

Macedonia v Armenia - Player Ratings

Wednesday, 08 September 2010

How the Macedonian players fared individually against Armenia in their second qualifying match.

Rating is based on 0 to 10, 10 being the maximum rating a player can receive.

Starting 11:

4 Edin Nuredinoski:

The Macedonian goalkeeper did all he could in this match. Had several decent saves, could have reacted better in the first goal that came from a difficult angle.

1 Aleksandar Todorovski: In his first match ever for Macedonia, the Serbian born Macedonian had a tough time playing alongside Aleksandar Mitreski and Nikolce Noveski. Did not fit well in the defensive strategy, failed to set up offside traps after which two goals were scored. Did not appear fit to play for 90 minutes.

9 Goran Popov: The

Dinamo Kiev player had an excellent showing. Tireless during the entire match. Time after time, in a style similar to Maicon took the ball from his own box and ran the entire field feeding it to the forwards. Macedonian fans sent him off with a strong applause.

2 Igor Mitreski: Was on the backfoot most of the match. Didn't communicate well with his colleagues in defense. Reacted too slow during the first goal. Couldn't handle the speedy Armenians.

5 Nikolce Noveski: Bright spot in defense. The Mainz player stopped numerous counter attacks by the Armenians. Transitioned well from defense to offense.

3 Ivan Trickovski: Apart from a ferocious 35m free kick that drew an awesome save by the Armenian goalie, Trickovski failed to test the goalie. As a goalscorer, he simply must test the opposing goalkeepers a lot more than a single shot during an entire match. Did not appear to want the ball.

1 Slavco Georgievski: Not ready to play an entire match. His crosses appeared weak, with no intent. Walked most of the match.

1 Veliche Shumulikoski: Shumulikoski had two decent defensive stops. His lack of speed was evident and can be faulted for the second goal when Manucharyan outpaced him with ease. Slow midfielder is not what Macedonia needs at the moment. Speaking of "Midfield", we have yet to see our midfield. For most of the match, Mak defensive players fed the offense. Where is the midfield... ?

3 Goran Pandev: Was well guarded by Armenian defenders. Could not muster a single shot on goal. Overall weak performance from a player with high expectations. Growing problem is his team-mates wait on Pandev to win the match by himself. Is this why Macedonia wins without Pandev? Is the rest of the squad expecting too much of him and refuse to take responsibilities in their own hands (legs)?

6 Stevica Ristic: Solid game for the forward. Extremely unlucky not to score. The Armenian goalie did well to come up with a last gasp save to deny Ristic. Sent numerous dangerous shots on goal, also hit the cross bar.

8 Mario Gjurovski: Brought Macedonia back into the match after the initial shock of 0-1 with a nice goal outside the box. Sent numerous shots on goals, looked for opportunities to score. Ran his heart out until he was subbed.

----- Subs-----

4 Ilco Naumovski: The UFC fighter entered the match and replaced Ristic in the second half. Earned a yellow card for choking two Armenians within a minute upon his introduction. Seemed very slow upfront, could not keep a possession. Kept his cool to stave off a huge embarrassment for the national team by scoring a late, late penalty.

NA Filip Despotovski: did not get enough playing time to earn a rating.

5 Baze Ilijoski: Used his chance to make the most of it. Was involved in the creation of several goal scoring chances. He

stuck out from the rest of the offensive players with his speed. //MINA

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