



FIFA World Cup Qualifier: United Arab Emirates 2-0 Iraq - Player Ratings



Iraq's hopes of qualifying for their second ever FIFA World Cup were effectively dashed on Tuesday with a poor 2-0 defeat to United Arab Emirates. We give our ratings for all fourteen players involved in the game:

Mohammed Hameed:

Could do nothing about either goal, but his distribution was poor and handling was shaky on occasions. Was always ready to come off his line and clear the ball in the second half when needed. **6/10**

Waleed Salem:

A decent performance as he kept the left-flank fairly secure but went for the long ball far too often, choosing to neglect short passing opportunities and bypass the midfield. **5/10**

Mustafa Nadhim:

Fairly solid showing from the defender who made some important blocks and interceptions, but was far too slow to get back for the second goal. **5/10**

Ahmed Ibrahim:

Iraq's most reliable defender put in a pretty good performance in this game, generally doing well to keep the UAE at bay. Did his best to try and block Ismail Matar's goal and seemed to be the only Iraqi interested in actually doing so. **6/10**

Dhurgham Ismail:

One of Dhurgham's most disappointing performances for Iraq. Was left wanting far too many times out wide and UAE seemed to be targeting the right-flank to exploit his poor performance. Should have done better on the first goal with his clearance and offered very little going forward, leaving many fans wondering why Ali Adnan wasn't subbed on. **4/10**

Saad Abdul-Amir:

Played well in the first-half, making an effort to try and stamp his authority on the midfield alongside the ineffective Amjad Attwan. Seemed to lose concentration in the second period though as more and more passes went astray. **5/10**

Amjad Attwan:

The 19 year-old was unfortunately one of the worst players on the pitch. Gave away a countless number of needless fouls, stopping the game from flowing and playing right into UAE's hands. Very few of his passes seemed to connect and he left midfield partner Saad having to try and do all the dirty work. Didn't do enough to justify his surprise selection. **4/10**

Justin Meram:

Iraq's best player on the day. Was very lively on the left wing and created almost all of Iraq's main chances. Although very wasteful with his shooting and some of his passing, on another day he could have had two assists and he was the driving force of a lacklustre Iraq attack. **6/10**

Ahmed Yasin:

Fairly wasteful on the ball and seemingly lethargic off it, but nonetheless was a threat going forward and did well to set up Mohanad Abdul-Raheem in the first-half with a bit of trickery followed by a dangerous cross. Iraq's attack clearly suffered after he was taken off with an injury. **5/10**

Alaa Abdul-Zahra:

For a player who is captain of the team and has made over 100 appearances, Alaa should have set an example for the rest of the team but instead he was anonymous throughout the game until he was taken off. Did little to prove the doubters wrong as he failed to make an impact on the game at all. **4/10**

Mohanad Abdul-Raheem:

Made some good runs and got into some good positions, including in the first half where he was unlucky not to score from Ahmed Yasin's cross. Could have scored with a second half header too but it was well saved. Did his best to be a focal point of the attack but in truth was rarely involved in the game as UAE dominated the ball. **5/10**

Subs:

Bashar Rasan:

Came on at the end of the first half and should have made it 1-1 immediately but missed the ball entirely and wasted one of Iraq's biggest chances in the game. Made next to no impact during the entire second half. **4/10**

Ayman Hussein:

Didn't make any noticeable impact on the game. **5/10**

Brwa Nouri:

Wasn't on long enough to make any real difference. **5/10**