

Karachi United shocks Punjab, Army edges out WAPDA on penalties to book their places in the Final of the 12th National Women's Football Championship

The semifinals of the 12th National Women's Football Championship did not disappoint by any means as they provided the excitement of the crunch matches that was promised. In an upset win over the previously unbeaten Punjab who had secured the easier tie in the semis after beating Army in their last group stage game, Karachi United booked their place in the final in the first semifinal. Whereas the second semifinal of the day, an equally exciting affair between the two heavy weights WAPDA and Army, the decision had to be made through penalty shoot outs after the two teams drew 1-1 in the 90 mins of normal time and failed to score in the extra time as well. Army came out on top to complete the lineup of the final match to be played on Sunday.

In the first semifinal of the day, Karachi United came face to face with Punjab who had been unbeaten during the group stage matches. Punjab went into the game missing two key players, Zulfia and Diana Baig. The game's first half ended in a deadlock as both teams went into the break without scoring any goals. In the second half, Karachi United's pressure paid off as Aliha Aladin scored the first goal of the match in the 64th minute. Karachi United's lead was doubled when in 74th minute Nina's solo effort gave KU a 2 goal lead and eventually helped KU win the match 2-0.

The second semifinal of the day was played between WAPDA and Army, two heavy weights of the Pakistani Football. The two were predicted to meet in the final but Army lost to Punjab on the last day of group stage, finishing second in the group. The match started with WAPDA putting most of the pressure on their opponents but Hajra Khan managed to score in the 19th minute against the run of the play, giving Army the lead. WAPDA came back strong once again and scored in the dying minutes of the first half thanks to Aliya Sadiq scoring in the injury time of the first half (45+1). Both teams went into the break on level terms. WAPDA's equalizer also meant that this became the first match of this edition of the National Women's Football Championship in which both teams scored. Both teams failed to score in the second half as well as the extra time, ending the match on 1-1 and going to the penalties. Both teams scored their first penalties thanks to WAPDA's Sahar Zaman and Army's Khadija who missed all of the subsequent penalties until Army captain Malika Noor scored and won the game for Army to book their place in the final.

The final will be played on 12th January in the Karachi United stadium at 3 PM. The third place playoff will be played between WAPDA and Punjab at 12 PM on the same day.