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Malaysia crush Laos for opening win

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MALAYSIA 4 LAOS 0

MALAYSIA got off to a bright start at the Asian Youth Under-19 qualifiers at the Larkin Stadium last night.

Kholadeth Phonphacanh, the Laotian rightback under pressure from Akmal Rizal Ahmad Rakhli, miskicked Jaafar Salleh's cross from the right.

The ball spun into his own net and beyond the reach of Somlith Pophannouvone to give Malaysia a 34th minute lead.

Laos were still hanging in there but at least Malaysia found the confidence to surge forward with more purpose and committment.

Skipper Hairuddin Omar could have put Malaysia further ahead in the 55th min but in his eagerness to find the net he chose to ignore two other teammates who were in a better position to score.

His shot lacked the power to trouble the Laotian goalkeeper.

Coach Hatem Soussi was fuming on the sidelines and understandably so as his skipper failed to tap in with the goalkeeper at his mercy in the 57th minute.

But all was forgiven in the 69th minute.

The Terengganu-born Hairuddin chased a long ball from Faziallah Mamat and ran into the 18-yard box before chipping his shot past the arms of Pophannouvone.

Laos' early promise and enthusiasm fizzled out as they struggled to cope with the growing confidence of the Malaysians.

It was all over for them in the 82nd when Akmal Rizal hammered home a poor clearance off a cornerkick to make it 3-0 before Mahathir Mohamed Jamal made it 4-0 in the 90th.

Earlier China, the pre-tournament favourites, also scored a comfortable 5-0 victory in their opening match against Singapore.

China won with goals from Chen Licheng (30th and 53rd), Shen Han(49th and 89th) and Zhao Yunhe (60th minute).

(END)