



## 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Iraq 4-0 Thailand



### MOHANAD SCORES FOUR AS IRAQ FINALLY GET POINTS ON THE BOARD

Iraq picked up their first win under new manager Radhi Shenaishil as a scintillating performance from Mohanad Abdul-Raheem saw the 23 year-old score all four goals in a 4-0 win.

Iraq, who finished below Thailand in the second round of qualifiers, made sure not to make the same mistakes that they did last time as they got off to a blistering start as Ahmed Yasin's corner eventually found Mohanad who converted from close range after just seven minutes.

Iraq's captain Alaa Abdul-Zahra should have doubled the lead soon after but his effort was saved. It didn't take long for the second goal to come however; Ahmed Yasin headed onto the post from point-blank range before receiving the ball again and firing at goal only for the 'keeper to parry the ball straight to Mohanad who gladly tucked away his second.

Iraq should have had a third minutes later when Ahmed Yasin's cross-cum-shot went in off of an offside Mohanad, and Iraq had further first-half chances through Udinese's Ali Adnan and Ahmed Yasin again.

Iraq took their foot off the pedal in the second period and Thailand almost punished them for it as the Thais started to look more dangerous and create more chances. Thailand's hopes were effectively dashed though when Koravit Namwiset was sent off for an off-the-ball incident with Ahmad Ibrahim, and their substitute Prathum Chutong went off injured afterwards leaving them with nine men on the field.

Iraq made the most of their two-man advantage late on as they added two more goals to the scoreline. The first was the result of some great build up play that eventually led to Ali Adnan firing at goal; Adnan's effort was parried and Dhurgham Ismail put the ball on a plate for Mohanad to tap into the open goal and claim his first hat-trick in an Iraq shirt.

It would get better for the 2015-16 Iraqi Premier League joint top scorer though, as some great play from young right-back Alaa Mhawi was followed by a great cross that Mohanad got onto the end of as the predatory striker (dubbed the "new Younis Mahmoud" by many) bagged his fourth tap-in of the day.

Iraq now sit in fifth place in their group with three points from a possible twelve, and Radhi Shenaishil's men's next game is a must-win encounter with the United Arab Emirates in November.

To see the highlights of the game, [click here](#).