1 (0 lge)

RATCHABURI · TOP SCORERS 2026-27

Panya	4 (3 lge)
Njiva	4 (1 lge)
Aggoun	1 (1 lge)
Suengchitthawon	1 (1 lge)
Tana	1 (1 lge)
Bruno Mendes	1 (1 lge)

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE · EAST TABLE AFTER MATCHDAY 1

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Kashima Antlers	1	1	0	0	+6	3
2	Gamba Osaka	1	1	0	0	+3	3
3	Shanghai Port	1	1	0	0	+2	3
4	Beijing Guoan	1	1	0	0	+2	3
5	Vissel Kobe	1	1	0	0	+1	3
6	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors	1	1	0	0	+1	3
7	Daejeon Hana Citizen	1	1	0	0	+1	3
8	Buriram United	1	0	1	0	0	1
9	Johor Darul Ta'zim	1	0	1	0	0	1
10	Kashiwa Reysol	1	0	0	1	-1	0
11	Port FC	1	0	0	1	-1	0
12	Kyoto Sanga FC	1	0	0	1	-1	0
13	Ratchaburi FC	1	0	0	1	-2	0
14	Pohang Steelers	1	0	0	1	-2	0
15	Cong An Ha Noi	1	0	0	1	-3	0
16	Newcastle Jets	1	0	0	1	-6	0

Top eight go into the two-legged round of 16 (1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5); 9th–16th are eliminated. Eight games each, four home and four away, no same-association games. Some Matchday 2 games are played today – check the live table at kick-off.

SECTION 05

Storylines & trivia

HEADLINE

Kyoto's first ever home game in Asian club competition – and they have never won a match at this level. Popović: “If we win, it will be a historic victory.” (Sponichi, 12 Oct, translated)

Kyoto were beaten 1-0 in Daejeon on the opening night (15 Sept): one shot all game, and the winner, a long-range strike from Victor Bobsin, went in off the post with twelve minutes left. They rested Suzuki and Elias.

HEADLINE

Njiva Rakotoharimalala came on at 66' v Shanghai Port and scored at 71', 84' and 90+5' – a 24-minute hat-trick – then set up Ekanit Panya at 90+6'. Ratchaburi still lost 6-4 after trailing 3-0 at half-time.

Njiva is Ratchaburi's second-highest scorer of all time (47 in 81 apps) behind Heberty (65). He was the club's top league scorer last season with 15 as they finished third.

Elias doubt: Kyoto's leading scorer (5 league goals, 34 for the club by March 2026, seventh on Kyoto's all-time list) went off after 29 minutes against Machida with a left shoulder injury. No official update.

Popović knows Thai football: he coached Buriram United in 2016-17. Kyoto is his sixth J.League club (Oita, Machida twice, FC Tokyo, Cerezo, Kashima).

Ratchaburi took Gamba Osaka to extra time in last season's ACL Two quarter-final (1-1 in Osaka, 1-2 aet at home; 3-2 on aggregate). Gamba went on to win the competition.

Ratchaburi's only previous campaign in Asia's top competition was 2021: one point (0-0 v Pohang) and fourth in a group with Nagoya Grampus, Pohang and JDT.

HEADLINE

Kyoto qualified by finishing third in J1 in 2025 – their highest ever league finish. They are now 16th after nine games of the new 2026-27 season.

The academy kid: Popović singled out 19-year-old Yun Seong-jun, “raised in the academy, who has made fighting in Asia his goal.” Yun: “We'll go for three points at home – I want to play with confidence.” (Sponichi, 12 Oct, translated)

LEAGUE RANKINGS · 2026-27 (EACH CLUB IN ITS OWN LEAGUE)

J1 LEAGUE – MOST SHOTS CONCEDED PER GAME		J1 LEAGUE – SHOT CONVERSION	
JEF United Chiba	18.0	Machida Zelvia	17.9%
Gamba Osaka	16.7	Kashiwa Reysol	15.1%
Kyoto Sanga	16.2	Vissel Kobe	13.1%
Tokyo Verdy	15.3	Kashima	13.0%
V-varen Nagasaki	14.8	KYOTO SANGA (12th)	9.6%

THAI LEAGUE 1 – FEWEST GOALS CONCEDED PER GAME		THAI LEAGUE 1 – GOALS PER GAME	
Prachuap	0.50	Uthai Thani	2.75
Ratchaburi	0.75	Ratchaburi	2.25
Ayutthaya FC	1.00	Buriram United	2.00
Bangkok United	1.00	Bangkok United	2.00
Buriram United	1.00	Port FC	2.00

Thai League 1 figures are from four games and some match statistics are incomplete; treat as indicative.

Head-to-head

PREVIOUS MEETINGS None – first ever	KYOTO V THAI CLUBS None – first Asian campaign	RATCHABURI V JAPANESE CLUBS P6 W0 D1 L5 (Asia)	POPOVIĆ IN THAILAND Buriram United 2016-17
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RATCHABURI V JAPANESE CLUBS IN ASIA (NO PREVIOUS KYOTO-RATCHABURI MEETINGS)

DATE	COMPETITION	VENUE	SCORE	NOTE
11 Mar 2026	AFC Champions League Two QF	Ratchaburi	Ratchaburi 1-2 Gamba (aet)	Gamba through 3-2 on agg.
4 Mar 2026	AFC Champions League Two QF	Osaka	Gamba 1-1 Ratchaburi	First leg
11 Dec 2025	AFC Champions League Two group	Osaka	Gamba 2-0 Ratchaburi	Group F
2025	AFC Champions League Two group	Ratchaburi	Ratchaburi 0-2 Gamba	Group F ▶ date to confirm
2021	AFC Champions League group	▶	Ratchaburi 0-4 / 0-3 Nagoya	Both group games lost

NOTES

- **Kyoto Sanga and Ratchaburi have never met. Kyoto have never played a Thai club; Daejeon were their first ever continental opponents.**
- The table above lists Ratchaburi's results against Japanese clubs in Asia (Gamba Osaka four times in 2025-26, Nagoya Grampus twice in 2021): played 6, won 0, drawn 1, lost 5. ▶ The 2025-26 group-stage dates need a final check.
- Still to come for Kyoto against Thai clubs in this league stage: Buriram United (away, 1 Dec) and Port FC (away, 16 Feb 2027). Ratchaburi meet Gamba Osaka again on Matchday 7 (home, 9 Feb 2027), plus Kashiwa (H, 27 Oct), Vissel Kobe (A, 3 Nov) and Kashima (A, 16 Feb).

THE MANAGERS

- Ranko Popović (Kyoto) coached Buriram United in Thailand in 2016-17, so tonight is not his first encounter with Thai football.
- Worrawoot Srimaka (Ratchaburi) has been in charge since 20 November 2024 and led them to third in Thai League 1 last season and the ACL Two quarter-finals.

SECTION 07

Team news & officials

Neither club publishes an injury list for this game and the confederation has no injury report for the fixture. Team sheets are due about an hour before kick-off (10:00 UK). Referee confirmed at 10:01 UK: Qasim Al-Hatmi (Oman).

Kyoto Sanga

PLAYER / ITEM	STATUS	DETAIL
Rafael Elias (9)	DOUBT	Went off after 29 minutes v Machida (10 Oct) with a left shoulder injury. No official update; press expect caution. Check the team sheet.
Marco Túlio (11)	FIT	Back in action after around five months out.
Yoshinori Suzuki (50)	INFO	Rested in Daejeon; expected to return. Ever-present in the league.
Rotation	INFO	Kyoto rotated heavily on the opening night and play again in the league at the weekend.

Ratchaburi

PLAYER / ITEM	STATUS	DETAIL
Njiva Rakotoharimalala	FLAG	Expected to start after his opening-night hat-trick. Shirt number: 89 per the club and databases; 92 on the opening-night team sheet.
Injury list	INFO	Nothing published by the club. Check the team sheet.
Opening-night XI	INFO	Rafael Bilú (7) and Bruno Mendes (9) started v Shanghai Port; both may drop to the bench.

REFEREE & VAR

Qasim Matar Ali AL-HATMI (Oman)

Appointed per the official fixture data at 10:01 UK. From Ibri; one of Oman's senior international referees.

Assistants, fourth official and VAR: not yet published at build time

- Refereed Australia 1-0 Japan in World Cup qualifying (June 2025) and has worked two Gulf Cups (Saudi Arabia 3-2 Yemen in Kuwait; led Oman's officials in Jeddah, Sept-Oct 2026).
- Asian club games include Al Shorta 1-1 Al Sadd, Al Hilal 4-0 Al Shorta and Al Gharafa 1-0 Al Wahda (2025-26).
- Card profile: about four yellows a game in Asian club matches over the last two seasons, with three reds in three games in 2025-26.

Last line-ups



Kyoto Sanga

3-4-2-1

v Machida Zelvia · L 0-1
10 Oct 2026



Subs used: Alex Souza for Rafael Papagaio (29'); Everton Maceió for Ren Kato (69'); Sung-jun Yoon for Ryuma Nakano (69'); Marco Túlio for Hiroto Morooka (81')

Unused: G. Ota, H. Tawiah, T. Shichi, T. Yonemoto, F. Honda



Ratchaburi

4-2-3-1

v Sukhothai FC · W 6-0
9 Oct 2026



Subs used: D. Ting for J. Viera (46'); S. Nonthasila for E. Panya (63'); T. Limwannasthian for T. Suengchitthawon (78'); N. Rakotoharimalala for J. Curran (78'); P. Promjan for T. Aggoun (88')

Unused: U. Wongmeema, K. Chiamudom, K. Srisuwan, T. Yoryoei, S. Panthong, P. Sangkasopha, Bruno Mendes

SECTION 09 · CLUB NOTES

Kyoto Sanga · club notes



Kyoto
Sanga

Founded 1922 (as Kyoto Shiko Club) · Sanga Stadium by Kyocera, Kameoka (opened 2020, 21,600) · Head coach Ranko Popović

EMPEROR'S CUP

1 × · last 2002

J2 LEAGUE TITLE

2 × · last 2005

Best J1 finish: 3rd in 2025, which earned this first Asian campaign. The J.League's most relegated club (three relegations from J1).

2025-26 IN REVIEW

COMPETITION	FINISH	DETAIL
J1 League 2025	3rd	P38 W19 D11 L8 F62 A40 Pts68 – best ever finish
2026 special season	—	Half-year bridging season (Feb-Jun) before the switch to an autumn-spring calendar 🏆 finish not verified
Emperor's Cup 2025	4th round	

- Cho Kwi-jea left in May 2026 after five years in charge (promotion in 2021); Tatsuma Yoshida was interim until Popović arrived on 8 June.
- Rafael Elias had 34 goals for the club by March 2026, seventh on the all-time list.

RECENT SEASONS

SEASON	DIV	FINISH
2021	2	2nd – promoted
2022	1	16th – survived the play-off
2023	1	13th
2024	1	14th
2025	1	3rd – best ever
2026-27	1	16th after 9 games

2026-27 RESULTS

DATE	COMP	OPPONENT	H/A	RESULT	SCORERS
9 Aug 2026	League	V-varen Nagasaki	A	L 1-2	Rafael Elias 54'
15 Aug 2026	League	Kawasaki Frontale	A	D 2-2	Fukuda 54', Rafael Elias 58'
22 Aug 2026	League	Mito Hollyhock	H	L 1-3	Nakano 82'
26 Aug 2026	Emp. Cup	Maruyasu Okazaki	H	W 1-0	Nagasawa 67'
29 Aug 2026	League	Avispa Fukuoka	H	W 2-1	Rafael Elias 8', Arai 63'
2 Sept 2026	League	Yokohama F. Marinos	A	D 1-1	Nakano 64'
6 Sept 2026	League	FC Tokyo	A	L 0-2	
11 Sept 2026	League	Kashiwa Reysol	H	L 2-3	Rafael Elias 3', Rafael Elias 33'
15 Sept 2026	ACLE	Daejeon Citizen	A	L 0-1	
19 Sept 2026	League	Fagiano Okayama	A	W 2-1	Joao Pedro 10', Souza Alex 90'
23 Sept 2026	Emp. Cup	Fujieda MYFC	H	W 1-0	Everton Maceio 88'
3 Oct 2026	Lge Cup	Machida Zelvia	A	D 0-0	Marco Tulio 120', Arai 120', Sato 120'
10 Oct 2026	League	Machida Zelvia	H	L 0-1	

SCORERS 2026-27

PLAYER	LGE	CUPS	TOTAL
Rafael ELIAS	5	0	5
Haruki ARAI	1	1	2
Ryuma NAKANO	2	0	2
Kyo SATO	0	1	1
JOÃO PEDRO	1	0	1
EVERTON Maceió	0	1	1
MARCO TÚLIO	0	1	1
Shun NAGASAWA	0	1	1
ALEX SOUZA	1	0	1

NEXT FIXTURES

DATE	COMP	OPPONENT	H/A
Tue 27 Oct	ACL Elite	Newcastle Jets	H
Tue 3 Nov	ACL Elite	Công An Hà Nội	A
Tue 24 Nov	ACL Elite	Pohang Steelers	H
Tue 1 Dec	ACL Elite	Buriram United	A
Tue 9 Feb	ACL Elite	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors	H
Tue 16 Feb	ACL Elite	Port FC	A

SECTION 10 · CLUB NOTES

Ratchaburi · club notes



Ratchaburi

Founded 2004 · Dragon Solar Park, Ratchaburi (opened 2016) · Head coach Worrawoot Srimaka

THAI FA CUP

1 × · last 2016 (shared)

SECOND-TIER TITLE

1 × · last 2012

Thai FA Cup runners-up 2019; League Cup runners-up 2012 and 2013.

2025-26 IN REVIEW

COMPETITION	FINISH	DETAIL
Thai League 1 2025-26	3rd	P30 W18 D5 L7 F55 A30 Pts59 – best ever finish
ACL Two 2025-26	Quarter-final	Lost 3-2 on aggregate (aet) to Gamba Osaka, the eventual winners
Top scorer	Njiva Rakotoharimalala	15 league goals

- Beat Persib Bandung 3-1 on aggregate in the ACL Two round of 16 (3-0 home, 0-1 away).
- Third place brought direct entry to this competition and to the ASEAN Club Championship.

2026-27 RESULTS

DATE	COMP	OPPONENT	H/A	RESULT	SCORERS
6 Sept 2026	League	Ayutthaya FC	A	L 1-2	Suengchitthawon 43'
11 Sept 2026	League	Bangkok United	H	W 1-0	Bruno Mendes 13'
15 Sept 2026	ACLE	Shanghai Port	H	L 4-6	Njiva Rakotoharimalala 71', Njiva Rakotoharimalala 84', Njiva Rakotoharimalala 90', Ekanit Panya 90'
20 Sept 2026	League	Rayong FC	A	D 1-1	Panya 34'
7 Oct 2026	ASEAN CC	Ho Chi Minh City	H	D 1-1	Allardice 90'
9 Oct 2026	League	Sukhothai FC	H	W 6-0	Panya 13', Panya 35', Aggoun 56', Zulj 68', Tana 84', Rakotoharimalala 88'

SCORERS 2026-27

PLAYER	LGE	CUPS	TOTAL
Ekanit PANYA	3	1	4
NJIVA Rakotoharimalala	1	3	4
Tarek AGGOUN	1	0	1
Thanawat SUENGCHITTHAWON	1	0	1
TANA	1	0	1
BRUNO MENDES	1	0	1
Robert ŽULJ	1	0	1

RECENT SEASONS

SEASON	DIV	FINISH
2021-22	1	12th
2022-23	1	8th
2023-24	1	6th
2024-25	1	4th
2025-26	1	3rd – best ever
2026-27	1	6th after 4 games

NEXT FIXTURES

DATE	COMP	OPPONENT	H/A
Tue 27 Oct	ACL Elite	Kashiwa Reysol	H
Tue 3 Nov	ACL Elite	Vissel Kobe	A
Tue 24 Nov	ACL Elite	Johor Darul Ta'zim	H
Tue 1 Dec	ACL Elite	Beijing Guoan	A
Tue 9 Feb	ACL Elite	Gamba Osaka	H
Tue 16 Feb	ACL Elite	Kashima Antlers	A

SECTION 11

Internationals, milestones & birthdays



Kyoto Sanga

- 🚩 Kyoto call-ups for the October international window not verified at build time.
- Yun Seong-jun (19) is a Korea Republic youth international 🚩.

Milestone

Tonight is Kyoto's first ever home match in Asian club competition, at the stadium they moved into in January 2020.



Ratchaburi

- Njiva Rakotoharimalala is a Madagascar international and played at AFCON 2019 (caps figure conflicts between sources 🚩).
- Sai van Wermeskerken (Thailand) and Jesse Curran (Philippines) are senior internationals 🚩 check the October window.

Birthdays

No player birthdays on matchday. Ryuma Nakano turned 24 on 6 October.

SECTION 12

The managers



Ranko Popović

Kyoto Sanga head coach · born 26.06.1967 (59)

- Serbian, born in Peć. Appointed on 8 June 2026 after Cho Kwi-jea left in May; Kyoto is his sixth J.League club.
- Japan: Sanfrecce Hiroshima (assistant 2006-07), Oita Trinita (2009), Machida Zelvia (2011 and 2020-22), FC Tokyo (2012-13, took them to the Asian last 16), Cerezo Osaka (Jan-Jun 2014), Kashima Antlers (Jan-Oct 2024).
- Abroad: Real Zaragoza, Buriram United (Thailand, 2016-17), Pune City, St. Pölten, Vojvodina.
- Pre-match: "If we win, it will be a historic victory." (Sponichi, 12 Oct, translated)



Worrawoot Srimaka

Ratchaburi head coach · born 🇹🇭 (54)

- Thai. Head coach since 20 November 2024, after Surapong Kongthep (28 Jun-16 Sep 2024) and Somchai Maiwilai's interim spell. 🇹🇭 One source dates the appointment to Oct 2025.
- Led Ratchaburi to third in Thai League 1 in 2025-26 (their best finish) and the ACL Two quarter-finals.
- NB the club's own squad page still lists "S. Kongthep" as coach – out of date (Surapong Kongthep left in Sept 2024).
- 🇹🇭 Former Thailand international striker – not yet confirmed from two sources; not used on air.

SECTION 13 · SQUAD

Kyoto Sanga · squad bios

GOALKEEPERS

1 Gakuji OTA 26.12.90 (35)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a goalkeeper in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1, 270 league minutes so far. , 1.90m, tall, powerful. Strengths: busy and making saves and heavily involved on the ball. Less convincing: his shot-stopping numbers are modest. On the ball, watch his shot-stopping.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (3 starts), 270 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 3 apps (3 starts), 270 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- saves per 90: 3.3 – 75th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 7)
- passes per 90: 37.0 – 70th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 9)
- pass completion: 63% – 58th percentile among 26 league goalkeepers (rank 11)
- save rate: 59% – 5th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 27)

CAREER

- Japanese goalkeeper, born in Mie; joined from Kataller Toyama in Jan 2020 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: FC Gifu, Tokyo Verdy, Kataller Toyama.
- Moved from Tokyo Verdy to Kataller Toyama in Feb 2018 on loan.

21 Kentaro KAKOI 23.04.91 (35)

THE PLAYER

Goalkeeper, 1.90m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese goalkeeper, born in Nagasaki; joined from Blaublitz Akita in July 2024.
- Previous clubs: FC Tokyo, Avispa Fukuoka, Cerezo Osaka, Matsumoto Yamaga, Sagami-hara, Blaublitz Akita.

90 HALLS 17.06.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

A towering 1.98m Brazilian keeper and Kyoto's goalkeeper in Asia. He started in Daejeon, where Kyoto were under siege but beaten only by a long-range shot off the post.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 6 apps (6 starts), 540 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 10 apps (10 starts), 630 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- saves per 90: 3.3 – 75th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 7)
- save rate: 74% – 59th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 12)
- passes per 90: 27.3 – 16th percentile among 28 league goalkeepers (rank 24)

ON AIR

FACT The tallest player in Kyoto's squad at 1.98m.

CAREER

- Brazilian goalkeeper.
- Previous clubs: Nautico Recife, BOA, Vasco DA Gama, Vila Nova, Sport Recife.
- Moved from BOA to Vasco DA Gama in May 2021.
- Honours: Goiano 1 (2025).

94 Masaaki MURAKAMI 07.08.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Goalkeeper, 1.85m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese goalkeeper; joined from Avispa Fukuoka in Jan 2026.
- Previous clubs: Renofa Yamaguchi, Mito Hollyhock, Avispa Fukuoka.

DEFENDERS

5 Hisashi TAWIAH 18.10.98 (27)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a centre-back in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1, 96 league minutes so far. , 1.92m, tall, powerful. Strengths: wins his battles, a busy tackler and heavily involved on the ball. On the ball, watch his duels.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (1 starts), 96 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 7 apps (4 starts), 186 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- duels won: 90% – 100th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 1)
- tackles per 90: 4.7 – 100th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 1)
- passes per 90: 72.2 – 93rd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 8)
- blocks per 90: 0.94 – 84th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 18)
- (small sample: under 270 minutes)

ON AIR

STAT 90% duels won – 1st of 106 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Japanese defender, born in Aichi; joined from Vegalta Sendai in Jan 2022 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Vegalta Sendai.

15 Kodai NAGATA 08.09.02 (24)

THE PLAYER

A young defender who started in Daejeon. Expected on the right of a back three if Popović goes with three centre-backs.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 7 apps (3 starts), 345 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 11 apps (7 starts), 435 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- interceptions per 90: 3.1 – 100th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 1)
- tackles per 90: 2.9 – 99th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 2)
- duels won: 63% – 74th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 28)
- passes per 90: 50.9 – 67th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 35)

ON AIR

STAT 3.1 interceptions per 90 – 1st of 106 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Japanese defender; joined from Sagan Tosu in Feb 2025.
- Previous clubs: Sagan Tosu.

33 Sota YAMAMOTO

23.08.04 (22)

THE PLAYER

Defender. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese defender.

34 HENRIQUE TREVISAN

20.01.97 (29)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.85m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (1 starts), 45 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (1 starts), 45 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Brazilian defender, born in Umuarama; joined from FC Tokyo in Jan 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Figueirense, Famalicao, Ponte Preta, Oita Trinita, FC Tokyo.
- Moved from Ponte Preta to Famalicao in Aug 2020.

40 Yusuke ISHIDA

11.11.02 (23)

THE PLAYER

A compact centre-back (1.76m) who started in Daejeon.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (3 starts), 255 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 8 apps (7 starts), 345 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- duels won: 80% – 100th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 1)
- blocks per 90: 0.71 – 70th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 32)
- tackles per 90: 1.4 – 62nd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 41)
- interceptions per 90: 1.1 – 47th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 56)
- (small sample: under 270 minutes)

ON AIR

STAT 80% duels won – 1st of 106 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Japanese defender, born in Tokushima; joined from Iwaki in Jan 2026.
- Previous clubs: Gainare Tottori, Iwaki.
- Moved from Gainare Tottori to Iwaki in Jan 2023.

43 WEVERTON

17.02.03 (23)

THE PLAYER

Expected to play as the centre-back in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1.

Strengths: reads the game and steps in to intercept, a busy tackler and throws himself in front of shots. On the ball, watch him step in to cut out passes.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 6 apps (6 starts), 493 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 6 apps (6 starts), 493 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- interceptions per 90: 2.2 – 96th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 5)
- tackles per 90: 2.0 – 85th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 16)
- blocks per 90: 0.73 – 72nd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 30)
- duels won: 54% – 36th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 67)

ON AIR

STAT 2.2 interceptions per 90 – 5th of 106 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Brazilian defender; joined from Vila Nova in June 2026 on loan.
- Previous clubs: Athletic Club, Ipatinga, Cruzeiro, Ponte Preta, Vila Nova.
- Moved from Vila Nova to Cruzeiro in Dec 2025.
- Honours: Goiano 1 (2025); CONMEBOL U20 (2023); Serie B (2022).

50 Yoshinori SUZUKI

11.09.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Kyoto's defensive leader, in the J.League preview's words. Ever-present in the league: he has played all nine J1 games. Rested for the Daejeon trip, so this would be his Asian debut for the club.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 9 apps (8 starts), 734 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 11 apps (9 starts), 734 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- blocks per 90: 1.6 – 99th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 2)
- pass completion: 89% – 91st percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 8)
- tackles per 90: 2.0 – 83rd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 19)
- duels won: 66% – 80th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 22)

ON AIR

STAT 1.6 blocks per 90 – 2nd of 106 in the league in his position

FACT Described by the J.League's own preview as Kyoto's 'defensive leader'.

CAREER

- Japanese defender, born in Miyazaki; joined from Shimizu S-pulse in Jan 2024.
- Previous clubs: Oita Trinita, Shimizu S-pulse.
- Moved from Oita Trinita to Shimizu S-pulse in Jan 2021 on a free transfer.
- Honours: J3 League (2016).

60 Ryosuke YAMANAKA

20.04.93 (33)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.74m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (0 starts), 36 mins, 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 3 apps (1 starts), 36 mins, 0 G, 1 A.

CAREER

- Japanese defender, born in Kashiwa; joined from Nagoya Grampus in June 2026 on loan.
- Previous clubs: JEF United Chiba, Kashiwa Reysol, Yokohama F. Marinos, Urawa, Cerezo Osaka, Nagoya Grampus.
- Moved from Yokohama F. Marinos to Urawa in Jan 2019 for a reported fee of €1.8M.
- Honours: J-League Cup (2024); Emperor Cup (2021); AFC U23 Asian Cup (2015/16); J-League Cup (2013); Emperor Cup (2012/13); Super Cup (2012).

62 Takaaki SHICHI

27.12.93 (32)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.77m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 0 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese defender, born in Hashima; joined from Sanfrecce Hiroshima in Sept 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Matsumoto Yamaga, Mito Hollyhock, Yokohama FC, Avispa Fukuoka, Sanfrecce Hiroshima.
- Moved from Avispa Fukuoka to Sanfrecce Hiroshima in Jan 2023 on a free transfer.
- Honours: J2 League (2018).

MIDFIELDERS

6 JOÃO PEDRO

03.09.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

A tall Brazilian midfielder with a league goal this season. He came on for Fukuoka in Daejeon.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 8 apps (8 starts), 704 mins, 1 G, 0 A. All competitions: 9 apps (8 starts), 731 mins, 1 G, 0 A.

- tackles per 90: 2.9 – 92nd percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 10)
- passes per 90: 48.5 – 70th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 36)
- interceptions per 90: 1.0 – 64th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 44)
- duels won: 49% – 49th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 62)

CAREER

- Brazilian midfielder; joined from Vitoria in Dec 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Santo André, Portuguesa Santista, Brusque, Tombense, Vitoria, CRB.
- Moved from Vitoria to Tombense in April 2023 on loan.
- Honours: Alagoano 1 (2024).

8 Takuji YONEMOTO

03.12.90 (35)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.77m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Hyogo; joined from Nagoya Grampus in Feb 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: FC Tokyo, Shonan Bellmare, Nagoya Grampus.

10 Shimpei FUKUOKA

27.06.00 (26)

THE PLAYER

A Kyoto academy midfielder who wore the captain's armband in Daejeon. He sets the tempo from deep and is one of the players the Japanese press expect to change games.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 7 apps (5 starts), 383 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 10 apps (8 starts), 446 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- duels won: 60% – 87th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 16)
- pass completion: 86% – 82nd percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 19)
- tackles per 90: 1.9 – 67th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 40)
- passes per 90: 40.9 – 54th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 56)

ON AIR

FACT Captained Kyoto in their first ever continental match, in Daejeon.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Nara.

14 THIAGO

— (DOB unverified)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 0 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 3 apps (3 starts), 63 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Midfielder; joined from Jacuipense in June 2026 on loan.
- Previous clubs: Jacuipense.

16 Taiyo HIRAOKA

14.09.02 (24)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.73m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Takarazuka; joined from Shonan Bellmare in Jan 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Shonan Bellmare.

18 Temma MATSUDA

11.06.95 (31)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a central midfielder in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1, 214 league minutes so far. , 1.64m, compact. Strengths: wins his battles and a busy tackler. Less convincing: not a natural interceptor. On the ball, watch his duels.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 5 apps (1 starts), 214 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 8 apps (3 starts), 271 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- duels won: 70% – 99th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 2)
- tackles per 90: 2.1 – 77th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 28)
- key passes per 90: 0.84 – 39th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 74)
- pass completion: 79% – 35th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 76)
- (small sample: under 270 minutes)

ON AIR

STAT 70% duels won – 2nd of 120 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Mashiki; joined from Shonan Bellmare in Jan 2021.
- Previous clubs: Shonan Bellmare.
- Honours: J-League Cup (2018); J2 League (2017).

24 Hiroto MOROOKA

04.01.97 (29)

THE PLAYER

A combative central midfielder tipped by the Japanese press to start. He has only one J1 appearance this season, so would be a big call.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (1 starts), 81 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 3 apps (2 starts), 81 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Tokyo.
- Previous clubs: Fukushima United, Blaublitz Akita.
- Moved from Fukushima United to Blaublitz Akita in Jan 2023.

25 YUN Seong-jun

04.05.07 (19)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a central midfielder in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1, 456 league minutes so far. Strengths: reads the game and steps in to intercept and a busy tackler. Less convincing: plays few key passes. On the ball, watch him step in to cut out passes.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 7 apps (4 starts), 456 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 10 apps (5 starts), 456 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

- interceptions per 90: 2.6 – 99th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 2)
- tackles per 90: 2.2 – 80th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 25)
- pass completion: 83% – 60th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 46)
- passes per 90: 43.2 – 59th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 50)

ON AIR

STAT 2.6 interceptions per 90 – 2nd of 120 in the league in his position

CAREER

- South Korean midfielder.

26 Ren KATO

28.12.99 (26)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.75m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 7 apps (4 starts), 407 mins, 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 10 apps (6 starts), 440 mins, 0 G, 1 A.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Otaru; joined from Yokohama F. Marinos in June 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Tokyo Verdy, Yokohama F. Marinos.
- Moved from Tokyo Verdy to Yokohama F. Marinos in Jan 2024.

32 Mitsuki SAITO

10.01.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.66m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Fujisawa; joined from Vissel Kobe in Jan 2026.
- Previous clubs: Shonan Bellmare, Rubin, Gamba Osaka, Vissel Kobe.

44 Kyo SATO

21.03.00 (26)

THE PLAYER

An ever-present (all nine J1 games) who can play left-back or left wing-back. He started in a back four in Daejeon.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 9 apps (9 starts), 747 mins, 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 13 apps (12 starts), 837 mins, 1 G, 1 A.

- blocks per 90: 1.3 – 94th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 7)
- tackles per 90: 1.3 – 52nd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 51)
- duels won: 57% – 50th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 53)
- passes per 90: 41.3 – 33rd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 72)

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Tochigi; joined from Sagan Tosu in Jan 2023.
- Previous clubs: Sagan Tosu.

48 Ryuma NAKANO

06.10.02 (24)

THE PLAYER

A homegrown wide player, Kyoto's second-highest league scorer with two goals. Came on at 63 minutes in Daejeon.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 7 apps (7 starts), 530 mins, 2 G, 1 A. All competitions: 10 apps (8 starts), 557 mins, 2 G, 1 A.

- key passes per 90: 1.9 – 80th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 24)
- dribbles per 90: 0.85 – 45th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 67)
- tackles per 90: 1.4 – 41st percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 71)
- interceptions per 90: 0.68 – 40th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 72)

ON AIR

FACT Kyoto's second-highest league scorer this season (2), behind Elias (5).

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Osaka; joined from Ritsumeikan University in Jan 2025 on a free transfer.

77 Haruki ARAI

12.04.98 (28)

THE PLAYER

A direct wide forward and ever-present (nine J1 games, one goal). He started in Daejeon. The Japanese press list him among the players who can change a game.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 9 apps (8 starts), 680 mins, 1 G, 0 A. All competitions: 13 apps (10 starts), 770 mins, 2 G, 0 A.

- key passes per 90: 1.9 – 80th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 25)
- dribbles per 90: 0.79 – 42nd percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 70)
- tackles per 90: 1.3 – 40th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 73)
- duels won: 40% – 17th percentile among 120 league midfielders (rank 100)

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Saitama; joined from Sagan Tosu in Jan 2026.
- Previous clubs: Sibenik, TIAMO Hirakata, Cerezo Osaka, Sagan Tosu, Mito Hollyhock.
- Moved from Cerezo Osaka to TIAMO Hirakata in Jan 2024.

99 Fuchi HONDA

10.05.01 (25)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 5 apps (0 starts), 48 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 6 apps (1 starts), 48 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese midfielder, born in Fukuoka; joined from Sagan Tosu in June 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Sagan Tosu.

FORWARDS

7 Masaya OKUGAWA

14.04.96 (30)

THE PLAYER

Forward, 1.77m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 45 mins, 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 45 mins, 0 G, 1 A.

CAREER

- Japanese forward, born in Koka; joined from FC Augsburg in Jan 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: FC Liefering, SV Mattersburg, Holstein Kiel, Red Bull Salzburg, Arminia Bielefeld, Hamburger SV, FC Augsburg.
- Moved from Arminia Bielefeld to FC Augsburg in July 2023 on a free transfer.
- Honours: Cup (2019/20); Bundesliga (2019/20).

9 Rafael ELIAS

12.04.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

Kyoto's leading scorer and focal point: five goals in nine J1 starts, including two at Kashiwa. A strong, two-footed No.9 who came through Palmeiras. He went off after 29 minutes against Machida with a left shoulder injury. ➡ DOUBT.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 9 apps (9 starts), 733 mins, 5 G, 3 A. All competitions: 13 apps (11 starts), 743 mins, 5 G, 3 A. **DOUBT – LEFT SHOULDER (OFF 29' V MACHIDA, 10 OCT)**

- shots per 90: 4.3 – 95th percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 4)
- shots on target per 90: 1.8 – 94th percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 5)
- goals per 90: 0.61 – 81st percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 14)
- fouls won per 90: 1.2 – 63rd percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 27)

ON AIR

STAT 4.3 shots per 90 – 4th of 71 in the league in his position

FACT Has started every one of Kyoto's nine league games this season.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward, born in São Paulo; joined from Cruzeiro in Jan 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Atletico-MG, Goias, Palmeiras, Cuiaba, Ituano, Baniyas SC, Cruzeiro.
- Moved from Palmeiras to Ituano in Jan 2022 on loan.
- Honours: Copa do Brasil (2020/21); Serie A (2018).

11 MARCO TÚLIO

13.03.98 (28)

THE PLAYER

A Brazilian forward back after about five months out.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 9 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 2 apps (0 starts), 9 mins, 1 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward, born in Belo Horizonte; joined from Central Coast Mariners in Jan 2024.
- Previous clubs: Atletico-MG, Roeselare, CSA, Central Coast Mariners.
- Moved from Sporting CP B to CSA in Feb 2021 on loan.
- Honours: A-League Men (2022/23); Alagoano 1 (2021); CONMEBOL U17 (2015).

17 ALEX SOUZA

24.03.01 (25)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a centre-forward in Kyoto Sanga's 3-4-2-1, 226 league minutes so far. , 1.80m, medium-built. Strengths: wins his battles, wins free-kicks and takes on his man. On the ball, watch his duels.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 5 apps (2 starts), 226 mins, 1 G, 0 A. All competitions: 8 apps (3 starts), 271 mins, 1 G, 0 A.

- duels won: 55% – 95th percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 4)
- fouls won per 90: 2.0 – 84th percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 12)
- dribbles per 90: 2.8 – 82nd percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 13)
- key passes per 90: 1.6 – 75th percentile among 71 league centre-forwards (rank 18)
- (small sample: under 270 minutes)

ON AIR

STAT 55% duels won – 4th of 71 in the league in his position

CAREER

- Brazilian forward; joined from Turan in Jan 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Boluspor, Hegelmann Litauen, Turan.
- Moved from Hegelmann Litauen to Boluspor in Jan 2023 on a free transfer.

19 DAVID SILVA

26.02.08 (18)

THE PLAYER

Forward. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward; joined from Canaa in April 2026 (fee undisclosed).

23 Takumi KATO

16.07.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

Forward. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (0 starts), 42 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 2 apps (0 starts), 42 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese forward, born in Ryugasaki; joined from Matsumoto Yamaga in June 2026 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Shimizu S-pulse, Sagamihara.
- Moved from Sagamihara to Shimizu S-pulse in Jan 2023.
- Honours: J2 League (2024).

29 Ko SAKAI

07.10.07 (19)

THE PLAYER

Forward. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Japanese forward.

31 Sora HIRAGA

02.03.05 (21)

THE PLAYER

Forward, 1.73m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 0 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 mins, 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Japanese forward.
- Honours: Tournoi Maurice Revello (2024).

38 EVERTON Maceió

14.07.03 (23)

THE PLAYER

A young Brazilian forward who started in Daejeon and created chances off the bench against Machida. He gives Kyoto pace and dribbling between the lines.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 6 apps (3 starts), 236 mins, 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 9 apps (5 starts), 281 mins, 1 G, 0 A.

- interceptions per 90: 2.2 – 96th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 5)
- tackles per 90: 2.0 – 85th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 16)
- blocks per 90: 0.73 – 72nd percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 30)
- duels won: 54% – 36th percentile among 106 league centre-backs (rank 67)

ON AIR

STAT 2.2 interceptions per 90 – 5th of 106 in the league in his position

FACT Created chances off the bench v Machida, according to the J.League preview.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward; joined from Portuguesa in June 2026 on loan.
- Previous clubs: São Caetano, Mirassol, Portuguesa.
- Moved from São Caetano to Portuguesa in Sept 2023.

93 Shun NAGASAWA

25.08.88 (38)

THE PLAYER

The 38-year-old target man who led the line in Daejeon. At 1.92m he is the aerial option if Kyoto go direct.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 6 apps (0 starts), 81 mins, 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 9 apps (2 starts), 161 mins, 1 G, 1 A.

ON AIR

FACT The oldest player in Kyoto's squad (38).

CAREER

- Japanese forward, born in Shizuoka; joined from Oita Trinita in Jan 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Previous clubs: Roasso Kumamoto, Matsumoto Yamaga, Shimizu S-pulse, Gamba Osaka, Vissel Kobe, Vegalta Sendai, Oita Trinita.
- Moved from Gamba Osaka to Vissel Kobe in Aug 2018 on loan.
- Honours: Emperor Cup (2015/16).

SECTION 14 · SQUAD

Ratchaburi · squad bios

GOALKEEPERS

1 Nopphon LAKHONPHON 19.07.00 (26)

THE PLAYER

Goalkeeper. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand goalkeeper, born in Buriram; joined from Buriram United in July 2026 on loan.
- Previous clubs: Buriram United, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Ratchasima FC.

97 Ukrit WONGMEEMA 09.07.91 (35)

THE PLAYER

Goalkeeper, 1.83m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand goalkeeper, born in Phitsanulok; joined from Kasetsart FC in July 2025.
- Previous clubs: Thailand, Police Tero, Phrae United, Kasetsart FC.

99 Kampol PATHOMAKKAKUL 27.07.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Ratchaburi's experienced goalkeeper, who started the 6-4 defeat by Shanghai Port. He was beaten three times in the first half.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 5 apps (5 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Ratchaburi since 2021; vice-captain; fourth on the club's all-time appearance list (204) 🏆. 🏆 Earlier clubs not verified.

DEFENDERS

3 Tarek AGGOUN 27.10.97 (28)

THE PLAYER

A centre-back who started on Matchday 1 and set up Njiva's hat-trick goal in stoppage time.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 1 G, 1 A. All competitions: 5 apps (5 starts), 1 G, 2 A.

CAREER

- Arrived from Al-Shorta (Iraq) in July 2026 🏆 single source. 🏆 Earlier career not verified.

4 Jonathan KHEMDEE 09.05.02 (24)

THE PLAYER

A young centre-back who started on Matchday 1.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (3 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- 🏆 Career before Ratchaburi not verified at build time.

5 Daniel TING — (DOB unverified)

THE PLAYER

Defender. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Defender; joined from Johor Darul Takzim FC in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Malaysia.

15 Adisorn PROMRAK 21.10.93 (32)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.75m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 2 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Thailand defender, born in Songkhla; joined from Port FC in June 2023.
- Previous clubs: Army United, Police Tero, Muangthong United, Nong Bua Pitchaya, Port FC, Thailand.
- Moved from Muangthong United to Port FC in Aug 2020.
- Honours: League Cup (2017); League Cup (2016); Thai League 1 (2016); ASEAN Championship (2016); League Cup (2014); ASEAN Championship (2014).

20 Sanchai NONTASILA 30.03.96 (30)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.80m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 2 A. All competitions: 3 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 2 A.

CAREER

- Thailand defender; joined from BG Pathum United in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Police Tero, Thailand, BG Pathum United.

23 Kevin DEEROMRAM

11.09.97 (29)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.80m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand defender, born in Stockholm; joined from Selangor in Dec 2025 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Atvidabergs FF, Port FC, Selangor, Thailand.

27 Jesse CURRAN

16.07.96 (30)

THE PLAYER

A versatile Australian-born Philippines international who can play right-back, right wing or midfield. Fourth season at Ratchaburi; ex-Dundee in Scotland. Started on the opening night.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 5 apps (5 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT Of Scottish and Filipino heritage; Graham Arnold scouted him for Australia in 2018 before he chose the Philippines.

INTERNATIONAL

Philippines: 14 caps, 0 goals (to March 2025). Debut 29 Mar 2022 v Singapore. Born in Australia; also eligible for Scotland. ► **unverified: caps since March 2025 not checked**

CAREER

- Born in Burnie, Tasmania; Central Coast Mariners youth, then Dundee 2015-19 (loans at Montrose and East Fife).
- Thailand from 2020: Muangthong (loans at Udon Thani and Nakhon Ratchasima), Kaya-Iloilo (Philippines), BG Pathum, Chonburi (loan).
- Ratchaburi since July 2023 (84 league apps by June 2026). Philippines international since 2022 (14 caps by March 2025).

29 Kiattisak CHIAMUDOM

19.10.94 (31)

THE PLAYER

Defender, 1.71m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand defender; joined from Chainat in Dec 2019 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Bbcu, Chainat.

31 Sai VAN WERMESKERKEN

28.06.94 (32)

THE PLAYER

A Dutch-born right-back raised in Japan, back in Japan tonight after two seasons at Kawasaki Frontale, with whom he came on in the 2025 Asian final. Long career in the Eredivisie.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 5 apps (5 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT Came on for Kawasaki Frontale in the 2025 Asian final (lost 2-0 to Al-Ahli) and started the semi-final win over Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr.

INTERNATIONAL

Uncapped at senior level. Japan U23: 5 caps (2016).

CAREER

- Born in Maastricht to a Dutch father and Japanese mother; raised in Yamanashi, Ventforet Kofu academy.
- Netherlands: Dordrecht, Cambuur (twice), PEC Zwolle, NEC Nijmegen.
- Kawasaki Frontale 2024-25: Japanese Super Cup 2024; came on in the 2025 Asian final v Al-Ahli. Ratchaburi 2026. Japan U23 (5 caps, 2016).

33 P. PROMJAN

— (DOB unverified)

THE PLAYER

Defender. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Defender; joined from Suphanburi in July 2025 on a free transfer.

MIDFIELDERS

6 TANA

20.09.90 (36)

THE PLAYER

A small (1.69m) creative attacking midfielder or winger from Las Palmas. Named in the Thai League 1 Team of the Season last season and third on Ratchaburi's all-time scoring list. Started on the opening night; expected on the left of the three behind Njiva.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (1 starts), 1 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (2 starts), 1 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT Las Palmas hired a private detective to follow him before terminating his contract in 2020 (reported by Marca).

INTERNATIONAL

Uncapped.

CAREER

- Las Palmas academy and first team 2013-20 (129 league apps, 12 goals; top-flight debut v Villarreal 2015); loan at Zhejiang Greentown 2019.
- Albacete 2021; Maziya (Maldives, 2022 continental group stage: two goals); Churchill Brothers (India) 2022-23; Tamaraceite and Mensajero (Spain).
- Joined Ratchaburi in August 2024. Thai League 1 Team of the Season 2025-26.

8 **Thanawat SUENGCHITTHAWON** 08.01.00 (26)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.71m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (2 starts), 1 G, 1 A. All competitions: 2 apps (2 starts), 1 G, 1 A.

ON AIR

FACT Ratchaburi captain; took the pre-match press conference with Worraoot at the stadium on 12 Oct (Kyoto Shimbun).

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder, born in Bangkok; joined from Muangthong United in Aug 2024.
- Previous clubs: Leicester, Muangthong United, Thailand.
- Honours: ASEAN Championship (2021/22); FA Cup (2020/21).

10 **Jonathan VIERA** 21.10.89 (36)

THE PLAYER

Ratchaburi's 36-year-old No.10, a playmaker with one Spain cap. Scored 30 goals for Beijing Guoan, who Ratchaburi meet on Matchday 5. Set up Njiva's second goal against Shanghai Port.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 1 A. All competitions: 5 apps (5 starts), 0 G, 2 A.

ON AIR

FACT Won one Spain cap, playing the full 90 minutes in a 1-0 win in Israel in October 2017.

FACT Ratchaburi play his old club Beijing Guoan away on Matchday 5 (1 Dec).

INTERNATIONAL

Spain: 1 cap, 0 goals – full 90 minutes in a 1-0 win in Israel, 9 Oct 2017 (World Cup qualifier). Spain U21: 1 cap.

CAREER

- Las Palmas-born; Las Palmas (four spells), Valencia, Rayo Vallecano (loan), Standard Liège.
- Beijing Guoan 2018-21 (around €11m; Chinese FA Cup winner and top scorer 2018).
- Almería 2024, Khor Fakkan (UAE) 2024, Johor Darul Ta'zim 2025, Las Palmas 2025-26; Ratchaburi 2026. Spain: one cap (v Israel, 9 Oct 2017).

16 **ROQUE MESA** 07.06.89 (37)

THE PLAYER

A 37-year-old deep-lying midfielder who sets the tempo – Swansea paid £11m for him in 2017 after he helped Las Palmas back to the Spanish top flight. Combative for his size (1.72m). Started on the opening night alongside Allardice.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (3 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (4 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT Viera and Mesa were unveiled together by Johor Darul Ta'zim in Feb 2025 – JDT come to Ratchaburi on Matchday 4.

CAREER

- Telde-born; Las Palmas 2011-17 (promotion to the Spanish top flight 2015).
- Swansea City 2017-18 (£11m), Sevilla 2018-20, Leganés (loan), Valladolid 2020-23, Sporting Gijón 2023-24.
- Johor Darul Ta'zim 2025 (signed alongside Viera); Ratchaburi 2026.

19 **Thiraphon YOYOEI** 25.10.94 (31)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.76m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder, born in Roi Et; joined from Muangthong United in July 2025.
- Previous clubs: Army United, Police Tero, Pattaya United, Thailand, Muangthong United.

21 **Ekanit PANYA** 21.10.99 (26)

THE PLAYER

A small (1.68m) Thai attacking midfielder with J.League experience at Urawa Reds and Ehime. On loan from BG Pathum; three league goals already, and scored late against Shanghai Port.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (4 starts), 3 G, 0 A. All competitions: 6 apps (4 starts), 4 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT First Thai player to appear at a FIFA Club World Cup (Urawa Reds, 2023). Scored on his Urawa debut, a 6-0 win over Hanoi.

FACT Has played in the J.League, according to the J.League preview.

INTERNATIONAL

Thailand: 29 caps, 2 goals (to Sept 2025). Debut 2019; goals v UAE (Oct 2019) and Syria (Oct 2024). ASEAN champion 2022, King's Cup 2024. ■ **unverified: caps since Sept 2025 not checked**

CAREER

- Chiang Rai-born; Chiangrai United academy and first team (Thai champions 2019), loans at Chiangmai.
- Muangthong United 2022-24, with a loan at Urawa Reds 2023-24 (scored on his continental debut v Hanoi; first Thai player at a Club World Cup).
- BG Pathum United 2025 (loan at Ehime, J2); on loan at Ratchaburi since July 2026. Thailand: 29 caps, 2 goals; ASEAN champion 2022.

22 **Phongsakorn SANGKASOPHA** 19.10.06 (19)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.80m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder; joined from Hua Hin Maraleina in Jan 2024 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Hua Hin Maraleina.

28 Thossawat LIMWANNASATHIAN 17.05.93 (33)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.71m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (2 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 6 apps (2 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder, born in Loei; joined from Bangkok United in July 2025.
- Previous clubs: Army United, Chiangrai United, Muangthong United, Thailand, Bangkok United.
- Moved from Army United to Chiangrai United in Jan 2017 on loan.
- Honours: FA Cup (2023/24); Thai Champions Cup (2023); League Cup (2017).

37 Kritsananon SRISUWAN 11.01.95 (31)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder, 1.75m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 3 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder; joined from Prachuap in Jan 2019.
- Previous clubs: Prachuap.

42 Sorawit PANTHONG 20.02.97 (29)

THE PLAYER

Midfielder. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

No competitive appearances yet this season.

CAREER

- Thailand midfielder, born in Bangkok; joined from Muangthong United in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Sisaket, Police Tero, Muangthong United.

48 Scott ALLARDICE 31.03.98 (28)

THE PLAYER

A Scottish defensive midfielder from Dundee who played in the 2023 Scottish Cup final for second-tier Inverness against Celtic. Screens in front of the back four alongside Roque Mesa.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 0 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

ON AIR

FACT Played in the 2023 Scottish Cup final for Inverness against Celtic (lost 3-1).

INTERNATIONAL

Uncapped at senior level. Scotland U19.

CAREER

- Born in Dundee; Dundee United academy (coached by Ian Cathro), loans at East Fife and Dumbarton.
- Bohemians and Waterford (Ireland), Inverness CT 2020-23 (2023 Scottish Cup final), Ross County 2023-25.
- Ratchaburi from Oct 2025, then Visakha (Cambodia); back at Ratchaburi in July 2026 ■. Scotland U19.

FORWARDS

7 RAFAEL BILÚ 21.04.99 (27)

THE PLAYER

A Brazilian winger who started on Matchday 1.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 2 apps (1 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward, born in São Paulo; joined from Avai in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Corinthians, America Mineiro, CSA, Mirassol, Criciuma, Cruzeiro, Juventude, Guarani Campinas, CRB, Avai.
- Moved from Guarani Campinas to Juventude in July 2025.

9 BRUNO MENDES 02.08.94 (32)

THE PLAYER

A Brazilian centre-forward who started on Matchday 1 and was replaced by Njiva after 66 minutes.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (3 starts), 1 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (4 starts), 1 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- Brazilian forward, born in Cruzeiro; joined from Deportivo Maldonado in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Botafogo, Atletico Paranaense, Avai, Vitória SC, Avispa Fukuoka, Cerezo Osaka, Guarani Campinas, Vila Nova.
- Moved from Avispa Fukuoka to Cerezo Osaka in Jan 2022.
- Honours: Goiano 1 (2025).

11 Jordan GELE 16.09.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Forward, 1.92m. Too few league minutes this season for a statistical profile.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 1 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A.

CAREER

- French forward, born in Houilles; joined from Al Kharaitiyat in July 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Compiègne, Sainte Geneviève, Mulhouse, FC Winterthur, Rapperswil, Viitorul Şelimbăr, FC WIL 1900, Unirea Slobozia, FCSB, Al Kharaitiyat.
- Moved from Unirea Slobozia to FCSB in Feb 2025 (fee undisclosed).
- Honours: Liga I (2024/25).

32 Robert ŽULJ

05.02.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Plays as a central midfielder in Ratchaburi's 4-2-3-1, 117 league minutes so far. , 1.89m, tall. No single standout area in the numbers so far.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 2 apps (1 starts), 1 G, 1 A. All competitions: 3 apps (1 starts), 1 G, 1 A.

- (small sample: under 270 minutes)

CAREER

- Austrian forward, born in Wels; joined from Buriram United in Sept 2026 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Ried, Red Bull Salzburg, SpVgg Greuther Fürth, Union Berlin, 1899 Hoffenheim, VfL Bochum, Al-Ittihad Kalba, Lask Linz, Buriram United.
- Moved from VfL Bochum to Al-Ittihad Kalba in July 2021 for a reported fee of €350K.
- Honours: 2. Bundesliga (2020/21); Cup (2013/14); Bundesliga (2013/14); Cup (2010/11).

88 Chotipat POOMKAEW

29.05.98 (28)

THE PLAYER

A wide midfielder who came on in the 6-4 defeat and set up Njiva's first goal.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 3 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 0 A. All competitions: 4 apps (0 starts), 0 G, 1 A.

CAREER

- Thailand forward, born in Nakhon Sawan; joined from Chiangrai United in July 2023 on a free transfer.
- Previous clubs: Chiangmai FC, Chiangrai United.
- Moved from Chiangrai United to Chiangmai FC in Feb 2019 on loan.
- Honours: FA Cup (2020/21).

92 NJIVA Rakotoharimalala

06.08.92 (34)

THE PLAYER

Ratchaburi's goal machine. A Madagascar forward with 15 Thai League 1 goals last season (fourth in the scoring charts), he came off the bench against Shanghai Port and scored a hat-trick in 24 minutes. The Japanese press expect him to start.

SEASON SO FAR (2026-27)

League: 4 apps (3 starts), 1 G, 1 A. All competitions: 6 apps (3 starts), 4 G, 1 A.

ON AIR

- FACT** Hat-trick at 71', 84' and 90+5' v Shanghai Port, plus the assist for Ekanit at 90+6'.
- FACT** Played for Madagascar at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (3 sub appearances).

INTERNATIONAL

Madagascar international; played at AFCON 2019. ► **unverified: cap total conflicts between sources (30/7 v 54/14)**

CAREER

- Madagascar forward; Ratchaburi since 2023 – 47 goals in 81 apps, second on the club's all-time list.
- Earlier: CNaPS Sport (Madagascar), Fosa Juniors, Sukhothai, Nongbua Pitchaya, Al-Jandal (Saudi Arabia), FC Fleury 91 (France) ► order not verified.
- Played for Madagascar at AFCON 2019. Club's top league scorer 2023-24 (9) and 2025-26 (15).

SECTION 15

Stats

METRIC	KYOTO SANGA	RANK	RATCHABURI	RANK
Goals per game	1.22	12	2.25	2
Goals conceded per game	1.78	15	0.75	2
Shots per game	12.7	12	16.5	7
Shots conceded per game	16.2	18	14.5	7
Shots on target per game	4.1	10	8.0	4
On target conceded per game	5.1	16	5.5	10
Shots from inside the box	58%	19	70%	2
Shot conversion	9.6%	12	21.2%	2
Corners per game	3.2	19	8.0	3
Fouls per game	11.8	13	10.0	4

MATCH BY MATCH · LEAGUE

TEAM	DATE	MATCH	SCORE	SHOTS	OPP SHOTS	ON TARGET	OPP ON TGT
Kyoto Sanga	2026-08-09	V-varen Nagasaki 2-1 Kyoto Sanga	1-2	10	16	3	4
Kyoto Sanga	2026-08-15	Kawasaki Frontale 2-2 Kyoto Sanga	2-2	13	21	6	7
Kyoto Sanga	2026-08-22	Kyoto Sanga 1-3 Mito Hollyhock	1-3	15	15	4	6
Kyoto Sanga	2026-08-29	Kyoto Sanga 2-1 Avispa Fukuoka	2-1	8	19	3	9
Kyoto Sanga	2026-09-02	Yokohama F. Marinos 1-1 Kyoto Sanga	1-1	14	17	6	2
Kyoto Sanga	2026-09-06	FC Tokyo 2-0 Kyoto Sanga	0-2	9	19	3	6
Kyoto Sanga	2026-09-11	Kyoto Sanga 2-3 Kashiwa Reysol	2-3	15	19	5	6
Kyoto Sanga	2026-09-19	Fagiano Okayama 1-2 Kyoto Sanga	2-1	13	7	3	1
Kyoto Sanga	2026-10-10	Kyoto Sanga 0-1 Machida Zelvia	0-1	17	13	4	5
Ratchaburi	2026-09-06	Ayutthaya FC 2-1 Ratchaburi	1-2	18	16	6	7
Ratchaburi	2026-09-11	Ratchaburi 1-0 Bangkok United	1-0	—	—	—	—
Ratchaburi	2026-09-20	Rayong FC 1-1 Ratchaburi	1-1	—	—	—	—
Ratchaburi	2026-10-09	Ratchaburi 6-0 Sukhothai FC	6-0	15	13	10	4

KEY INDIVIDUAL NUMBERS · ALL COMPETITIONS

KYOTO SANGA	METRIC	VALUE	RATCHABURI	METRIC	VALUE
Rafael ELIAS	League goals	5	Ekanit PANYA	League goals	3
Rafael ELIAS	Shots per 90	4.30			
Ryuma NAKANO	Key passes per 90	1.87	Tarek AGGOUN	League goals	1
Shimpei FUKUOKA	Pass completion %	86			
Yoshinori SUZUKI	Duels won %	66	TANA	League goals	1
HALLS	Save rate %	74			

Ranks within each club's own league: J1 League out of 20, Thai League 1 out of 16. Expected-goals data is not available for either league, so the house xG rows are replaced with shot-based metrics. Possession and passing figures for Thai League 1 are incomplete and are not used; "—" = no match statistics available. Ratchaburi minutes are omitted in bios for the same reason.

Closing injury recap & referee

Before we get under way, the team news. For Kyoto, the big question all day has been Rafael Elias, their top scorer with five league goals, who hurt his left shoulder on Saturday and came off after twenty-nine minutes. Alex Souza, the match-winner against Okayama, is the man expected to lead the line. Yoshinori Suzuki, rested for the trip to Korea, is expected back in the heart of the defence.

For Ratchaburi, the talk is of Njiva Rakotoharimalala, whose twenty-four-minute hat-trick off the bench on the opening night has surely earned him a start. They also have real experience in the middle of the park with the Spaniards Roque Mesa and Jonathan Viera.

The referee is Qasim Al-Hatmi from Oman, who took charge of Australia against Japan in the world finals qualifying last year and averages around four yellow cards a game in Asian club football. Recap: Kyoto, sixteenth in Japan's top flight and still looking for a first ever win at this level, against Ratchaburi, sixth in Thailand and beaten six-four in a wild opener. Both sides are on zero points. One of them won't be by the end of the night.

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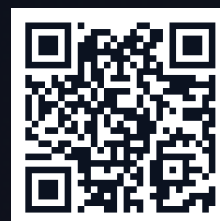
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