



# TECHNICAL REPORT



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# INTRODUCTION

The adoption of a joint format in this edition for the latest Technical Reports of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup™ Uzbekistan 2024 and AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024 serves to facilitate a greater ease of reference for technical observers, with the two sister competitions having taken place within two months of the other.

Furthermore, the smaller number of participating teams - eight each - relative to other AFC international age-group tournaments allowed for a compact joint report to be produced, without compromising on the usual quality standards.

Technical observers and other interested parties will also appreciate the availability of this Technical Report, which comes in advance of the upcoming corresponding FIFA tournaments - FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Colombia 2024 from August 31 to September 22 and FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024 between October 16 and November 3 - where Asia's representatives will aim to do the Continent proud.





# MESSAGE FROM THE AFC PRESIDENT

*Dear friends and colleagues,*

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the combined Technical Report for both the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ Indonesia 2024 and the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup™ Uzbekistan 2024.

Embodying the true essence of dominance, DPR Korea's back-to-back successes deserve our wholehearted praise and, so on behalf of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), I would like to offer our heartiest congratulations once again to the DPR Korea Football Association for securing both titles in Indonesia and Uzbekistan.

We must also commend our finalists in both competitions, Japan, who similarly to DPR Korea, have continued to serve as an inspiration for our Member Associations (MAs) to aspire for excellence with their commitment to strengthen women's youth football over the years.

The Continent's women's youth football has endured a challenging period in recent times and, after a pandemic-induced hiatus of nearly five years, I know our teams and players were eager to showcase their capabilities, so I must also put on record our sincere gratitude to all our MAs for showcasing incredible resolve to grow the women's game.

The Technical Study Groups have produced this report with meticulous attention, having spent hours watching and tactically analysing both tournaments to provide all our participating teams with an insightful understanding of the key areas of focus to enhance the competitive landscape of women's age-group football in Asia.

The pages that follow provide all coaches and players alike, as well as the Technical Directors, with a valuable reference point as they look to develop robust systems and structures for women's football to thrive.

I want to assure you that the AFC is committed towards working in close partnership with our Technical community and our MAs as we bring to life our bold Vision to ensure our Asian teams continue to excel on the world's biggest stages.

It is a promise underlined by the reforms introduced to the women's club game in recent months and our desire to expand the reach of women's football in Asia by bringing our world-class competitions to new territories and audiences across the Continent.

On that note, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our first-time hosts, both the Football Association of Indonesia and the Uzbekistan Football Association, as well as the respective Local Organising Committees for solidifying the foundations for women's youth football to scale even greater heights.

I extend my thanks to the AFC Technical Committee, the AFC Women's Football Committee and the Technical Study Groups for their contributions to what I believe is a resourceful report in establishing more competitive opportunities for our future generations of women's football to shine.

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
AFC President





**AFC U20  
WOMEN'S  
ASIAN CUP™**

# **AFC U20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP UZBEKISTAN 2024**

*TECHNICAL REPORT*



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

## OVERVIEW

The AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup™ Uzbekistan 2024 was held in the Central Asian nation for the first time with eight teams competing for the coveted title from March 3 to 16.

DPR Korea emerged as champions with a 2-1 win over Japan, while Australia finished third after edging Korea Republic 1-0 in the Third-place Playoff.

All four teams qualified for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Colombia 2024, to be held in Cali, Medellin and capital Bogota from August 31 to September 22.

Australia, China PR, Chinese Taipei and Vietnam advanced from the qualifiers, joining the top three teams from the AFC U-19 Women's Championship™ - Japan, DPR Korea and Korea Republic - and hosts Uzbekistan in the Finals.

The matches were played at the JAR Stadium and Do'stlik Stadium in the nation's capital of Tashkent.



# GROUP STAGE

## GROUP A



Australia were the standout team in Group A, opening their campaign with a 2-1 win over Korea Republic after going behind to Jeon Yu-gyeong's 25th-minute goal.

Strikes from Peta Trimis (73rd) and Naomi Thomas-Chinnama (90th), completed the comeback and sealed the three points.

Hosts Uzbekistan were up next for the Young Matildas, who collected another three points with Daniela Galic (5th) and Trimis (38th) wrapping up the victory in the first half.

Top spot was sealed with a routine 3-0 victory over Chinese Taipei, with Jessika Nash (20th), Zara Kruger (40th) and Claudia Cicco (81st) finding the back of the net.

Korea Republic bounced back from their opening defeat to beat Chinese Taipei 6-0, with Jeon (28th, 36th), Won Chae-eun (65th, 79th), Kim Shin-ji (54th) and Bae Ye-bin (64th) the scorers.

The defeat was a blow to Chinese Taipei's Semi-final hopes, with the East Asian side having beaten Uzbekistan 2-0 in their opening match.

Needing a win to be absolutely sure of their Semi-final spot, Korea Republic went for goals from the first blow of

the referee's whistle in their final Group Stage tie against Uzbekistan, ultimately winning 13-0.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

## GROUP B



Japan set the early pace in Group B when the six-time winners cruised to a 10-0 win over Vietnam.

DPR Korea, meanwhile, had to settle for a 1-1 draw with China PR after Kim Song Gyong's 84th-minute goal was cancelled out by Huo Yuexin four minutes later.

Japan had to work harder on Matchday Two but had enough in the tank to see off China PR 2-0, a result which confirmed their Semi-final spot with a match to spare.

DPR Korea cruised to a 6-0 win over Vietnam to set up an exciting Matchday Three showdown with Japan.

Matchday Three saw China PR, needing a win to keep their Semi-final hopes alive, going for goals against Vietnam with the East Asian side finally settling for a 6-1 victory.

It wasn't enough in the end as DPR Korea, thanks to Chae Un Yong's 22nd-minute goal, edged Japan 1-0 to finish top of Group B.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

# SEMI-FINALS



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT



## DPR KOREA 3-0 KOREA REPUBLIC

DPR Korea advanced to the Final after an impressive 3-0 win over Korea Republic.

It was a masterful performance from DPR Korea, who dominated the Semi-final from start to finish at the Do'stlik Stadium.

After coming close several times, DPR Korea opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time with a strike from Choe Il Son.

Jong Kum doubled the advantage in the 51st minute with Hwang Yu Yong capping a fine team performance with her goal in the 78th minute.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT



## AUSTRALIA 1-5 JAPAN



A second-half surge saw Japan ease 5-1 past Australia in their Semi-final at the JAR Stadium.

Hiromi Yoneda opened the scoring as early as the third minute for Japan but Peta Trimis drew Australia level 10 minutes later.

Japan, however, turned on the power in the second half with Uno Shiragaki (63rd) restoring their lead, and Maya Hijikata (83rd) and Chinari Sasai (88th) taking them further ahead.

Japan's fifth was courtesy of an own goal when Australia's Naomi Thomas-Chinnama sent the ball into the wrong net in the 89th minute.





## THIRD- PLACE PLAYOFF

### AUSTRALIA 1-0 KOREA REPUBLIC

Australia finished third with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Korea Republic at the JAR Stadium.

Having been under pressure for much of the match, Australia struck against the run of play in the 79th minute to seal the win.

With Korea Republic inching closer with every effort, Australia head coach Leah Blayney sent on attackers Milly Boughton and Lara Gooch midway through the second half to regain the momentum.

It was a move which paid off brilliantly as Boughton's pass found Gooch, who lifted the ball past an advancing Park Hyun-jin for the winner.





# THE FINAL

## JAPAN 1-2 DPR KOREA

Jon Ryong Jong scored twice as DPR Korea came from behind to defeat Japan 2-1 in the Final at the JAR Stadium.

Victory for DPR Korea ended their long wait for the title, having last won the tournament in 2007 and finished runners-up in the last five editions.

It was heartbreak for Japan, who entered the Final aiming to add to their record six titles.

Japan had got off to a dream start after several missed opportunities, taking the lead through Ai Tsujisawa in the 20th minute.

The setback galvanised DPR Korea into action and their positive play was rewarded just before the break when Jon rose highest to nod home Chae Un Yong's cross from the right flank.

# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

Japan continued to dictate play in the second half but couldn't find the finishing touch, which ultimately proved costly.

Jong Kum finished a surging run down the right flank by sending a cross into the Japan penalty box, with Jon again finishing with a header to seal the win and the title for DPR Korea.

DPR Korea's Chae Un Yong was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player with teammate Chae Un Gyong picking up the Best Goalkeeper Award.

Japan's Maya Hijikata won the Yili Top Scorer Award with the East Asian side also taking the Fairplay trophy.





# THE WINNING COACH

# RI STRIKES THE RIGHT BALANCE

"Tactically, we aimed for a balance between defence and transitioning into swift counterattacks," said Ri Song Ho after his team's 2-1 comeback win against Japan in the Final – DPR Korea's second victory over Michihisa Kano's side during the final tournament. The gold medal, after a run of five successive silvers, was a glittering reward for five months of preparation divided into two spells. The first, in July and August 2023, was an exploratory exercise involving 35 players who were scrutinised during a training camp and in three practice matches – crucial elements given that the team was not required to play in qualifying rounds. During the second, running from January until the final tournament in March, Ri worked with a reduced group, taking them to China PR to play two preparation games.

Between the two camps, the squad – all full-timers in the country's 12-team Premier League – trained regularly at their clubs. "The main focus during the preparation period," Ri explained, "was on allowing the players to become accustomed to one another. In other words, team-building.

On the training pitch, we set out to achieve the right balance by working on attacking and defending movements, along with implementing our match strategies. I was satisfied, maybe even surprised, by the players' performance and their application to implementing our tactics."

Ri, who has accumulated 25 years of coaching experience since a knee injury forced the former Rimyongsu FC player to hang up his boots after seven seasons, held the coaching role at Wolmido FC's women's team before taking over the U20 squad. He maintains that, tactically, he relies on a "simple philosophy" allied with a policy of open communication with his players. He also pays great attention to physical preparation. "The distinguishing factor is how we manage our players' condition," he insisted. "Football demands meticulous conditioning and only when the team achieves peak physical fitness can we play the style of football we aspire to." After the Semi-final against Korea Republic, he commented: "I think we looked in better physical shape, which helped us get there in the end."



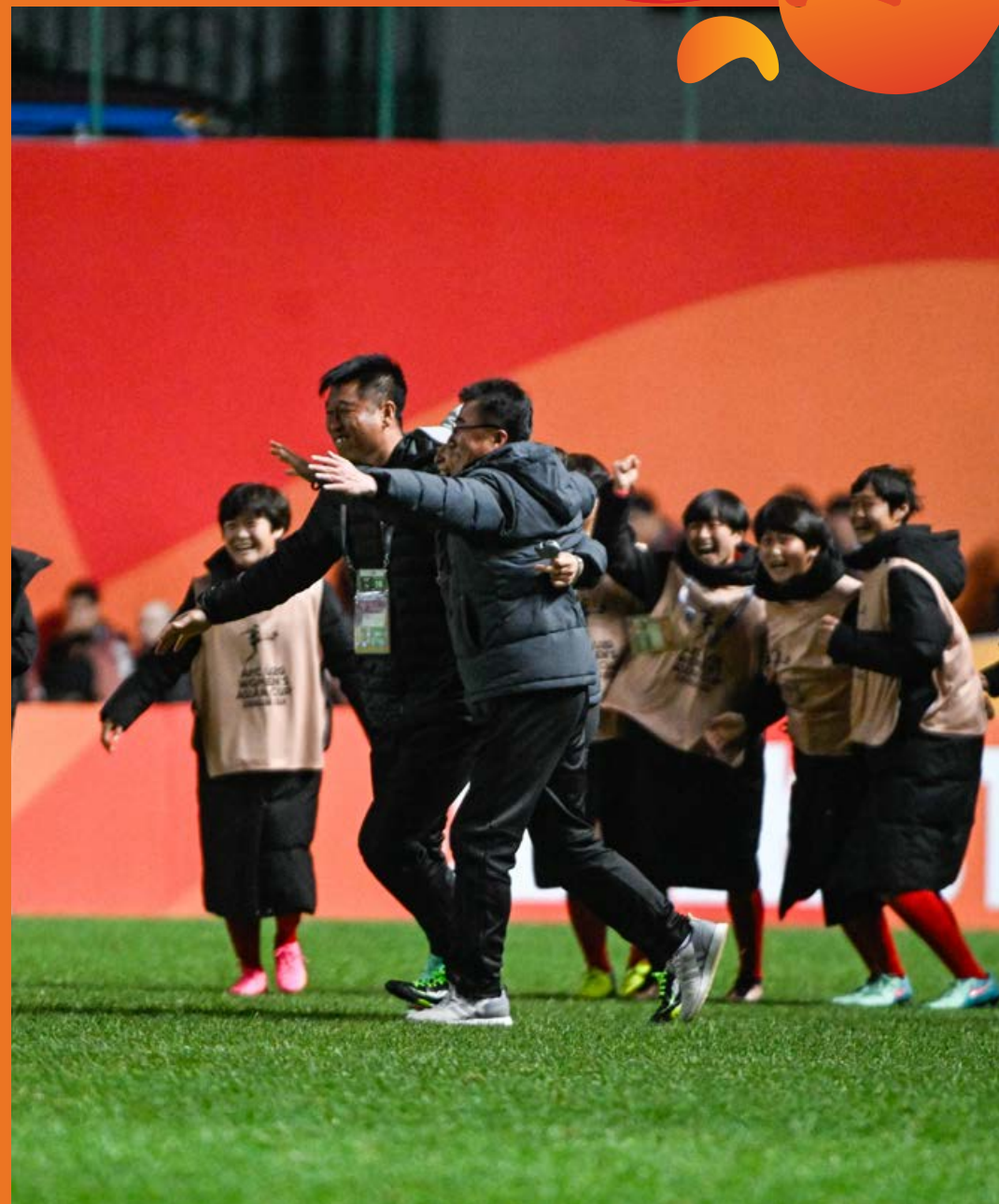
# THE WINNING COACH THE WINNING COACH

The technical observers in Uzbekistan felt that athletic conditioning was a vital factor in the champions' ability to sustain high levels of tempo and intensity, along with, as they put it, "tenacious high or mid-block pressing based on compact collective movement, physicality, persistence and the ability to create numerical superiority".

Ri's contribution from the technical area featured some brave, unorthodox substitutions – such as two changes in the 43rd minute of DPR Korea's opening fixture against China PR, having previously been obliged to substitute his first-choice goalkeeper after 26 minutes. Against Vietnam he adjusted his formation after 23 minutes. In the Group Stage game against Japan and the Semi-final against Korea Republic, he later withdrew substitutes he had sent on at half-time and the 38th minute respectively. His decision-making was often ratified by an immediate impact,

along with his composure in not making changes – illustrated by his use of only two substitutions during the Final against Japan when, he later confessed: "In the first half, we conceded a goal, which was not what we had anticipated. However, during the half-time interval, I advised the players to remain composed and we managed to improve on our first-half performance. I used the break to speak to each player individually and to emphasise the importance of teamwork. In the second half, they performed well, demonstrating a clear understanding of my instructions."

Ri's reward was a first gold medal in the AFC competition since their AFC U-19 Women's Championship victory in 2007 and an opportunity for his side to strike the right balance again during the bid for a third FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title in Colombia.





# TECHNICAL TOPICS

The first AFC U20 Asian Women's Cup™ ended a five-year void since the competition had last been staged as the AFC U-19 Women's Championship in 2019. Consequentially, most of the players had no previous experience of elite-level international football. The lineup, with the host nation and Australia as the exceptions, endorsed the domination of this competition by teams from a certain geographical zone. But the eight contestants at the final tournament shared the appetising incentive that half of them would earn places at the first 24-team FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup to be disputed in Colombia, just under six months after the event in Uzbekistan. The tournament, it has to be said, was affected by inclement weather – to the extent that the opening match between Korea Republic and Australia was played on a pitch where most of the wide areas were relatively clear but with the snow in the central zone representing a challenge to ball-play. The conditions contributed to very low attendances, with the result being that the players were unable to experience a big-tournament atmosphere.



As the Group Stage unfolded, it became apparent that, as the AFC technical observers remarked, “three levels of football were witnessed. The finalists, DPR Korea and Japan, were the most impressive and suggested that they can be contenders on the world stage. Australia, Korea Republic and China PR were also very competitive, while the other teams clearly need to work on narrowing the gap with the elite.” The three-tier nature of the tournament led to disfigured data. For example, Australia had 73% of possession against Chinese Taipei and 26.5% in their Semi-final against Japan; China PR had 63% against Vietnam but no more than 37% in their other two matches. DPR Korea delivered 49 crosses against Vietnam but no more than six in their Group Stage match against Japan. In other words, statistical averages proved to be extremely unreliable or even misleading.

## THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF DEFENDING

Seven of the eight teams deployed a back four as their default setting, the exception being China PR who opted for three centre-backs and two wing-backs against strong opposition in Group B. In their Semi-final against the champions, Korea Republic switched to a three centre-back format. “When we played with a back four,” explained head coach Park Youn-jeong, “we conceded a lot of chances from out wide, so we made the change to a back three in order to counter our opponents. The move was also intended to help us create more in attack, but that didn't really work out.” The contestants were evenly divided in terms of using single or twin holding midfielders.

There was, however, diversity in the general positioning of defences, with the top teams prepared to hold a high line while the lower-tier sides dropped into low defensive blocks. Chinese Taipei, for example, stayed narrow to force the opposition wide, whereas Uzbekistan focused on forming a compact block and Vietnam moved rapidly



to get numbers behind the ball. In the lower-tier teams, full-backs were predictably more conservative than the exuberant wide defenders in the top teams who were ready to make overlapping and underlapping runs. Australia's Jessika Nash and Sasha Grove provided prime examples. “They were key players in the team strategy,” the technical observers noted. “Both of them had good stamina, speed acceleration, passing accuracy and great defensive abilities in one-on-one situations.” They and the other three semi-finalists had full-backs who impressed with support for wing play, the creation of overloads and the delivery of crosses.

## HIGH PRESSING

The two finalists were the most adept at collective high pressing and counter-pressing. “Both showed anticipation, awareness and intelligence in trying to force opponents to make mistakes near their own goal and to regain possession as quickly as possible,” the technical observers reported. Australia, China PR and Korea Republic made more sporadic use of the high press, while the other teams focused on harassing the ball-carrier to buy time to assemble mid or low blocks. Vietnam initially set out to implement a high press but, after failing to disrupt their opponents’ build-up, quickly reverted to transitions into a deep block.

Japan and Korea Republic set the benchmarks in terms of ability to play out of the high press, with statistics serving as a rough guide to their proficiency. The duo posted pass completion rates in excess of 80% in their own half of the pitch followed, incidentally, by China PR with 77%. “They were patient and good at keeping the ball in their own half until they saw an opportunity to move the ball immediately to the forward players using a direct long pass,” the technical observers commented. By contrast, Uzbekistan, Chinese Taipei and Vietnam returned figures below 67% - signifying that one in three of passes in their own territory went either to an opponent or out of play.

Significant differences in the ability to play out of tight situations highlighted the relevance of physicality at this level, with players often simply brushed aside by stronger opponents. This served as a reminder that, at this development level, physical preparation is not exclusively about legs and lungs but also about upper-body resilience and the art of shielding the ball when being closely marked. As the champions’ coach Ri Song

Ho commented after the Final against Japan: “Football demands meticulous conditioning and only when the team achieves peak physical fitness can we play the style of football we aspire to.”

## PASSING EXAMINATIONS

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, combination moves accounted for only one in 10 of the tournament’s open-play goals. But Japan once again set benchmarks in this aspect of the game with neat two-touch interchanges in tight spaces often creating overloads, not only on the flanks but also in central areas. Michihisa Kano’s side excelled at opening body angles to receive the ball and at spotting passing channels. Japan’s use of the long pass did not exceed 10% in four of their five matches – the exception being the Final when DPR Korea forced the percentage up to 24%. China PR and, at times, Australia adopted a more direct approach, targeting a striker responsible for holding up the ball or laying it off for second-ball support. Significantly, the teams that fell at the Group Stage were the ones who made the most extensive use of long passing: China PR and Chinese Taipei with 20% each, Uzbekistan 24% and Vietnam 26%.

Continuing with the use of statistics to illustrate the differences between tiers, the two finalists were ahead of the field in terms of passing accuracy in opposition territory – Japan 76.5%, DPR Korea 72% – while the teams who travelled home after the Group Stage were considerably less efficient: China PR 57.5%, Chinese Taipei 53%, Uzbekistan 46% and Vietnam 35%. The latter – unlike the other three whose percentages declined still further when it came to passing in the final third – fared marginally better (37%) hinting at greater problems in middle-to-front approach play than when they managed to penetrate the attacking third.





## POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS

The technical observers in Uzbekistan were impressed by the quality of the wing play which, as the goalscoring analysis in this report demonstrates, generated 40% of the tournament's open-play goals. "The wide channels were maximised in the creation of goal-scoring opportunities," they reported, "with wingers driving the ball to take on defenders, strikers running behind the opponent's full-backs, full-backs overlapping and underlapping to create overloads, and good positional rotations". The Japan and DPR Korea wingers had pace and intelligence and were outstanding in one-on-one play while their full-backs, along with those of Korea Republic, were exceptional in supporting, creating overloads and delivering quality crosses.

The technical report on the 2019 final tournament mentioned "some goalkeepers were not as strong as others" – and the dust could be blown off the same sentence in 2024, where there were a number of goalkeeping errors, some of them costly. In general, however, the observers gave credit for their good shot-stopping standards, being vocal in organising defensive play and being ready to participate in building from the back. On the other hand, use of accurate longer passes to initiate counterattacks was infrequent – often because deep defensive blocks offered few outlets for immediate attacking.

Also in the credit column were figures related to a perennial talking point in AFC circles: low levels of real playing time. Alarm bells started ringing on the opening day when the ball was in play for 47 minutes and 14 seconds of the Uzbekistan v Chinese Taipei fixture – less than half of the total duration of the match. Fears, however, were allayed by subsequent events which led to a tournament average of marginally under 56 minutes – a significant improvement on the 52 minutes and 21 seconds posted at the senior AFC Women's Asian Cup™ in India in 2022. There were questions, however, about whether fatigue factors contributed to the fact that 44% of the tournament's goals hit the net during the final 15 minutes of each half and 29% after the 75th minute.



# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

## GOALS TALK - BUT NOT CLEARLY

The tournament in Uzbekistan yielded 70 goals at an exceptional average of 4.375 per game. However, almost a third of the total (31.43% to be exact) ruffled the Vietnam net – and distorted statistics. So did the 13-0 scoreline when Korea Republic took on the hosts, for whom the third fixture in a week proved to be a bridge too far. The result powered Park Youn-jeong's team to top spot in the scoring charts with 20 goals although, in the other four games, they scored seven – all but one of them against Chinese Taipei. More than half (10) of Japan's 18 goals were against Vietnam. Champions DPR Korea scored 13 (six of them against Vietnam) and, even though the tournament was prolific in goals, one of the decisive factors was that Ri Song Ho's defence conceded only two goals in five games. In other words, statistical evidence is unreliable.

On the other hand, the numbers echoed a topic that stood out as a salient feature at recent tournaments in the men's game: a decline in dead-ball successes.

### SET PLAYS

In Uzbekistan, the downturn was of startling proportions. Set plays accounted for no more than 14% of the goal tally – no more than half of the percentages generally considered the norm and well short of the 23% posted at the previous tournament: the U-19 event in 2019. Dead-



ball successes were so conspicuous by their absence that the topic is dealt with in the Talking Points section of this report.

Half of the modest total of set-play goals stemmed from corner kicks, with five conversions from 164 deliveries at a success ratio of 1:35.

The other five resulted from free kicks – four of them indirect. The exception was provided in eye-catching fashion by Japan midfielder Suzu Amano who produced an outstanding strike into the top corner from a position outside the left-hand corner of the box to seal her team's 2-0 victory over China PR.

### OPEN PLAY

Deliveries from the wide areas resulted in 40% of the tournament's 60 open-play goals – a noteworthy increase on the 33% posted in 2019. Of the dozen goals derived from crosses, champions DPR Korea enjoyed five successes from their 126 deliveries from the wings including, crucially, the excellent crosses which generated the two headed goals by Jon Ryong Jong that won them the Final against Japan. Korea Republic and Japan scored three apiece from crosses, while the latter fared better than any other team in converting the cut-backs which produced one of the tournament's most striking statistics. Backward deliveries from areas near the by-line yielded 11 goals compared with one single success in 2019. In Uzbekistan, the top teams were good at using this weapon against packed, deep-lying defences. On the other hand, successes generated by diagonal balls from deeper areas on the flanks declined from four to one – Australia's opening goal in the group game against Chinese Taipei.

By contrast, the number of goals from through passes and long-range shooting replicated the figures from 2019. However, Australia contributed four of the 10 forward-pass conversions while DPR Korea reaped zero dividends from their investment in the through pass. Shooting from outside the box did, however, produce two of the champions' goals – a figure equalled by China PR although, once again, their statistics were distorted by the group game against Vietnam, when 16 of their 47 goal attempts were from long range. Korea Republic hit three from distance; Japan and Chinese Taipei one apiece.

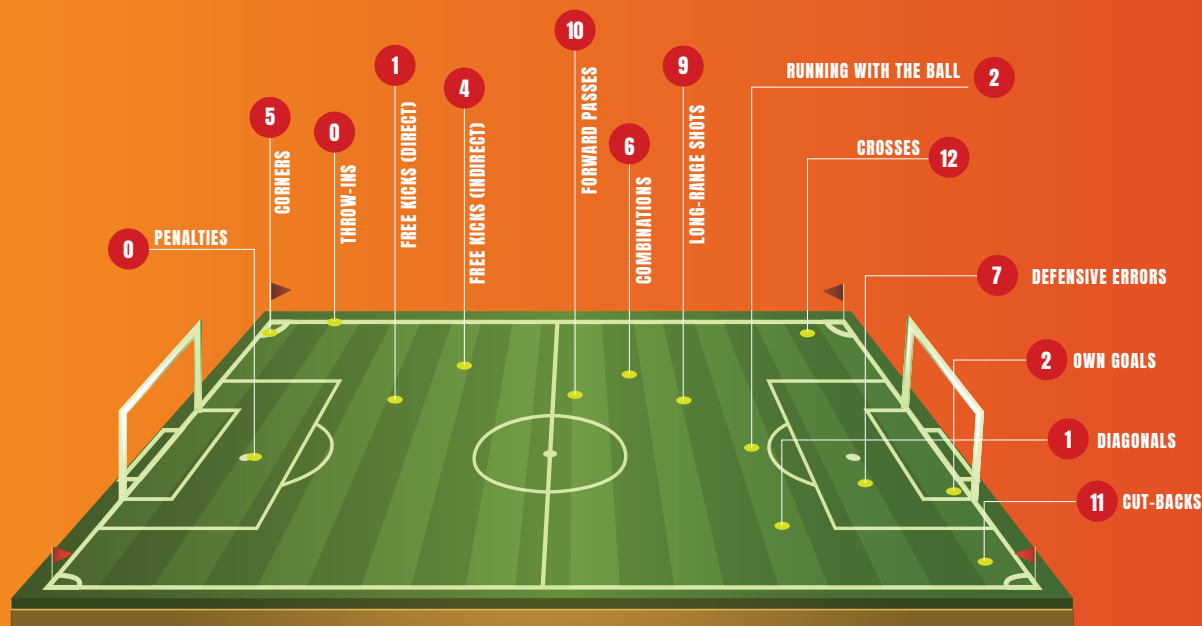
One of the perennial talking points at AFC events in the men's and women's games is the relative scarcity of goals derived from combination play – and the tournament in

# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

Uzbekistan was no exception. However, the common denominator amid the top four teams (the champions to a lesser extent than the other three) was the ability to penetrate packed defences with neat combination play – also a useful item in the China PR toolbox. Japan’s third goal in the Semi-final against Australia was a good example, while Australia, despite the snow, produced a combination move to beat Korea Republic in their opening fixture.

However, more goals stemmed from defensive errors than they did from combination play with goalkeepers sometimes at fault or passes going astray in key areas to emphasise the perils of the deep defending strategies often implemented by teams aware that they were taking on strong opposition. This was also a contributing factor behind the low number of nine successful counterattacks (15% of the open-play total), given that there was a lack of outlets after ball-winning in deep defence. Only one resulted from an immediate attack following a regain in advanced areas. Collective and classic back-to-front counters accounted for four apiece – the latter category well illustrated by China PR’s opening goal in the 11th minute of their game against Vietnam.

Headers supplied 12 of the tournament’s 70 goals, with all three in the final inflating the previous tally of nine in 15 matches. But the successes were evenly shared among only four teams: China PR, Japan, Korea Republic and DPR Korea.



## GOALS FROM SET PLAY

| ACTION                | GUIDELINES                              | GOALS |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Corners               | Direct from / following a corner        | 5     |
| Free kicks (direct)   | Direct from a free kick                 | 1     |
| Free kicks (indirect) | Following a free kick                   | 4     |
| Penalties             | Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty) | 0     |
| Throw-ins             | Following a throw-in                    | 0     |

**TOTAL GOALS SCORED : 70**

## GOALS FROM OPEN PLAY

| ACTION                | GUIDELINES                                      | GOALS |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Combinations          | Wall pass / combination move                    | 6     |
| Crosses               | Cross from the wing                             | 12    |
| Cut-backs             | Pass back from the bye-line                     | 11    |
| Diagonals             | Diagonal pass into the penalty box              | 1     |
| Running with the ball | Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass | 2     |
| Long-range shots      | Direct shot / shot and rebound                  | 9     |
| Forward passes        | Through pass or pass over the defence           | 10    |
| Defensive errors      | Bad back-pass / mistake by the goalkeeper       | 7     |
| Own goals             | Goal by the opponent                            | 2     |

# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

| Ranking | Player         | No. | Country        | Match                           | Time | Type            |
|---------|----------------|-----|----------------|---------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1       | Huo Yuexin     | 17  | China PR       | DPR Korea v China PR            | 88'  | Long-range Shot |
| 2       | Rio Sasaki     | 6   | Japan          | Japan v Vietnam                 | 70'  | Through pass    |
| 3       | Xia Lejiao     | 3   | China PR       | China PR v Vietnam              | 17'  | Long-range Shot |
| 4       | Kim Shin-Ji    | 6   | Korea Republic | Chinese Taipei v Korea Republic | 54'  | Long-range Shot |
| 5       | Jon Ryong Jong | 13  | DPR Korea      | DPR Korea v Japan               | 44'  | Cross & finish  |

| Ranking | Player        | No. | Country        | Match                       | Time | Type               |
|---------|---------------|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1       | Suzu Amano    | 16  | Japan          | China PR v Japan            | 88'  | Direct Free-kick   |
| 2       | Lu Jiayu      | 9   | China PR       | China PR v Vietnam          | 15'  | Corner Kick        |
| 3       | Nam Seung-Eun | 5   | Korea Republic | Uzbekistan v Korea Republic | 70'  | Corner Kick        |
| 4       | Uno Shiragaki | 17  | Japan          | Australia v Japan           | 63'  | Corner Kick        |
| 5       | Chae Un-Yong  | 20  | DPR Korea      | Vietnam v DPR Korea         | 3'   | Indirect Free-kick |



# TALKING POINTS

# CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO?

“The top three teams were well ahead of the others” – that sentence is culled from the Technical Report on the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship played in Thailand in 2019. Five years on, Australia’s performance in Uzbekistan hints at a quartet rather than a trio. But scorelines of 10-0 and 13-0 clearly indicated that there is still a sizeable gap between the elite teams and those with ambitions of joining them.

The first talking point is to what extent the pandemic-induced five-year hiatus has worsened the situation. Some of the players in Uzbekistan had acquired some elite-level international experience at the AFC U-16 Women’s Championship, also played in Thailand in 2019; some gained even further exposure at FIFA’s U-17 and U-20 World Cups in 2022. At the former, China PR and Japan were the AFC contestants along with India, who hosted the final tournament. At the latter, the participants were Japan, Australia and Korea Republic. While those elite teams were competing on the international stage, other MAs struggled to remain active and to nurture players through crucial stages of youth development. At the 2024 tournament, what were the chances of Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan or Vietnam challenging the status quo?

Uzbekistan, in the 2024 final tournament as hosts, did play qualifying matches (although their results were not counted). On the other hand, Japan, DPR Korea and

Korea Republic gained direct access to the final eight on the basis of the results obtained in 2019 (by different squads). Irrespective of their national pedigree, should their players be given more international exposure via the qualifying rounds? And would it help if teams from other MAs were offered chances to measure themselves against the benchmark-setters?

Equally thought-provoking was the consensus among coaches that, although there would be financial and logistical aspects, expanding the tournament would provide players with valuable experience, increase the level of competition and serve as an incentive for MAs to invest more in women’s football.

At the debating table, the basic question is: what more can be done to narrow the gap between the top teams and those on the lower rungs of the ladder with ambitions to climb it?

## REVIVING THE DEAD BALL?

The goalscoring analysis section in this report reveals that only 14% of the tournament’s goals stemmed from dead-ball situations and one statistic, in particular, raised a few eyebrows. In 1,440 minutes (plus over 100 of added time), referees did not point even once to the penalty spot. The most positive reaction to this oddity



would be to hand the tournament a Fair Play Award. But, if asked to suggest reasons, someone around the debating table would undoubtedly say, “well, there was no VAR”. Agreed. But that cannot be the explanation. Were there any purely footballing factors behind the conspicuous absence of spot kicks?

To fuel debate, one or two opinions were mooted. Did the frequent use of deep defensive blocks pre-empt solo runs into the box? Was the tempo of attacking play not high enough to provoke mistimed tackles? Was the tackling excessively tentative?

But, behind the anecdotal total of zero penalties in 16 matches lies a less anecdotal talking point. The dearth of set-play goals – especially the one solitary success from a direct free kick – raises questions about the training-ground work dedicated to this aspect of the game at youth development levels. Are players being encouraged to stay on the training pitch, as so many great players have done, to practise this speciality? Or, on the other hand, are statistics showing low success rates generating a vicious-circle scenario in which coaches can be persuaded that time spent on set play mechanisms (especially in attack) are a waste of time?



# TEAM PROFILES

## AUSTRALIA

| SQUAD |                    | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | CHLOE LINCOLN      | 04-01-2005    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | TIJAN MCKENNA      | 08-09-2004    | Defender   |
| 3     | TEGAN BERTOLISSIO  | 01-08-2006    | Defender   |
| 4     | GEMMA FERRIS       | 13-07-2004    | Defender   |
| 5     | JESSIKA NASH       | 05-10-2004    | Forward    |
| 6     | SHAY HOLLMAN       | 19-09-2005    | Midfielder |
| 7     | MILLY BOUGHTON     | 03-02-2006    | Forward    |
| 8     | ALANA MURPHY       | 21-09-2005    | Midfielder |
| 9     | JYNAYA SANTOS      | 22-09-2005    | Forward    |
| 10    | DANIELA GALIC      | 17-06-2006    | Midfielder |
| 11    | KAHLI JOHNSON      | 18-02-2004    | Forward    |
| 12    | TAHLIA FRANCO      | 22-09-2005    | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | PETA TRIMIS        | 18-05-2006    | Forward    |
| 14    | ZARA KRUGER        | 29-05-2006    | Midfielder |
| 15    | ALEXIA APOSTOLAKIS | 16-05-2006    | Defender   |
| 16    | CLAUDIA CICCIO     | 27-08-2004    | Defender   |
| 17    | MADELEINE CASPERS  | 15-03-2007    | Midfielder |
| 18    | GRACE WILSON       | 04-03-2005    | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | LARA GOOCH         | 11-02-2005    | Forward    |
| 20    | INDIANA DOS SANTOS | 10-10-2007    | Midfielder |
| 21    | NAOMI CHINNAMA     | 13-05-2004    | Defender   |
| 22    | GEORGIA CASSIDY    | 27-05-2005    | Midfielder |
| 23    | SASHA GROVE        | 30-12-2004    | Defender   |



**FORMATION: 1-4-3-3**



### COACH

**LEAH BLAYNEY (AUS)**

Led by former Australian midfielder Leah Blayney, the 2024 iteration of the competition marked Australia's ninth appearance; they finished fourth in the 2019 edition of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship. In 2024, with a narrow win over Korea Republic in the Third-place Playoff, the Young Matildas matched their 2006 best-ever finish as a maiden appearance in the Final eluded them once again.



### KEY FEATURES

- Attack-minded 1-4-3-3 with emphasis on wing play; overloads, early crossing
- Adventurous full-backs; speed, stamina, accurate passing, 1v1 defending
- Mobile target striker with physical presence, ability to shield ball
- Mix of building through thirds, direct attacks with high ball beyond back line
- Fast transitions to defence, pressing ball, dropping into defensive shape
- Well-organised unit with athleticism, explosive movement, mental strength

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>9</b>     | <b>6</b>      | <b>59</b> | <b>26</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>20</b>       | <b>53</b>     | <b>5</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER



PETA TRIMIS

**3**

NUMBER OF GOALS

## CHINA PR

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH  | Position   |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1     | LIU CHEN       | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | ZENG YUJIA     | Defender   |
| 3     | XIA LEJIAO     | Defender   |
| 4     | WANG SIQIAN    | Defender   |
| 5     | ZHAO XINYUE    | Defender   |
| 6     | ZHANG YIQIAN   | Midfielder |
| 7     | LI TINGYINGGE  | Midfielder |
| 8     | JIANG CHENJING | Midfielder |
| 9     | LU JIAYU       | Forward    |
| 10    | YU JIAQI       | Forward    |
| 11    | OUYANG YUHUAN  | Forward    |
| 12    | PAN HONGYAN    | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | WU YEJIA       | Forward    |
| 14    | GUO NAN        | Defender   |
| 15    | YU XINGYUE     | Midfielder |
| 16    | WANG AIFANG    | Midfielder |
| 17    | HUO YUEXIN     | Midfielder |
| 18    | ZHANG CHENXI   | Midfielder |
| 19    | LIU LING       | Defender   |
| 20    | WANG ZHEN      | Forward    |
| 21    | CHEN JIAYU     | Midfielder |
| 22    | GUO XINYU      | Goalkeeper |
| 23    | HUANG XUEYANG  | Defender   |



**FORMATION: 1-5-4-1**



### COACH

**WANG JUN (CHN)**

With seven podium finishes to their name, China PR have been among the most consistent teams in the competition, missing out on a Knockout Stage berth for the first time in 2019. The Young Steel Roses finished third in Group B behind eventual champions DPR Korea and runners-up Japan and exited the competition with four points.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-5-4-1; frequent use of counters with direct supply to target striker
- Emphasis on compact, positionally disciplined low-block defending
- Also ready to build patiently in own half, waiting for spaces to appear
- Mobile interchanging wide midfielders, notably No17 Huo Yuexin on left
- Fast infield runs to create room for overlapping wing-backs
- Good linking play, balancing by the two holding midfielders

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>7</b>     | <b>4</b>      | <b>57</b> | <b>19</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>5</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>24</b>       | <b>22</b>     | <b>3</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER

|   |            |                 |
|---|------------|-----------------|
|  | HUO YUEXIN | <b>2</b>        |
|  | LU JIAYU   |                 |
|  | YU JIAQI   |                 |
|   |            | NUMBER OF GOALS |



## CHINESE TAIPEI

| SQUAD |                  | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | WANG RUO-PING    | 07-03-2006    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | KAO HSIN         | 06-04-2007    | Forward    |
| 3     | KU CHIEN-YU      | 03-11-2005    | Defender   |
| 4     | LAI YU-CHI       | 06-09-2004    | Forward    |
| 5     | LIN YU-HUI       | 26-04-2006    | Defender   |
| 6     | PU HSIN-HUI      | 12-09-2005    | Defender   |
| 7     | LIN JING-XUAN    | 11-05-2005    | Midfielder |
| 8     | LIN I-TSEN       | 31-12-2004    | Midfielder |
| 9     | HSIAO YA-HSUAN   | 16-01-2005    | Defender   |
| 10    | LI YI-WEN        | 20-09-2005    | Forward    |
| 11    | HE JIA-SHIUAN    | 07-05-2005    | Forward    |
| 12    | CHUAN TZU-YU     | 04-11-2008    | Forward    |
| 13    | CHEN YU-CHIN     | 05-08-2007    | Midfielder |
| 14    | YANG HSIAO-CHUAN | 23-09-2005    | Forward    |
| 15    | LIU YU-CHIAO     | 14-12-2005    | Midfielder |
| 16    | MA HO-YA         | 02-05-2007    | Forward    |
| 17    | SUNG JUI-HSUAN   | 10-04-2005    | Midfielder |
| 18    | LIU YING-CHIA    | 01-09-2005    | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | JIANG YU-XUAN    | 24-02-2005    | Defender   |
| 20    | LI CHUN-MEI      | 03-08-2006    | Defender   |
| 21    | CHANG MENG-HSUAN | 07-11-2008    | Defender   |
| 22    | CHOU CHIEH-NI    | 19-01-2004    | Midfielder |
| 23    | CHIU I-HSIU      | 22-07-2005    | Goalkeeper |



**FORMATION: 1-4-3-3**



## COACH

**HSIEH CHIH-CHUN (TPE)**

Runners-up in the inaugural edition in 2002, this was Chinese Taipei's first appearance in the competition since 2009. The East Asian side's sole win in the Group Stage came against hosts Uzbekistan, which saw them finishing third in Group A and exiting the race to the Semi-finals.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with one controlling midfielder, two wingers ready to cut in
- Skilful combination game, building through thirds when not under pressure
- Also quick counters with direct supply to striker, second-ball support
- Fast transitions to narrow defensive block, inviting opponent to play wide
- Fluid movement, passing, running with the ball by two attacking midfielders
- Strong, composed, well-organised defence led by centre-back Hu Hsin-hui

## TOP SCORER

|   |               |                             |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|
|  | CHEN YU-CHIN  | <b>1</b><br>NUMBER OF GOALS |
|  | HE JIA-SHIUAN |                             |

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |          |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>2</b>     | <b>9</b>      | <b>19</b> | <b>7</b>           | <b>0</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>22</b>       | <b>21</b>     | <b>2</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS  | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## DPR KOREA

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH  | Position   |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1     | HYON SON GYONG | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | RI SU YANG     | Defender   |
| 3     | HAN HONG RYON  | Defender   |
| 4     | HYON JI HYANG  | Forward    |
| 5     | OH SOL SONG    | Defender   |
| 6     | KIM KANG MI    | Defender   |
| 7     | JONG KUM       | Forward    |
| 8     | KIM YU GYONG   | Midfielder |
| 9     | KIM SONG GYONG | Midfielder |
| 10    | PAK MI RYONG   | Forward    |
| 11    | HAM JU HYANG   | Defender   |
| 12    | CHOE KANG RYON | Midfielder |
| 13    | JON RYONG JONG | Defender   |
| 14    | HWANG YU YONG  | Defender   |
| 15    | CHOE IL SON    | Forward    |
| 16    | PAK HYO SON    | Defender   |
| 17    | JANG KYONG HUI | Forward    |
| 18    | KIM KYONG RIM  | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | MIN KYONG JIN  | Midfielder |
| 20    | CHAE UN YONG   | Midfielder |
| 21    | CHAE UN GYONG  | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | KIM SONG OK    | Midfielder |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-5-1**



## COACH

**RI SONG HO (PRK)**

Under the guidance of head coach Ri Song Ho, DPR Korea clinched the gold medal for the second time in the competition's history, after winning the AFC U-19 Women's Championship for the first time in 2007. DPR Korea, who have featured in every edition since 2011, were the only team to remain unbeaten in the competition.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-5-1; two holding midfielders linking with attack, shielding back line
- High-tempo, purposeful 2/3-touch combination play through thirds
- Productive wing play, crosses; full-backs, wide players with pace, 1v1 skills
- Well-coordinated movement in determined high/mid-block collective pressing
- Rapid build-up from back line to wide areas; excellent switches of play
- Dangerous set plays; dynamic team with high motivation, winning mentality

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>13</b>    | <b>2</b>      | <b>86</b> | <b>39</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>24</b>       | <b>44</b>     | <b>5</b>     | <b>1</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## TOP SCORER

|   |                |                 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
|  | CHAE UN YONG   | <b>2</b>        |
|  | JON RYONG JONG |                 |
|  | PAK MI RYONG   |                 |
|   |                | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## JAPAN

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH    | Position   |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| 1     | AKANE OKUMA      | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | KOKORO YOSHIOKA  | Defender   |
| 3     | HIROMI YONEDA    | Defender   |
| 4     | YURIE SHIRASAWA  | Midfielder |
| 5     | AEMU OYAMA       | Midfielder |
| 6     | RIO SASAKI       | Defender   |
| 7     | SHINOMI KOYAMA   | Defender   |
| 8     | FUKA TSUNODA     | Midfielder |
| 9     | CHINARI SASAI    | Midfielder |
| 10    | MANAKA MATSUKUBO | Forward    |
| 11    | HARUNA OSHIMA    | Midfielder |
| 12    | RINA NAKATANI    | Defender   |
| 13    | AI TSUJISAWA     | Forward    |
| 14    | MAYA HIJIKATA    | Forward    |
| 15    | MANAKA HAYASHI   | Midfielder |
| 16    | SUZU AMANO       | Midfielder |
| 17    | UNO SHIRAGAKI    | Defender   |
| 18    | AKARI KASHIMA    | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | MIYU MATSUNAGA   | Midfielder |
| 20    | MOKA HIWATARI    | Forward    |
| 21    | URUHA IWASAKI    | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | RAIKA OKAMURA    | Defender   |
| 23    | MAO KUBOTA       | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2**



### COACH

**MICHIHISA KANO (JPN)**

Champions on six different occasions, Japan were vying for a record-breaking fourth consecutive title. Led by Michihisa Kano, who in 2022 led the Japanese side to victory at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, the young Nadeshiko settled for the runners-up position after being outplayed by DPR Korea in the Final.



### KEY FEATURES

- Compact 1-4-4-2 with full-backs up to create overloads in wide areas
- Assured, mostly two-touch high-tempo combination play through thirds
- Keeper ready to initiate build-up play with accurate short/medium passing
- Excellent technical ability in playing out of tight situations
- Persistent collective pressing in high or mid-block earning early regains
- Penetrative wing play with pace, 1v1 skills; dangerous set plays

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |            |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>18</b>    | <b>4</b>      | <b>129</b> | <b>50</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>20</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>32</b>       | <b>27</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS      | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER



MAYA HIJIKATA

**4**

NUMBER OF GOALS

## KOREA REPUBLIC

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH  | Position   |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1     | PARK HYUN-JIN  | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | JUNG YOU-JIN   | Defender   |
| 3     | YANG DA-MIN    | Defender   |
| 4     | EOM MIN-KYOUNG | Defender   |
| 5     | NAM SEUNG-EUN  | Defender   |
| 6     | KIM SHIN-JI    | Midfielder |
| 7     | JEON YU-GYEONG | Forward    |
| 8     | KANG EUN-YOUNG | Midfielder |
| 9     | PARK SOO-JEONG | Forward    |
| 10    | BAE YE-BIN     | Midfielder |
| 11    | HWANG DA-YEONG | Forward    |
| 12    | KIM SU-A       | Midfielder |
| 13    | KIM KYU-YEON   | Defender   |
| 14    | CHO HYE-YOUNG  | Forward    |
| 15    | KO EUN-BIN     | Midfielder |
| 16    | KO DA-AE       | Defender   |
| 17    | HONG CHAE-BIN  | Midfielder |
| 18    | WON CHAE-EUN   | Midfielder |
| 19    | YANG EUN-SEO   | Forward    |
| 20    | PARK JE-A      | Defender   |
| 21    | JEONG DA-HEE   | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | KIM JI-HYEON   | Midfielder |
| 23    | WOO SEO-BIN    | Goalkeeper |



**FORMATION: 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-2**



### COACH

**PARK YOUN-JEONG (KOR)**

With two titles to their name, Korea Republic are among the most successful teams in the competition, finishing third in their last campaign in 2019. However, the Young Taeguk Ladies missed out on the opportunity to clinch back-to-back bronze medals after they lost to Australia in the Third-place Playoff at the 2024 edition in Uzbekistan.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-2 with No6 Kim Kang-Mi influential as controlling midfielder
- Assured, skilful build-up; full-backs combining with wingers, creating overloads
- Effective wing play with well-delivered high and low crosses, cut-backs
- Frequent use of well-organised collective pressing in high or mid-block
- Fluent movement; positional interchanging, switches of point of attack
- Disciplined, dynamic, athletic unit with high levels of technique, team spirit

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |            |                    |           |          |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>20</b>    | <b>6</b>      | <b>100</b> | <b>47</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>41</b>       | <b>28</b>     | <b>4</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS      | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER



**JEON YU-GYEONG**

**4**

NUMBER OF GOALS

## UZBEKISTAN

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH          | Position   |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| 1     | E'ZOZA SEVINOVA        | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | SHAHNOZA DEKANBAEVA    | Forward    |
| 3     | MAKHZUNA ABDUKARIMOVA  | Defender   |
| 4     | SEVINCH RAKHMATULLAEVA | Defender   |
| 5     | ZUKHRA TURSUNALIEVA    | Defender   |
| 6     | RUKHSHONA SAYDABBOSOVA | Midfielder |
| 7     | ALINA ALMATOVA         | Midfielder |
| 8     | RUKHSHONA OLIMJONOVA   | Midfielder |
| 9     | ZARINA MAMATKARIMOVA   | Midfielder |
| 10    | LEYLA ORANIYAZOVA      | Forward    |
| 11    | PARVINA SODIKOVA       | Midfielder |
| 12    | FOTIMA BAKHRIDDINOVA   | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | UMIDA KHATAMOVA        | Midfielder |
| 14    | LEYLA RUSTULLAEVA      | Forward    |
| 15    | MEHRIBON EGAMBERDIEVA  | Forward    |
| 16    | DILNURA MAMATKULOVA    | Midfielder |
| 17    | SEVINCH KUCHKOROVA     | Defender   |
| 18    | AYGERIM OTENAZAROVA    | Midfielder |
| 19    | OYDINOY TURGUNOVA      | Forward    |
| 20    | ZARINA NORBOEVA        | Forward    |
| 21    | CHAROS KHAYRULLAEVA    | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | ASALKHON AMINJONOVA    | Midfielder |
| 23    | SEVARA RUZIEVA         | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-2-3-1**



### COACH

**ILKHAM KHANJARIEV (UZB)**

Under head coach Ilkham Khanjariev, Uzbekistan made their fifth appearance in the competition after participating in the AFC U-19 Women's Championship in 2002, 2004, 2015 and 2017. But after defeats against all three Group A rivals, the hosts failed to progress past the Group Stage.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with emphasis on direct deliveries from back to front three
- Also ready to attack along the flanks with skilful possession play
- Good positional interchanging among middle-to-front players
- Aggressive individual press on the ball; retreat into mid/deep block
- Narrow defending with two holding midfielders close to back four
- High-calorie style with physicality, strong work ethic, collective spirit

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |          |                    |           |          |          |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>0</b>     | <b>17</b>     | <b>9</b> | <b>3</b>           | <b>0</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>34</b>       | <b>23</b>     | <b>5</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS    | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS  | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## ★ VIETNAM

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH        | Position   |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| 1     | DANH THI KIEU MY     | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | LE THI BAO TRAM      | Defender   |
| 3     | NGUYEN THI NHU QUYNH | Defender   |
| 4     | HO THI THANH THAO    | Defender   |
| 5     | HOANG THI NGOC ANH   | Midfielder |
| 6     | VU THI HOA           | Midfielder |
| 7     | TRAN NHAT LAN        | Midfielder |
| 8     | NGUYEN THI THUY NHI  | Defender   |
| 9     | LUU HOANG VAN        | Midfielder |
| 10    | NGOC MINH CHUYEN     | Forward    |
| 11    | NGUYEN THI THUY LINH | Midfielder |
| 12    | NGUYEN PHUONG THAO   | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | LY LINH TRANG        | Midfielder |
| 14    | NGUYEN THUY LINH     | Midfielder |
| 15    | BUI THI THUONG       | Midfielder |
| 16    | LUU NHU QUYNH        | Defender   |
| 17    | NGUYEN THI MAI HUONG | Defender   |
| 18    | NGUYEN PHUONG ANH    | Midfielder |
| 19    | TRUONG CAM LY        | Midfielder |
| 20    | LE HONG YEU          | Defender   |
| 21    | LE THI THU           | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | NGAN THI THANH HIEU  | Forward    |
| 23    | LE THI TRANG         | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-3-3 with 1-4-5-1**



## COACH

**AKIRA IJIRI (JPN)**

Vietnam were on a quest to make it past the Knockout Stage for the third time, following their appearances in 2004 and 2011. But drawn in Group B alongside three former champions, the 2004 Quarter-finalists' stint in the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup™ was short-lived after they finished their Group Stage campaign without a single win.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with 1-4-5-1 defending with a strong isolated target striker
- Emphasis on mid-block or deep defence with counterattacking strategy
- Narrow back line encouraging opponents to play through wide areas
- Good level of technique; neat combinations when not under pressure
- Frequent use of long back-to-front passes when pressed by opponents
- Committed resolute defence in numbers with good team spirit, work ethic

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |          |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>1</b>     | <b>22</b>     | <b>15</b> | <b>4</b>           | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>23</b>       | <b>10</b>     | <b>4</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS  | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## TOP SCORER



**NGOC MINH CHUYEN**

**1**

NUMBER OF GOALS



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

UZBEKISTAN 2024

# GROUP STAGE

| Group A        | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| AUSTRALIA      | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 1  | 6   | 9   |
| KOREA REPUBLIC | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 2  | 18  | 6   |
| CHINESE TAIPEI | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2  | 9  | -7  | 3   |
| UZBEKISTAN     | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0  | 17 | -17 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A         | Score      | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| 2   | 03 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | KOREA REPUBLIC | 1-2 (1-0)  | AUSTRALIA      |
| 1   | 03 Mar,24 | 16:00:00 | UZBEKISTAN     | 0-2 (0-0)  | CHINESE TAIPEI |
| 5   | 06 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | CHINESE TAIPEI | 0-6 (0-2)  | KOREA REPUBLIC |
| 6   | 06 Mar,24 | 16:00:00 | AUSTRALIA      | 2-0 (2-0)  | UZBEKISTAN     |
| 9   | 09 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | UZBEKISTAN     | 0-13 (0-6) | KOREA REPUBLIC |
| 10  | 09 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | AUSTRALIA      | 3-0 (2-0)  | CHINESE TAIPEI |



## GROUP STAGE

| Group B   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| DPR KOREA | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8  | 1  | 7   | 7   |
| JAPAN     | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 1  | 11  | 6   |
| CHINA PR  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7  | 4  | 3   | 4   |
| VIETNAM   | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1  | 22 | -21 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score      | Team B    |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 4   | 04 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | DPR KOREA | 1-1 (0-0)  | CHINA PR  |
| 3   | 04 Mar,24 | 16:00:00 | JAPAN     | 10-0 (3-0) | VIETNAM   |
| 7   | 07 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | VIETNAM   | 0-6 (0-5)  | DPR KOREA |
| 8   | 07 Mar,24 | 16:00:00 | CHINA PR  | 0-2 (0-1)  | JAPAN     |
| 11  | 10 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | JAPAN     | 0-1 (0-1)  | DPR KOREA |
| 12  | 10 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | CHINA PR  | 6-1 (3-0)  | VIETNAM   |



# SEMI FINALS & 3RD/4TH PLACING

| Semi Finals    | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| JAPAN          | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4  | 3   |
| DPR KOREA      | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3  | 3   |
| KOREA REPUBLIC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -3 | 0   |
| AUSTRALIA      | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | -4 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score     | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 14  | 13 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | DPR KOREA | 3-0 (1-0) | KOREA REPUBLIC |
| 13  | 13 Mar,24 | 16:00:00 | AUSTRALIA | 1-5 (1-1) | JAPAN          |

| 3rd/4th Placing | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| AUSTRALIA       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 3   |
| KOREA REPUBLIC  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score     | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 15  | 16 Mar,24 | 13:00:00 | AUSTRALIA | 1-0 (0-0) | KOREA REPUBLIC |



# FINAL

| Group B   | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| DPR KOREA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 3   |
| JAPAN     | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A | Score     | Team B    |
|-----|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 16  | 16 Mar,24 | 18:00:00 | JAPAN  | 1-2 (1-1) | DPR KOREA |





# REFEREES



## 1. SUMMARY

- A total of 25 match officials were appointed to officiate the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup™ Uzbekistan 2024.
- The breakdown of officials is as follows:
  - 10 referees
  - 12 assistant referees
  - 3 standby match officials
- This team of match officials was responsible for ensuring fair play, enforcing the rules of the game, and contributing to the success and integrity of the competition.



### 1.1 AFC Match Officials

| Technical Instructors/Assessors |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Niu Huijun                      | CHN |
| Maria Piedade Rebello           | IND |
| Heba Mohammad Hassan Abed       | JOR |
| Etsuko Fukano                   | JPN |
| Vladislav Tseytlin              | UZB |
| Fitness Instructors             |     |
| Nasim Pilehvar Mohammad Abadi   | IRN |
| Yuliya Tarasova                 | UZB |
| Referees                        |     |
| Choki Om                        | BHU |
| Dong Fangyu                     | CHN |
| Ranjita Devi Tekcham            | IND |
| Mahnaz Zokae                    | IRN |
| Asaka Koizumi                   | JPN |
| Kim Yu-jeong                    | KOR |
| Park Se-jin                     | KOR |
| Pansa Chaisanit                 | THA |
| Sunita Thongthawin              | THA |
| Le Thi Ly                       | VIE |

| Assistant Referees                  |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Lauren Grace Hargrave               | AUS |
| Tshering Choden                     | BHU |
| Xie Lijun                           | CHN |
| Atena Lashani                       | IRN |
| Bahareh Seifinahavandi              | IRN |
| Sabreen Awwad Abed Ala'badi         | JOR |
| Phutsavan Chanthavong               | LAO |
| Battsetseg Unurjargal               | MNG |
| Tun Wint War                        | MYA |
| Supawan Hinthong                    | THA |
| Nuannid Dornjangreed                | THA |
| Ha Thi Phuong                       | VIE |
| Standby Referee                     |     |
| Plong Pich Akara                    | CAM |
| Standby Assistant Referees          |     |
| Salma Akter Mone                    | BAN |
| Amal Jamal Nasser Mubarak Badhafari | UAE |

## 1.2 Support Team

- Referees' Liaison Officers (LOs): supported the execution of the programme and coordinating all logistical requirements.
  - These LOs played a crucial role in facilitating communication with the host, ensuring smooth operations and addressing any logistical issues that arose during the event.
- Masseurs/physiotherapists: two (2) physiotherapists were available to assist match officials with recovery and injury prevention strategies.
  - Their presence ensured that officials received proper care to maintain their physical condition throughout the competition.
- Medical team: an ambulance accompanied by medical staff was stationed daily at the training venue.
  - This arrangement facilitated emergency response and provided first aid treatment of medical issues or injuries during training sessions or practice matches.
- All match officials successfully passed the fitness assessments, ensuring they were physically fit to officiate matches.
- The fitness checks included:
  - Yo-Yo Intermittent Test: conducted for referees, with a target score of 17-8
  - Assistant Referee Intermittent Endurance Test (ARIET): administered for assistant referees, with a target score of 14-5.3
- Meeting these fitness standards demonstrated the officials' readiness to perform their duties effectively on the field and maintain the required levels of endurance and agility throughout the competition.

## 2.2 Practical Sessions

- During the preparatory course for match officials, daily practical sessions were held at the Uzbekistan FA pitch, with assistance from local team players.
- These sessions covered:
  - Positioning and movement: practicing optimal positioning on the field for clear visibility and decision-making
  - Concentration: enhancing officials' ability to maintain focus throughout matches
  - Teamwork: promoting effective communication and collaboration among officials
  - Fitness activities: these included drills to improve endurance and agility
- These sessions aimed to provide hands-on training and prepare officials both physically and mentally to officiate matches effectively.

## 2. PREPARATORY COURSE

- The referees and assistant referees underwent a comprehensive three-day preparatory course from February 29 to March 2, 2024.
- The course comprised both theoretical and practical sessions, aimed at enhancing their readiness and capabilities for officiating matches effectively.

## 2.1 Fitness Checks



## 2.3 Theoretical Sessions

- During the preparatory course for match officials, various theoretical sessions were conducted with the aim of enhancing their technical knowledge and ensuring consistency in the application of the Laws of the Game.
- The sessions included:
  - Review of match incident videos: these facilitated analysis and consensus-building among match officials, which enhanced their understanding and application of rules in different game scenarios.
  - Sharing important information and feedback:

at the conclusion of the course, match officials received important feedback and information regarding both fitness and technical aspects to help them officiate matches.

- The theoretical sessions covered the following subject areas:
  - Technical:
    - Teamwork and match management
    - Handball
    - Offside
    - Positioning and reading of the game
    - Tactical fouls
    - Penalty area incidents
    - Challenges
- Fitness:
  - Weight control
  - Recovery exercises
- By addressing these technical and fitness topics comprehensively, the preparatory course equipped match officials with the necessary knowledge and skills while ensuring their physical wellbeing throughout the tournament.

#### Administration

- Competition overview & match procedures:
  - Encompasses rules, regulations and procedures governing the competition from start to finish.
  - Includes competition format, scheduling, venues, match duration, tie-breaking rules and disciplinary procedures.
  - Clear communication of these details ensures fairness, consistency and smooth operation throughout the competition.
- Management of communication system and flags:



- Involves effective communication between match officials using headsets or earpieces.
- Ensures proper use of flags by assistant referees to signal decisions such as offside, fouls, or substitutions.
- Functional communication systems and proper flag coordination are essential for maintaining

the integrity and flow of the game.

- These aspects are vital for organising and executing a successful competition, contributing to fair play, efficient officiating and an enjoyable experience for all involved.

### 3. DURING THE COMPETITION

### 3.1 Practical Sessions

- The daily practical training sessions implemented during the competition focused on two key areas: fitness conditioning and maintenance as well as post-match recovery.
- Fitness conditioning and maintenance: these sessions ensured that match officials were in optimal physical condition to perform their duties effectively throughout the competition. They included a combination of cardiovascular exercises, strength training, agility drills, and flexibility exercises tailored to the specific demands of refereeing. Emphasis was placed on building endurance, speed, and resilience to sustain performance levels over the course of multiple matches.
- Post-match recovery: following each match, match officials participated in gymnasium and pool recovery sessions. These sessions were integral to the officials' post-match routine and aimed at facilitating physical and mental recovery after exertion on the field. Gymnasium sessions involved light exercises, stretching, and foam rolling to alleviate muscle tension and promote recovery. Pool sessions included activities such as swimming and hydrotherapy to soothe muscles and enhance relaxation.
- Incorporating both fitness conditioning and post-match recovery sessions into the officials' daily schedule demonstrated a commitment to supporting the wellbeing and performance of match officials. This holistic approach to training and recovery likely contributed to the officials' ability to maintain high standards of officiating throughout the competition

while minimising the risk of fatigue or injury.

### 3.2 Match Assessment

- The utilisation of video referee assessors and on-site referee assessors played a pivotal role in ensuring the quality and consistency of officiating throughout the competition.
- Video referee assessor: situated in the Remote Monitoring Room at the referees hotel, the video referee assessor had the crucial task of analysing all matches in real-time. They closely tracked match situations using video feeds and compiled relevant details for subsequent debriefing sessions. This approach allowed for a comprehensive oversight of all matches and facilitated the identification of key incidents or officiating decisions.
- Referee assessors: In addition to video referee assessors, referee assessors were deployed to match venues to observe the officials' performance. These assessors closely monitored match officials throughout each game, providing immediate feedback and assessment of their decisions and actions. Their presence ensured that officials received timely guidance and support to maintain consistent and high-quality officiating standards.
- Combining the expertise of video referee assessors with the direct observations of referee assessors created a robust system for evaluating and supporting match officials. This comprehensive approach contributed to the overall improvement of refereeing standards over the course of the competition.

### 3.3 Match Debriefing Sessions





- The match debriefings conducted for the appointed match officials served as a vital learning tool, focusing on significant incidents from the previous day's matches. These incidents were carefully analysed to glean insights and lessons that would help prepare officials for upcoming matches.
- During these debriefings, instructors emphasised areas for improvement, offering valuable advice aimed at ensuring consistency and uniformity in recognising fouls and interpreting the Laws of the Game.
- By addressing specific incidents and providing

guidance on officiating standards, the debriefing sessions aimed to enhance the officials' understanding and application of the rules, ultimately contributing to fair and effective officiating in future matches.

### 3.4 Match Preparation Sessions (Technical Study Group Session)

- Ms. Letecia Callejas Bautista and Ms. Soleen Hamed Tawfiq Al-Zoubi, representing the Technical Study Group (TSG), played a crucial role in providing valuable information to the appointed match officials.

- They presented insights related to team tactics and individual players' style and behaviour, which proved to be beneficial for the officials' preparation and understanding of football dynamics.
- This exchange of information likely contributed to improved officiating and better management of upcoming matches.

## 4. TECHNICAL SUMMARY

### 4.1 General Performance

- The referee assessors and instructors played a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating the performance of match officials throughout the competition. Their close observation and detailed match reports provided valuable feedback to the officials, helping them improve their performance over time.
- Based on their assessments, referee assessors and instructors rated the overall performance of match officials as good. This indicates that officials demonstrated a high level of competency and professionalism in their officiating duties.
- Furthermore, it was noted that refereeing standards improved as the competition progressed. This suggests that officials were receptive to feedback and actively worked on addressing any areas of weakness, resulting in an overall enhancement of refereeing quality as the tournament advanced.
- Overall, the efforts of referee assessors and instructors, coupled with the dedication of match officials, contributed to the maintenance and eventual improvement of refereeing standards throughout the competition.



# AWARDS



**MVP: CHAE UN YONG (DPR KOREA)**

**BEST GOALKEEPER: CHAE UN GYONG (DPR KOREA)**

**YILI TOP GOALSCORER: MAYA HIJIKATA (JAPAN)**

**AFC FAIR PLAY AWARD**





# ALL-STAR SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS



NO.21  
CHAE UN GYONG  
PRK



NO.18  
AKARI KASHIMA  
JPN



NO. 1  
CHLOE LINCOLN  
AUS



NO. 23  
WOO SEO-BIN  
KOR

DEFENDERS



NO. 5  
JESSIKA NASH  
AUS



NO. 17  
UNO SHIRAGAKI  
JPN



NO. 3  
HAN HONG RYON  
PRK



NO. 5  
OH SOL SONG  
PRK



NO. 6  
KIM KANG MI  
PRK



NO. 23  
SASHA GROVE  
AUS

MIDFIELDERS



NO. 17  
HUO YUE XIN  
CHN



NO. 20  
CHAE UN YONG  
PRK



NO. 9  
KIM SONG GYONG  
PRK



NO. 16  
SUZU AMANO  
JPN



NO. 6  
SHAY HOLLMAN  
AUS



NO. 6  
KIM SHIN-JI  
KOR

FORWARDS



NO. 14  
MAYA HIJIKATA  
JPN



NO. 10  
MANAKA MATSUKUBO  
JPN



NO. 15  
CHOE IL SON  
PRK



NO. 7  
JEON YU-GYEONG  
KOR



**molten**  
*For the real game*

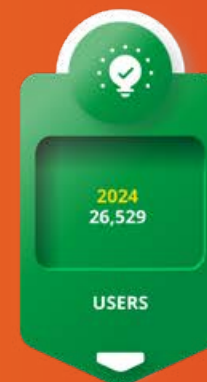


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**AFC U17  
WOMEN'S  
ASIAN CUP™**

# **AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP INDONESIA 2024**

*TECHNICAL REPORT*

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP™ III

# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

# OVERVIEW

The AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ Indonesia 2024 was contested between eight nations from May 6 to 19 in Bali, Indonesia.

Matches were played at the Capt. I Wayan Dipta Stadium and Bali United Training Center.

DPR Korea emerged champions after they defeated Japan 1-0 in the Final held at Capt I Wayan Dipta Stadium with Korea Republic edging China 2-1 in the third-place playoff held at the same venue.

The top three finishers qualified for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024.



## STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

## GROUP STAGE

## GROUP A



DPR Korea got off to a strong start, defeating Korea Republic 7-0 with Jon Il Chong notching a hat-trick while Philippines displayed a spirited performance to win 6-1 against Indonesia.

Free-scoring DPR Korea continued to shine with a 6-0 win over Philippines in their second match with Jon adding another two goals to her tally while Korea Republic bounced back with a 12-0 success over Indonesia with Won Ju-eun netting four goals.

A late Beom Ye-ju goal helped Korea Republic to a 1-1 draw with Philippines on Matchday Three to secure them a spot in the last four while Choe Il Son vaulted to the top of the goalscoring charts after she scored five in DPR Korea's 9-0 win against Indonesia.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

## GROUP B

Japan and China PR led the way in Group B with wins in their first two matches to seal their passage to the Knockout Stage. Japan beat Thailand (4-0) and Australia (4-1) to book their place in the Semi-finals as captain Miharū Shinjō scored in successive matches.

Likewise, China PR picked up a pair of 3-0 victories against Australia and Thailand respectively with Zhang Kegan scoring in both matches to seal progress with a match to spare.

Japan completed the Group Stage in style following a 4-0 win against China PR while Thailand ended their campaign on a positive note thanks to a 3-1 victory against Australia which included a stunning free-kick goal from Rinyaphat Moodong.



STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

# SEMI-FINALS

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT



## JAPAN 3-0 KOREA REPUBLIC



Both teams traded early blows, but the deadlock was only broken late in the first half as Japan took the lead through Ririka Nezu's curling shot from just inside the box.

Casey Phair almost restored parity in the 65th minute when she got into a one-on-one situation with Mao Fukuda, only for the Japanese custodian to come out on top in that duel.

That miss was made to prove costly by Miharuru Shinjo just three minutes later as she doubled Japan's lead before settling the contest with her second and her side's third in the 88th minute to send Japan into the Final.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT



## DPR KOREA 1 - 0 CHINA PR

As they did in the group matches, DPR Korea looked to get an early goal and kept China PR pressed in their own half and their intensity paid off after 11 minutes as Chon Yon A's shot squirmed in under Chinese goalkeeper Hou Shumei.

DPR Korea continued to pile on the pressure, but Hou and the China PR defence stood strong and managed to get to half-time only a goal behind.

The match followed a similar pattern in the second half and even though China PR head coach Gary van Egmond tried to change the game with several substitutions, DPR Korea remained largely in control to set up a meeting with Japan in the Final.



# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT



## THIRD- PLACE PLAYOFF

### CHINA PR 1-2 KOREA REPUBLIC

Korea Republic took the lead in the 13th minute after Won Ju-eun set up Casey Phair for a finish that took a deflection off a defender before settling in the back of the net.

China PR could have drawn level minutes later, but Li Yuhan's close range effort missed the target by centimetres before Wang Dantong skied her finish following a set-piece routine.

After the break, China PR continued their search for the equaliser with Liu Zeyu forcing a good save from Korean custodian Woo Su-min.

The much-needed goal finally arrived for China PR with nine minutes left to play as Dong Yujie produced a solo effort, cutting in from the left flank and slamming the ball past Woo.

China PR's joy, however, was short-lived as Korea Republic retook the lead three minutes later when Phair intercepted Lin Yuya's back pass and drove towards goal. Even though her initial effort was blocked by a sliding Chen Rui, Phair applied a delightful dink over Hou to send her side into the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.



# THE FINAL

## DPR KOREA 1 - 0 JAPAN

DPR Korea came out of the blocks with real intent and laid siege to Japan's goalmouth with attempts from So Ryu Gyong, Ho Kyong and Choe Il Son but were denied by the agility of goalkeeper Korin Sakata.

It wasn't until midway through the first half that Japan finally produced their first shot at goal, but Hina Hirakawa's shot was well defended by a clutch of DPR Korea defenders.

Japan went even closer just before half-time when Asako Furuta's cheeky attempt from the flank almost caught Pak Ju Gyong out, but the DPR Korea custodian was quick to backpedal to tip the ball over.

A minute into the restart, the deadlock was broken. Ri Ye Gyong's long clearance was chased down by Il Son with the forward then poking the ball to Jon Il Chong, who tapped home for her sixth goal of the tournament.

# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

Jon threatened to double DPR Korea's lead when she met Ryu Gyong's corner kick but saw her powerful header crash against the bar.

Japan could not find the means to carve out meaningful opportunities as the watertight DPR Korea held firm to seal the win and ensured that they ended the tournament without conceding any goals.

Miharu Shinjo was named the Most Valuable Player for her all-action display in midfield for Japan while Jon Il Chong won the Yili Top Goalscorer award following her six goals with Pak Ju Gyong scooping the Best Goalkeeper award, having kept five clean sheets.





# THE WINNING COACH

## SONG'S FINE TUNING

Song Sung Gwon travelled home from Indonesia with a gold medal to accompany the one he earned with DPR Korea at the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in 2017. Having taken that team to the Quarter-finals of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2018 in Uruguay, he won a silver medal at the AFC U-19 Women's Championship, losing 2-1 to Japan in the Final. Reversing that result in Bali prompted him to say: "It was quite a satisfactory tournament where we were able to produce what we had trained and worked on. The players were dedicated to achieving victory and displayed very good teamwork."

Song maintains that success was based on meticulous preparation since he took charge of the team in December 2023, combining it with his day job as head coach of the reserve team at Women's Division One club Naekohyang Sport Club. Initially, he worked with a pool of 60 players, most of them professionals training with their clubs five or six times per week. "They were very supportive in releasing players for the national team," he acknowledged. In January 2024, during

the school holidays, the players went through an intensive training camp where work focused on positional roles within the team. Then, in February, a 20-day training camp in Hainan, China PR, was designed for the players to adapt to the hot and humid conditions that they could expect in Bali. They played two friendly games with the Beijing University women's team and worked on different phases of play. Then, before the tournament, a 40-day local training camp was held from March to April where the emphasis was on developing team tactics.

Song stresses the importance of his backroom staff. "Our analyst observes all our opponents," he explained, "and we meet to discuss the content of training and our game plans." He emphasises the importance of mental strength: "I concentrate on the players' mentality rather than their physical training. We have an assistant coach who focuses on physical development - agility, coordination and movement." He was satisfied with the preparations leading up to the tournament and felt confident



# THE WINNING COACH THE WINNING COACH

about a 23-player squad which, as he said, “blended teamwork with individual talent”.

But, despite sailing to the title by scoring 22 goals in five matches and conceding none, he was reluctant to claim that DPR Korea had been head and shoulders above the rest. “The participating teams are much more developed in this tournament than in the previous edition,” he maintained. “And the style of play is very close to World Cup standard. We see players with flexible positioning and teams making good use of the width of the pitch.” He regards an annual FIFA U-17 World Cup as a positive development. “The players will become more enthusiastic with the chance to play on a bigger stage,” he said, “and it is good for them to be able to follow footballing trends at the top of the game.” He was thrilled by the prospect of the upcoming AFC Women’s Champions League™ which, he felt, not only promotes competition

between Asia’s top women’s clubs, but also enhances the competitiveness within domestic leagues.

After losing the Final in Bali to Song’s team, Japan head coach Sadayoshi Shirai was quick to congratulate Song’s team. “I was honoured that the Japanese players showed so much heart and fighting spirit against such a team,” he said. “To be honest, we didn’t have much of a chance because they pressed us very high and we didn’t get to play our usual passing game.” Song, however, insisted that he and his players had learned valuable lessons from the narrow 1-0 scorelines against China PR and Japan in the last two fixtures.

“The players created a lot of scoring opportunities that they didn’t finish,” he recalled. “That was disappointing and we need more training to rectify that. Against China PR, they were playing well but they



became impatient. They wanted to score more, so they became a little bit hurried with their finishing – which aggravated the problem. They got a little bit uncomfortable with themselves. But it’s normal because they are young and hopefully in the future, they can learn from this. It is with great happiness that we are able to represent Asia at high-level tournaments,” he said as his final words, “so we will train to play better at the World Cup.”



# TECHNICAL TOPICS

# TECHNICAL TOPICS TECHNICAL TOPICS

Like the U20 competition, the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ 2024 broke the ice after a five-year freeze. Having said that, there was not a great deal of ice at the venue. The hot and humid conditions in Bali contrasted sharply with the snow-covered pitch that had welcomed the U20 competition. This tournament served as the qualifiers for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, in which Asia was allocated three slots. The event signified the first formal international competition for most of the girls, making it a crucial rung on the development ladder. Measuring themselves against the best and bidding for World Cup tickets represented an exciting challenge to nerves, mental strength and levels of technique and athleticism, along with the physical demands imposed by the tropical Bali climate.

The list of participating teams included traditional powerhouses like Japan, China PR, DPR Korea, Australia, and Korea Republic, along with emerging nations such as Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, the latter



qualifying as hosts while the first three had also qualified automatically on the basis of their ranking in the previous tournament in 2019. The line-up in Bali highlighted the geographical areas where the development of women's football is work in progress.

High scores during the Group Stage indicate that there is still a big gap between the top teams and the emerging nations. The performance by DPR Korea, allied with their U20 team's victory in Uzbekistan two months earlier, underlined their status as benchmark-setters at these development levels. The Winning Coach section of this report outlines the squad's preparation schedule, which other coaches might envy. A brief look at some of the other parameters in DPR Korea's set-up might be difficult for other MAs to replicate, but it might be helpful to glance at the foundations on which their success has been built.

As Song Sung Gwon, head coach of the U17 team, explained: "The whole country is focusing on the development of women's football and I think we are on the right track. We are paying attention to developing the game very systematically and strategically according to the various age groups and education systems." All 12 clubs competing in the senior league have four teams in their structure: senior, U20, U18 and U16. The seniors' league season runs from December to early November with breaks in March and June. The U20 and U18 teams have four tournaments per year, while the U17s play two or three. Players train five or six times per week and, although they are at professional clubs, they are encouraged to complete their education before embarking on a full-time career. And, underpinning elite youth development, there is an extensive structure of school football for boys and girls. Elite players are guaranteed ample playing time and regular competitions at domestic level, leaving exposure to international opposition as the major development challenge.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As AFC's Head of Women's Football Bai Lili commented, the two finalists, namely DPR Korea and Japan, "were highly disciplined, organised and had stamina in their defensive tactics. Both teams showed anticipation, awareness, and intelligence in trying to force opponents to make mistakes near the goal and regain possession as quickly as possible". But even Japan struggled to match the champions. As head coach Sadayoshi Shirai admitted after the Final, "they pressed us very high and we didn't get to play our usual passing game." As the technical observers noted, "maybe the difference between the two teams was DPR Korea's physical conditioning and their determination to implement high pressing. Japan were good at creating scenarios and choosing the right moments for collective pressing, while other teams were more selective in their use of high pressing, according to their opponents or game situations like chasing a result". It has to be said that the heat and humidity in Bali were not conducive to sustained high pressing which imposes physical demands and well-synchronised collective endeavour. "As a result," the technical observers remarked, "high pressing was not among the main trends in this tournament".

It would therefore be misleading to suggest that DPR Korea executed high pressing throughout the 90 minutes. Much of their ball-winning was in midfield where their speed to the ball and anticipation were impressive. This was borne out by statistics related to opponents' pass-completion rates in the champions' half of the pitch. In their four previous matches, three-quarters of Japan's passes in opposition territory were received by

a team-mate. In the final against DPR Korea, this dropped to 51%. In the Group A opener, Korea Republic's rate was 41%, contrasting sharply with their 80% against Indonesia who, along with China PR, were successful in one in three passes in DPR Korea's half while only one in five of the Philippines' passes reached a team-mate. The champions themselves posted a 65% success rate in the opposition's half.

There was diversity in pressing strategies. Whereas Japan's compact unit with a high back line provided a well-designed platform for collective pressing, other teams showed no clear intention of pressing collectively. As the technical observer at one match remarked, "there was an occasional quick reaction to loss of possession, but only one or two players were involved. The rest of the team did not follow them, which exposed spaces between lines".

## IN GOOD SHAPE?

At the U20 event, seven of the eight teams had operated with a back line of four and, in Bali, six did likewise. The technical observers reported that Australia, Philippines and China PR adopted the three-centre-back option at some stage, with the holding midfielders generally exhibiting good game understanding in dropping deep to protect or join the back three. The 1-4-1-4-1, 1-4-4-2 and 1-4-2-3-1 variations were all visible while members of the Japan, DPR Korea and China PR back lines made vital contributions in keeping and retaining possession in the middle third and even pushing forward to create goal-scoring opportunities. Central defenders linked well with central midfielders in keeping possession and switching play to the wide areas.





## RARE COMBINATIONS

While a salient feature of the earlier U20 tournament had been the scarcity of goals derived from combination play (one in 10 of open-play goals), the shortage was even more noticeable in Bali where, as the Goalscoring Analysis section of this report points out, combination moves accounted for only four of the tournament's 60 open-play goals. As usual, Japan stood out among the exceptions to the general rule. They enjoyed a higher percentage of possession in all thirds of the field, especially in the middle-to-front areas. The technical observers agreed that they were "a joy to watch when they are moving the ball using two to three touches, utilising spaces to create overloads on the flanks and in central areas with fluid movement and positional interchange. They were comfortable in retaining possession and had confidence in their passing accuracy and receiving ability". China PR, DPR Korea, Korea Republic and Thailand, they observed, also used neat combinations to create space, while Australia and the Philippines adopted a more direct approach, targeting the strikers and wingers who tried to keep the ball until support became available. Indonesia's Japanese coach would have liked to see his team play through the thirds but they struggled to retain possession and, with one-third of their passes exceeding 30m, were second only to the Philippines in their frequency of playing the long ball.

## EXPLOITING THE WIDE CHANNELS

One-third of open-play goals stemmed from crosses or cut-backs from the wide areas. Again, the two finalists set benchmarks for effective use of wing play. DPR Korea delivered 158 crosses in their five matches; Japan 130. China PR took third place in this particular ranking with the much lower tally of 84 while bronze-medallists Korea Republic were much less prolific, totalling 57 in five games, 25 of them during their 12-0 win against Indonesia - and only two during the opening defeat by DPR Korea. The two finalists featured full-backs



ready to engage in the attacking third, creating overloads, making overlapping or underlapping runs, combining with wingers and delivering high-quality crosses. Other teams, with more conservative full-backs, relied more heavily on wingers' 1v1 abilities or combinations with strikers and central midfielders.

## GUARDING THE GOAL

Goalkeeping emerged as one of the talking points of the tournament among the technical observers. On the positive side, they pointed to DPR Korea, Japan and China PR as examples of goalkeepers adept in the role of the "extra player" able to read the game, cover space behind the defensive line and participate in build-up play. On the other hand, the observers wondered how much training-ground emphasis was being placed on coaching young goalkeepers to use their feet rather than working on handling technique and the art of protecting their goal. "There were some mistakes on basic goalkeeping technique," they commented, "with examples of the ball slipping through fingers or creeping under legs. Or, when dealing with crosses and corners, mistiming attempts to catch the ball or to punch it clear. Quite a few goals came from these types of errors." In addition, they discussed the psychological effects of mistakes on young goalkeepers playing at their first international tournament. "Goalkeepers now have big responsibilities on their shoulders," they reflected, "in a role requiring, communication skills and ability to organise the defence along with physical and mental toughness as well as the technical ability to confidently deliver long and short passes during build-up. So, it is important to try to achieve the best possible balance in the time-management of training at this early stage of development."



# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

# A TALE OF HIGHS AND LOWS

Echoing the U20 event in Uzbekistan, the tournament in Bali was exceptionally prolific with 74 goals hitting the net at an average of 4.63 per game. The other similarity was that the scoring was unevenly distributed. The dozen matches played in the Group Stage produced 66 goals – 43 in Group A and 23 in Group B – whereas the four Knockout ties yielded eight goals and only one (Japan's 3-0 victory against Korea Republic in the Semi-final) was decided by a margin of more than one goal. Sadly, the hosts were severely punished for their outstanding hospitality. Indonesia shipped 27 goals in their three games – almost one-third of the tournament total. The peaks and troughs on the goalscoring graph were so pronounced that statistical patterns were, once again, unreliable – as illustrated by the Korea Republic team whose matches in the Group Stage produced a 12-0 win, a 7-0 defeat and a 1-1 draw – the only drawn game of the tournament. DPR Korea were the highest scorers with 24 (all but two of them against their Group A opponents), well ahead of the 15 goals by Japan and Korea Republic, the latter conceding 12 during their roller-coaster ride to third place. DPR Korea lifted the trophy without conceding any.

Despite all the provisos and the highs and lows, the overall statistics re-transmitted a clear message that had been delivered by the earlier U20 event – a meagre success rate from dead-ball situations.

## SET PLAYS

At the tournament in Bali, set plays accounted for 19% of the goals – a figure significantly lower than the averages hovering between 25% and 30% which are the general norm in international football. The goalscoring chart reveals that over half of the dead-ball successes

stemmed from corner kicks. Half of those were conceded by Indonesia, three of them against Korea Republic. The other five were scored by DPR Korea (2), China PR, Japan and the Philippines. The latter scored from one of the four successful corners taken with the “wrong” foot. A nicely bent left-footed delivery from the right went directly into the Korea Republic net to earn the Philippines their 1-1 draw. There were no successful corners during the four Knockout Stage fixtures. All in all, eight goals from the tournament total of 170 corners represented a ratio of 1:21 – a respectable average compared with the U20 tournament where the success rate had been 1:35.

None of the three converted penalties proved to be decisive for final outcomes, although the first of the tournament allowed DPR Korea to break the deadlock against Korea Republic. The other two gave Australia a late consolation goal against Japan and Korea Republic their seventh goal against the hosts.

However, the most salient feature among the Bali statistics is one that is becoming a surprisingly common denominator in AFC competitions for both men and women: the scarcity of successes from free kicks. Two resulted from direct free kicks: the low strike around the Australia wall by Rinyaphat Moondong that put Thailand 2-1 ahead and the fierce right-footed strike from the left by Park Ji-yu which earned Korea Republic their fourth goal against Indonesia.

And, in 16 matches totalling 1,440 minutes of normal time, one solitary goal had its origin in an indirect free kick – the neat chip by substitute Zhong Yuxin which allowed skipper Song Yu to open the scoring for China PR against Thailand. The two finalists, despite being prolific scorers, were among the five teams who drew

blank with free kicks. Once again, the talking point was whether the attacking exploitation of this potentially valuable facet of the game is being given due attention on training grounds.

## OPEN PLAY

Equalling the U20 statistic, the tournament produced 60 open-play goals. But the pattern was different. Whereas deliveries from wide areas had provided 40% of them in Uzbekistan, the quota dropped to 33% in Bali. As mentioned in the Technical Topics section of this report, DPR Korea were the most prolific deliverers of crosses, averaging a few decimal points below 32 per game. Japan averaged 25; China PR 17. Given the sheer quantity of supplies, it was unsurprising that the two finalists accumulated most of the successes: DPR Korea five; Japan four. Korea Republic converted three of their 25 crosses against Indonesia but none in their other four fixtures where Kim Eun-jung's team delivered, on average, only 8.5 crosses per game. The other two successes were for Thailand and the Philippines.

Significantly, while Song Sung Gwon's team was pumping in crosses at regular intervals, they were outstandingly efficient in preventing their opponents from doing likewise during a run of seven and a half hours of football without conceding a goal. In chronological order, Korea Republic were restricted to two crosses against the champions; Philippines to one; Indonesia to three; China PR to three; and, in the Ffinal, Japan to 13 – by far the silver-medallists' lowest number of the tournament. In five matches DPR Korea allowed opponents to deliver 22 crosses.

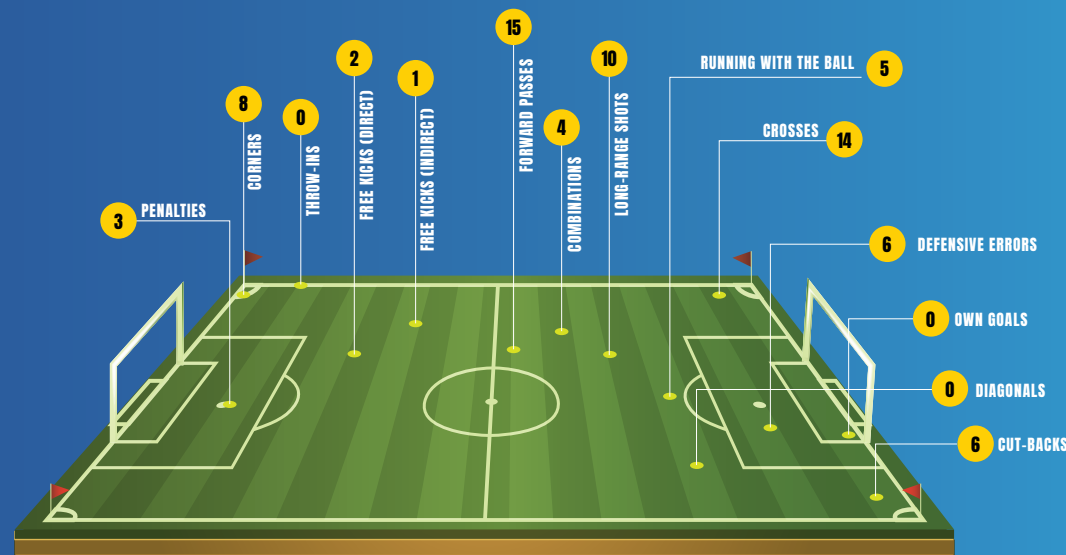
# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

Although the wide areas provided the most trodden pathway towards the net, forward passes into more central areas generated 50% more goals than they had done at the U20 tournament, accounting for 25% of the open-play goals, including the lofted through pass from the right which led to the goal that won the title. Shots from long range, as they had done at the U20 tournament, again paid dividends (just under 17%) – not least the stunning first-time lofted strike by Claudia Scheunemann that provided Indonesia's only goal of the tournament.

It was one of the nine counterattacks that added up to 15% of the open-play total. Six teams were successful with fast breaks: DPR Korea, the Philippines and Japan with two apiece; Indonesia, Korea Republic and Thailand with one each. Broken down into categories, there were three classic counterattacks from deep positions, among them DPR Korea's fourth goal (after barely 14 minutes). The break finished by Ro Un Hyang came when Indonesia had pushed players forward into attacking mode after winning a corner. Three counterattacks were fast responses to ball-winning in advanced areas; two were collective counters; and the other one was the solo effort by Hana Kikuchi which put Japan 2-0 ahead in their Group B match against China PR.

Combination play, yet again, was conspicuous by its scarcity and provided less than 7% of the open-play goals. Korea Republic used neat interchanges in the final third to score their second against Indonesia and the opener in the third-place match against China PR. However, the overall balance from the two age-limit competitions for women was that combination moves created only 10 of the 120 open-play goals.

In Bali, nine of the tournament's 74 goals were headers – six from corners and only three in open play: one apiece for Japan, Philippines and DPR Korea. All three were created by crosses from the right. None of them hit the net in the Knockout Stage.



## GOALS FROM SET PLAY

| ACTION                | GUIDELINES                              | GOALS |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Corners               | Direct from / following a corner        | 8     |
| Free kicks (direct)   | Direct from a free kick                 | 2     |
| Free kicks (indirect) | Following a free kick                   | 1     |
| Penalties             | Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty) | 3     |
| Throw-ins             | Following a throw-in                    | 0     |

## GOALS FROM OPEN PLAY

| ACTION                | GUIDELINES                                      | GOALS |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Combinations          | Wall pass / combination move                    | 4     |
| Crosses               | Cross from the wing                             | 14    |
| Cut-backs             | Pass back from the bye-line                     | 6     |
| Diagonals             | Diagonal pass into the penalty box              | 0     |
| Running with the ball | Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass | 5     |
| Long-range shots      | Direct shot / shot and rebound                  | 10    |
| Forward passes        | Through pass or pass over the defence           | 15    |
| Defensive errors      | Bad back-pass / mistake by the goalkeeper       | 6     |
| Own goals             | Goal by the opponent                            | 0     |

**TOTAL GOALS SCORED : 74**

# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS



| Ranking | Player               | No. | Country   | Match                   | Time | Type            |
|---------|----------------------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1       | Hina Hirakawa        | 22  | Japan     | Australia v Japan       | 80'  | Long-Range Shot |
| 2       | Claudia Scheunemann  | 13  | Indonesia | Indonesia v Philippines | 12'  | Long-Range Shot |
| 3       | Xiao Jiaqi           | 10  | China PR  | China PR v Australia    | 63'  | Long-Range Shot |
| 4       | Ro Un Hyang          | 19  | DPR Korea | Indonesia v DPR Korea   | 14'  | Long-Range Shot |
| 5       | Kurisara Limpawanich | 19  | Thailand  | Australia v Thailand    | 38'  | Solo Effort     |

| Ranking | Player             | No. | Country        | Match                        | Time | Type               |
|---------|--------------------|-----|----------------|------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1       | Park Ji-Yu         | 16  | Korea Republic | Korea Republic v Indonesia   | 41'  | Direct Free-kick   |
| 2       | Choe Chong Gum     | 2   | DPR Korea      | Philippines v DPR Korea      | 48'  | Corner Kick        |
| 3       | Rinyaphat Moondong | 8   | Thailand       | Australia v Thailand         | 67'  | Direct Free-kick   |
| 4       | Ariana Markey      | 14  | Philippines    | Korea Republic v Philippines | 38'  | Corner Kick        |
| 5       | Song Yu            | 4   | China PR       | Thailand v China PR          | 58'  | Indirect Free-kick |



# TALKING POINTS

# TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE?

Bali has a moderately even climate. The average year-round temperature in the idyllic tourist destination stands at around 30°C with humidity levels hovering around 85%. It adds up to fairly challenging conditions for young footballers who might be adding an element of nervousness to the equation as they run out to play their first international competition. Some teams, aware of the potential challenges, designed plans to help the players to adapt to the conditions. China PR and DPR Korea both conducted pre-tournament training camps on Hainan Island in China PR, where heat and humidity are similar. The Japan and Philippines squads stopped off in Thailand before travelling to Bali. Even so (and despite the water breaks midway through each half) players were going down with cramp, sometimes after 50 or 60 minutes, especially when games started at 3pm or 4pm. What can be done to protect the welfare of the young players? Should kick-off times be more player-friendly?

It was therefore only relatively surprising when, on the opening day of the tournament, actual playing times were low. The ball was in play for 47 minutes and six seconds of the Indonesia v Philippines fixture, which had a total duration of 97m29s. At DPR Korea v Korea Republic, the figure was 45m14s of a match that lasted 103m58s. In other words, the ball was not in motion for just over an hour. Subsequent events, however, diluted the initial concerns. They were the only two games where the actual playing time fell below 50 minutes. In three matches (all involving Japan) it exceeded 60 minutes. And the tournament average was a reasonable 56m14s. But, as the technical observers commented, "the intensity tended to be rather low".

The talking point was whether, with intensity becoming a significant issue in the modern game, squad sizes needed to be expanded to cope with the demands on the players. There was a mixed reaction from the coaches. Australia's Raeanne Dower and Philippines' Sinisa Cohadžić would welcome extra cover for injuries and sickness. Others agreed that it would allow more players to benefit from international experience. The counter-argument was that extra players signify extra investment, not only in the final tournament but also in the preparation phase. And there were concerns about playing times for the squad members during time when they are away from their clubs. What do you think?

## YELLOW ALERT?

The technical observers in Bali pointed out that the 16-game tournament was punctuated by 28 yellow cards compared with 16 at the previous edition in 2019. They wondered whether the 75% increase was worrying. In Bali, referees blew the whistle on 240 infractions at an average of 15 per game. Two months earlier, at the U20 tournament where a greater degree of physicality might have been expected, there was a lower figure of 226 whistles at 14 per game and the same number of yellow cards: 28. There were shades of meaning among the numbers. In Bali, the DPR Korea v Korea Republic fixture produced nine cautions; Australia v Thailand, six. In other words, more than half of the yellow cards were shown in two of the 16 matches. The debating point among the technical observers was whether the number of fouls and cautions at this tender age level is high enough to ring alarm bells among those who value positive play and the beautiful game?





### GOAL AFTER GOAL?

How many coaches remind their players that teams are vulnerable when they have just celebrated a goal? The tournament provided food for thought. After DPR Korea had broken the deadlock with a 41st-minute penalty, Korea Republic shipped another five goals in the ensuing 19 minutes. Both the Philippines and Indonesia conceded four in 14 minutes after DPR Korea had scored an opening goal against them. Against Korea Republic, the Indonesia net was ruffled three times in six minutes at the end of the first half and thrice more between the 80th and 86th minutes. Another surprising statistic to throw on to the debating table is that during the 2023/24 Women's Champions League in Europe, 31 goals were scored within five minutes of another – seven of them immediate replies by the opponent. On the other 24 occasions, the team scoring the first goal scored again. Do young players need to be given help in controlling their emotional response to conceding a goal?

### AWAITING DEVELOPMENT?

Five MAs had teams at both of the women's age-group tournaments. Uzbekistan and Indonesia entered as hosts. For other MAs, spaces were at a premium. And, if we were to mark the participants with pins in the map, they would be relatively closely grouped. What is the impact on development projects in the women's game's "emerging nations"? Expanding the final tournaments to a greater number of teams makes them – apart from the financial considerations – more problematical to host. And heavy defeats for "newcomers" might not be beneficial. But what can be done to offer more international experience to a greater number of young players? Is it the moment for MAs to organise more tournaments on a regional basis?



# TEAM PROFILES

# TEAM PROFILES TEAM PROFILES TEAM PROFILES

## AUSTRALIA

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH      | Position   |            |
|-------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| 1     | LAYLA ADAMS        | 18-01-2007 | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | AMELIA TARTAGLIA   | 09-04-2008 | Defender   |
| 3     | CHLOE PARKER       | 15-01-2007 | Defender   |
| 4     | RUBY CUTHBERT      | 06-03-2007 | Defender   |
| 5     | KIERA MEYERS       | 22-06-2007 | Midfielder |
| 6     | AMELIA BENNETT     | 22-05-2008 | Midfielder |
| 7     | SIAN DEWEY         | 09-06-2007 | Midfielder |
| 8     | TALIA YOUNIS       | 26-10-2008 | Midfielder |
| 9     | SIENNA DALE        | 19-04-2007 | Forward    |
| 10    | INDIANA DOS SANTOS | 10-10-2007 | Midfielder |
| 11    | TIANA FULLER       | 28-07-2007 | Forward    |
| 12    | JESSICA SKINNER    | 24-07-2007 | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | MIKAYLA DUONG      | 05-03-2008 | Midfielder |
| 14    | LILY PUNCH         | 25-09-2008 | Forward    |
| 15    | ISABELA HOYOS      | 23-05-2008 | Defender   |
| 16    | EHVA GUTSZMIT      | 21-01-2007 | Midfielder |
| 17    | ANNABELLE YATES    | 17-07-2007 | Defender   |
| 18    | CAOIMHE BRAY       | 23-09-2009 | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | DANELLA BUTRUS     | 13-02-2007 | Forward    |
| 20    | ALVINA KHOSHABA    | 22-04-2007 | Defender   |
| 21    | EMMA DUNDAS        | 29-05-2007 | Midfielder |
| 22    | CHRISTINA KICEEC   | 10-01-2007 | Defender   |
| 23    | ALICE FRANCOU      | 03-01-2008 | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2 or 1-3-2-4-1**



### COACH

**RAE DOWER (AUS)**



Having finished fourth in 2019, Australia were eager to find their place on the podium for the first time under the charge of former national team defender Rae Dower. However, the Junior Matildas failed to make it to the Knockout Stage after suffering losses against Thailand, Japan and China PR in the Group Stage.

### KEY FEATURES

- Attack-minded 1-4-4-2 or 1-3-2-4-1 focused on combination play through thirds
- Emphasis on flank play with wingers using 1v1 skills, delivering crosses
- No10 Dos Santos the key linking player; forward passing, switches to wings
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions; direct running by strikers, midfielders
- High or mid-block defending with fierce pressure on ball after turnovers
- Strong team with athleticism, good reading of game, mental resilience

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>2</b>     | <b>10</b>     | <b>36</b> | <b>14</b>          | <b>1</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>24</b>       | <b>32</b>     | <b>5</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER

|   |                    |                 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
|  | LILY PUNCH         | <b>1</b>        |
|  | INDIANA DOS SANTOS |                 |
|   |                    | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## CHINA PR

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | HOU SHUMEI    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | ZHANG JIE     | Forward    |
| 3     | WU ZHE        | Midfielder |
| 4     | SONG YU       | Defender   |
| 5     | YUAN CHENJIE  | Midfielder |
| 6     | CHENG HAITANG | Midfielder |
| 7     | WEI XUANXUAN  | Defender   |
| 8     | CHEN RUI      | Defender   |
| 9     | LI YUHAN      | Midfielder |
| 10    | XIAO JIAQI    | Midfielder |
| 11    | WANG DANTONG  | Defender   |
| 12    | YOU YAXIN     | Goalkeeper |
| 13    | LIU ZEYU      | Forward    |
| 14    | LIN YUYA      | Midfielder |
| 15    | SUN MENGYUE   | Defender   |
| 16    | ZHANG KECAN   | Midfielder |
| 17    | DONG YUJIE    | Midfielder |
| 18    | LIU JINGWEN   | Defender   |
| 19    | YANG YIFAN    | Defender   |
| 20    | CHEN ZIYI     | Forward    |
| 21    | ZHOU XINYI    | Forward    |
| 22    | ZHONG YUXIN   | Midfielder |
| 23    | RUAN XIUYU    | Goalkeeper |



**FORMATION: 1-3-2-4-1 or 1-4-1-4-1**



### COACH

**GARY VAN EGMOND (AUS)**

With their best result coming in the inaugural edition in 2005 where they finished runners-up, China PR found themselves in second place behind Japan in Group B in the 2024 edition of the competition after registering convincing victories over Australia and Thailand. However, a chance to clinch back-to-back bronze medals and a ticket to the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup escaped the young Steel Roses when they were defeated by Korea Republic in the Third-place Playoff.




### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-2-4-1 or 1-4-1-4-1; high back line with keeper covering space behind
- Approach work based on switching play, running with ball, off-ball movement
- Inverted wide midfielders ready to cut inside, look for shooting opportunities
- Goalkeeper distributing with power and accuracy with hands or feet
- Immediate press triggered by two front players after loss of possession

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>7</b>     | <b>7</b>      | <b>71</b> | <b>25</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>37</b>       | <b>37</b>     | <b>2</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER

|   |                    |                 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>ZHANG KECAN</b> | <b>2</b>        |
|   |                    | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## DPR KOREA

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH  | Position   |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1     | PAK JU GYONG   | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | CHOE CHONG GUM | Defender   |
| 3     | JONG POK YONG  | Defender   |
| 4     | HONG SON GYONG | Midfielder |
| 5     | RI YE GYONG    | Defender   |
| 6     | JO UN BOM      | Midfielder |
| 7     | JON IL CHONG   | Midfielder |
| 8     | SO RYU GYONG   | Midfielder |
| 9     | RI SU JONG     | Forward    |
| 10    | HO KYONG       | Forward    |
| 11    | CHOE RIM JONG  | Midfielder |
| 12    | KANG RYU MI    | Forward    |
| 13    | CHOE YON A     | Midfielder |
| 14    | PAK IL SIM     | Defender   |
| 15    | CHOE IL SON    | Forward    |
| 16    | RI POM         | Defender   |
| 17    | RI KUK HYANG   | Defender   |
| 18    | CHOE KYONG MI  | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | RO UN HYANG    | Midfielder |
| 20    | AN KYONG YONG  | Midfielder |
| 21    | SON JO YE      | Forward    |
| 22    | HONG SIN JONG  | Defender   |
| 23    | HONG RYU MI    | Goalkeeper |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2**



## COACH

SONG SUNG GWON (PRK)

Twice crowned champions of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, DPR Korea entered the competition as the only team to have reached the Final in each of their previous seven participations. Under the expert guidance of Song Sung Gwon, the three-time winners (2007, 2015, 2017) added a record-equalling fourth title to their name with a perfect record from five matches, scoring a staggering 24 goals while conceding none.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-5-1; two holding midfielders linking with attack, shielding back line
- High-tempo, purposeful 2/3-touch combination play through thirds
- Productive wing play, crosses; full-backs, wide players with pace, 1v1 skills
- Well-coordinated movement in determined high/mid-block collective pressing
- Rapid build-up from back line to wide areas; excellent switches of play
- Dangerous set plays; dynamic team with high motivation, winning mentality

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |            |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>24</b>    | <b>0</b>      | <b>127</b> | <b>54</b>          | <b>1</b>  | <b>21</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>26</b>       | <b>46</b>     | <b>8</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS      | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## TOP SCORER

|   |              |                 |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
|  | JON IL CHONG | <b>6</b>        |
|   |              | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## INDONESIA

| SQUAD |                     | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|---------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | GADHIZA ASNANZA     | 03-03-2008    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | RIZKA DWI JUNIAR    | 01-07-2007    | Defender   |
| 3     | AMELIA HESELIO      | 03-06-2007    | Defender   |
| 4     | NABILA DIVANY       | 22-10-2007    | Defender   |
| 5     | WANDHA AZZAHRA      | 27-10-2007    | Defender   |
| 6     | ZAIRA KUSUMA        | 20-02-2007    | Midfielder |
| 7     | ALLYA PUTRI         | 08-01-2008    | Midfielder |
| 8     | ADELIA RAHMADANY    | 27-11-2007    | Midfielder |
| 9     | MAYZURA ALIFA       | 25-05-2007    | Forward    |
| 10    | KEYSSYA ANATASSYA   | 17-06-2008    | Forward    |
| 11    | SYAFIA CHORLIENKA   | 25-10-2009    | Midfielder |
| 12    | SOFIA SOLL          | 23-01-2007    | Defender   |
| 13    | CLAUDIA SCHEUNEMANN | 24-04-2009    | Forward    |
| 14    | INDIRA JENNA        | 14-02-2007    | Defender   |
| 15    | KIKKA PUTRI         | 13-09-2008    | Forward    |
| 16    | ZASKIA AZZAHRA      | 16-10-2007    | Defender   |
| 17    | NANDA RAHMAWATI     | 30-06-2007    | Defender   |
| 18    | ZAHRA NAFISA        | 30-08-2008    | Midfielder |
| 19    | AULIAH ARIFAH       | 21-03-2008    | Midfielder |
| 20    | FAIRUS KHALISA      | 24-11-2009    | Goalkeeper |
| 21    | NABILA SAPUTRI      | 04-02-2007    | Midfielder |
| 22    | SOLA MANANOHAS      | 28-08-2007    | Defender   |
| 23    | EDELWEIZ AURADIVA   | 09-03-2009    | Goalkeeper |



### FORMATION: 1-4-4-2



## COACH

**SATORU MOCHIZUKI (JPN)**

Automatically qualified as hosts, Indonesia were making an appearance at the competition for the first time since the inaugural edition in 2005. Led by Satoru Mochizuki, who also helms the senior women's national team, the Southeast Asians endured a difficult campaign and finish at the bottom of Group A after suffering defeats against DPR Korea, Korea Republic and the Philippines.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with midfield or low-block defending in numbers
- Limited possession play with frequent use of direct back-to-front passing
- Frequent reliance on ball-holding ability of wide midfielder No13 Scheunemann
- Intention to build from back but progress impeded by opponents' pressure
- Occasional individual pressure on ball-carrier after turnovers
- Courageous efforts against physically and technically stronger opponents

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |          |                    |           |          |          |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>1</b>     | <b>27</b>     | <b>5</b> | <b>3</b>           | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>25</b>       | <b>13</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS    | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS  | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## TOP SCORER



**CLAUDIA SCHEUNEMANN**

**1**

NUMBER OF GOALS



## JAPAN

| SQUAD |                   | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | AIRI NAGAI        | 09-06-2007    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | YUNA AOKI         | 07-07-2008    | Defender   |
| 3     | YUKA MAKIGUCHI    | 16-07-2007    | Defender   |
| 4     | MITSUKI OTA       | 20-01-2007    | Defender   |
| 5     | MANAKA SAKAKI     | 10-10-2007    | Midfielder |
| 6     | HARUKO SUZUKI     | 11-01-2007    | Defender   |
| 7     | HANA KIKUCHI      | 06-09-2007    | Midfielder |
| 8     | HINAKO KINOSHITA  | 05-01-2007    | Forward    |
| 9     | MOMO SATO         | 27-07-2007    | Forward    |
| 10    | ASAKO FURUTA      | 23-04-2007    | Midfielder |
| 11    | RIRIKA NEZU       | 10-07-2007    | Forward    |
| 12    | ANON TSUDA        | 08-11-2007    | Forward    |
| 13    | CHIIHIRO SUGAWARA | 25-02-2007    | Defender   |
| 14    | MIHARU SHINJO     | 05-02-2007    | Midfielder |
| 15    | MOMOKA HONDA      | 12-06-2007    | Midfielder |
| 16    | NOA FUKUSHIMA     | 12-12-2008    | Midfielder |
| 17    | TAMAMI ASO        | 26-10-2007    | Defender   |
| 18    | KORIN SAKATA      | 19-04-2007    | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | AMIRU TSUJI       | 08-09-2007    | Forward    |
| 20    | MEI HANASHIRO     | 23-06-2009    | Forward    |
| 21    | MAO FUKUDA        | 24-06-2007    | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | HINA HIRAKAWA     | 06-10-2008    | Midfielder |
| 23    | MEIKO MATSUURA    | 23-06-2007    | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-1-4-1**



## COACH

**SADAYOSHI SHIRAI (JPN)**

Seeking a record-extending fifth crown, Japan were the only participants to have never finished the competition outside the top three at every edition. The East Asians, who clinched the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2009, made their way to the Final without facing a single defeat but the defending champions were forced to settle for the runners-up position after losing a closely-fought battle against DPR Korea.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-1-4-1; full-backs high, central midfielder linking defence and attack
- Short-passing combination game with fluid off-ball movement in final third
- Strong individual technique, ability to retain possession under pressure
- Immediate collective press after ball-loss; keeper covering behind high line
- Direct counterattacks when possible; if not, patient build-up through thirds
- Compact unit with high levels of technique, agility, concentration, work ethic

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |            |                    |           |           |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>15</b>    | <b>2</b>      | <b>109</b> | <b>41</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>32</b>       | <b>19</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS      | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES  | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## TOP SCORER

|   |                      |                 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>MIHARU SHINJO</b> | <b>4</b>        |
|   |                      | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## KOREA REPUBLIC

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH | Position   |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | WOO SU-MIN    | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | SHIN DA-IN    | Defender   |
| 3     | RYOO JI-HAE   | Defender   |
| 4     | SHIN SUNG-HEE | Defender   |
| 5     | LEE HA-EUN    | Defender   |
| 6     | NOH SI-EUN    | Defender   |
| 7     | KIM YEE-UN    | Midfielder |
| 8     | BEOM YE-JU    | Midfielder |
| 9     | BAEK JI-EUN   | Defender   |
| 10    | WON JU-EUN    | Forward    |
| 11    | SEO MIN-JEONG | Midfielder |
| 12    | KWON DA-EUN   | Midfielder |
| 13    | KIM JI-HYO    | Midfielder |
| 14    | KIM HYO-WON   | Forward    |
| 15    | PARK JU-HA    | Midfielder |
| 16    | PARK JI-YU    | Defender   |
| 17    | NAM SA-RANG   | Midfielder |
| 18    | LEE YEO-EUN   | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | CASEY PHAIR   | Forward    |
| 20    | JI AE         | Midfielder |
| 21    | KIM CHAE-BEEN | Goalkeeper |
| 22    | HAN GUK-HEE   | Midfielder |
| 23    | JEONG YE-WON  | Forward    |



**FORMATION: 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-2**



### COACH

**KIM EUN-JUNG (KOR)**



Despite beginning their campaign on a rocky note against DPR Korea, Kim Eun-jung's side bounced back to end their Group Stage outing in second place. Looking to clinch the title for a second time after first tasting glory in 2009, they were instead bested by eventual runners-up Japan in the Semi-finals. Although a place in the Final eluded them, the Taeguk Girls booked their place in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024 when they saw off China PR in the Third-place Playoff.

### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-2 with No10 Won Jueun as pivotal controlling midfielder
- Build-up through thirds; wingers targeting striker No19 Phair's runs behind defence
- Quick transitions to aggressive high or mid-block narrow defending
- Direct defence-to-attack transitions, flooding forward with numbers
- High-tempo ball circulation, dribbling skills, good deliveries of crosses
- Disciplined unit with well-oiled mechanisms, work ethic, collective spirit

### STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>5</b>       | <b>15</b>    | <b>12</b>     | <b>78</b> | <b>40</b>          | <b>1</b>  | <b>5</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>59</b>       | <b>31</b>     | <b>6</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

### TOP SCORER

|   |                   |                 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>WON JU-EUN</b> | <b>4</b>        |
|   |                   | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## PHILIPPINES

| SQUAD | DATE OF BIRTH        | Position   |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| 1     | GABRIELLE BAKER      | Goalkeeper |
| 2     | NINA MATHELUS        | Forward    |
| 3     | CAIDY NELSON         | Defender   |
| 4     | KENDYLL KING         | Midfielder |
| 5     | GELINE DIZON         | Defender   |
| 6     | ANNA MEDALLA         | Defender   |
| 7     | JAEL GUY             | Forward    |
| 8     | FRANCESCA ALBERTO    | Forward    |
| 9     | SOPHIA SALUDARES     | Midfielder |
| 10    | LUNA RIVERA          | Defender   |
| 11    | KIERAN BRADLEY       | Midfielder |
| 12    | TEA PIDDING          | Midfielder |
| 13    | NATALIE COLLINS      | Forward    |
| 14    | ARIANA MARKEY        | Defender   |
| 15    | LOURAINE EVANGELISTA | Forward    |
| 16    | JELENA SOON          | Defender   |
| 17    | AISELYN SIA          | Defender   |
| 18    | LEAH BRADLEY         | Goalkeeper |
| 19    | AVA VILLAPANDO       | Midfielder |
| 20    | ISABELLA ALAMO       | Midfielder |
| 21    | LAUREN VILLASIN      | Defender   |
| 22    | SAMANTHA HUGHES      | Goalkeeper |
| 23    | ALEXA PINO           | Midfielder |



**FORMATION: 1-4-4-2 or 1-5-3-2**



## COACH

**SINISA COHADZIC (AUS)**




Philippines were the only debutants in the 2024 edition of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ after they finished behind Australia in Round 2 of the Qualifiers to qualify as Group B runners-up. Despite being pitted against two former champions, the spirited young Filipinas managed to secure their first-ever win by beating Indonesia. Defeat against DPR Korea in their second match meant that they headed into a must-win final game against Korea Republic, falling just short of advancing after battling to a draw to eventually finish third.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 or 1-5-3-2 based on assured combination play through thirds
- Full-backs actively engaged in final third; overlaps, underlaps, crosses
- Fast wide attackers with 1v1 skills; good switches of point of attack
- Well-organised mid-block defence; two midfielders screening back line
- Intense pressure on ball during transitions into disciplined defensive block
- Dynamic, motivated team with high level of technique, winning mentality

## TOP SCORER

|   |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | ALEXA PINO      | <b>2</b>        |
|  | ARIANA MARKEY   |                 |
|  | NATALIE COLLINS |                 |
|   |                 | NUMBER OF GOALS |

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |           |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>7</b>     | <b>8</b>      | <b>47</b> | <b>21</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>6</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>12</b>       | <b>43</b>     | <b>2</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS   | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |

## THAILAND

| SQUAD                       | DATE OF BIRTH | Position                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 BENYAPA SINGSAI           | 05-03-2009    | Goalkeeper                  |
| 2 NAPATSAWAN SUEBSUAN       | 03-06-2009    | Defender                    |
| 3 ALISSADA YUTTAKAS         | 20-03-2008    | Defender                    |
| 4 SIRIWIMON MUKDASAKULPIBAL | 01-03-2008    | Defender/Midfielder/Forward |
| 5 MANITA NOYVACH            | 15-11-2007    | Defender                    |
| 6 PINYAPHAT KLINKLAI        | 26-01-2008    | Defender                    |
| 7 RASITA TAOBAO             | 06-06-2007    | Defender/Midfielder/Forward |
| 8 RINYAPHAT MOONDONG        | 19-06-2007    | Midfielder                  |
| 9 ACHIRAYA YINGSAKUL        | 13-12-2007    | Forward                     |
| 10 MADISON JADE CASTEEN     | 15-10-2007    | Forward                     |
| 11 PHATCHARAPHORN KHUCHUEA  | 23-10-2007    | Defender                    |
| 12 MATIKA THAPRIK           | 31-05-2008    | Defender/Midfielder/Forward |
| 13 CHIRARAK KHAMTAN         | 09-07-2008    | Midfielder                  |
| 14 JULAIORN JAIMULWONG      | 07-04-2007    | Defender                    |
| 15 PRICHAKORN KRUECHUENCHOM | 04-12-2008    | Defender/Midfielder/Forward |
| 16 NACHANOK KOSONSAKSAKUN   | 22-09-2008    | Midfielder                  |
| 17 AUNCHIDTHA HOMTAGO       | 29-01-2009    | Midfielder                  |
| 18 ATIMA BOONPRAKANPAI      | 13-03-2007    | Goalkeeper                  |
| 19 KURISARA LIMPAWANICH     | 05-02-2009    | Forward                     |
| 20 CHUTIKAN KITIKHUN        | 20-04-2007    | Forward                     |
| 21 PORNTITA SITTHISAN       | 03-02-2007    | Defender/Midfielder/Forward |
| 22 PIMLAPAT AEEWONG         | 09-09-2009    | Goalkeeper                  |
| 23 METHINI BUPPHAHAO        | 05-04-2007    | Midfielder                  |



**FORMATION: 1-4-1-4-1**



## COACH

**KRITSADA PHUNGMALI (THA)**

Having appeared in every edition of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™, Indonesia 2024 marked a ninth participation for Thailand. However, Kritsada Phungmali's side began their Group Stage campaign with two successive defeats against Japan and China PR. Despite missing out on a Semi-final berth, the 2005 bronze medallists registered an emphatic win against Australia in their final game and bowed out of the competition on a high note.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1 with emphasis on short-passing possession play through thirds
- Good combinations in wide areas generating crosses, scoring chances
- No19 Limpawanich a striker with creative flair, good hold-up play
- Aggressive individual press on the ball; retreat into mid/deep block
- Quick counters after regains via through passes, running with the ball
- Agile team with fluid movements, attacking mindset, motivation

## TOP SCORER

|   |                      |          |
|---|----------------------|----------|
|  | KURISARA LIMPAWANICH | <b>1</b> |
|  | CHUTIKAN KITIKHUN    |          |
|  | RINYAPHAT MOONDONG   |          |

## STATISTICS

|                |              |               |           |                    |           |          |          |                 |               |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>3</b>       | <b>3</b>     | <b>8</b>      | <b>23</b> | <b>10</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>8</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>18</b>       | <b>19</b>     | <b>3</b>     | <b>0</b>  |
| MATCHES PLAYED | GOALS SCORED | GOALS AGAINST | SHOTS     | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET | PENALTIES | OFFSIDES | CORNERS  | FOULS COMMITTED | FOULS AGAINST | YELLOW CARDS | RED CARDS |



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

# TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## GROUP STAGE

| Group A        | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| DPR KOREA      | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0  | 22  | 9   |
| KOREA REPUBLIC | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 8  | 5   | 4   |
| PHILIPPINES    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7  | 8  | -1  | 4   |
| INDONESIA      | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1  | 27 | -26 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A         | Score      | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| 1   | 06 May,24 | 16:00:00 | DPR KOREA      | 7-0 (2-0)  | KOREA REPUBLIC |
| 2   | 06 May,24 | 19:00:00 | INDONESIA      | 1-6 (1-4)  | PHILIPPINES    |
| 5   | 09 May,24 | 16:00:00 | PHILIPPINES    | 0-6 (0-4)  | DPR KOREA      |
| 6   | 09 May,24 | 19:00:00 | KOREA REPUBLIC | 12-0 (5-0) | INDONESIA      |
| 9   | 12 May,24 | 16:00:00 | INDONESIA      | 0-9 (0-8)  | DPR KOREA      |
| 10  | 12 May,24 | 16:00:00 | KOREA REPUBLIC | 1-1 (0-1)  | PHILIPPINES    |



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## GROUP STAGE

| Group B   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| JAPAN     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1  | 11 | 9   |
| CHINA PR  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6  | 4  | 2  | 6   |
| THAILAND  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 8  | -5 | 3   |
| AUSTRALIA | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2  | 10 | -8 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score     | Team B    |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3   | 07 May,24 | 16:00:00 | CHINA PR  | 3-0 (1-0) | AUSTRALIA |
| 4   | 07 May,24 | 19:00:00 | JAPAN     | 4-0 (0-0) | THAILAND  |
| 7   | 10 May,24 | 16:00:00 | THAILAND  | 0-3 (0-0) | CHINA PR  |
| 8   | 10 May,24 | 19:00:00 | AUSTRALIA | 1-4 (0-2) | JAPAN     |
| 11  | 13 May,24 | 16:00:00 | JAPAN     | 4-0 (1-0) | CHINA PR  |
| 12  | 13 May,24 | 16:00:00 | AUSTRALIA | 1-3 (1-1) | THAILAND  |



# SEMI FINALS & 3RD/4TH PLACING

| Semi Finals    | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| JAPAN          | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3  | 3   |
| DPR KOREA      | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 3   |
| CHINA PR       | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0   |
| KOREA REPUBLIC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -3 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score     | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 13  | 16 May,24 | 15:00:00 | JAPAN     | 3-0 (1-0) | KOREA REPUBLIC |
| 14  | 16 May,24 | 19:00:00 | DPR KOREA | 1-0 (1-0) | CHINA PR       |

| 3rd/4th Placing | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| KOREA REPUBLIC  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 3   |
| CHINA PR        | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A   | Score     | Team B         |
|-----|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| 15  | 19 May,24 | 15:00:00 | CHINA PR | 1-2 (0-1) | KOREA REPUBLIC |



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

# FINAL

| Group B   | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| DPR KOREA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 3   |
| JAPAN     | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0   |

| No. | Date      | Time     | Team A    | Score     | Team B |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| 16  | 19 May,24 | 19:00:00 | DPR KOREA | 1-0 (0-0) | JAPAN  |





WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP™ INDONESIA 2024

# REFEREES



## 1. SUMMARY

- A total of 25 match officials were appointed to officiate the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ Indonesia 2024.
- The breakdown of officials is as follows:
  - 10 referees
  - 12 assistant referees
  - 3 standby match officials
- This team of match officials was responsible for ensuring fair play, enforcing the rules of the game, and contributing to the success and integrity of the competition.



### 1.1 AFC Match Officials

| Technical Instructors/Assessors |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Cui Yongmei                     | CHN |
| Pratap Singh                    | IND |
| Sachiko Yamagishi               | JPN |
| Widiya Habibah Binti Shamsuri   | MAS |
| Mai Hoang Trang                 | VIE |
| Fitness Instructors             |     |
| Zhang Lingling                  | CHN |
| Praew Semaksuk                  | THA |
| Referees                        |     |
| Rebecca Anne Durcau             | AUS |
| Yu Hong                         | CHN |
| Doumouh Ibrahim Albakkar        | LBN |
| Azusa Sugino                    | JPN |
| Cha Min-ji                      | KOR |
| Veronika Bernatskaia            | KGZ |
| Bui Thi Thu Trang               | VIE |
| Supiree Testhomya               | THA |
| Mahsa Ghorbani                  | IRN |
| Yang Shu-Ting                   | TPE |

| Assistant Referees                  |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Bao Mengxiao                        | CHN |
| Wu Qiaoli                           | CHN |
| Riiohlang Dhar                      | IND |
| Islam Awwad Abed Al-Abadi           | JOR |
| Sabreen Awwad Abed Ala'badi         | JOR |
| Saki Nakamoto                       | JPN |
| Park Mi-suk                         | KOR |
| Phutsavan Chanthavong               | LAO |
| Phyu May Thet                       | MYA |
| Suwida Wongkraisorn                 | THA |
| Dilshoda Rahmanova                  | TJK |
| Amal Jamal Nasser Mubarak Badhafari | UAE |
| Standby Referee                     |     |
| Plong Pich Akara                    | CAM |
| Standby Assistant Referees          |     |
| Thor Davy                           | CAM |
| Nguyen Thi Hang Nga                 | VIE |



## 1.2 Support Team

- Referees' Liaison Officers (LOs): supported the execution of the programme and coordinated all logistical requirements.
  - These LOs played a crucial role in facilitating communication with the host, ensuring smooth operations and addressing any logistical issues that arose during the event.
- Masseurs/physiotherapists: two (2) physiotherapists were available to assist match officials with recovery and injury prevention strategies.
  - Their presence ensured that officials received proper care to maintain their physical condition throughout the competition.
- Medical team: an ambulance accompanied by medical staff was stationed daily at the training venue.
  - This arrangement facilitated emergency response and provided first aid treatment of medical issues or injuries during training sessions or practice matches.



## 2. PREPARATORY COURSE

- The referees and assistant referees underwent a comprehensive three-day preparatory course from May 3 to 5, 2024.
- The course comprised both theoretical and practical sessions, aimed at enhancing their readiness and capabilities for officiating matches effectively.

### 2.1 Fitness Checks

- A total of 10 referees and 12 assistant referees passed the fitness assessments, ensuring they were physically fit to officiate matches.
- The fitness checks included:
  - Yo-Yo Intermittent Test: conducted for referees, with a target score of 17-8
  - Assistant Referee Intermittent Endurance Test (ARIET): administered for assistant referees, with a target score of 14-5.3
- Meeting these fitness standards demonstrated the officials' readiness to perform their duties effectively on the field and maintain the required levels of endurance and agility throughout the competition.

### 2.2 Practical Sessions

- During the preparatory course for match officials, daily practical sessions were held at the Indonesia FA pitch, with assistance from local team players.
- These sessions covered:
  - Positioning and movement: practicing optimal positioning on the field for clear visibility and decision-making
  - Concentration: enhancing officials' ability to

maintain focus throughout the matches

- Teamwork: promoting effective communication and collaboration among officials
- Fitness activities: these included drills to improve endurance and agility

- These sessions aimed to provide hands-on training and prepare officials both physically and mentally to officiate matches effectively.

### 2.3 Theoretical Sessions

- During the preparatory course for match officials, various theoretical sessions were conducted with the aim of enhancing their technical knowledge and ensuring consistency in the application of the Laws of the Game.
- The sessions included:
  - Review of match incident videos: these facilitated analysis and consensus-building among match officials, which enhanced their understanding and application of rules in different game scenarios.
  - Sharing important information and feedback: at the conclusion of the course, match officials received important feedback and information regarding both fitness and technical aspects to help them officiate matches.
- The theoretical sessions covered the following subject areas:
  - Technical:
    - Teamwork and match management
    - Handball
    - Offside
    - Positioning and reading of the game
    - Tactical fouls

- Penalty area incidents
- Challenges

- Fitness:
  - Weight control
  - Recovery exercises
- By addressing these technical and fitness topics comprehensively, the preparatory course equipped match officials with the necessary knowledge and skills while ensuring their physical wellbeing throughout the tournament.

#### Administration

- Competition overview & match procedures:
  - Encompasses rules, regulations and procedures governing the competition from start to finish.
  - Includes competition format, scheduling, venues, match duration, tie-breaking rules and disciplinary procedures.
  - Clear communication of these details ensured fairness, consistency and smooth operation throughout the competition.
- Management of communication system and flags:
  - Involved effective communication between match officials using headsets or earpieces.
  - Ensured proper use of flags by assistant referees to signal decisions such as offside, fouls, or substitutions.
  - Functional communication systems and proper flag coordination are essential for maintaining the integrity and flow of the game.
  - These aspects are vital for organising and executing a successful competition, contributing to fair play, efficient officiating and an enjoyable experience for all involved.

## 3. DURING THE COMPETITION

### 3.1 Practical Sessions

- The daily practical training sessions implemented during the competition focused on two key areas: fitness conditioning and maintenance as well as post-match recovery.
- Fitness conditioning and maintenance: these sessions ensured that match officials were in optimal physical condition to perform their duties effectively throughout the competition. They included a combination of cardiovascular exercises, strength training, agility drills, and flexibility exercises tailored to the specific demands of refereeing. Emphasis was placed on building endurance, speed, and resilience to sustain performance levels over the course of multiple matches.
- Post-match recovery: following each match, match officials participated in gymnasium and pool recovery sessions. These sessions were integral to the officials' post-match routine and aimed at facilitating physical and mental recovery after exertion on the field. Gymnasium sessions involved light exercises, stretching, and foam rolling to alleviate muscle tension and promote recovery. Pool sessions included activities such as swimming and hydrotherapy to soothe muscles and enhance relaxation.
- Incorporating both fitness conditioning and post-match recovery sessions into the officials' daily schedule demonstrated a commitment to supporting the wellbeing and performance of match officials. This holistic approach to training and recovery likely contributed to the officials' ability to maintain high standards of officiating throughout the competition while minimising the risk of fatigue or injury.



### 3.2 Match Assessment

- The utilisation of video referee assessors and on-site referee assessors played a pivotal role in ensuring the quality and consistency of officiating throughout the competition.
- Video referee assessor: situated in the Remote Monitoring Room at the referees' hotel, the video referee assessor had the crucial task of analysing



all matches in real-time. They closely tracked match situations using video feeds and compiled relevant details for subsequent debriefing sessions. This approach allowed for a comprehensive oversight of all matches and facilitated the identification of key incidents or officiating decisions.

- Referee assessors: In addition to video referee assessors, referee assessors were deployed to match venues to observe the officials' performance. These assessors closely monitored match officials throughout each game, providing immediate feedback and assessment of their decisions and actions. Their presence ensured that officials received timely guidance and support to maintain consistent and high-quality officiating standards.
- Combining the expertise of video referee assessors with the direct observations of referee assessors created a robust system for evaluating and supporting match officials. This comprehensive approach contributed to the overall improvement of refereeing standards over the course of the competition.

### 3.3 Match Debriefing Sessions

- The match debriefings conducted for the appointed match officials served as a vital learning tool, focusing on significant incidents from the previous day's matches. These incidents were carefully analysed to glean insights and lessons that would help prepare officials for upcoming matches.
- During these debriefings, instructors emphasised areas for improvement, offering valuable advice aimed at ensuring consistency and uniformity in recognising fouls and interpreting the Laws of the Game.

- By addressing specific incidents and providing guidance on officiating standards, the debriefing sessions aimed to enhance the officials' understanding and application of the rules, ultimately contributing to fair and effective officiating in future matches.

### 3.4 Match Preparation Sessions (Technical Study Group Session)

- Ms. Zhang Hong and Ms. Anjana Shivaji Turambekar, representing the Technical Study Group (TSG), played a crucial role in providing valuable information to the appointed match officials.
- They presented insights related to team tactics and individual players' style and behaviour, which proved to be beneficial for the officials' preparation and understanding of football dynamics.
- This exchange of information likely contributed to improved officiating and better management of matches.

## 4. TECHNICAL SUMMARY

### 4.1 General Performance

- The referee assessors and instructors played a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating the performance of match officials throughout the competition. Their close observation and detailed match reports provided valuable feedback to the officials, helping them improve their performance over time.
- Based on their assessments, referee assessors

and instructors rated the overall performance of match officials as good. This indicates that officials demonstrated a high level of competency and professionalism in their officiating duties.

- Furthermore, it was noted that refereeing standards improved as the competition progressed. This suggests that officials were receptive to feedback and actively worked on addressing any areas of weakness, resulting in an overall enhancement of refereeing quality as the tournament advanced.
- Overall, the efforts of referee assessors and instructors, coupled with the dedication of match officials, contributed to the maintenance and eventual improvement of refereeing standards throughout the competition.





# AWARDS



**MVP: MIHARU SHINJO (JAPAN)**



**YILI TOP GOALSCORER: JON IL CHONG (DPR KOREA)**



**BEST GOALKEEPER: PAK JU GYONG (DPR KOREA)**

**AFC FAIR PLAY AWARD**





# ALL-STAR SQUAD

# ALL-STAR SQUAD ALL-STAR SQUAD ALL-STAR SQUAD



## GOALKEEPERS



NO. 1  
HOU SHUMEI  
CHN



NO. 21  
MAO FUKUDA  
JPN



NO. 1  
PAK JU GYONG  
PRK



NO. 1  
GABRIELLE BAKER  
PHI

## DEFENDERS



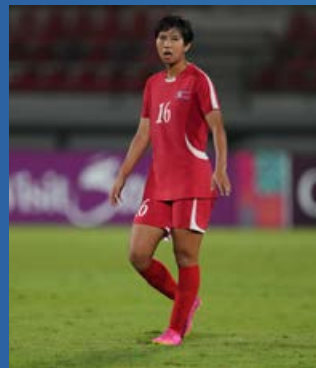
NO. 8  
CHEN RUI  
CHN



NO. 17  
RI KUK HYANG  
PRK



NO. 14  
PAK IL SIM  
PRK



NO. 16  
RI POM  
PRK



NO. 16  
NOA FUKUSHIMA  
JPN



NO. 4  
MITSUKI OTA  
JPN

# ALL-STAR SQUAD ALL-STAR SQUAD ALL-STAR SQUAD

## MIDFIELDERS



NO. 4  
SONG YU  
CHN



NO. 7  
JON IL CHONG  
PRK



NO. 19  
RO UN HYANG  
PRK



NO. 14  
MIHARU SHINJO  
JPN



NO. 8  
RINYAPHAT MOONDONG  
THA



NO. 10  
WON JU-EUN  
KOR

## FORWARDS



NO. 7  
HANA KIKUCHI  
JPN



NO. 12  
KANG RYU MI  
PRK



NO. 15  
CHOE IL SON  
PRK



NO. 19  
CASEY PHAIR  
KOR

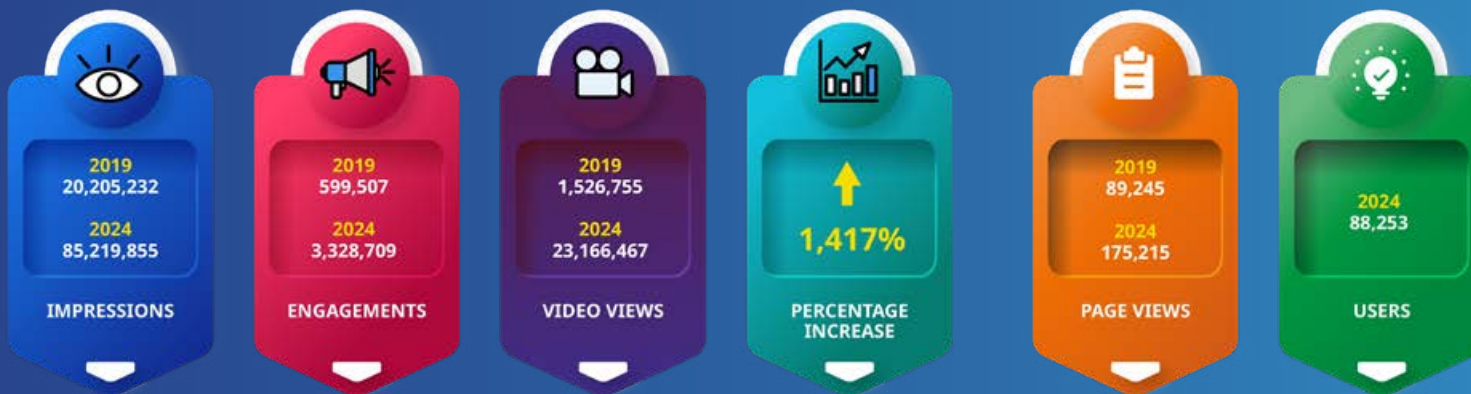


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