



AFC
U-16
CHAMPIONSHIP
INDIA 2016

TECHNICAL REPORT
AND STATISTICS

MESSAGE BY

AFC PRESIDENT

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA

I am delighted to present the Technical Report for the AFC U-16 Championship which was held in Goa, India in September and October 2016.

This technical report is designed to provide Member Associations, coaches, players, media and other football enthusiasts with a record of the tournament and offer a detailed study of the technical trends and developments in Asia at under-16 level.

The AFC U-16 Championship in Goa certainly put the spotlight on the stars of tomorrow. We are grateful to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and their Local Organising Committee for ensuring that the stadiums and training facilities for the competing teams were according to the required AFC standards.

The tournament was another example of the determination of the AFC to fulfil the objectives of its Vision and Mission and stage top class competitions which will create the necessary platforms to raise the standards of teams in Asia.

Congratulations to the Iraq under-16 team on becoming the champions of Asia. I was present to witness a hard-fought match in Goa, a match which clearly illustrated the bright future Asian football has in its brilliant youth teams.

The success of the AFC U-16 Championship India 2016 has paved the way for a tremendously successful FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017, when five Asian nations, Iraq, IR Iran, DPR Korea, Japan and of course the hosts, the India under-17 team, will take on the world's best young players.

We will continue to support youth and grassroots football as part of our Vision and Mission, as we aim to become the world's leading Confederation.

I extend my thanks to everyone who has helped in the compilation of this digital report.

One Asia, One Goal.



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President





GENERAL INTRODUCTION

For the first time, the final tournament of the AFC U-16 Championship was staged in India, with the 31-match final round being played between 15 September and 2 October 2016 at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim and the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, both in the state of Goa. The 16 finalists were divided into four groups, with the top two in each progressing to the quarter-finals. Three of the seven matches played in the knockout rounds, including the final, required penalty shoot-outs to determine the winner. The four semi-finalists at the tournament in Goa were rewarded with places at the FIFA U-17 World Cup, also to be staged in India in October 2017.

The AFC technical team at the tournament in Goa was formed by Morteza Mohases (IR Iran) and José Ariston Caslib (Philippines) under the captaincy of the AFC Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh. Their observations have formed the basis for this review of the tournament which, in addition to providing a permanent record of the event, aims to offer useful information to coaches working at the development levels of the game.



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SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A



Islamic Republic of Iran

IR Iran and United Arab Emirates qualified from group A, equal on seven points, but with Iran topping the group on goal difference. Iran showed resilience in their first match, securing a come-from-behind 3-2 victory against Saudi Arabia. Iran drew against UAE and thwarted host team India's hopes of qualifying for the knockout stages with a 3-0 win over them in their last group match.



United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates kicked off the tournament in a mentally tough match against the hosts India. They won 3-2 and then drew against IR Iran. UAE secured three points from their last group match against Saudi Arabia despite intense Saudi pressure, UAE's incisive counter-attacks proving to be the decisive factor.



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia left the tournament after the group stage with only one point, having surrendered a two-goal lead in the opening match against IR Iran; drawing against the hosts India; and succumbing 3-1 to UAE despite dominating most parts of their third match.



India

India had to deal with the pressures of being tournament hosts. However, having already secured a place in the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the team played in a composed manner but struggled to maintain a high tempo in the second half of their first two matches against Saudi Arabia and UAE. The final game against IR Iran was a clear 3-0 loss, as India exited the competition with important international tournament experience.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP B



Japan

Japan were completely dominant in Group B, scoring 21 goals and conceding none. Possession-play coupled with skilful finishing wore down opponents, with most of Japan's goals scored in the second half.



Vietnam

Vietnam claimed the runner-up spot in the group with a 3-2 victory over Australia, also scoring three against Kyrgyzstan's one in their final group match. This was a creditable comeback after the psychological blow of going down 7-0 to Japan in their opening match at the GMC stadium.



Kyrgyzstan

Tournament debutants Kyrgyzstan pulled off the first shock of the finals, beating Australia in the group B opener by 1-0. Kyrgyzstan lost their second match to Japan but put on a bright performance in the first half, with a couple of chances on goal. They also had a good first 45 minutes in their last group match against Vietnam, opening the scoring. But finally the 3-1 loss saw Kyrgyzstan leave their first AFC U-16 finals with three points.



Australia

Australia's quick exit from the tournament may have been a surprise for some. The coach stressed the importance of the learning experience for the young players as the team exited the competition without winning a point in the group stage.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP C



Oman

Oman took a confident win in their first match of the tournament with a 3-0 victory against Malaysia. They then drew the other two matches and went through to the quarter-finals at the top of the group on five points, edging Iraq on goal difference.



Iraq

Iraq started with a win in their first match, against Korea Republic and draws against Malaysia and Oman, secured their place in a sixth consecutive AFC U-16 Championship quarter-final.



Korea Republic

Korea Republic narrowly lost out on a place in the knock-out stages, finishing on four points. A comfortable 3-0 win against Malaysia in their last match was not enough to see them through the group, as Oman netted a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Iraq in their last fixture, finishing a point ahead of the Koreans.



Malaysia

Malaysia managed one point in their AFC U-16 Championship campaign with a 1-1 draw against Iraq. With losses in their other two matches, Malaysia headed home after the group stage, despite having created some promising chances in their last fixture against Korea Republic.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP D



Uzbekistan

Winners of the 2010 edition of the tournament, Uzbekistan entered the knockout phase on the back of a perfect record after wins over Thailand, Yemen and DPR Korea, topping group D with nine points.



DPR Korea

Winners of the previous edition of the competition, DPR Korea arrived at the AFC U-16 Championship as one of the favourites. They came second in their group with two wins and a loss against group-winners Uzbekistan.



Yemen

Yemen edged past Thailand on goal difference coming third with one point. Yemen lost their other two matches and drew 1-1 against Thailand and did not qualify for the quarter-finals, despite vocal support by fans in the stands in Goa.



Thailand

Thailand scored three goals and produced an entertaining match against Uzbekistan as their first fixture of the tournament finished with a 5-3 defeat. With another loss against DPR Korea and a draw with Yemen, Thailand exited the competition with one point.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: QUARTER-FINALS

The eight qualified teams had a lot to play for in the quarter-final matches with the added incentive of four places in the FIFA U-17 World Cup up for grabs for the semi-finalists.

The 2008 champions, IR Iran faced Vietnam in the first quarter-final. This was the second time Vietnam had qualified for the knockout stage of the continental tournament, having also appeared in the last eight as hosts and debutants en route to reaching the semi-finals back in 2000.

Although Vietnam began the match confidently, Iran claimed a resounding 5-0 victory and advanced to the semi-finals.

Two-time winners Japan advanced to a sixth consecutive knockout stage appearance of the competition. Against UAE at the GMC Stadium in the second quarter-final, Japan dominated the match for long stretches and scored the only goal from a corner.

The Oman v DPR Korea match had to be decided on penalties as the score-line was 1-1 after 90 minutes. Both sides netted two of their first three spot kicks but after Cha Kwang put the Koreans 3-2 up, Al Jahdhami missed. Kim Pom-Hyok kept his composure to secure a 4-2 shoot-out victory.

Uzbekistan entered this year's knockout phase on the back of a perfect record after wins over Thailand, Yemen and DPR Korea, while Iraq had finished second in Group C behind Oman. This was Iraq's sixth consecutive AFC U-16 Championship quarter-final and their 2-0 victory over Uzbekistan saw Iraq reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2012.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: SEMI-FINALS

Ahead of the last-four clash between Japan and Iraq, Japan coach Yoshiro Moriyama praised their opponents calling Iraq "one of the best teams of this generation". Going into the semi-finals, group B winners Japan were appearing for the first time since 2012, having previously won the AFC U-16 Championship in 1994 and 2006.

However, a hat-trick from Mohammed Dawood saw Iraq secure their place in the final of the competition after an action-packed 4-2 victory over the two-time winners at GMC Stadium.

Japan had not conceded in 360 minutes of football ahead of the last four clash but it took Iraq 18 minutes to break their run of clean sheets. Having netted both goals in Iraq's quarter-final win over Uzbekistan, striker Dawood gave his side the lead before a Hiroto Yamada double switched the advantage Japan's way before half-time.

Yoshiro Moriyama's side missed several chances in the opening period of the second half and Muntadher Abdulsada punished their wastefulness with the leveller on 66 minutes. Dawood converted twice from the penalty spot to complete his treble and send Qahtan Chittheer's side into the final.

Islamic Republic of Iran had advanced to the last four for the first time since 2012, facing titleholders DPR Korea in the other semi-final. DPR Korea returned to the semi-finals for the fifth time in seven attempts.

IR Iran booked a date with Iraq in the final after claiming a 6-5 penalty shootout win following a 1-1 draw. Iran dominated the first half at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and took a one-goal lead into the break, thanks to captain Mohammad Sharifi. DPR Korea's Kye Tam levelled the scores from the spot to take the semi-final to penalties.

Iran goalkeeper Ali Gholam Zadeh emerged as the hero. With the shootout at 5-5, he scored his spot kick before returning to his line to save from Kim Kyong-Sok. The hard-fought win saw Iran advance to the final for only the second time.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

FINAL

Winners of the competition in 2008, IR Iran contested the final with a “game plan to control the match”, according to coach Abbas Chamanian. They went into the final against Iraq unable to call on injured captain Aref Alipour, who had not been available since Iran’s second match in the group stage. This was the first meeting between the countries at the competition since a scoreless draw in the 2006 group stage.

Iraq was hoping to clinch the title for the first time, having already achieved their best-ever performance in the competition by qualifying for the final. Speaking ahead of the match, Iraq coach Qahtan Chitheer noted Iran’s strength at youth level, pointing to their U-14, U-16 and U-19 teams which “have many strengths and few weaknesses”, as they “put a lot of focus on their youth development”, according to Chitheer.

Indeed, the two teams had met two years previously in the semi-final of the AFC U-14 Championship when Iraq edged past IR Iran 3-2. Most of the players at this year’s AFC U-16 Championship were also involved in that semi-final in 2014, which shows the sustained development put into the teams by both the Iraqi Football Association and the Football Federation of Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this year’s U-16 final at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Iraq shaded a goalless opening 45 minutes with top scorer Mohammed Dawood twice going close. The forward then struck the crossbar on the hour as Iraq again had the better of the second half but, with no goals forthcoming, the final had to be decided by another shoot-out.

Trailing 3-2, Taha Shariati’s penalty was saved by substitute goalkeeper Mundher Najm, but after Muntadher Mohammed had passed up the opportunity to win it for Iraq, Mohammed Dawood made no mistake in converting the 10th and final spot kick to seal victory for Qahtan Chitheer’s side.



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
I.R. IRAN	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	7
SAUDI ARABIA	3	0	1	2	6	9	-3	1
INDIA	3	0	1	2	5	9	-4	1

MATCH

MATCH	SCORE
I.R. IRAN vs SAUDI ARABIA	3-2 (0-2)
INDIA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2-3 (2-1)
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES vs I.R. IRAN	1-1 (0-0)
SAUDI ARABIA vs INDIA	3-3 (1-2)
INDIA vs I.R. IRAN	0-3 (0-1)
SAUDI ARABIA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1-3 (0-1)

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	3	0	0	21	0	21	9
VIETNAM	3	2	0	1	6	10	-4	6
KYRGYZSTAN	3	1	0	2	2	11	-9	3
AUSTRALIA	3	0	0	3	2	10	-8	0

MATCH

MATCH	SCORE
AUSTRALIA vs KYRGYZSTAN	0-1 (0-0)
JAPAN vs VIETNAM	7-0 (3-0)
KYRGYZSTAN vs JAPAN	0-8 (0-3)
VIETNAM vs AUSTRALIA	3-2 (0-2)
AUSTRALIA vs JAPAN	0-6 (0-1)
VIETNAM vs KYRGYZSTAN	3-1 (1-1)

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
OMAN	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5
IRAQ	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
MALAYSIA	3	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1

MATCH

KOREA REPUBLIC vs IRAQ	1-2 (1-1)
MALAYSIA vs OMAN	0-3 (0-1)
IRAQ vs MALAYSIA	1-1 (1-0)
OMAN vs KOREA REPUBLIC	0-0
KOREA REPUBLIC vs MALAYSIA	3-0 (2-0)
OMAN vs IRAQ	1-1 (0-1)

SCORE

1-2 (1-1)
0-3 (0-1)
1-1 (1-0)
0-0
3-0 (2-0)
1-1 (0-1)

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
UZBEKISTAN	3	3	0	0	9	4	5	9
DPR KOREA	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
YEMEN	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1
THAILAND	3	0	1	2	5	10	-5	1

MATCH

DPR KOREA vs YEMEN	2-0 (0-0)
UZBEKISTAN vs THAILAND	5-3 (2-1)
YEMEN vs UZBEKISTAN	0-1 (0-0)
THAILAND vs DPR KOREA	1-4 (0-1)
DPR KOREA vs UZBEKISTAN	1-3 (0-0)
THAILAND vs YEMEN	1-1 (0-1)

SCORE

2-0 (0-0)
5-3 (2-1)
0-1 (0-0)
1-4 (0-1)
1-3 (0-0)
1-1 (0-1)

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

QUARTER-FINALS

MATCH

I.R. IRAN vs VIETNAM
JAPAN vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
OMAN vs DPR KOREA
UZBEKISTAN vs IRAQ

SCORE

5-0 (1-0)
1-0 (1-0)
1-1 a.e.t (1-1 90'; 0-0 45') 2-4 Penalty shoot-out
0-2 (0-1)



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

SEMI-FINALS

MATCH

JAPAN vs IRAQ

I.R. IRAN vs DPR KOREA

SCORE

2-4 (2-1)

1-1 a.e.t. (1-1 90'; 1-0 45') 6-5 Penalty shoot-out



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

FINAL

MATCH

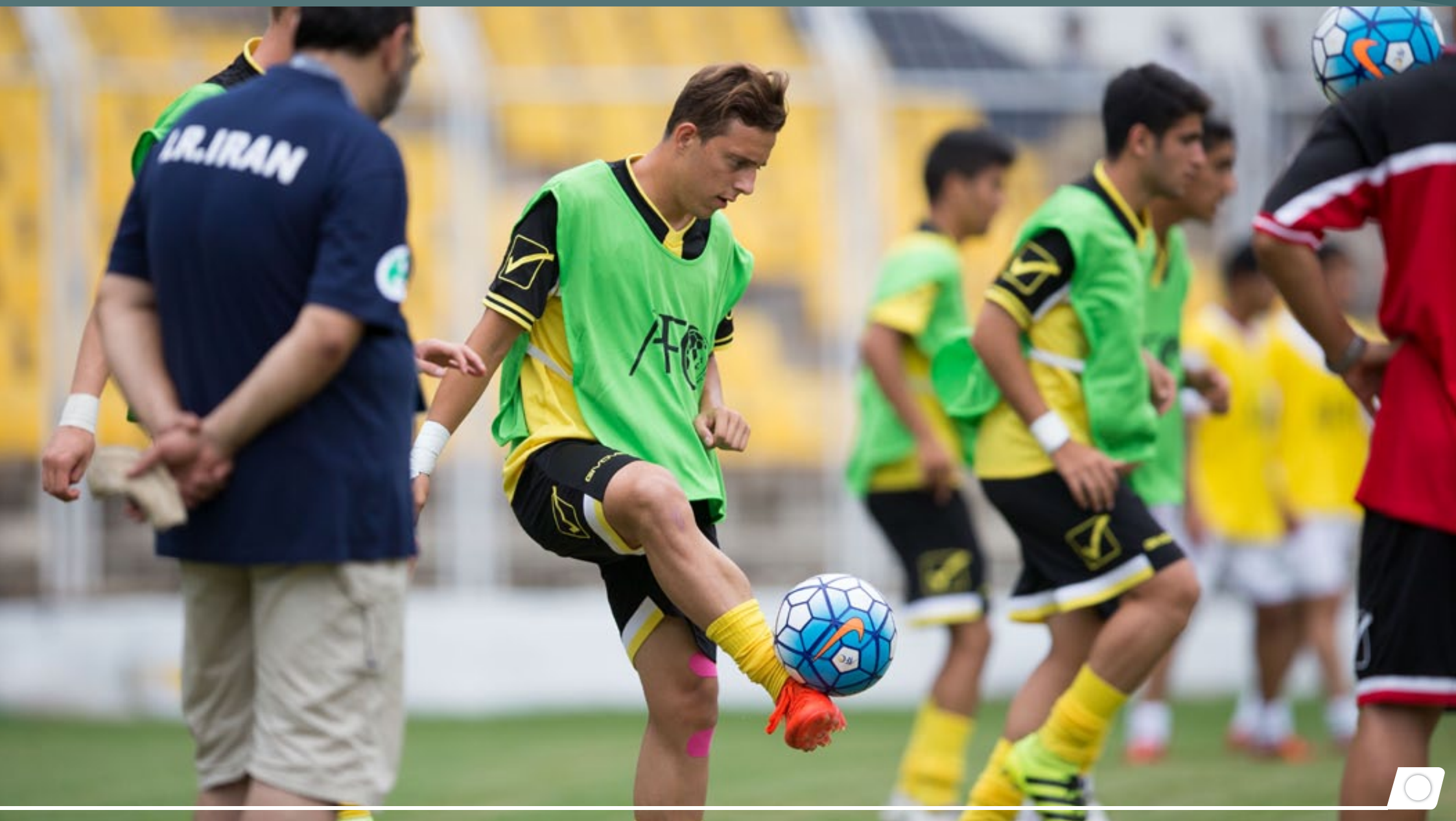
I.R. IRAN vs IRAQ

SCORE

0-0 a.e.t. 3-4 Penalty shoot-out



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

INDIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : NICOLAI PJOTR IVAN ADAM

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	DHEERAJ SINGH MOIRANGHEM	07/04/2000	Goalkeeper
2	BORIS SINGH THANGJAM	01/03/2000	Defender
3	JITENDRA SINGH	13/06/2001	Defender
4	MOHAMMED SARIF KHAN	03/10/2000	Defender
5	SANJEEV STALIN	17/01/2001	Midfielder
6	SURESH SINGH WANGJAM	08/07/2000	Midfielder
7	KHUMANTHEM NINTHOINGANBA MEETEI	13/07/2001	Midfielder
8	AMARJIT SINGH KIYAM	01/06/2001	Midfielder
9	AMAN CHETRI	26/07/2001	Forward
10	KOMAL THATAL	18/09/2000	Midfielder
11	ANIKET ANIL JADHAV	13/07/2000	Midfielder
12	MOHAMAD RAKIP	14/05/2000	Defender
13	LALENGMAWIA	17/10/2000	Midfielder
14	GASTON D'SILVA	31/03/2000	Defender
15	SAURABH MEHER	01/12/2000	Midfielder
16	NARENDER	24/04/2001	Defender
17	VANLALHRUAIA JOSEPH	01/02/2000	Midfielder
18	RAHUL KANNOLY PRAVEEN	16/03/2000	Forward
19	NONGANBA SINGH AKOIJAM	22/09/2000	Forward
20	PRABHSUKHAN SINGH GILL	01/02/2001	Goalkeeper
21	MOHAMMAD NAWAZ	21/01/2000	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 with Suresh (6), Amarjit (8) as influential controlling midfielders
2. Neat, high-tempo attacking play based on quick short passing
3. Wingers breaking forward for cut-backs or runs at goal
4. Fast counter-attacks, mostly channelled through wingers
5. Compact defending with good cover in front of centre-backs
6. Snappy pressing on opposition ball-carrier in own half of pitch
7. Exceptional team ethic, mental strength, commitment to cause



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

I.R. IRAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABBAS CHAMANIAN

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MERAJ ESMAEILI ESFAHANI	13/01/2000	Goalkeeper
2	SAEID AHANI	02/08/2001	Defender
3	AMIRHOSSEIN ESMAEILZADEHSHAHKOLA	25/01/2000	Defender
4	ALIREZA SAVARI	24/08/2000	Midfielder
5	AREF MOHAMMADALIPOUR	02/02/2001	Defender
6	TAHA SHARIATIKHAMENEH	03/03/2000	Defender
7	AMIRHOSSEIN KHODAMORADI	13/09/2000	Midfielder
8	MOHAMMAD SHARIFI	21/03/2000	Midfielder
9	ALIREZA ASADABADI	23/07/2002	Forward
10	VAHID NAMDARI DEGHADI	26/06/2000	Midfielder
11	YOUNES DELFI	10/02/2000	Forward
12	MOBIN ASHAYER	02/09/2000	Goalkeeper
13	AHMAD DAVASAR	15/12/2000	Defender
14	MOHAMMAD REZA GHOBEISHAVI	24/01/2000	Midfielder
15	HOSSEIN NOKHODKAR	24/02/2002	Forward
16	SEYED REZA MOUSAVIAN	25/03/2001	Midfielder
17	MOHAMMAD GHADERI	27/02/2000	Midfielder
18	AHMAD REZA JALALI	14/08/2001	Defender
19	AMIR SAMAN RANJBAR	13/03/2000	Defender
20	MOHAMMAD AMIN REZAEI SARKHAEI	14/08/2000	Defender
21	SEYYED ALLAHYAR SAYYADMANESH SHAIDEH	29/06/2001	Forward
22	ALI GHOLAM ZADEH GOMARI	13/02/2000	Goalkeeper
23	MOHAMMAD REZA JAFARI	20/09/2000	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 with screening midfielders giving close cover to back line
2. Emphasis on building from back with good links between lines
3. Outstanding wing play, especially by Ghaderi (17) on left
4. Good transitions in both directions; counter attacks part of repertoire
5. Occasional use of high pressing; but mostly in own half
6. Determined, quick-to-the-ball defending; well-organised back four
7. Good team spirit, mental resilience, commitment to cause



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

SAUDI ARABIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : MOHAMMED ABDULLAH A ALABDALI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	WALEED MOUSA H ALTUWAYHIR	28/02/2000	Goalkeeper
2	ABDULAZIZ HAMED S ALMALKI	03/10/2000	Defender
3	HUSEEN AHMED M BOKHARI	02/12/2000	Defender
4	NAIF MOUSA S ALMAS	18/01/2000	Defender
5	NAWAF BASSAM N ALDURAYWISH	14/03/2000	Defender
6	ALI MOHAMMED A ALSHAIKHI	22/01/2000	Midfielder
7	MOHAMMED MANSOUR Y MALI	03/12/2000	Forward
8	HAMAD ABDAN T ALABDAN	26/05/2000	Midfielder
9	ABDULLAH SUWAILEH T ALSAWAT	28/05/2000	Midfielder
10	MOHAMEED SAAD K ALDOSSARY	09/10/2000	Midfielder
11	HUSSAIN HASSAN M ALNATTAR	14/03/2000	Midfielder
12	YASSER ABDULLAH Y IBRAHIM	18/02/2000	Defender
13	TURKI FAHAD M ALMUTAIRI	31/05/2001	Midfielder
14	MANSOR FAIEZ S ALBESHE	24/04/2000	Midfielder
15	BASIL YOUSEF M ALSAYALI	22/06/2001	Midfielder
16	ALI ALBURAQ A ALASSAF	25/05/2000	Defender
17	MOHAMMED RAJI O ALKUNAYDIRI	10/11/2000	Forward
18	ABDULAZIZ SULAIMAN M ALDHUWAYHI	05/03/2000	Midfielder
19	FERAS TARIQ N ALBRIKAN	14/05/2000	Forward
20	DHARI SAYYAR M ALANAZI	05/06/2000	Midfielder
21	ANAS IBRAHIM M ALSHAMRANI	11/08/2000	Goalkeeper
22	HASHEM MOHAMMED B ALASMARI	19/02/2000	Goalkeeper
23	SATTAM ABDULLAH S ALNOGEDAN	17/10/2000	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. Deep-lying 4-2-3-1 with Alnattar (11), Mansor (14) as holding midfielders
2. Quick transitions from attack to compact defensive block
3. Emphasis on retreating, pressing vigorously to win ball in own half
4. Rapid counterattacks based on high-tempo short-passing moves
5. Use of build-up play when possible; or direct supply to striker
6. Good wing play by Alanazi (20), Mali (7) aimed at supplying crosses
7. Strong work ethic; games played with determination and intensity



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABDELMAJEED IBRAHIM MOHAMED

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	AL HARETH SALEM DHAWI MAYOUF ALHARTHI	18-02-2000	Goalkeeper
2	SANAD ESSA RAMADHAN ABDULLA RAEIALBOOM	29-04-2000	Defender
3	SULTAN SAEED MUFTAH MAHBOOB	18-12-2000	Defender
4	MAJED ABDULLA SALEM MOHAMED ALJUNAIBI	22-07-2000	Defender
5	MAJID RASHID SULTAN ALKHABEEL ALMEHRZI	16-05-2000	Midfielder
6	MOHAMED AREF RASHED HAMAD ALZAABI	27-06-2000	Midfielder
7	ABDALLA A M ALMUSHTAGHIL ALNAQBI	25-01-2000	Forward
8	AHMED RASHED FADEL ABDULHAJ ALMAZROUEI	03/01/2000	Defender
9	JUMA AHMAD SHUKRI QAYED ALBALOOSHI	06/07/2000	Midfielder
10	ALI SALEH ALI SALEH AMRO	22-01-2000	Forward
11	MOHMED ALI KHAMIS SALMIN MUBARAK	06/05/2000	Midfielder
12	FARIS KHALIL MOHAMED AHMED ALMARZOOQI	10/08/2000	Forward
13	ABED ALAZEZ DAWOD SOLIMAN AHMAD SOWELEM	03/04/2001	Forward
14	AHMAD FAWZI JOHAR FARAJ ABDALLA	26-11-2001	Forward
15	MANEA AYDH ALI SAEED AL RUWAIS	16-10-2000	Defender
16	ALI SAEED MOHAMMED ALI ALBALOOSHI	27-11-2000	Midfielder
17	EISA AHMED EISA ALI HOUTI	16-12-2000	Goalkeeper
18	ALI HASSAN ALI OBAID ALZAABI	29-07-2000	Forward
19	SALEM HAMAD SALEM SAEED ALNUAIMI	22-04-2000	Defender
20	SAIF ANTER SLAYEM MUBARAK ALNUAIMI	10/01/2000	Midfielder
21	YOUSIF ABDELRAHMAN OBAID A ALZAABI	08/10/2000	Midfielder
22	SALIM RASHID SALIM KHAMIS AL-ALI	11/09/2000	Goalkeeper
23	HAMAD JASSIM GH. A. ALHAFFAR ALBALOOSHI	06/06/2000	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 with twin controlling midfielders screening back four
2. Emphasis on direct supply to strikers Dawod (13), Alnaqbi (7)
3. Hardworking wide players providing box-to-box endeavour
4. Well-organised defending in two compact lines of four
5. Emphasis on drawing opponents forward, pressing in defensive third
6. When possession regained, counters via immediate passes to strikers
7. Good athletic qualities combined with strong rebound mentality



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

AUSTRALIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ANTONY VIDMAR

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	NICHOLAS ANTE DONALD SUMAN	28/02/2000	Goalkeeper
2	JAMES CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER	10/11/2000	Defender
3	DYLAN PIERIAS	20/02/2000	Defender
4	KALEB NEVILLE DAVID COX	01/03/2001	Defender
5	JOEL BRUCE KING	30/10/2000	Defender
6	ADRIAN VIGGIANI	21/09/2000	Midfielder
7	JACOB MICHAEL ITALIANO	30/07/2000	Forward
8	RAMY NAJJARINE	23/04/2000	Midfielder
9	JOHN ROBERTS	20/01/2001	Forward
10	LACHLAN RICKY BROOK	02/08/2000	Midfielder
11	MIRZA MURATOVIC	14/01/2000	Forward
12	JORDAN KENNETH GRIFFITHS	01/02/2001	Goalkeeper
13	THOMAS KEVIN AQUILINA	02/02/2001	Defender
14	RAHMAT AKBARI	20/06/2000	Midfielder
15	PATRICK DOMENIC SCIBILIO	22/02/2000	Defender
16	BENJAMIN KYLE OBST	16/01/2001	Forward
17	LOUIS JOSEPH D'ARRIGO	23/09/2001	Midfielder
18	JACKSON HENRY SIDNEY LEE	09/10/2001	Goalkeeper
19	MARK MORIC	16/03/2000	Forward
20	BRYCE EDWARD HORACE BAFFORD	06/05/2001	Forward
21	ADRIAN ROSS VALENTI	17/11/2000	Defender
22	JAIDON PETER SELDEN	02/12/2000	Forward
23	FABIAN ANDRES MONGE	07/12/2001	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 with single or twin screening midfielders
2. Good level of technique; emphasis on constructive passing game
3. Penetrating passes through middle; creative approach in final third
4. Diagonals to wingers ready to cut in and attack the goal
5. Rapid attack-to-defence transitions; pressing from midfield
6. Aerial ability at both ends; efficient winning of second ball
7. Good work ethic; physical strength, fitness and stamina



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

JAPAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : MORIYAMA YOSHIRO

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	TANI KOSEI	22-11-2000	Goalkeeper
2	RIKUTO KATSURA	16-09-2000	Defender
3	YUKI KOBAYASHI	18-07-2000	Defender
4	HIRAKAWA REI	20-04-2000	Midfielder
5	SEKO AYUMU	06/07/2000	Defender
6	HINATA KIDA	07/04/2000	Midfielder
7	YUKINARI SUGAWARA	28-06-2000	Defender
8	SUZUKI TOICHI	30-05-2000	Midfielder
9	TAKEFUSA KUBO	06/04/2001	Forward
10	FUKUOKA SHIMPEI	27-06-2000	Midfielder
11	TAISEI MIYASHIRO	26-05-2000	Forward
12	KOKORO AOKI	06/09/2000	Goalkeeper
13	KEITO NAKAMURA	28-07-2000	Forward
14	AKITO TANAHASHI	07/12/2000	Forward
15	KOZUKI SOICHIRO	22-12-2000	Midfielder
16	TAKUMU KEMMOTSU	06/02/2000	Defender
17	GIJO SEHATA	19-01-2001	Midfielder
18	HIROTO YAMADA	03/07/2000	Forward
19	KENTA KIKUCHI	28-05-2000	Defender
20	MATSUMOTO NAGI	09/04/2001	Midfielder
21	RYUTARO SAKUTA	05/05/2000	Defender
22	TANIMOTO SHUNSUKE	03/07/2001	Midfielder
23	ISSEI OUCHI	09/08/2000	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 formation implemented with discipline, tactical maturity
2. Patient possession-based construction with full-backs pushing forward
3. Attacks also supported by two central midfielders, notable Fukuoka (10)
4. Intelligent off-the-ball movement to provide passing options
5. Disciplined, compact defensive block, often holding high line
6. High-quality crosses and cut-backs; dangerous set plays
7. High levels of technique, fitness, concentration throughout tournament



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

KYRGYZSTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : SUIMALIEV SAMAT

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	SYCHEV ELGARD	01/08/2000	Goalkeeper
2	NAMATBEKOV ARGEN	09/04/2001	Midfielder
3	AITBAEV MALIK	22-05-2000	Defender
4	MELISBEKOV AZAMAT	19-12-2000	Midfielder
5	DZHAKYBALIEV MAKSAT	18-02-2000	Defender
6	ABDULKHAIROV KANYBEK	10/10/2000	Defender
7	SHIGAIBAEV EMIR	08/12/2001	Midfielder
8	SHARSHENBEKOV ARLEN	18-01-2000	Midfielder
9	MOMOSHEV AZIRET	22-04-2000	Forward
10	ALYKULOV GULZHIGIT	25-11-2000	Forward
11	TIMUR UULU OROZBEK	18-12-2000	Forward
12	SHAMURZAEV AMANTUR	25-01-2000	Defender
13	TOKOTAEV ERZHAN	17-07-2000	Goalkeeper
14	ESIN MAKSIM	14-03-2001	Forward
15	ALIEV ZHAKYP	15-10-2000	Defender
16	PRIADKIN ARTEM	18-09-2001	Goalkeeper
17	OROZBEK UULU SYRGABOLOT	22-03-2000	Forward
18	MAMATEMIN UULU ZHENISHBEK	05/09/2000	Defender
19	BORUBAEV GULZHIGIT	22-04-2000	Forward
20	ALMAZBEK UULU ERNAZ	30-03-2001	Forward
21	ARTYKBAEV RYSKELDI	04/09/2001	Forward
22	SYDYKOV ZHENISHBEK	05/09/2000	Midfielder
23	KANYBEKOV ADILET	25-11-2000	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. Attack-minded 4-2-3-1 with emphasis on building from back
2. Good use of width; attacking full-backs, effective diagonal passing
3. High-quality attacking in numbers; well-supported counterattacks
4. Technically gifted team, composed in possession, especially in midfield
5. Extensive positional interchanging in midfield and attack
6. Excellent covering, interceptions, reading of game in defence
7. Well-organised and disciplined with strong team ethic



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

VIETNAM

SQUAD LIST

COACH : DINH THE NAM

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	HUYNH HUU TUAN	02/02/2000	Goalkeeper
2	VO VAN HUY	03/03/2000	Defender
3	NGO KIM LONG	15/02/2000	Midfielder
4	NGUYEN HUYNH SANG	01/04/2000	Defender
5	UONG NGOC TIEN	23/03/2000	Midfielder
6	LE TRUNG NGHIA	10/12/2000	Midfielder
7	NGUYEN TRONG LONG	01/06/2000	Midfielder
8	NGUYEN TRAN VIET CUONG	27/12/2000	Forward
9	BUI ANH DUC	13/10/2000	Forward
10	NGUYEN KHAC KHIEM	18/09/2000	Forward
11	NGUYEN XUAN KIEN	01/04/2000	Defender
12	NGUYEN DUY KHIEM	02/07/2000	Midfielder
13	TRAN VAN DAT	26/12/2000	Forward
14	NGUYEN THANH BINH	11/02/2000	Midfielder
15	TRAN MINH HIEU	05/10/2000	Midfielder
16	VU QUANG DO	22/05/2000	Defender
17	VU DINH HAI	13/01/2000	Midfielder
18	NGUYEN DUC LONG	20/04/2000	Midfielder
19	MACH NGOC HA	09/10/2000	Midfielder
20	NGUYEN HUU THANG	19/05/2000	Midfielder
21	VU DUC MINH	02/12/2000	Goalkeeper
22	NGUYEN NHAT TRUONG	18/09/2000	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. Variations on 4-4-2 with two holding midfielders or diamond
2. Well-drilled zonal back four; compact defensive block
3. Emphasis on combination play, mixed with direct supply to front
4. Good levels of technique; ready to use skills in 1 v 1 situations
5. Effective combinations and positional switching in wide areas
6. Good pace in attack with midfielders pushing up to support
7. High level of collective understanding, off-ball movement



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

IRAQ

SQUAD LIST

COACH : QAHTAN CHITHEER DARIN

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ALI IBADI JABBAR GHURAIBAWI	16/02/2000	Goalkeeper
2	HABEEB MOHAMMED KHALAF AHELE	07/03/2000	Midfielder
3	AMMAR MOHAMMED DHEYAA AL-LAMI	20/05/2000	Defender
4	ALI AHMED RADHA ALDHAHI	13/09/2000	Defender
5	MUNTADHER ABDULSADA ABDULHUSEIN KHIKANI	12/03/2000	Defender
6	MUNTADHER MOHAMMED JEBUR AL-ABBOODI	06/05/2001	Midfielder
7	Mohammed Dawood YASEEN	22/11/2000	Midfielder
8	SAIF KHALID SHAYYAL	09/05/2000	Midfielder
9	ALI KAREEM HANI	12/05/2000	Forward
10	MOHAMMED RIDHA JALIL MEZHER AL-ELAYAWI	17/02/2000	Forward
11	ALAA ADNAN JABBAR AL-OKBI	08/01/2000	Forward
12	MUNDHER NAJM ABED AL-LAMI	28/04/2000	Goalkeeper
13	JAWHAR HAITHAM ABED	01/02/2000	Midfielder
14	YOUSIF SUAD MONES AL-RUBAYE	16/11/2000	Defender
15	MOAMEL KAREEM KHACHI ALMOHAMADI	17/11/2000	Defender
16	DHURGHAM MOHAMMED ALI	26/09/2000	Forward
17	MOHAMMED ALI ABBOOD SUWAED	10/01/2000	Forward
18	SALEH MAHDI SALEH HALLAF	08/10/2000	Forward
19	MOHAMMED ABDULRAHEEM MOHAMMED AL-HOASEE	12/07/2000	Midfielder
20	AHMED SARTIP OMAR AGHA	20/02/2000	Midfielder
21	ASADULLAH HAMZAH YOUSIF	11/07/2000	Forward
22	ABDULAZEEZ AMMAR KHALID	11/06/2000	Goalkeeper
23	SAJJAD MAJID HAMEED	03/07/2000	Forward



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 with wide midfielders squeezing diagonally into defensive block
2. Game plans based on composed, confident defensive efficiency
3. Front players willing to work in small unit as first line of defence
4. Skilful players in 'engine room' delivering penetrating forward passes
5. Classic fast counter-attack using runs in wide areas
6. Also direct supply to Dawood (7) – exceptional in 1 v 1 skills, finishing
7. Mentally resilient, committed, gaining confidence from team ethic



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

KOREA REPUBLIC

SQUAD LIST

COACH : SEO HYO WON

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	PARK JIMIN	25/05/2000	Goalkeeper
2	KIM TAEHWAN	25/03/2000	Defender
3	KIM MINHYEOK	24/03/2000	Defender
4	KIM TAEHYEON	17/09/2000	Defender
5	KIM JUSUNG	12/12/2000	Defender
6	LEE SOOBIN	05/07/2000	Midfielder
7	PARK CHANBIN	21/01/2000	Forward
8	SON JAEHYEOK	20/01/2000	Midfielder
9	PARK JEONGIN	10/07/2000	Forward
10	SHIN SANGWHI	14/07/2000	Forward
11	KIM DONGBUM	20/08/2000	Forward
12	JEON WOORAM	16/05/2000	Defender
13	KIM JUNGWON	27/04/2000	Midfielder
14	JEON SEUNGMIN	15/12/2000	Midfielder
15	KO JUNHEE	28/02/2000	Defender
16	YU JEHO	15/08/2000	Midfielder
17	KIM BOSEOP	01/10/2000	Midfielder
18	CHEON SEONGHOON	21/09/2000	Forward
19	KANG EUI CHAN	01/09/2001	Forward
20	YONG DONGHYUN	24/04/2000	Midfielder
21	BAEK JONGBUM	21/01/2001	Goalkeeper
22	JEONG CHANYOUNG	12/07/2000	Midfielder
23	MIN DONG HWAN	01/12/2001	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 with screening midfielders prepared to push forward
2. Controlled combination play; neat, accurate short passing
3. Good use of width with long passes to switch from wing to wing
4. Wingers also quick to retreat in attack-to-defence transitions
5. Pressing in defensive third; then construction rather than counters
6. Highly organised defensive work with central routes barred
7. Mental resilience; determined, sustained pursuit of result



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

MALAYSIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : SOMASUNDRAM PERIASAMY

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MUHAMMAD FIRDAUS IRMAN BIN MOHD FADHIL	23/07/2001	Goalkeeper
2	ARHAM KHUSSYAIRI BIN AB WAHAB	26/01/2000	Defender
3	AZRIN ADUKA BIN AZAHARI	01/11/2000	Forward
4	ZAINUL ARIFIN BIN AHMAD LATIFI	04/02/2000	Midfielder
5	ABDUL HADI BIN HASBOLLAH	30/04/2000	Defender
6	HARZANHAFAZ HAZLIZANIZAN BIN AHWAL	04/07/2000	Defender
7	MUHAMMAD ALIF SAFWAN BIN MOHD SALLAHUDDIN	02/12/2000	Forward
8	AMIRUL FAZLY BIN MOHD ZAMRI	02/10/2000	Midfielder
9	ARIF SHAQIRIN BIN SUHAIMI	13/03/2000	Forward
10	ALIFF HAIQAL BIN LOKMAN HAKIM LAU	07/11/2000	Midfielder
11	MUHAMMAD NIZARRUDDIN BIN JAZI	02/12/2000	Midfielder
12	MOHAMAD NAJMI IDHAM BIN JOHAN	16/09/2000	Midfielder
13	MUHAMAD AIMAN BIN MOHD ZAIDI	21/01/2000	Defender
14	MUHAMMAD AMIRUL HUSAINI BIN ZAMRI	10/04/2000	Forward
15	MOHAMAD KHUSSAINI ADLI BIN MOHD YUSOF	16/05/2001	Forward
16	MUHAMMAD IZREEN BIN IZWANDY	16/07/2000	Midfielder
17	XSEVIER XCICO FELEX	03/05/2000	Midfielder
18	MUHAMAD FERAZ BIN BAHARUDIN	04/02/2000	Defender
19	NOR AMIRUL BIN AWANG	13/06/2000	Midfielder
20	MUHAMMAD A'SIF BIN MASZARRY	18/07/2000	Defender
21	AIDIL MIRZA DARWISY BIN MAZHISAM	20/01/2000	Goalkeeper
22	MUHAMMAD RAFIQ BIN KAMARUDDIN	02/02/2000	Goalkeeper
23	MUHAMMAD IQBAL HAKEM BIN MOHD HATA	31/01/2000	Forward



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 with midfield dropping fast into 4-5-1 defending
2. Good levels of technique; pace and neat footwork
3. Fast to the ball; quick to shut down spaces in defensive third
4. Counter-attacking style based on direct supply to the front
5. Advanced midfielder Aliff Haiqal (10) a key component in all transitions
6. Speed and individual skills core elements of attacking game
7. Mentally resilient; strong team ethic and commitment



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

OMAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : YA'QOUB SA'UD SAIF AL SABAH

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	Haidar Musallam Al Ajmi	09/09/2000	Goalkeeper
2	Al Baraa Khalid Al Mawali	12/11/2000	Defender
3	Sultan Said Bashir Bait Bakhit Bin Ali	15/09/2000	Defender
4	Nawaf Jasim Al-Mujaini	18/01/2000	Defender
5	Yahya Hamood Abdullah Al Hudaifi	19/03/2000	Defender
6	Omar Rabeea Al-Madailwi	11/05/2000	Forward
7	Issam Khamis Said Almakhzoomi	28/09/2000	Midfielder
8	Nawaf Abdul Aziz Khadoum Al-Harrasi	01/11/2001	Midfielder
9	Muatasim Mustafa Adeem Al Bakri	06/03/2000	Forward
10	Arshad Said Saleh Al-Alawi	04/12/2000	Forward
11	Muadh Yahya Al Jahdhani	24/03/2000	Forward
12	Islam Salim Al Hinaai	22/07/2000	Goalkeeper
13	Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shukaili	27/03/2000	Forward
14	Mohammed Ibrahim Mubarak Said Al-Alawi	23/01/2000	Midfielder
15	Najeeb Mahfoodh Al Shajibi	05/01/2000	Midfielder
16	Naji Fayal Khamis Al-Gheilani	04/12/2000	Defender
17	Mohammed Obaid Khalfan Al-Qaidi	21/12/2000	Forward
18	Thamir Salim Garib Al Zaabi	01/03/2000	Forward
19	Yousuf Nashr Ali Al-Malki	21/08/2000	Defender
20	Abdallah Khalifa Rashid Al-Darmaqi	11/10/2000	Forward
21	Yaqhdan Khamis Obaid Al Mushaifri	02/05/2001	Defender
22	Yousuf Ali Hamed Al-Sheyadi	13/02/2000	Goalkeeper
23	Mohammed Shihab Al Sukaili	20/09/2000	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 with two complementary holding midfielders
2. Varied build-up; back four to wingers the preferred option
3. But also use of direct passing to the twin strikers
4. Flexible defensive strategy; often dropping into compact deep unit
5. But also periods of intense high pressure according to game situation
6. Mobile, strong midfielders providing the driving force of the team
7. Good team spirit and exceptional will-to-win



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

DPR KOREA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : YUN JONG SU

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	SIN TAE SONG	-	Goalkeeper
2	SIN KWANG SOK	-	Defender
3	KIM KYONG SOK	-	Defender
4	RI HYON IL	-	Defender
5	KYE TAM	-	Midfielder
6	HAN KYONG HUN	-	Defender
7	KIM HWI HWANG	-	Forward
8	WON U SONG	-	Midfielder
9	KIM CHUNG JIN	-	Midfielder
10	RI KANG GUK	-	Forward
11	KUNG JIN SONG	-	Midfielder
12	KIM POM HYOK	-	Defender
13	PAEK KWANG MIN	-	Midfielder
14	KIM CHOL JIN	-	Midfielder
15	CHA KWANG	-	Defender
16	RI IL JU	-	Midfielder
17	YUN MIN	-	Forward
18	JANG PAEK HO	-	Goalkeeper
19	KIM KUK SONG	-	Midfielder
20	RI SONG JIN	-	Forward
21	YU KWANG JUN	-	Goalkeeper
22	RI JONG CHOL	-	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. Classic 4-4-2 formation with deep 4-5-1 defending
2. Emphasis on rapid retreat into compact defensive block
3. Aggressive pressure on ball-carrier in own half of pitch
4. Game-strategy based on very quick transitions in both directions
5. Dangerous counter-attacking via fast, direct running through central area
6. Emphasis on collective virtues; readiness to work and cover for each other
7. High levels of positional and tactical discipline plus sustained concentration



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

THAILAND

SQUAD LIST

COACH : CHAIYONG KHUMPIAM

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	WUTTHIPONG THIANGTHAE	20-04-2000	Goalkeeper
2	SARAWUT MUNJIT	01/04/2000	Midfielder
3	NATTHAPONG NAKPITAK	24-05-2000	Defender
4	SONGWUT KRAIKRUAN	06/11/2001	Defender
5	WUDTICHAJ KUMKEAM	02/05/2000	Defender
6	THANANAT RUNGRAMPAN	23-06-2000	Defender
7	PONGRAWIT JANTAWONG	10/07/2000	Forward
8	PRATHOMPORN PHETCHARAT	20-04-2000	Midfielder
9	ARNON PRASONGPORN	21-02-2000	Forward
10	HASSAWAT NOPNATE	17-02-2000	Midfielder
11	PEERANAT JANTARAWONG	12/12/2000	Midfielder
12	NITITORN SRIPRAMAN	31-07-2000	Defender
13	JINNAWAT RUSSAMEE	04/09/2000	Forward
14	PATTHADON TIANGWONG	14-04-2000	Midfielder
15	NATTHAPHON SRISAWAT	17-09-2001	Midfielder
16	SOMSAK AMNAJRAT	16-10-2000	Midfielder
17	PEERAPAT KAMINTHONG	22-03-2000	Midfielder
18	SATTAWAT PITTAKIJ	02/07/2000	Goalkeeper
19	SITTIRAK KOETKUMTHONG	01/06/2000	Midfielder
20	PICHITPON NOYUTHAI	14-01-2000	Defender
21	RACHATA MORAKSA	21-02-2000	Defender
22	CHANCHOL LUEAARUN	24-10-2000	Goalkeeper
23	SUMANA SALAPPHET	13-05-2000	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. Flexible permutations of 4-1-4-1 and 4-2-3-1 structures
2. Patient building through midfield; elaborate approach play
3. Dangerous in wide areas; good variation in supply routes to wingers
4. Quality high crosses, especially by Pongrawit (7) from left
5. Striker Arnon (9) the target man and reference point in attack
6. Fast, strong defending by members of zonal back four
7. Hard-working unit with strong team ethic, commitment



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

UZBEKISTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : TIMUR ALIMKHODJAYEV

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	JURAEV KHOJIAKBAR	16/03/2000	Goalkeeper
2	KUYLIBOEV NURSULTON	04/08/2000	Defender
3	KHAYRULLAEV SHOKHZAMON	15/04/2000	Defender
4	KHOLDOROV IKHTIYOR	03/06/2000	Defender
5	NOMOZOV MUKHAMMADALI	26/10/2000	Defender
6	ABDULLAEV MARDON	30/10/2000	Defender
7	URUNOV OSTON	19/12/2000	Midfielder
8	AZIKHODJAEV GAYRAT	26/09/2000	Midfielder
9	SOATOV BAKHROMJON	01/08/2000	Midfielder
10	YULDOSHOV RASUL	26/10/2000	Midfielder
11	SOBIRJONOV ASADBEK	08/03/2000	Midfielder
12	UMRZAKOV JASURBEK	16/02/2000	Goalkeeper
13	GANIKHONOV IBROKHIM	14/07/2000	Forward
14	ABDUMANNOPOV DONIYOR	10/12/2000	Forward
15	ABDUSATTOROV KHUMOYUN	24/12/2000	Midfielder
16	MUYDINOV ABUBAKIR	07/07/2000	Defender
17	NEMATOV SHUKHRAT	06/03/2000	Forward
18	KARIMOV ISLOM	05/05/2000	Defender
19	ISMOILOV ABDULKHAY	02/08/2000	Forward
20	NEMATOV ABDUVAKHID	20/03/2001	Goalkeeper
21	KAMOLOV ABDUGANI	22/03/2000	Midfielder
22	KHASANOV BURKHON	15/01/2000	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. Possession-based 4-2-3-1 with strong emphasis on combination play
2. Well-drilled back four with adventurous full-backs, good aerial power
3. Effective penetrations on flanks with positional rotations
4. Willing to hold high defensive line and press in opponents' half
5. Technically strong midfield triangle; two controlling; one more offensive
6. Excellent combinations and game-opening diagonal passing
7. Athletic team with physical presence, determined ball-winning



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

YEMEN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : AMIN AL-SUNAINI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	OSAMA ABDULLAH ABDULLAH MASOOD HAIDAR	27-02-2000	Goalkeeper
2	MOHAMMED ALI QAID AL-BAADANI	09/05/2000	Forward
3	WAGDI AMEEN ABDO SAAD SAEED	01/01/2000	Defender
4	ZAIDAN NABIL MAKRAM AHMED NAJI	05/03/2000	Defender
5	AHMED ABDULGHANI HAZAEA QASEM	09/12/2000	Defender
6	MUFEED GAMAL MOQBEL SARHAN	10/01/2000	Midfielder
7	ABDULLAH HUSSEIN HUSSEIN ZAHRAH	12/05/2000	Midfielder
8	MURAD MURSHED YUSR MUSLEH ALWAN	20-02-2000	Midfielder
9	MUNEEF JASSAR MOHAMMED MUDHSH	18-03-2001	Forward
10	YOUSEF ABDULLAH ABDULLAH KANDASH	01/03/2000	Forward
11	AHMED MAHER GAMAL KHALIL	24-01-2002	Forward
12	AMIR ALI SALEH MOHAMMED	25-02-2000	Midfielder
13	AMMAR NASSER SALEH OBAID	30-11-2002	Forward
14	ABDULMAJEED MOHAMMED SALEH SABARAH	22-08-2000	Forward
15	WALEED MAHMOOD ABDULLAH MOHAMMED ASWAD	02/01/2000	Midfielder
16	MOHAMMED GAMAL ALI AL-HAMDANI	02/01/2000	Forward
17	MAGD SADEQ MOHAMMED AL-HAKIMI	23-05-2003	Forward
18	ALA'A ALDEEN AHMED ALI NASSER AWSHAH	29-03-2003	Forward
19	RIYADH ALI HUSSEIN GAHWASH	12/01/2000	Defender
20	MOKHTAR ALI ALI AL-KHALIL	29-01-2000	Defender
21	ABDULKAREEM ABDULLAH YAHYA AL-THALI	10/03/2001	Midfielder
22	AIMAN ADEL AHMED AL-SURAIHI	01/01/2000	Goalkeeper
23	MOHAMMED KHAMIS AHMED BIN HAMEEDAN	09/12/2000	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. Tactical flexibility with use of 4-4-2 and 4-5-1 structures
2. Emphasis on strong, committed defensive play; aerial power
3. Intelligent use of spaces and pockets in attacking play
4. Fast counter-attacks, mainly launched by central midfielders
5. Dangerous set plays, especially in corner + header format
6. Well-organised unit with individual roles clearly defined
7. Positive approach based on strong work ethic and commitment



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

GOALS IN GOA

The final tournament in Goa featured only two goal-less draws – one of them the final – and yielded 109 goals at a healthy average of 3.52 per match. As is the general norm, the goals were not evenly shared. In India, Japan provided almost one-quarter of the total, hitting the net 24 times in five games and almost doubling the tally posted by the tournament's second-highest scorers, IR Iran. The champions, Iraq, struck 10 goals in their six fixtures, half of that total originating from the penalty spot.

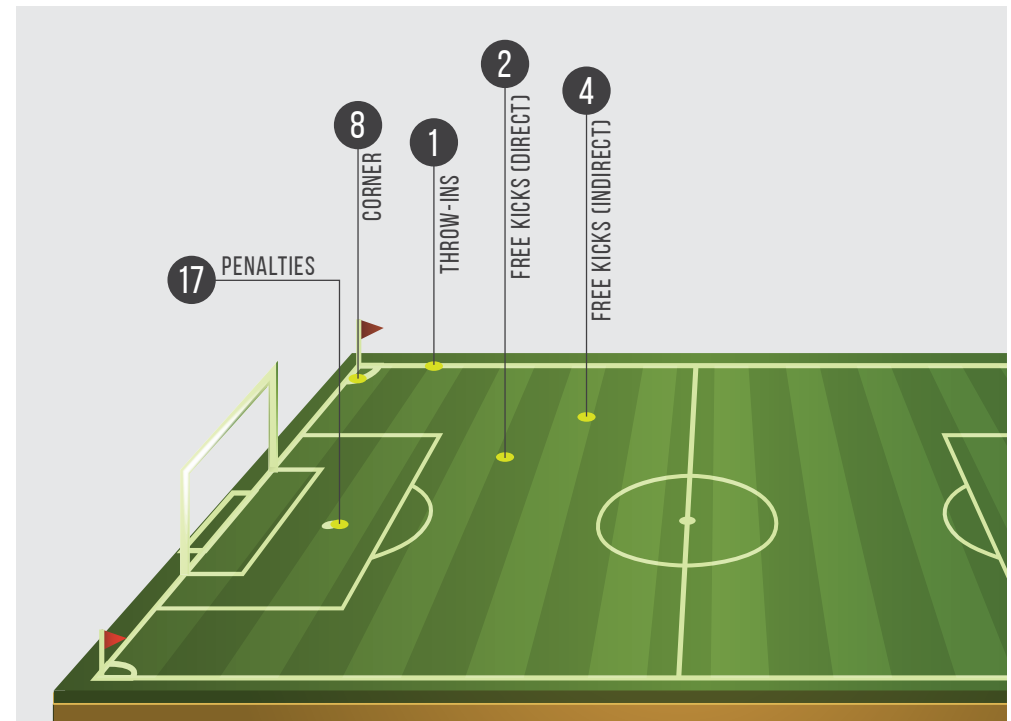
Indeed, one of the salient features to emerge from the tournament in Goa was that (excluding shoot-outs, of course) 17 of the goals were penalties. This figure represented almost 16% of the overall total and, unusually, for over half (53% to be precise) of the goals attributable to dead-ball situations.

The high number of penalties inflated the percentage of set-play goals to a 'normal' level: 29% of the tally for the tournament. Subtracting the spot-kicks, however, pares down the total to 15 – in other words, an abnormally low 14%. Of those 15, eight stemmed from corners, the most spectacular conversion corresponding to Australia skipper John Roberts, who opened the scoring during the group game against Vietnam with

an immaculate header after Louis D'Arrigo's delivery from the left.

Vietnam were also on the receiving end of one of the two direct free-kicks which joined the Roberts effort on the list of the tournament's best set-play goals, with Japan's Kubo Takefusa striking spectacularly into the net during his side's 7-0 group victory. The same fixture provided the scenario for the only set-play goal that could be attributed to a throw-in. Taisei Miyashiro put the finishing touch to the move that flashed up 3-0 on the scoreboard. The other direct free-kick, incidentally, was the technically impressive curling strike from around 30 metres by Kim Pom-Hyok that sealed a victory for DPR Korea over Yemen. In terms of gauging the amount of training-ground time that can usefully be dedicated to set-play execution in the final third, the striking fact is that 31 matches yielded only half a dozen successes from free-kicks – one per 465 minutes of play.

This extended a trend noted at the AFC U-23 Championship in Doha earlier in the year, where half the set-play goals had also been penalties and where only 10 goals had been traceable to corners or free-kicks.



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	4
Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	17
Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	1

SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

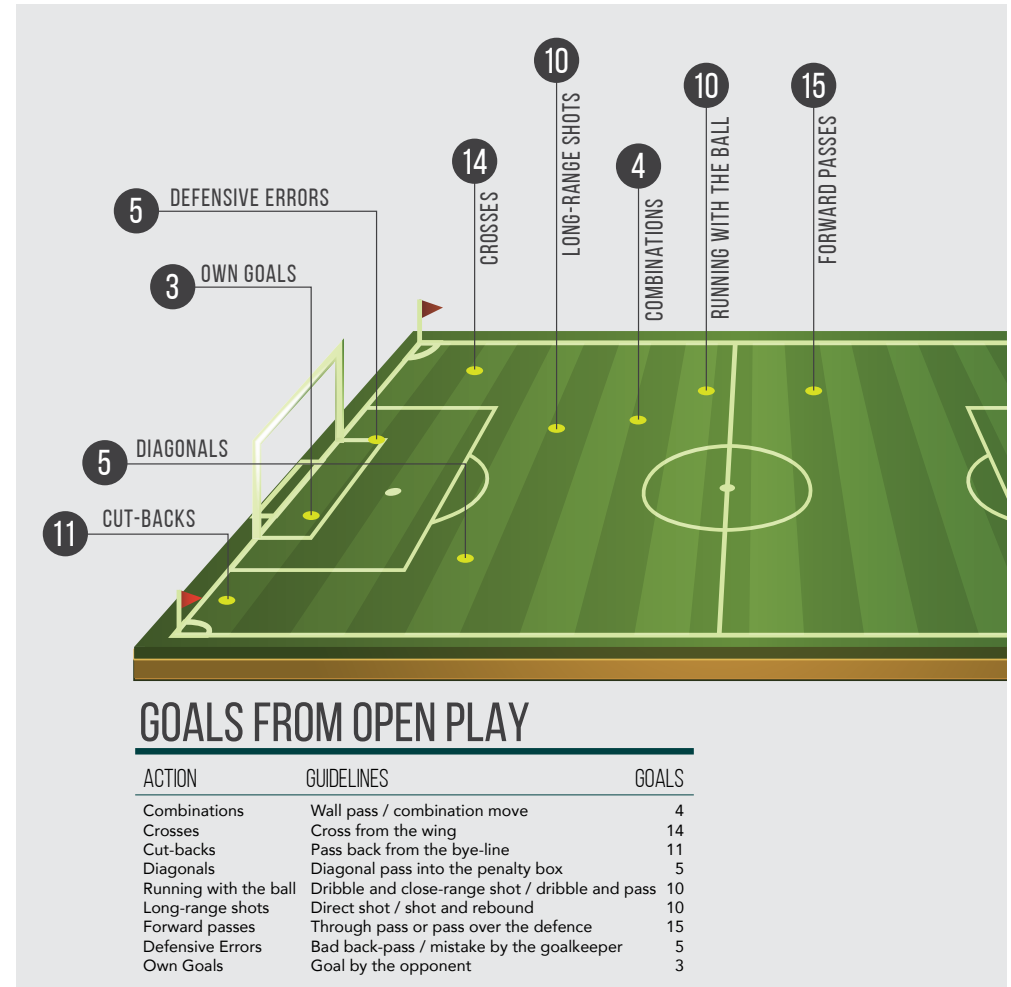
The figures related to open-play goals hint at a tendency towards direct attacking or counter-attacking, with the through pass providing – marginally – the most prolific category in terms of goal-producing moves. On the other hand, incursions in the wide areas proved to be equally or more fruitful. If the success rates for crosses and cut-backs are combined, they add up to almost one-third (32.5% to be exact) of the open-play total.

Long-range shooting was productive enough to encourage training-ground work on perfecting accuracy from a distance – especially when deep-lying defensive blocks sometimes open windows of opportunity from areas outside the box. The fact that solo runs paid similar dividends served to attract a highlighter pen towards the first item on the open-play list. One of the salient features to emerge from Goa was that combination play in the final third led to a mere 5% of open-play goals – a statistic that could inspire discussion on whether this can be attributed to the growing efficiency of compact defensive blocks or to shortfalls in creative thinking and decision-making in the final third. As evidence to fuel debate, it could be pointed out that, at senior level, combination moves provided 10% and 24% respectively in the previous season's AFC and UEFA Champions Leagues.

The AFC technical observers in India took on the challenge of selecting the best open-play and set-play goals of the tournament. Four of the five goals in the latter category have already been saluted – the odd one out being the indirect free-kick converted by Sanjeev Stalin that put India 1-0 ahead during their group game against UAE.



The open-play selection reflects the general tendency in that combination moves are notable by their absence. Solo efforts take pride of place, thanks to Matsumoto, Al Alawi, Abdullaev and Al Jahhami. The goals by Tanahashi and Haiqal were long-distance strikes. Pom-Hyok's stemmed from a cross and Chau-Young's from a cut-back. Ghaderi's goal was derived from one of the five successes attributable to diagonal balls into the box. And Mohammed Dawood provided the finishing touch to a move that involved a through pass and two headers.



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

BEST GOALS – OPEN PLAY

SCORER	MATCH
Nagi Matsumoto	Japan v Australia WATCH VIDEO
Jeong Chan-Young	Korea Republic v Iraq WATCH VIDEO
Arshad Al Alawi	Oman v Iraq WATCH VIDEO
Mardon Abdullaev	Uzbekistan v Thailand WATCH VIDEO
Kim Pom Hyok	DPR Korea v Oman WATCH VIDEO
Mohammad Ghaderi	IR Iran v Vietnam WATCH VIDEO
Mohammed Dawood	Iraq v Uzbekistan WATCH VIDEO
Akito Tanahashi	Japan v Kyrgyzstan WATCH VIDEO WATCH VIDEO
Aliff Haiqal	Malaysia v Iraq WATCH VIDEO
Muahd Al Jahdhami	Oman v DPR Korea WATCH VIDEO

BEST GOALS – SET PLAYS

SCORER	MATCH
Sanjeev Stalin	India v UAE WATCH VIDEO
Taisei Miyashiro	Japan v Vietnam WATCH VIDEO
Kubo Takefusa	Japan v Vietnam WATCH VIDEO
Kim Pom-Hyok	DPR Korea v Yemen WATCH VIDEO
John Roberts	Australia v Vietnam WATCH VIDEO

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS



SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

Goa offered visitors a rich footballing cuisine, flavoured by cultural and tactical diversity. There were, however, common denominators. All the contestants operated with a zonal back four. And all but one of the defensive lines were centrally protected by two screening midfielders. Even so, there were subtle undertastes. As AFC technical observer Morteza Mohases commented, “all the teams played with a flat back four, with Uzbekistan the only team to operate with three or five defenders according to match situations. It would be fair to say that every team defended zonally, although Iraq deployed a mix of zonal and man-to-man marking in their defensive third.”

An overview of team shapes in Goa reveals an almost even split between 4-4-2 and 4-2-3-1, with Thailand alone in deploying a 4-1-4-1 formation with a single ‘sweeping’ midfielder between two closely-positioned lines of four. The numbers, however, do not add up to the full story. The UAE team shape, for instance, could be labelled 4-4-2 or 4-2-3-1 according to the relationship between Abed Dawod and Abdulla Alnaqbi in the central attacking positions. There was an even split between the two structures among the top teams with Japan, DPR Korea and Iraq falling into the 4-4-2 category. The split between the two systems was illustrated by the final, where IR Iran remained faithful to the 4-2-3-1 credo.

TRAINING THE TRANSITIONS

Nevertheless, one of the positive features noted by the technical observers at the tournament in India was that playing structures were generally far from rigid and reflected training-ground work on improving transitional play. “In a lot of games,” Morteza Mohases remarked, “the versatility and flexibility in attacking and defensive work were impressive for this age group. For example, 4-5-1 defending could switch to 4-3-3 attacking within seconds. The key was to establish the right balance between defence and attack. It was obvious that the coaches had worked hard on this aspect of player development.”

“In comparing the characteristics of the two main systems,” added the other AFC technical observer, Jose Ariston ‘Aris’ Caslib “you could argue that the 4-4-2 shape was generally used by the teams who preferred quick counter-attacking as the primary option as soon as possession was won. Direct passing to the front offered greater percentages of success when two forwards could play off each other.”

Attack-to-defence transitions were usually based on, as Morteza Mohases put it, “getting at least seven players behind the ball after losses of possession and squeezing the space in the middle third. Two or three players



India vs United Arab Emirates

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

tried to disturb the opponents' build-up or tried to guide the ball-carrier into an area where he could be pressed in numbers." In the 4-2-3-1 structure, efficient transitions into defensive mode relied on the wide members of the line of three dropping back quickly to cover the full-backs.

The diversity of the tournament was reflected in defensive strategies. Again, there was a fairly even split. Teams such as India, Malaysia, Australia, UAE, Saudi Arabia or Thailand generally focused on forming a defensive block in their own half of the pitch, limiting spaces in the central area and launching counters as soon as possession was regained. In these cases, the speed of positional retreat was the key element – and the least vulnerable sides were those who conducted their attack-to-defence transitions with both alacrity and discipline.

PRESSING THE POINT

In Goa, the prevalence of pressing was conditioned by...conditions. Although thermometer readings between 24° and 30° did little to raise eyebrows, humidity undoubtedly contributed to the sapping of energy. As an aside, it could be mentioned that the 13 matches which kicked-off at 16.00 produced 42 goals at 3.2 per game; the 10 which started at 19.00 yielded 36 at – no calculator required – an average of 3.6. And the seven with the latest kick-off time

of 20.00 generated 31 goals at 4.4 per game. Coincidence? The only match to kick-off at 18.00 (the final) was goal-less.

The main issue, however, was that sustained high pressing was a challenge. The technical observers noted that Japan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Korea Republic and, occasionally, Oman set out to close down opponents immediately after losses of possession and pressed high up the pitch. Intense high pressing was also the norm for the champions, Iraq, whose head coach Qahtan Chiteer maintained, after the semi-final win over Japan, "we implemented a high press on them right from the beginning of the game and I think that was a key element in helping us to attain victory." Other teams were less predisposed to invest calories in high pressing and only resorted to this strategy when the situation demanded it.



Korea Republic vs Malaysia

THE COUNTER ARGUMENT

Once again, the tournament in India offered a diversity with regard to counter-attacking strategies. For some teams, it was the main source of attacking potential. For others – Japan offering a prime example of the art of fast counterattacking – it was an important weapon in the attacking armoury. Iraq relied heavily on direct counterattacking with 'Aris' Caslib opining "in the crucial matches, their counterattacking potential was key in the wins against Korea, Uzbekistan and Japan. Their ability in this area was also important to the tactical shape of the final against Iran." The tournament in India demonstrated that coaches are – justifiably – devoting more attention to this aspect of the game at youth development levels.

USING THE BALL

In a balanced review of the tournament as a whole, it would be dangerous, however, to over emphasise the prevalence of direct attacking and counter-attacking. Inevitably, the spotlight will follow the champions and their preference for the long diagonal ball into space beyond the opponents' back line to be exploited by their fast, dangerous attacker, Mohammed Dawood. On the other hand, teams like Korea Republic, Iran, Oman and, especially, Japan were prepared to base their game on a more patient build-up via neat, short passing from defence, through midfield and, mostly, raids along the flanks based on combination play – though Japan were confident enough to take on defensive blocks and play their way through the middle. UAE were salient among the teams who impressed spectators with their level of technical ability. Uzbekistan, like Iraq and IR



I.R Iran vs United Arab Emirates

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

Iran, were adept at opening up the game with long diagonal passing to the wide areas.

Other teams, such as Vietnam, Saudi Arabia (who converted three goals from crosses), India (scorers of the same number as a result of cut-backs from the area close to the bye-line) and Thailand, also set out to play a passing game – but, in general, with greater emphasis on reaching the final third with just a few passes. The same applied to DPR Korea's perpetual-motion style in which the whirlpools of movement masked a very direct attacking philosophy with very little emphasis on elaborate construction.

Overall, the implementation of a passing game frequently led to rapid turnovers of possession. This raised two fundamental issues. Firstly, the development of individual possession skills. In the modern game where opponents can often be expected to exert high pressure on the ball-carrier, the ability to screen the ball, to twist and turn away from trouble and to be competent in dribbling skills take on paramount importance.

Secondly, the tournament served to highlight the importance of footballing intelligence and decision-making. "For example, one of the areas where there is room for improvement," said Morteza Mohases, "is the execution of a telling final ball."

Number 17 Ghaderi of I.R Iran



This is challenging terrain for coaches at youth development levels and, more often than not, depends largely on day-to-day work at clubs rather than with national teams, where training-ground time is at a premium. In many respects, Japan offered benchmark examples during the tournament in Goa, not least in individual capabilities, game intelligence and the ability to create and exploit spaces between the opposition's defensive lines. Their No 9, Kubo Takefusa – a left-footer with ability to penetrate goalwards from the

right flank – was an outstanding exponent of these qualities, with his performance in Goa demonstrating the benefits of his experience at the FC Barcelona academy.

Japan also led the way in terms of attacking variation – as illustrated by the fact that they scored five goals via through passes, as many again thanks to individual efforts and three by striking at goal from long range. "Most of the successful teams," commented Morteza Mohases, "were able to vary their

attacking options. Apart from Japan, UAE, Uzbekistan, Oman and Iran scored from wing play, passes behind the defence, long-range shots, counterattacks, set pieces..."

Putting ball-possession to good use is a perennial topic at all levels of the game and the tournament in India was by no means alone in demonstrating that domination of the ball does not always lead to domination on the scoreboard. Japan, once again, provided a thought-provoking example. Having enjoyed percentages ranging from 52% (6-0 v Australia) to 65% (8-0 v Kyrgyzstan) en route to the semi-final, Yoshiro Moriyama's side had 61% of the ball during the semi-final against Iraq yet emerged as 4-2 losers. Along with Japan, Korea Republic, Iran and DPR Korea were the top teams who regularly dominated possession – though the latter stepped away from their regular line by conceding 53% of the ball to Uzbekistan in their final group game. The champions, Iraq, showed themselves to be equally comfortable with or without the ball, taking the lion's share (61%) against Malaysia; 57% against Uzbekistan; and the same percentage during the final against IR Iran. The two matches in which Qahtan Chittheer's team was a loser in possession produced victories on the scoreboard.

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

PLAYING FROM THE BACK

“The teams who set out to build from the back,” Morteza Mohases observed, “usually pushed the full-backs forward, with the centre-backs splitting wide and one of the controlling midfielders dropping back. In this situation, it was often up to the goalkeeper to decide who would initiate the build-up and how.” Some teams attempted to pre-empt construction by pressing the goalkeeper (and/or centre-backs) in a bid to persuade them to play long and, in consequence, put possession at risk.

In India, there was, once again, a striking diversity in terms of goalkeeping personalities. Kosei Tani, Japan’s keeper, would not have looked out-of-place in a senior team. On the other hand, some of his fellow keepers could not compete with his physical presence or strength and, in consequence, were often reluctant or lacking in confidence when it came to venturing from the line to deal with crosses. Tani was among the keepers who preferred to build from the back; others (especially those of teams set up for second-ball strategies) preferred to systematically play long.

THE LEARNING CURVE

The AFC technical observers agreed that the level of technique among the young players was continuing its upward curve.

The same could be said of the mental preparation for high-intensity matches on the international stage – as illustrated by the ‘rebound mentality’ displayed during the final tournament. At all levels of the game, scoring the first goal is acknowledged as a major step towards final victory, and events in Goa by and large endorsed this principle. However, six matches were won by the team which had conceded the opening goal. Mental resilience was displayed by IR Iran (v Saudi Arabia), UAE (v India), Vietnam (v Australia and Kyrgyzstan), Uzbekistan (v Thailand) and Iraq (v Korea Republic). The champions also showcased their mental steel by bouncing back from a 2-1 deficit to beat Japan 4-2 in the semi-final.



Saudi Arabia vs I.R. Iran

In terms of player development, discussion was also sparked by reflections about the balance between individual and collective development. On the one hand, there is growing emphasis on establishing a clear job description for each role within the team and coaching the specific skills required by this speciality. On the other hand, the technical observers commented, it is also important to equip players with all-round skills and a broad tactical education. The tournament in Goa, they felt, underlined

the need to help young players to develop all-round abilities and to be outstanding in at least one area. The last word on the 17th AFC U-16 Championship in India belongs to Abdelmajeed Al Nemer, head coach of the UAE team. “The tournament was a great experience for me and for my players and we really learned a lot,” he said. “In football, there is a winner and a loser. But, for me, if you learn from each game, then you don’t really lose.”



Rashid of Oman

SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS



SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS

MEN AND BOYS

One of the perennial talking points at age-limit tournaments relates to the balance between player development and results. The verbal jousting can be engaged from various angles. For starters, it can be legitimately argued that places in the following year's FIFA U-17 World Cup represent an alluring incentive to focus on results. For the sake of argument, it might be worth throwing in observations that have regularly appeared in the technical reports on Europe's nearest-equivalent competition. The UEFA U-17 Championship is played yearly and, in alternate years, serves as the qualifying competition for the FIFA World Cup. When World Cup places are at stake, it has been noted that caution is much less likely to be thrown to the wind. In terms of game strategy, there can be more incentives to avoid defeat and more of a case for defence.

Were similar questions raised in India? Or did the sheer number of goals (109) indicate that it wasn't?

One of the other angles in the results v development debate is the question of longer-term development. At Under-16 level, a difference of almost two years between dates of birth can easily translate into substantial differences in terms of physical and emotional maturity. The first

debating point is whether this age factor has a significant impact on results? The champions, Iraq, certainly ticked a great many boxes in terms of athletic maturity, physical presence in terms of capacity for sustained, committed high pressing and the levels of emotional intelligence required to achieve results. Were these the decisive factors?

ODD ONES OUT?

Iraq, as it happened, selected 22 players born in 2000 and one from 2001. They were not alone. The Uzbekistan squad was identically structured; all 23 Vietnam squad members had dates of birth in 2000; Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and UAE had 21; DPR Korea 20. Iran and Yemen stood alone in selecting players born in 2002 (two apiece) with the latter also including two from 2003. The overall balance sheet, however, reveals that, of the 365 players selected, 309 were born in 2000 and 50 in 2001. What, if any, are the development repercussions for players born in the odd year, bearing in mind that the next competition will be for youngsters born on or after 1 January 2002?

ONWARD AND UPWARD?

How many of the top players in Goa will make starring appearances on the senior international stage? Statistics insist that the answer is "relatively few". And, let's face the facts, it really is a statistical question. A look



Vietnam vs Kyrgyzstan

at squad lists at the Asian Cup or the FIFA World Cup reveals a clear picture. Maybe the simplest way to make the point is to refer back to the four Asian representatives in Brazil. The dates of birth among the Japan squad ranged from 1980 to 1990. Korea Republic 1981 to 1992; IR Iran 1980 to 1993; and Australia 1979 to 1992. The latter, in other words, covered an age-band of 14 years.

This raises debating points for the coaches working at U-16 and other youth development levels. Statistically, the odds are that only one or two players from the successful U-16

teams are likely to appear on the senior stage. So what are the objectives for the coach? Players selected for the national team are often tempted to feel that they have 'reached the top'. What is the best way to achieve a balance between keeping their feet on the ground and encouraging them to fly higher? How much of the job is about personal development? How important is to prepare players for a career at lower level or outside football? Or is the mission purely and simply to prepare them to climb the next step on the ladder and be included in the Under-19 squad?

SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS



Ali Gholam of I.R Iran saving a penalty

NO TIME FOR EXTRA TIME?

One of the adages in modern football is that the penalty shoot-out is “a lottery.” Joyful for the winner; heart-breaking for the loser. The fact is that two of the last three AFC U-16 Championships have been decided, after a total of 540 minutes of high-intensity tournament play, by a single shot that failed to find its way from the penalty spot to the net. Is this the fairest way to decide the title? Would it have been better to give the teams a sporting chance during extra-time?

There is no shortage of supporting evidence for those prepared to defend the status quo. The AFC format simply adheres to the norms that FIFA apply at this age level. It can be argued that it is better for player welfare as, in Goa, both DPR Korea and IR Iran would have been required to play two periods of

extra-time in heat and humidity during the knockout rounds. Would this have imposed excessive physical burdens?

Another angle is the lack of uniformity. Europe, for example, plays matches at this level as 2 x 40 minutes and has recently deleted extra-time from the regulations. There is also debate at top level in the wake of major finals of senior club and national team competitions where the extra half-hour has, in any case, failed to produce goals. Yet the EURO 2016 final provided a counter-argument, with Portugal scoring during extra-time to take the title. Maybe in Goa, for example, it might have been fairer to allow extra-time only in the final when the title was at stake? Is it logical that, at the AFC U-19 Championship played a few weeks later in Bahrain, extra-time was played? At

what stage should youngsters be required to cope with the scenarios they can expect to face when they reach senior level? The talking point is whether the status quo is satisfactory? Or whether it might be time for a review?

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME?

The last point loops back to tie up with the first. Is football at U-16 level about developing players and people? Or is it exclusively about attaining objectives? In final tournaments of this nature, it is not infrequent for coaches,

if their team has earned qualification for the next round with a game to spare, to rest a few players and to offer some matchplay to other squad members. Understandable – and even logical. But what if the performance in a match gives the impression that one team is not at its competitive best? The referee, whose responsibility is to implement the Laws of the Game, is powerless to react to a scenario in which no law is broken. But who is responsible for implementing the spirit of the Beautiful Game? At this formative stage, is it a key part of the coach’s role?



Match officials of final match

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH



SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

PLAYERS TO WATCH: TALENTS?

Although teamwork was a key element throughout the AFC U-16 Championship and a decisive factor behind the increased standard of play, this tournament proved that teams still depend on outstanding players to succeed. Some of the leading players in this tournament were the Iraq midfielder Mohammed Dawood, who dazzled with his remarkable playing style and pace. He showed quick thinking in and around the penalty area coupled with the confidence to take on defenders, and excellent understanding and execution within the 4-2-3- Iraq's system of play. Japan's outside midfielder Kubo also impressed, a very intelligent player on the ball, and Kida Hinata proved himself as a valuable defender with the skill to get forward, and Fukuoka Shimpei with his spectacular first touch, leadership in midfield and ability to run with the ball to create chances is another Japanese player worthy of mention. Others include Iran's elusive left winger Ghaderi and the defensive organiser Shariati, two very skilful players with good vision and fighting spirit.



MVP - Mohammed Dawood (Iraq)



Takefusa Kubo (Japan)



IR Iran's left winger, Ghaderi

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

COUNTRY	PLAYER	QUALITIES
IRAQ	#7 DAWOOD - Striker	Strong and very fast with the ball, Single-minded in 1 v 1 situations, excellent movements inside the box and finisher.
	#8 SAIF KHALID SHAYYAL - Midfield	Central midfielder, excellent technical skill, good link between defence and attack.
	#10 AL-ELAYAWI - Midfield	Skilful player with the ball, links well with Dawood in front. Clever in 1 v 1.
IR IRAN	#17 GHADERI - Left wing	Left footed player, good mobility, good in 1 v 1 on the flanks. Can score on and off the ball.
	#8 SHARIFI - Midfield	Very good positional player, reads the game well, very good in both transitions and can score goals.
	#6 SHARIATI - Central Defender	Tall, strong and quick player, good in 1 v 1 defending and has ability to counter attack in transition- to pass or dribble forward.
JAPAN	#9 KUBO - All rounder in attack	Strong and quick player with the ball, clever and dangerous going to the penalty box.
	#6 KIDA - Right back	Technical player with good anticipation of the game. Intelligent and aggressive.
	#10 FUKUOKA - Midfield	Highly technical player and clever. Very quick and mobile.
DPR KOREA	#12 KIM POM HYOK (C) - Central defender/ striker	Versatile and quick player, highly skilful, clever and decisive and good finisher.
OMAN	#10 ARSHAD - Forward	Very skilful player with the ball and highly confident, dangerous in transition and has good finishing qualities.
SAUDI ARABIA	#14 MANSOR - Midfield	Fearless and determined in 1 v 1 attacking. Good mobility.
UZBEKISTAN	#7 URONOV OSTON - Midfield	Holding-midfielder, tactically mature, highly skilful leader.



Kim Pom Hyok - DPR Korea



Arshad - Oman

Uronov Oston - Uzbekistan

Mansor - Saudi Arabia

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

GROUP A

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
15 Sep,16	INDIA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	MAJID RASHID - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
15 Sep,16	I.R. IRAN vs SAUDI ARABIA	MOHAMMAD SHARIFI - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
18 Sep,16	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES vs I.R. IRAN	ABED ALAZEZ DAWOD - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
18 Sep,16	SAUDI ARABIA vs INDIA	FERAS ALBRIKAN - SAUDI ARABIA
21 Sep,16	INDIA vs I.R. IRAN	MOHAMMAD GHADERI - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
21 Sep,16	SAUDI ARABIA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	ALHARETH SALEM - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



United Arab Emirates vs I.R. Iran

GROUP B

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
16 Sep,16	AUSTRALIA vs KYRGYZSTAN	SYCHEV ELGARD - KYRGYZSTAN
16 Sep,16	JAPAN vs VIETNAM	KUBO TAKEFUSA - JAPAN
19 Sep,16	KYRGYZSTAN vs JAPAN	TANAHASHI AKITO - JAPAN
19 Sep,16	VIETNAM vs AUSTRALIA	NGUYEN DUY KHIEM - VIETNAM
22 Sep,16	AUSTRALIA vs JAPAN	KOZUKI SOICHIRO - JAPAN
22 Sep,16	VIETNAM vs KYRGYZSTAN	NGUYEN KHAC KHIEM - VIETNAM



Kyrgyzstan vs Japan

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

GROUP C

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
16 Sep,16	KOREA REPUBLIC vs IRAQ	Mohammed Dawood - IRAQ
16 Sep,16	MALAYSIA vs OMAN	ARSHAD SAID AL-ALAWI - OMAN
19 Sep,16	IRAQ vs MALAYSIA	ALIFF - MALAYSIA
19 Sep,16	OMAN vs KOREA REPUBLIC	SHIN SANGWHI - KOREA REPUBLIC
22 Sep,16	KOREA REPUBLIC vs MALAYSIA	PARK JEONGIN - KOREA REPUBLIC
22 Sep,16	OMAN vs IRAQ	ARSHAD SAID AL-ALAWI - OMAN

GROUP D

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
17 Sep,16	DPR KOREA vs YEMEN	KIM POM HYOK - KOREA, DPR
17 Sep,16	UZBEKISTAN vs THAILAND	URUNOV OSTON - UZBEKISTAN
20 Sep,16	YEMEN vs UZBEKISTAN	SOBIRJONOV ASADBEK - UZBEKISTAN
20 Sep,16	THAILAND vs DPR KOREA	KYE TAM - KOREA, DPR
23 Sep,16	DPR KOREA vs UZBEKISTAN	YULDOSHOV RASUL - UZBEKISTAN
23 Sep,16	THAILAND vs YEMEN	NATTHAPHON SRISAWAT - THAILAND



Iraq vs Malaysia



DPR Korea vs Uzbekistan

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QUARTER FINALS

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
25 Sep,16	I.R. IRAN vs VIETNAM	ALLAHYAR SAYYAD - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
25 Sep,16	JAPAN vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	SEKO AYUMU - JAPAN
26 Sep,16	OMAN vs DPR KOREA	KIM POM HYOK - KOREA, DPR
26 Sep,16	UZBEKISTAN vs IRAQ	Mohammed Dawood - IRAQ



I.R Iran vs Vietnam

SEMI FINALS

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
29 Sep,16	I.R. IRAN vs DPR KOREA	ALI GHOLAM ZADEH - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
29 Sep,16	JAPAN vs IRAQ	Mohammed Dawood - IRAQ



Japan vs Iraq

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

FINAL

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
02 Oct,16	I.R. IRAN vs IRAQ	Mohammed Dawood - IRAQ



AFC President, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, presents Mohammed Dawood the MVP award

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



QAHTAN CHATEER- COACH
IRAQ U-16 TEAM

“HE’S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND STUDIES THE OPPONENTS VERY WELL. HE IS VERY TALENTED AND CAN PLAY ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDE. THE COACHING TEAM ALL WORK HARD TOGETHER TO TRY AND HELP HIM IMPROVE AS A PLAYER AND IMPROVE HIS PERFORMANCES ON THE PITCH.”

QAHTAN CHATEE ON “M. DAWOOD-MVP”

“THIS WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE MATCHES WE HAVE PLAYED BEFORE AND WE CONTROLLED THE GAME FOR LONG PERIODS. WE IMPROVED IN THE SECOND HALF AND HAD MANY CHANCES. IN THE END THE BEST TEAM WON.”

“WE PLAYED UNDER HUGE PRESSURE TODAY, AS DID IRAN, BUT WE DID NOT MISS OUR GOALSCORING CHANCES BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE.”

“ALTHOUGH JAPAN IS A WELL PREPARED TEAM, THERE WERE MANY TACTICAL FACTORS IN TODAY’S MATCH THAT WENT OUR WAY, ESPECIALLY AS WE IMPLEMENTED A HIGH PRESS ON THEM RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME THAT HELPED US ACHIEVE VICTORY.”



“OUR COACH HAS DONE VERY WELL TO SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS IN THIS TOURNAMENT.”

“I WAS VERY CALM WHEN WALKING UP TO TAKE THE PENALTY AND I WANTED TO SCORE IT FOR OUR COACH.”

MOHAMMED DAWOOD- IRAQ
MVP OF THE AFC U16 CHAMPIONSHIP
AFTER THE FINAL



SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



ABBAS CHAMANIAM- COACH
IR IRAN U-16 TEAM AFTER THE
FINAL AGAINST IRAQ

“ WE COULDN'T CONTROL THE GAME TODAY LIKE WE HAVE DONE BEFORE. ”

“ I TOLD THE PLAYERS THAT PENALTIES ARE LUCKY AND THAT THEY HAVE DONE VERY WELL IN THIS TOURNAMENT. I THANKED THEM FOR THEIR EFFORT FROM THE FIRST DAY UP UNTIL NOW. ”



AL SABAHI- COACH
OMAN U-16 TEAM AFTER THE
QUARTER-FINAL DEFEAT TO
DPR KOREA

“ IT WAS A VERY TOUGH GAME AND DPR KOREA ALWAYS PLAY THE LONG BALL, WHICH WE ARE NOT USED TO. WE LACKED THE EXPERIENCE AFTER TAKING THE LEAD AND THEY SCORED IN THE LAST SIX MINUTES. IF YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION THINGS CAN CHANGE IN JUST ONE SECOND. ”

“ WE MUST HAVE A WINNING MENTALITY AND NOT JUST THINK ABOUT A DRAW AS WE CANNOT LOSE OUR CHANCE TO QUALIFY. ”

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



YOSHIRO MORIYAMA- COACH
JAPAN U-16 TEAM

“ WE CREATED GOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SECOND HALF BUT FAILED TO CONVERT THEM. IT IS A GOOD LESSON FOR OUR PLAYERS: IF WE DON'T SCORE OUR CHANCES, WE WILL STRUGGLE. I HOPE OUR PLAYERS LEARN FROM THIS GAME.”

“ I HOPE OUR PLAYERS CAN LEARN FROM THIS TOURNAMENT AND IMPROVE. AT THIS STAGE IN THEIR CAREER, OUR PLAYERS NEED TO MAKE MISTAKES TO LEARN, SO I AM POSITIVE ABOUT THE FUTURES OF THESE PLAYERS GOING FORWARD FROM HERE.”



ABDELMAJEED AL NEMER- COACH
UAE U-16 TEAM

“ JAPAN IS A REALLY GOOD TEAM. THEY HAVE VERY TALENTED PLAYERS WITH GOOD DEFENDERS AND THEIR TRANSITION FROM DEFENCE INTO ATTACK IS REALLY FAST.”

“ IN FOOTBALL THERE IS A WINNER AND A LOSER, BUT FOR ME IF YOU LEARN FROM EACH GAME THEN YOU DON'T REALLY LOSE. THIS TOURNAMENT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME AND MY PLAYERS AND WE REALLY LEARNT A LOT.”

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



“PSYCHOLOGY IS ONE OF THE SIDES OF THE GAME, ALL OF US ARE HUMAN, AND THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE DECISIVE FACTORS IN THE MATCH IRAQ ARE GOOD INDIVIDUALLY WITH SKILLFUL PLAYERS. AS A TEAM, IRAQ ARE PREPARED WELL TACTICALLY SO IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT MATCH.”

TIMUR ALIMKHODJAYEV- COACH
UZBEKISTAN U-16 TEAM BEFORE
THE AFC U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP
QUARTER-FINAL AGAINST IRAQ



“HONESTLY, I BELIEVE IT CAN HAPPEN. IF YOU CAN IMAGINE IT AND BELIEVE IN IT THEN IT IS POSSIBLE AND THAT IS HOW WE WILL GO INTO THE MATCH.”

NICOLAI ADAMS- COACH
INDIA U-16 TEAM BEFORE THE
OPENING GAME OF THE TOURNAMENT
AGAINST THE UAE

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



**DINH THE NAM - COACH
VIETNAM U-16 TEAM AFTER
HIS SIDE'S 3-2 WIN AGAINST
AUSTRALIA**

“ IN THE FIRST HALF WE DIDN'T START THE GAME WELL, OUR PLAYERS WERE NERVOUS AND WERE NOT WELL-FOCUSED. IN THE SECOND HALF WE CHANGED THINGS. WE TOLD THE PLAYERS WE HAD NO OTHER CHANCE, WE HAVE NO OTHER WAY, EVERYONE MUST FIGHT TOGETHER. AS LONG AS WE FIGHT TOGETHER I AM HAPPY, EVEN IF WE LOST, BUT OBVIOUSLY WINNING LIKE THIS IS PERFECT. ”



**TONY VIDMAR - COACH
AUSTRALIA, U-16 TEAM AFTER
LOSS AGAINST VIETNAM**

“ WE STARTED OFF WELL, TOOK CONTROL OF THE GAME, AND GOT THE GOAL WE WERE LOOKING FOR. BUT AFTER THAT WE PANICKED, TURNED THE BALL OVER A LOT MORE. WE LOOKED NERVOUS IN DEFENCE, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME INTENT AND URGENCY TO WIN THE BALL BACK. WE GOT A LUCKY GOAL BUT PANICKED AFTER THAT AND MAYBE FOCUSED TOO MUCH ON THE SCORELINE. OUR SHAPE WENT OUT THE WINDOW, THEY SCORED ONE AND THEN THE SECOND AND THE THIRD GOAL KILLED US OFF. ”

SECTION 9: REFEREES



SECTION 9: REFEREES

THE TEAM OF REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

REFEREES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Arumughan Rowan | IND |
| 2. Wang Di | CHN |
| 3. Kimura Hiroyuki | JPN |
| 4. Kim Daeyong | KOR |
| 5. Bonyadifard Mooud Abbasali | IRN |
| 6. Abdul Baqi Yaqoob Said Abdullah | OMA |
| 7. Khamis Mohamed KA Al-Kuwari | QAT |
| 8. Sukhbir Singh | SIN |
| 9. Masoud Tufaleyileh Jamil Naifa | SYR |
| 10. Sivakorn Pu-Udom | THA |
| 11. Kurbanov Charymurat | TKM |
| 12. Asimov Aziz | UZB |

ASSISTANT REFEREES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Kennedy Sapam | IND |
| 2. Pillai Arun Sasidharan | IND |
| 3. Hsu Min-Yu | TPE |
| 4. Karakami Satoshi | JPN |
| 5. Song Bong Keun | KOR |
| 6. Mirzabeigi Ali | IRN |
| 7. Al Ghaiti Rashid Hamed Ali | OMA |
| 8. Juma Mohammed KH Al-Burshaid | QAT |
| 9. Aung Moe | MYA |
| 10. Ali Ahmad Mohamed | SYR |
| 11. Azman bin Ismail | MAS |
| 12. Gurbanov Saparmamet | TKM |
| 13. Serazitdinov Ruslan | UZB |
| 14. Ahmed Saeed Ahmed Alasal AlRashdi | UAE |
| 15. Jang Chol Jin | PRK |
| 16. Chanybekov Zamirbek | KGZ |





2016 AFC UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REPORT

The Asian Football Confederation official website - www.the-afc.com

VIDEO LINKS

The Final:
<https://youtu.be/IW1mzvw1uuw>




Top 10 Goals:
https://youtu.be/VKttawcS_Ew

Stars of Tomorrow - Mohammed Dawood (Iraq):
<https://youtu.be/VHT-QEdAY4M>

Stars of Tomorrow - Takefusa Kubo (Japan):
<https://youtu.be/zqTkgwaQp0Q>



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