Rui Araki

Gamba Osaka / Goalkeeper / 19 years

Published 28 Oct 2026 / Last re-checked 28 Oct 2026

VERDICT: MATSU'S ASSESSMENT

Current level	Developing J1 goalkeeper
18 to 24 months	Future Japan senior contender; European first-team potential
Status / confidence	Shortlist / Medium
Why	At 19, Araki brings size, reach and shot stopping, backed by an U23 Asian Cup title and Best Goalkeeper award at 18. One of the Japanese goalkeepers I would prioritise for development.

Role

I see Araki as a goalkeeper to develop towards a first-team shirt. His size and shot stopping give him a clear starting point, and his Japan career shows how quickly he has progressed against older players. At this age I would build the plan around starts, goalkeeper coaching and responsibility. [01][08]

Key data: competitions kept separate

Sample	Apps / starts	Minutes	Goals
2026/27 J1 through 22 August; log checked 28 October [02]	3 / 3	270	0
2026 special competition [13]	7 / 7	630	0

Appearance-log cutoff: 22 Aug 2026. Advanced panels keep their own source dates.

Three starts and 270 minutes in 2026/27 J1. The official panel records 12 saves and a 63% save rate, with no clean sheets. Those numbers describe his opening three league matches. They are an early senior sample, while the stronger development signal comes from his tournament responsibility with Japan. [02][08]

Physical

195cm and 86kg on Gamba's profile, with a right-foot preference. The frame and reach are already there. His REAL SPORTS interview makes the development task clear: add strength while keeping the movement sharp. He is still growing into the goalkeeper he can become. [01][15]

Official tracking available for 0 of 3 listed appearances. Per-match distances, sprint counts and source dates are in the full report.

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Development and Japan youth career

He has just turned 19. In three years he has gone from an U17 tournament reserve to an U23 champion and Asian Games final starter. My projection is a future Japan senior contender with the physical and shot-stopping platform to establish himself in Europe. The next move needs to give that potential regular senior games.

Agent / agency: Centre Circle Consulting (CCC). Publicly listed; secondary-source evidence / checked 28 Oct 2026 [17][18][19]

Development priorities

The strongest evidence of his knockout composure is the U23 quarter-final against Jordan. He stopped the first and fourth penalties as Japan won the shootout 4-2. He then kept China out in the 4-0 final and collected the tournament's Best Goalkeeper award. He was 18. [09][08]

Medical history

Gamba confirmed on 18 October that Araki fractured the olecranon of his left ulna, at the elbow, on 9 October against Kashima. Surgery was completed on 14 October. The club notice gives no return date. His current absence needs to be assessed as injury rehabilitation, with medical clearance and a return-to-goalkeeping plan checked before a move. [11]

Club fit and pathway

Gamba Osaka / Senior development pathway: Win sustained senior starts and develop distribution, cross decisions and high-line play. [02]

European development move / Role-led recruitment target: Choose the club around the first-team pathway and specialist coaching.

Before a bid

Watch full matches for preparation, rebound control, crosses, distribution and high-line decisions. Confirm senior-minute pathway, representation mandate, contract, registration, total cost and medical records.

Market value: Unverified. **Contract:** The official club profile establishes Gamba Osaka membership. A current contract expiry is not published in the verified source. [01]

Method and limits

Ive used public data and reporting. Full-match and live scouting are still to do. Medical clearance, contract and playing time need direct checks. Missing numbers stay blank. Samples keep their dates and competitions separate.

Selected numbered sources

[01] Gamba Osaka: Official player profile: Rui Araki. Current profile; career panel as at 1 August 2026
[08] AFC: Japan's Araki named Best Goalkeeper. 25 January 2026
[14] Number Web / Toshio Ninomiya: Araki explains his preparation for close-range saves. 20 September 2026
[02] J.League: 2026/27 official appearances and goalkeeper statistics. Widget updated 27 October 2026; appearances through 22 August
[13] Football LAB / Data Stadium: Separate 2026 special-competition sample. Provider update 25 May 2026

The full numbered evidence register, all appearance rows and source coverage are linked from the online report.