

Al Hilal and St Éloi Lupopo 1-1

1. Al Hilal

2. St Éloi Lupopo

3. MC Alger 1pt

4. FC Lupopo 1pt

Al Hilal picked up an important point away to St Éloi Lupopo after a balanced 1-1 draw in Lubumbashi on Sunday, keeping Group C wide open after two matchdays of the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League.

The Sudanese giants made the sharper start and were rewarded in the 12th minute when Abdelraziq Omer reacted quickest in the box, steering home from close range. Lupopo struggled to settle and frustration grew, with captain Issama Mpeko booked before half-time.

The Congolese outfit were still without full-back Dieumerici Mukoko Amale, who served the game of his two-match suspension while assistant coach Yassine Salmi remained in charge as Guy Bakaso remains continues to serve his touchline ban.

The Congolese side returned stronger after the break. Their substitutions brought urgency and territory, forcing Al Hilal deeper as the minutes ticked on. The pressure finally told in the 79th minute when Ramos Kashala tucked in a loose ball to level the match and ignite the home crowd.

Hilal looked dangerous on the counter in the closing stages but were forced to defend in numbers, collecting two late bookings as they held firm for a point. Lupopo substitute Mika Miche was also cautioned in added time as tempers rose, yet neither team could find the winner.

The draw follows the goalless meeting between MC Alger and Mamelodi Sundowns on Friday. Sundowns top Group C on goal difference with four points, level with Al Hilal. MC Alger sit on two points, while Lupopo have one from their opening two games.

Lupopo, meanwhile, got their group stage debut off to a losing start after going down 3-1 to Sundowns in South Africa last weekend.

Both sides return to continental action in January, with Al Hilal hoping to extend their unbeaten start as the group tightens.