

Yang Hyun-jun Celtic Korean duo loses 1-2 to Lazio

The "Celtic Duo" appeared in the "War of Stars." Yang Hyun-joon, a young player in the K League born by Gangwon FC, started, and Oh Hyun-kyu, a hawkish boy band produced by Suwon Samsung, took the ground as a substitute. However, neither player was able to prevent the loss.

Celtic came from behind to lose 1-2 to Lazio in the second Group E match of the 2023-24 UEFA Champions League (UCL) at Celtic Park in Celtic, Scotland, at 4 a.m. on the 5th. As a result, Celtic (0, 2, 1 win, 4 losses, -3) fell to fourth place.

[Points of the game] Newcomers who entered Celtic for "Ki x Cha Duo" \rightarrow "O x Yang x Kwon Trio"

Celtic, who formed a 'Korean duo' with Ki Sung-yueng and Cha Du-ri in the past. Following Oh Hyun-kyu last winter, Yang Hyun-joon and Kwon Hyuk-kyu joined the team this summer, completing the "Korean Trio." Rising stars, who embroidered the K-League stage, were expected to travel around Europe and UCL.

At the time, Celtic said, "I am happy to announce the recruitment of Yang Hyun-joon, who has signed a five-year contract. Gangwon FC striker Yang Hyun-joon, who was a young player in the K League, will meet Oh Hyun-kyu at Celtic Park," he said, adding, "I signed a five-year contract with Busan I-Park midfielder Kwon Hyuk-kyu. I will be with my colleagues Yang Hyun-joon and Oh Hyun-kyu. Kwon Hyuk-kyu said he grew up watching Ki Sung-yong, a member of the South Korean national team who played for Celtic as a child," announcing the official statement of the South Korean player.

Manager Brandon Rogers said, "I'm sure Yang Hyun-joon will be a great recruit. We have watched him closely and think he will further improve his attacking options. It is also clear that he was very keen on going to Celtic. I'm really looking forward to joining you," he said with joy. In addition, "I'm really happy to recruit Kwon Hyuk-kyu with the announcement of Yang Hyun-joon. He is also a player the club has known for a long time, so I am satisfied that the deal has been made. We are looking forward to Yang Hyun-joon and Kwon Hyuk-kyu joining the squad and performing their roles," he said, expressing satisfaction.

Yang Hyun-jun, who entered Scotland, said, "I'm very happy to be at Celtic. I am also looking forward to meeting new colleagues and training together. It's good to be in Scotland as a Celtic player. "I've already heard good things about Oh Hyun-kyu and the team and fans," he said, expressing his feelings about joining the team.

Kwon Hyuk-kyu also said, "It is very big for me to join the Scottish champion. Celtic is already very famous in South Korea. There are currently three Korean players, and I'm sure it will be great to play with them," he said, raising expectations for the Korean trio.

This is the complete Celtic Korean trio. But all three players couldn't smile. Kwon Hyuk-kyu was unfortunately excluded from the UCL entry. Instead, Oh Hyun-kyu and Yang Hyun-joon were included normally.

[Content of the game] Celtic lost by conceding the '90+5 minute come-from-behind goal' Celtic left for the Netherlands in the first leg and faced Feyenoord but lost 0-2. Manager Brendan Rodgers started the Japanese national team and key members Kyogo Furuhashi and Daizen Maeda. Yang Hyun-joon and Oh Hyun-kyu made their UCL debut as substitutes.

The opponent for the second round is Lazio. Rodgers pulled out a 4-3-3 formation. Yang Hyun-joon, Furuhashi, and Daizen were on the three top. Hatate Leo, Callum McGregor and Matt O'Riley were in the midfield. The four backs consisted of Greg Taylor, Liam Scales, Nathaniel Phillips and Alistair Johnstone, and goalkeeper gloves were worn by Joe Hart. Oh Hyun-kyu started on the bench again this time.

Lazio, led by Maurizio Sarri, also had a 4-3-3 formation. Matia Zakani, Chiro Immobile and Felipe Andersson formed the offense. The midfield was handled by Luis Alberto, Matthias Besino and Daichi Kamada. Elside Hisai, Alessio Romagnoli, Patricio, and Manuel Lachari held on to the defense, and Ivan Freubdel defended the goal.

Celtic broke the balance in the early hours. In the 12th minute of the first half, Maeda dug into the center from the right side and passed. O'Riley connected to Furuhashi, who tried to break the line with a one-touch pass. Furuhashi took a one-on-one chance and scored with a calm shot.

It wasn't Lazio to stay put. 29th minute corner kick chance. Alberto Cross rolled high into the box. Besino connected with a header while the ball was deflected off Patricio's foot. Hart tried to reach out and block it, but it had already crossed the goal line.

The second half was also close. Celtic swallowed the disappointment. In the 36th minute of the second half, Palma pushed Maeda's saved ball into the net, but the referee declared offside. Lazio laughed towards the end. Pedro finished Matteo Guiangduzi's cross with a

header in the extra time of the second half and scored. In the end, the fierce game ended with Lazio's 2-1 come-from-behind victory.

[Korean Duo] "Yang Hyunjun 62 minutes x Oh Hyunkyu 12 minutes" is a normal evaluation

Yang Hyun-joon played the ground for 62 minutes before being replaced by Luis Palma in the 17th minute of the second half. He performed well even in his first start. In the 31st minute of the first half, he sought a chance in conjunction with fullback Taylor. In the fourth minute of the second half, he pressed Rachary to steal the ball. He handed the cutback to the center, but there was no player to shoot. In the 13th minute of the second half, he attempted to break through directly from the side to the center. He also got a foul from Kamada and brought a free-kick chance in a good position.

Soccer statistical media 'Sopa Score' gave Yang Hyun-jun 6.9 points. It was lower than Furuhashi (7.0 points) who scored the first goal and higher than Maeda (6.8 points) who played full time. The main stats recorded in the game include 67% of dribbling success rate (3 attempts-2 successful), 62% of passing success rate (21 attempts-13 successful), 50% of ground competition success rate (10 attempts-5 successful), and 75% of aerial competition success rate (4 attempts-3 successful). It was a shame that there was no shot attempt.

The defeat sent Celtic to the bottom of the group. The next opponent is also formidable. It is a prestigious Atletico Madrid representing Spain's La Liga along with Barcelona and Real Madrid. Celtic will bring Atletico home at 4 a.m. on the 26th to seek victory.