



AFC
U-16
CHAMPIONSHIP
MALAYSIA 2018

TECHNICAL REPORT
AND STATISTICS



MESSAGE BY

AFC PRESIDENT

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA

I am delighted to be presenting another technical report for the AFC U-16 Championship, a competition which provides a platform for the future stars of the Asian game.

In the last few years it has been a true pleasure to see young players progress through the AFC age-group competitions to compete at the AFC Asian Cup and in some cases at the FIFA World Cup as well.

The standard of football in Asia is rising and I am grateful to the AFC Technical Study Group for their diligent work in providing yet another insightful Technical Report which will assist coaches across the Continent prepare their teams in the future.

Congratulations must go to Japan who overcame the spirited challenge of Tajikistan in the final to win their third title at this level. Both Japan and Tajikistan will be joined by Korea Republic and Australia in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Peru in 2019.

We wish them all the best of luck and thank the Football Association of Malaysia for hosting an outstanding tournament which lived up to the AFC's Vision and Mission objective of staging top-level competitions for all our teams.

The AFC also praises the commitment of all the Member Associations who entered the AFC U-16 Championship. The continued support and unity of our MAs helps the continual rise of football in Asia.

Finally on behalf of the AFC, I extend my thanks to the AFC Technical Committee, the AFC Competitions Committee, the AFC Technical department and the Technical Study Group for their contributions to what I believe is a most informative report.



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President

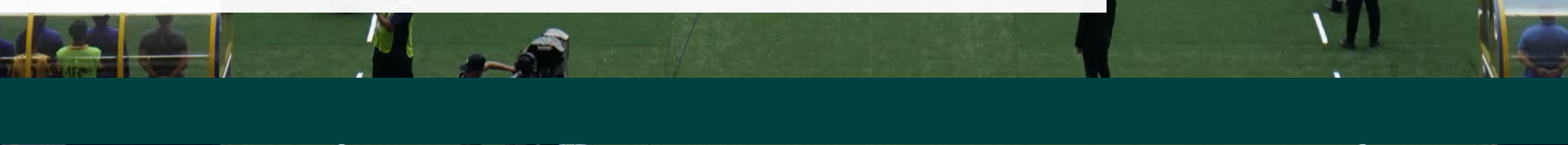


GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The 2018 edition of the AFC U-16 Championship was held in Malaysia from 20 September to 7 October 2018. The 16 finalists were divided into four groups, with the top two in each group progressing to the quarter-finals.

An AFC Technical Team was present at the tournament to provide expert technical observation. The study group was made up of Morteza Mohases, Muhannad Al Fakeer and AFC Deputy Technical Director Wim Koevermans.

Their analysis has formed the basis for this review of the tournament which, in addition to providing a permanent record of the event, aims to offer valuable 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

**Japan**

Japan began their Malaysia 2018 campaign brightly as they came back from a first minute deficit to beat Thailand 5-2, but making seven changes to their starting lineup against Tajikistan saw the match end in a goalless draw. However, the young Samurai Blue secured a 2-0 win over host nation Malaysia with a goal in each half to seal top spot with seven points.

**Tajikistan**

A nervy Tajikistan suffered an opening day 6-2 defeat to Malaysia at the National Stadium, but recovered splendidly on Matchday Two as a solid defensive performance saw them hold Japan 0-0, reviving their hopes of reaching the knockout stage. Zaynidin Rakhimov's charges took a first half lead against Thailand and survived a late fightback to secure all three points with Zairov Islom's 84th minute header to finish second in the standings.

**Thailand**

Thailand were unable to hold on to their early lead as they fell to Japan in their group opener, but flexed their muscles against the host nation with a 4-2 win to remain in contention for the quarter-finals. Despite clawing back through Mueanta Suphanat's 81st minute strike, the young War Elephants missed out on the knockout stage three minutes later when a lapse in defence allowed Tajikistan to regain the lead and eventually claim the win.

**Malaysia**

Malaysia got off to a great start, picking up three points with three goals in each half to beat Tajikistan 6-2. The Young Tigers performed extremely well to bounce back from a goal down twice against Thailand but were unable to stage a comeback when star striker Luqman Hakim Shamsudin was given his marching orders in the 50th minute, eventually losing 4-2 to their Southeast Asian rivals. Coupled with a 2-0 loss to Japan in their final group fixture, the hosts crashed out of the 2018 Championship last in the standings.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP B



DPR Korea

DPR Korea were denied a winning start when a resilient Jordanian side salvaged the game with a 2-2 draw, but earned their first three points with a 1-0 win against Yemen, courtesy of Kim Won-il's first half strike. Pak Jong-chol's side showed their intention as three first half goals from three different goalscorers laid the foundation for a 3-1 win over Oman to progress to the quarter-finals as Group B winners with seven points.



Oman

Oman powered to a 2-0 win over Yemen, thanks to Qusai Salim Al Jaradi's two goals in the first half. Yaqoub Al Sabahi's boys displayed determination as they came back twice, settling for a 2-2 draw with Jordan. After conceding three goals in the first half to DPR Korea, Oman were able to pull one back in the 78th minute through Qusai's spot-kick, but despite the loss there was relief as they too advanced to the knockout stage as group runners-up when Yemen stunned Jordan.



Yemen

Yemen, who lost to Oman in their opener, were the only team to be eliminated on Matchday Two when they suffered a 1-0 loss to DPR Korea, but were able to end their 2018 campaign on a high as they overtook Jordan for third in the standings, defeating their West Asian rivals 5-1.



Jordan

Jordan displayed tenacity as they earned two consecutive 2-2 draws against DPR Korea and Oman, and were looking to seal their place in the last eight but the best they could do was deny Yemen a clean sheet when Reziq Mohammed Banihani converted a penalty in the 75th minute, finishing at the bottom of the group with two points.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP C



Indonesia

Indonesia and India qualified for the quarter-finals, tied on five points, but Indonesia came out on top due to a greater goal difference. Twins Amiruddin Bagus Alfriki and Amiruddin Bagas Arriziqi scored a goal each to secure an opening day 2-0 win over 2016 finalists Islamic Republic of Iran, then fighting back to claim a 1-1 draw with Vietnam, before ending their group campaign with a goalless draw with India.



India

India took all three points in their opener, thanks to captain Vikram Partap scoring the only goal of their group stage campaign through a penalty for a 1-0 win against Vietnam. Coupled with back-to-back goalless draws against Indonesia and Iran, Bibiano Fernandes' side reached their first AFC U-16 Championship quarter-finals in 16 years.



Islamic Republic of Iran

IR Iran fell to a 2-0 loss against Indonesia, who scored a goal in each half, and failed to find the back of the net against India following a 0-0 draw but ended their 2018 run with a flourish on four points, defeating Vietnam 5-0 to finish third.



Vietnam

Vietnam fell to a late penalty against India, but showed promise as they took the lead against Indonesia with Khuat Van Khang's superb free-kick from 30 metres out, only for Sutan Zico to score the equaliser. They were then two goals down against IR Iran, and their hopes of making a comeback were dashed when captain Vu Tien Long was shown the red card and ultimately exited the Championship last in the standings after conceding three more.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP D



Korea Republic

Korea Republic had the most impressive record in the group stage, scoring 12 goals and conceding none to claim top spot in Group D. The young Taeguk Warriors began with a bang, beating Australia 3-0, and then defeated Afghanistan 7-0 before completing the group stage with a 2-0 win over defending champions Iraq.



Australia

Australia bounced back from their loss to Korea Republic to defeat Iraq 2-1 and recorded their best performance in the group stage against Afghanistan with Noah Botic and Joseph Roddy scoring two goals each to beat the Central Asians 4-0, taking second spot.



Iraq

Iraq began their title defence with a 2-1 win over Afghanistan but their hopes of reaching the quarter-finals were dealt a blow after losing to the Joeys. Faisal Jebur's charges failed to seal a win against Korea Republic to exit the tournament third in the group standings, with three points to their name.



Afghanistan

Afghanistan, who were the only debutants in this edition, were out to impress in their first game against Iraq. Despite conceding a fourth minute goal, they recovered to equalise a minute later but eventually lost to Abdulrazzaq Qasim's 14th minute penalty. Sayed Hadi Kazemi's charges bowed out of the tournament after losses to Korea Republic and Australia, but there was no doubt the Central Asians gained valuable experience in their first AFC U-16 Championship Finals.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: QUARTER-FINALS

Two-time champions Japan were made to work against Oman as they needed a late goal to progress 2-1. The young Samurai Blue went ahead early in the first half after Oman conceded an own goal from Issa Al Naabi but the West Asians equalled the parity before halftime through Tariq Al Mashary. Shoji Toyama however, came to Japan's rescue in the 81st minute.

DPR Korea who topped their group fell behind to an early Tajikistan goal courtesy of Rustam Soirov but the East Asians equalised in the 69th minute through RI Hun as the match went to penalties following a 1-1 score in normal regulation. Mukhriddin Khasanov saved two penalties while Tajikistan were flawless from the spot as the Central Asians won 4-2.

Indonesia had an impressive start against Australia when they took the lead through Sutan Diego's stunning strike in the 17th minute. But it was not enough as Australia rallied to score three goals in the second half through Daniel Walsh, Adam Leonbruno and Noah Boric. Indonesia then scored a late goal through Rendy Juliansyah but it was too late as the Joeys held on for the win.

India and Korea Republic came into the match with the promise of not conceding a goal throughout the tournament, with half-time ending goalies. However, Korea Republic finally found a way past goalkeeper Niraj Kumar when Jeong Sang-bin broke Indian hearts in the 68th minute for a place in the semi-finals.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: SEMI-FINALS

For Japan and Australia, it was a meeting between familiar foes. Prior to the match, both sides had met three times in the Championship - in 2010, 2014 and 2016 - with the head-to-head at one win each.

Australia got off to a dream start when Botic converted a seventh minute penalty after being brought down by in the box by Sako Maaya's sliding tackle. Undeterred, the young Samurai Blue slowly built up their momentum and confidence, while Australia were showing signs of cracks but took their one-goal lead into the break at the National Stadium.

Yoshiro Moriyama's side returned rejuvenated and began dictating the pace of the game and found their equaliser in the 59th minute through Shoji Toyama's strike into the bottom right corner of the net, before scoring his second 10 minutes later, courtesy of Keita Nakano's neat pass.

The Joeys' hopes of making a comeback were dashed when Shunsuke Mito's 78th minute goal saw Japan inch closer to a record third Continental title.

Tajikistan made history by reaching their first AFC U-16 Championship final after beating Korea Republic 7-6 on penalties following a 1-1 draw.

Zaynidin Rakhimov's charges secured a third-minute lead through Ozodbek Panzhiyev's close range effort, and became the first side in the competition to score against Korea Republic. The two-time champions found it hard to break down the Tajikistan defence, but a lapse in concentration by goalkeeper Mukhriddin Khasanov in the 38th minute, saw the East Asians draw level through Yoon Suk-ju's header, following Kim Ryun-seong's corner.

Korea Republic continued to push for a second goal, but the Central Asians showed discipline in their defence to push the game to penalties. Khasanov was the hero yet again when he dived to the right to deny Son Ho-jun's spot kick, before Muhammadrasul Litfullaev ended proceedings with his shot to the top right corner of the net, to book a meeting with Japan in the final.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

FINAL

Japan clinched a record third AFC U-16 Championship title after beating Tajikistan 1-0, courtesy of Most Valuable Player Award recipient Jun Nishikawa's 63rd minute strike.

Both sides had previously met in their second Group A fixture, where they played to a goalless draw, and Japan head coach Yoshiro Moriyama pointed out that the final was between "the two most improved teams," as he praised his young squad and Tajikistan's growth throughout the tournament.

The match began with each side trading possession, but Japan - who had made four changes to the starting lineup from the semi-final against Australia, grew in confidence as the match progressed, while Tajikistan's formidable defence held firm as the Central Asian tried to play on the counter-attack.

The young Samurai Blue had several opportunities but failed to capitalise as the first half ended 0-0.

The introduction of Ryuma Nakano in the 54th minute nearly paid dividends for Japan five minutes later when he headed in Keita Nakano's brilliant lob but much to Tajikistan's relief, the goal was ruled offside.

However, the East Asians' persistence was rewarded in the 63rd minute when Nakano displayed some neat footwork, sidestepping Tajikistan's Emomali Ahmadkhon, before sending in his cross to an unguarded Nishikawa near the penalty spot, who then fired a half volley to the bottom right corner of the net to break the deadlock.

Tajikistan tried to mount a comeback, but Japan held on to celebrate a record third title.



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
TAJIKISTAN	3	1	1	1	4	7	-3	4
THAILAND	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
MALAYSIA	3	1	0	2	8	8	0	3

MATCH

MALAYSIA vs TAJIKISTAN
 JAPAN vs THAILAND
 THAILAND vs MALAYSIA
 TAJIKISTAN vs JAPAN
 MALAYSIA vs JAPAN
 THAILAND vs TAJIKISTAN

SCORE

6-2 (3-0)
 5-2 (4-2)
 4-2 (2-1)
 0-0 (0-0)
 0-2 (0-1)
 1-2 (0-1)

GROUP B

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

MATCH

OMAN vs YEMEN
 DPR KOREA vs JORDAN
 JORDAN vs OMAN
 YEMEN vs DPR KOREA
 DPR KOREA vs OMAN
 YEMEN vs JORDAN

SCORE

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

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDONESIA	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5
INDIA	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
IR IRAN	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
VIETNAM	3	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1

MATCH

MATCH	SCORE
IR IRAN vs INDONESIA	0-2 (0-1)
VIETNAM vs INDIA	0-1 (0-0)
INDIA vs IR IRAN	0-0 (0-0)
INDONESIA vs VIETNAM	1-1 (0-1)
IR IRAN vs VIETNAM	5-0 (4-0)
INDIA vs INDONESIA	0-0 (0-0)

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	3	0	0	12	0	12	9
AUSTRALIA	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
IRAQ	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
AFGHANISTAN	3	0	0	3	1	13	-12	0

MATCH

MATCH	SCORE
IRAQ vs AFGHANISTAN	2-1 (2-1)
KOREA REPUBLIC vs AUSTRALIA	3-0 (1-0)
AUSTRALIA vs IRAQ	2-1 (0-0)
AFGHANISTAN vs KOREA REPUBLIC	0-7 (0-3)
IRAQ vs KOREA REPUBLIC	0-2 (0-1)
AUSTRALIA vs AFGHANISTAN	4-0 (3-0)

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

QUARTER-FINALS

MATCH

JAPAN vs OMAN

DPR KOREA vs TAJIKISTAN

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

KOREA REPUBLIC vs INDIA

SCORE

2-1 (1-1)

1-1 a.e.t. (1-1, 0-1) 2-4 Penalty Shoot-out

2-3 (1-0)

1-0 (0-1)



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS

MATCH

JAPAN vs AUSTRALIA

TAJKISTAN vs KOREA REPUBLIC

SCORE

3-1 (0-1)

1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1) 7-6 Penalty Shoot-out



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FINAL

MATCH

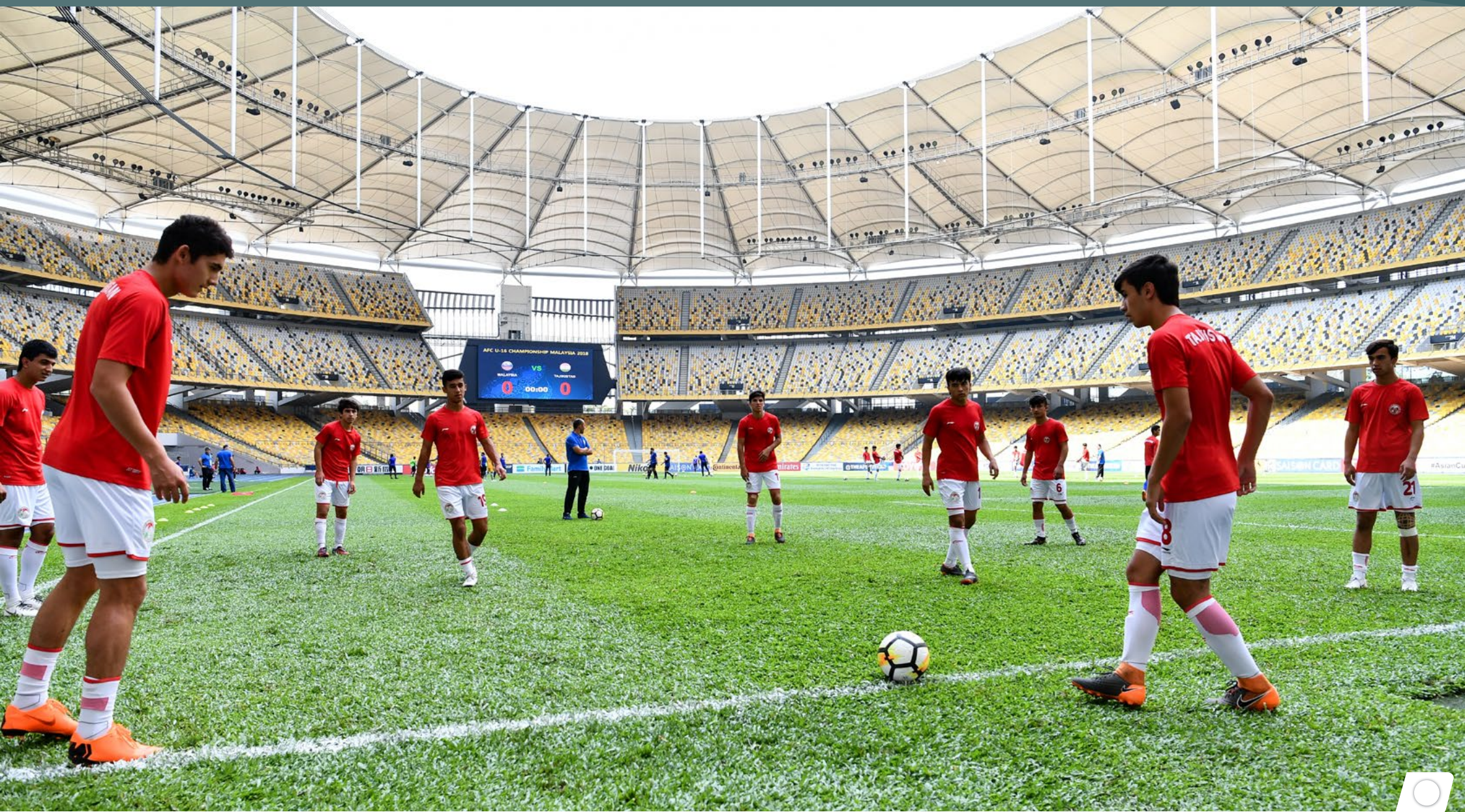
JAPAN vs TAJIKISTAN

SCORE

1-0 (0-0)



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

JAPAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : YOSHIRO MORIYAMA

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	TAIKI YAMADA	08-01-2002	Goalkeeper
2	KAITO SUZUKI	25-08-2002	Defender
3	RIKU HANDA	01-01-2002	Defender
4	KOHSHIRO SUMI	13-08-2002	Defender
5	YUSUKE ISHIDA	11-11-2002	Defender
6	ASAHI YOKOKAWA	26-05-2002	Midfielder
7	KAKERU YAMAUCHI	06-01-2002	Midfielder
8	HIKARU NARUOKA	28-07-2002	Midfielder
9	KEITA NAKANO	27-08-2002	Midfielder
10	JUN NISHIKAWA	21-02-2002	Forward
11	KURABA KONDO	06-07-2002	Midfielder
12	MASATO SASAKI	01-05-2002	Goalkeeper
13	SHUNSUKE MITO	28-09-2002	Midfielder
14	KEITA UEDA	03-09-2002	Midfielder
15	RYUMA NAKANO	06-10-2002	Midfielder
16	SAKO MAAYA	02-12-2002	Defender
17	NAO YAMADA	18-11-2002	Defender
18	RYOTARO ARAKI	29-01-2002	Midfielder
19	YUSUKE AOKI	30-08-2002	Forward
20	SHOJI TOYAMA	21-09-2002	Forward
21	SHINYA NAKANO	17-08-2003	Defender
22	mitsuki TAJIMA	30-05-2002	Defender
23	TAISHI BRANDON NOZAWA	25-12-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-4-1-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Possession football based on strong technique, ability in tight situations
2. Composed build up starting with goalkeeper or centre backs, midfielder no.6 Yokokawa initiates the attack
3. Attacking play is combination of central attacks and wing play
4. No.10 Nishikawa plays central role in attacking third
5. Composure in attacking and defending
6. Quick transition to attack
7. Compact, well organised defence in 1-4-4-2 zone
8. At times a high defensive line combined with defending in own half
9. Immediate collective high pressure when attacks break down

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

TAJIKISTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ZAYNIDIN RAKHIMOV

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	KHASANOV MUKHRIDDIN	23-09-2002	Goalkeeper
2	SHARIPOV JONIBEK	15-01-2002	Defender
3	KHODZHIEV PARVIZ	19-02-2003	Forward
4	LITFULLAEV MUHAMMADRASUL	09-09-2003	Defender
5	NAZAROV SHAHROM	21-05-2002	Defender
6	AKHTAMOV KHAMZADZHON	29-05-2003	Midfielder
7	EMOMALI AHMADKHON	04-05-2002	Forward
8	ZABIROV NIDOYOR	01-07-2002	Midfielder
9	SOIROV RUSTAM	12-09-2002	Forward
10	ZAIROV ISLOM	12-01-2002	Forward
11	SANGOV SHOHRUKH	31-10-2002	Defender
12	AZIMOV MEHROBJON	20-03-2002	Defender
13	KAMOLOV AMADONI	16-01-2003	Forward
14	RAHMATOV SHARIFBEK	01-09-2002	Midfielder
15	AZIZBOEV MUHAMMADALI	04-01-2003	Defender
16	KARIMOV SAMANDAR	12-10-2002	Goalkeeper
17	KHOLIKOV UMEDJON	21-02-2002	Midfielder
18	KHASANOV AZIZBEK	02-03-2002	Midfielder
19	ZAKIROV IBROKHIM	16-11-2003	Forward
20	PANZHIEV OZODBEK	12-10-2002	Midfielder
21	ISMOILOV SUNATULLO	28-04-2002	Midfielder
22	KHOLOV ISROIL	27-09-2002	Defender
23	NAZAROV FIRUZ	17-03-2003	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-6-3-1/1-5-4-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Tajikistan changed their defensive organisation/ strategy after the first match vs Malaysia
2. 1-6-3-1/1-5-3-2 defensive organisation in own half, both wingers regularly drop back in fullback positions
3. Building up direct forward play from goalkeeper combined with quick combination play aimed at the two strikers upfront with quick support from midfield
4. Striker no.9 Rustam and shadow striker no.10 Islom are very good in collecting, shielding and running with the ball, good communication between the two of them
5. Both fullbacks go forward when possible
6. Quick transition in attack, aimed at the striker(s)
7. Transition to defend with pressure of the strikers, team retreat in own half

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

THAILAND

SQUAD LIST

COACH : THONGCHAI RUNGREANGLEAS

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ANUCHID TAWEESRI	11-03-2002	Goalkeeper
2	ARTHIT BUA-NGAM	27-01-2002	Defender
3	R.CHATMONGKOL	09-05-2002	Defender
4	KITTICHA YAIDEE	09-02-2002	Defender
5	JAKKRAPONG SANMAHUNG	06-04-2002	Defender
6	PONGSAKORN INNET	21-01-2002	Defender
7	THANARIN THUMSEN	11-01-2002	Midfielder
8	SARAWUT SAOWAROS	20-03-2002	Midfielder
9	WARAGON THONGBAI	22-05-2002	Defender
10	SUPHANAT MUEANTA	02-08-2002	Forward
11	KITTIPHONG KHETPARA	12-06-2002	Forward
12	WONGSAKORN THONGSUPHIM	18-01-2003	Defender
13	THANAKRIT LAORKAI	22-12-2003	Midfielder
14	PUNNAWAT CHOTE-JIRACHAITHON	01-06-2002	Midfielder
15	THANARAT THUMSEN	11-01-2002	Midfielder
16	CHITIPAT KAEYOYOS	21-03-2003	Midfielder
17	APIDET JANNGAM	10-03-2002	Midfielder
18	NATTHAWUT PAENGKRATHOK	01-02-2002	Goalkeeper
19	ANUWAT MATARAT	14-12-2002	Defender
20	THANAKIT THONGSRI	31-03-2003	Midfielder
21	DECHANON SRIMEAUNG	11-07-2003	Defender
22	SATTAWAS LEELA	17-02-2003	Midfielder
23	PHUWADOL PHOLSONGKRAM	11-05-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-1-4-1/1-3-4-3



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-1-4-1/1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Constructive build up play
2. Both full backs in attacking role
3. Midfielders drop off to receive the ball
4. Striker no.10 M Suphanat skilful target man up front
5. Occasionally diagonal balls behind the defensive line of the opposition
6. Defending in a 1-4-1-4-1 formation starting pressure from the top of the circle
7. After ball loss team dropped into own half applying pressure individually
8. Quick transition to attack

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

MALAYSIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : LIM TEONG KIM

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	SIKH IZHAN NAZREL	23-03-2002	Goalkeeper
2	AZANNIS ADZRI HALIM	06-02-2003	Midfielder
3	MUHAMMAD FIRDAUS RAMLI	10-03-2002	Defender
4	ALI IMRAN SUKARI	30-05-2002	Defender
5	MUHAMMAD HARIZ MANSOR	18-02-2002	Defender
6	MOHAMMAD IKHWAN BIN MOHD HAFIZO	30-09-2002	Midfielder
7	MUHAMMAD NAJMUDIN AKMAL	11-01-2003	Forward
8	MUHAMMAD FIRDAUS BINKAIRONNISAM	10-12-2002	Midfielder
9	MUHAMMAD AMIRUL AZZIM BIN MOHD RUZKI	01-04-2002	Forward
10	LUQMAN HAKIM SHAMSUDIN	05-03-2002	Forward
11	MUHAMAD ALIF BIN MUTALIB	16-01-2002	Midfielder
12	MUHAMMAD RAIMI SHAMSUL	28-10-2002	Defender
13	HARITH NAEM BIN JAINEH	25-01-2002	Forward
14	AHMAD ZIKRI KHALILI	25-06-2002	Defender
15	ALIF DANIEL BIN ABD AZIZ	14-05-2002	Midfielder
16	MUHAMAD UMAR HAKEEM BIN SUHAR REDZUAN	26-08-2002	Midfielder
17	MOHAMMAD ALIAS ALAN	16-10-2002	Defender
18	MUHAMMAD SYUKUR FARIZ	05-01-2003	Midfielder
19	HARITH HAIQAL ADAM	22-06-2002	Midfielder
20	MUHAMMAD DANIAL BIN AMALI	10-05-2002	Forward
21	ABDUL ALIM AL AMRI BIN ALI	28-01-2002	Goalkeeper
22	SYAHMI ADIB HAIKAL	30-03-2003	Goalkeeper
23	MUHAMMAD DANISH BIN ISHAK	26-06-2002	Defender



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-1-4-1/1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Building up short combination play through the thirds
2. No.18 Muhammad Syukur dropping off to initiate the attack
3. Use of direct back-to-front deliveries when under pressure
4. Quick wing play, right winger no.11 Muhamad Alif fast and skilful
5. Defending mainly in own half
6. Frequent use of quick counter attacks, direct play to front man
7. Fast transition to 1-4-5-1 defending after loss of possession

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

DPR KOREA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : PAK JONG-CHOL

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	YU YONG BOM	17-02-2002	Goalkeeper
2	KIM JIN HYOK	25-03-2002	Defender
3	KIM JU HYOK	01-10-2002	Midfielder
4	KIM JIN GUK	18-09-2002	Defender
5	PAK RYONG GWON	11-05-2002	Defender
6	CHAE YU SONG	15-11-2002	Defender
7	PAK KYONG SONG	18-02-2002	Midfielder
8	KIM WON IL	24-03-2002	Midfielder
9	RA NAM HYON	02-03-2002	Midfielder
10	RI JO GUK	09-05-2002	Forward
11	KIM KANG SONG	17-04-2002	Midfielder
12	RI RYONG JU	17-06-2002	Defender
13	WON HYOK	20-02-2003	Midfielder
14	RI HUN	14-10-2002	Defender
15	KO CHANG UNG	03-02-2002	Defender
16	KIM TO MYONG	08-08-2002	Forward
17	KIM RYONG IK	13-03-2003	Goalkeeper
18	AN PHYONG IL	02-11-2002	Forward
19	RI YONG GWANG	28-02-2002	Forward
20	RI KYONG WON	02-12-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-4-1-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Combination play focused on quick forward pass to both strikers
2. Both full backs support the attack - wide midfielders cutting in midfield to support central attack
3. Screening midfielders dropping deep to initiate the attack
4. High tempo attacking play
5. Good off the ball runs by the two strikers, good communication with midfield players
6. 1-4-4-2 zone defending with aggressive pressure on the ball in middle third
7. At times high defensive line to disrupt build up of other team early
8. Players are athletic, fast and strong

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

OMAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : YAQOUB SAUD SAIF AL SABAHI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MITHAM ALI AL AJMI	22-05-2002	Goalkeeper
2	ISSA KHALFAN AL-NAABI	20-03-2002	Defender
3	FAHAD SAID AL RASBI	16-03-2002	Forward
4	MUAYAD OBAID AL SUBHI	17-11-2002	Forward
5	ALI HAMED AL-DHAHRI	02-03-2002	Defender
6	DAWOOD SULAIMAN AL-JABRI	04-06-2002	Defender
7	OSAMA SULAIMAN AL-HADABI	10-09-2002	Forward
8	HAMED WALEED AL MUKHAINI	15-03-2002	Defender
9	QUSAI SALIM AL-JARADI	24-02-2003	Forward
10	AL AZHAR HAMZA AL BALUSHI	15-11-2002	Midfielder
11	OMAR NASSER AL SALT	17-02-2002	Forward
12	RASHAD MUSALLIM ALHABSI	11-01-2002	Goalkeeper
13	ABDULLAH MOHAMMED AL FLAITI	15-11-2002	Midfielder
14	NASSER ABDALLAH AL NAABI	21-03-2002	Forward
15	MOHAMMED RASHID AL BALUSHI	10-01-2002	Defender
16	ABDUL HAKIM AL UWAI	15-01-2002	Defender
17	WAIL SULAIMAN AL HARTHY	30-06-2002	Defender
18	HUSSAIN SAID ALSHAHRI	26-12-2002	Defender
19	TARIQ KHAMIS AL-MASHARY	18-05-2002	Midfielder
20	MOHAMMED RABEEA AL-MADAILWI	08-03-2003	Forward
21	HARIB KHAMIS AL ADAWI	13-06-2002	Midfielder
22	ABDALLA MUSABAH AL ALAWI	02-02-2003	Goalkeeper
23	MULHAM YOUSUF AL SINAIDI	15-03-2002	Defender



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-4-1-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Mix of patient construction through thirds and long supply to front
2. Midfielder 8 Hame dropping deep to initiate attack
3. Wingers with 1v1 skills especially no.11 Omar, cutting in to open spaces for overlapping full-backs
4. Switch of play through central midfielders
5. Quick transition to attack
6. Well organized 1-4-4-2 zone defence
7. Quick transition to defend with immediate pressure on the ball, retreat in own half

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

YEMEN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : MAGDY SAYED SHALABY

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ABDULLAH ABDULHAKIM AL-SADI	23-04-2002	Goalkeeper
2	MOHAMMED QASEM AL-MURISI	02-01-2003	Midfielder
3	AZZAM QAID AL-ASADI	02-05-2003	Defender
4	HAMZAH MOHAMMED SABAH	12-02-2002	Defender
5	AKRAM ADEL MOHAMMED	03-03-2002	Defender
6	KHALED ALI AWDALI	06-10-2002	Midfielder
7	TAMER NADHEL SENAN	02-05-2002	Forward
8	AHMED GALAL ZAID	11-02-2004	Midfielder
9	HAMDAN BIN AWN	01-10-2002	Forward
10	SADEQ MOHAMMED AL-GALAL	12-02-2002	Forward
11	FAISAL ABDULLAH SAIF	01-03-2002	Forward
12	OSAMAH SAMER AL-BAADANI	26-01-2002	Defender
13	ABDULRAHMAN KHALED ALI	01-08-2002	Forward
14	ARAFAT MOHSEN HAGAR	06-10-2003	Midfielder
15	ABDULRAHMAN AHMED AL-ASHWAL	10-10-2003	Defender
16	MOHANAD ALI AL-GARASH	02-04-2003	Forward
17	SAAD ALI AL-QAAOD	23-02-2002	Midfielder
18	HAMID YAHYA AL-DHUBRI	01-01-2002	Midfielder
19	ABDULKAREEM ALI AL-NOOBAH	12-05-2002	Forward
20	SAIF FADHL ALI	21-09-2002	Forward
21	HASAN EBRAHIM AYASH	01-01-2003	Defender
22	ABDULRAHMAN AHMED AL-RAIMI	18-02-2003	Goalkeeper
23	MOHAMMED KHALED AL-DUBAI	02-07-2004	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-3-3/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-5-1/1-5-4-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Emphasis on building up from the back with one attacking full back at the time
2. Rotating midfielders in build up play
3. Quick forward movement after regaining possession
4. Effective combination play in between strikers
5. Defending deep in own half with holding midfield player no.6 Awdali dropping off in between the two center backs
6. Quick pressure on the ball after ball loss in the attacking third

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

JORDAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABDALLAH SAMIH ELQUTATI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	OSAMA RAED MAHMOUD	16-08-2002	Goalkeeper
2	MOHAMMAD KHALDOON	17-05-2002	Defender
3	FAYEZ FADI LUTFY	28-02-2002	Defender
4	MOHAMMAD HISHAM ALI	26-01-2002	Defender
5	MOHAMMAD BASHAR YASEEN	05-09-2002	Defender
6	MOHAMMAD JAMAL ISSA	15-02-2002	Midfielder
7	RASHED IBRAHIM ALHANAHNEH	14-01-2002	Midfielder
8	THAER ASHRAF MOUSA	05-04-2002	Midfielder
9	AMER RASEM JAMOUS	03-07-2002	Forward
10	REZIQ MOHAMMED BANIHANI	28-01-2002	Forward
11	MOHANNAD JEHAD AHMAD SEMREEN	08-01-2002	Midfielder
12	YAMEN ABEDELRAHMAN AL MAH'D	16-03-2002	Goalkeeper
13	AMIN FARID AL SHANAINEH	07-04-2003	Midfielder
14	OBADA OMAR ALRUZI	16-05-2002	Defender
15	JABER IBRAHIM KHALAF	24-01-2003	Midfielder
16	MAJD MOHAMMAD ALZAIED	25-01-2002	Defender
17	AHMAD MOHANNAD ALAQABAWI	29-04-2002	Midfielder
18	AMRO ISMAIL MOUSA	08-09-2002	Midfielder
19	SHARIF AHMAD SH. BABLI	23-10-2002	Midfielder
20	OTHMAN GHASSAN MOHAMMAD ELBASHABSHEH	19-05-2002	Defender
21	ADEL ABED ALMASRI	15-04-2002	Defender
22	ABDEL RAHMAN NABIL I	26-05-2004	Goalkeeper
21	AHMAD ALI MOHAMMAD	08-01-2002	Midfielder



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-1-4-1/1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Build up from the back alternated with long forward kick
2. Rotating midfield players
3. Combination play aimed at central attacks
4. Fast wing players no.7 R. Alhanahneh and 11.Mohannad Semreen provided depth on the wings
5. Defending in own half alternated with high pressing on half of opposition
6. Fast forward breaks after regaining possession
7. Strikers inter change positions

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

INDONESIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : FAKHRI HUSAINI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	AHLUDZ DZIKRI FIKRI	16-02-2002	Goalkeeper
2	AMIRUDDIN BAGAS ARRIZQI	16-01-2002	Defender
3	MOCHAMAD YUDHA FEBRIAN	13-02-2002	Defender
4	KOMANG TEGUH TRISNANDA	28-04-2002	Defender
5	FADILAH NUR RAHMAN	10-02-2002	Defender
6	DAVID MAULANA	25-02-2002	Midfielder
7	AMANAR ABDILLAH	30-06-2002	Midfielder
8	ANDRE OKTAVIANSYAH	23-10-2002	Midfielder
9	SUTAN DIEGO ARMANDOONDRIANO	07-04-2002	Forward
10	RENDY JULIANSYAH	27-07-2002	Midfielder
11	MOCHAMMAD SUPRIADI	23-05-2002	Midfielder
12	SUBHAN FAJRI	13-05-2003	Midfielder
13	CECEP	30-09-2002	Midfielder
14	MUHAMMAD REZA FAUZAN	20-05-2002	Defender
15	MUHAMMAD SALMAN ALFARID	16-04-2002	Defender
16	UCHIDA	25-03-2003	Defender
17	HAMSA MEDARI LESTALUHU	06-06-2002	Midfielder
18	BRYLIAN NEGIEHTA ALDAMA	23-02-2002	Midfielder
19	TALAOHU	12-04-2003	Midfielder
20	AMIRUDDIN BAGUS ALFIKRI	16-01-2002	Forward
21	ERNANDO ARI SUTARYADI	27-02-2002	Goalkeeper
22	FATAH AJI PRATAMA	27-04-2002	Midfielder
23	RISKY MUHAMMAD SUDIRMAN	02-02-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-3-3/1-3-4-3



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-1-4-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Build up from the back, fast short combination play
2. Attacking fullbacks, very quick and good in 1v1
3. Good combination play mainly through the centre alternated with fast wing play
4. Wing players cut inside midfield
5. Quick transition to attack from own half; runs with the ball or quick forward pass
6. Defending in 1-4-1-4-1 in middle third/own half
7. Aggressive defending
8. Transition to defend with individual pressure on the ball and dropping off in own half

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

INDIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : BIBIANO FERNANDES

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	LALBIAKHLUA JONGTE	23-07-2002	Goalkeeper
2	MOIRANGTHEM THOIBA SINGH	12-12-2002	Defender
3	HARPREET SINGH	01-11-2002	Defender
4	SHABAS AHAMMED MOOTHEDATH	01-01-2002	Defender
5	GURKIRAT SINGH	16-07-2003	Defender
6	VIKRAM PARTAP	16-01-2002	Forward
7	RAVI BAHADUR RANA	15-10-2002	Midfielder
8	BEKEY ORAM	23-12-2003	Forward
9	RIDGE MELVIN	18-02-2002	Forward
10	LALCHHANHIMA SAILO	03-03-2003	Midfielder
11	GIVSON SINGH MOIRANGTHEM	05-06-2002	Midfielder
12	BHUVNESH SHENDRE	12-11-2002	Defender
13	HARPREET	11-03-2002	Forward
14	RICKY JOHN SHABONG	29-12-2002	Midfielder
15	SHANON ALEIXINHO	07-01-2002	Forward
16	BIKASH YUMNAM	06-09-2003	Defender
17	ERIC REMPATPUA	14-03-2002	Midfielder
18	REUBEN LETKHOTINCHON	09-10-2002	Forward
19	SAMIR KERKETTA	07-11-2002	Defender
20	SANTOSH SINGH	30-09-2003	Goalkeeper
21	LALROKIMA	24-03-2003	Defender
22	MANISH CHAUDHARY	25-10-2003	Defender
23	NIRAJ KUMAR	16-11-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-3-3



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Long direct forward ball from goalkeeper or defenders to strikers
2. When in possession the wingers are good in 1v1
3. Two midfield players support the attack
4. Transition to attack is quick forward pass to the strikers
5. Defending in own half in 1-4-2-3-1 with pressure from the half way line
6. Quick transition to defend, players keep tracking and pressing the ball
7. In and around the box defenders and midfield players collectively try to prevent the opponent from scoring
8. Physically strong defenders

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABBAS CHAMANIAN

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	AMIRHOSSEIN NIKPOUR	25-02-2002	Goalkeeper
2	AMIRHOSSEIN AZIZI	28-10-2002	Defender
3	MOHAMMAD AMIN HAZBAVI	06-05-2003	Defender
4	POURIA TEYMORI	04-02-2002	Defender
5	HOSSEIN SHAVERDI	18-04-2002	Defender
6	AMIR SHABANI	19-10-2002	Midfielder
7	ALIREZA BAVIEH	21-08-2002	Midfielder
8	MOHAMMADREZA SHAKIBKHO	09-01-2002	Midfielder
9	MAHDI SEYEDI	31-03-2002	Midfielder
10	YASIN SALMANI	27-02-2002	Midfielder
11	HOSSEIN HAJIZADEHKHORASANI	08-03-2003	Forward
12	PAYAM PARSA	21-07-2002	Goalkeeper
13	ALIREZA KHODABAKHSHI	30-01-2002	Midfielder
14	AMIRHOSSEIN AMNZADEH	19-01-2002	Defender
15	HAMIDREZA SHARIFI	05-04-2004	Midfielder
16	AMIRREZA ESLAMTALAB	30-01-2003	Defender
17	AMIR JAFARI	18-01-2002	Midfielder
18	ARIA BARZEGAR	10-10-2002	Midfielder
19	MOHAMMAD AMIN DOUSTALI	31-01-2004	Forward
20	ABOLFAZL ALIZADEH	16-06-2002	Defender
21	FARZAN MALEKINEZHAD	18-02-2003	Defender
22	MOHAMMADREZA BAGHERI	27-01-2002	Goalkeeper
23	SEYEDMOHAMMADREZA	13-12-2002	Midfielder



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Build up play from the back through midfield
2. Good combination play between two central midfielders and strikers focusing on central attacks
3. Attacking play supported by 1 or 2 fullbacks
4. Striker no.10 Y Salmani dropping off to get on the ball and initiate the attack
5. Quick retreat in own half applying pressure at the same time
6. Defending in their own half with pressure starting from top of the circle
7. Quick forward movement after regaining possession

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

VIETNAM

SQUAD LIST

COACH : VU HONG VIET

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	NGUYEN DUY DUNG	01-05-2002	Goal Keeper
2	NGUYEN HONG PHUC	31-05-2003	Midfielder
3	VO QUOC DAN	10-01-2002	Defender
4	GIAP TUAN DUONG	07-09-2002	Defender
5	VU TIEN LONG	04-04-2002	Defender
6	NGUYEN VAN TU	17-01-2003	Defender
7	NGO DUC HOANG	16-09-2002	Midfielder
8	NGUYEN THE HUNG	02-02-2002	Midfielder
9	KHUAT VAN KHANG	11-05-2003	Midfielder
10	NGUYEN QUOC HOANG	25-01-2002	Midfielder
11	DINH THANH TRUNG	19-07-2002	Midfielder
12	PHAM VAN DAT	20-04-2002	Defender
13	NGO THANH TAI	28-11-2002	Midfielder
14	DAU NGOC THANH	02-01-2002	Forward
15	TRAN THANH TU	13-03-2002	Defender
16	DANG TUAN PHONG	07-02-2003	Defender
17	HA TRUNG HAU	03-10-2002	Forward
18	TA VIET SON	21-02-2003	Midfielder
19	TRINH QUANG TRUONG	02-02-2002	Defender
20	NGUYEN VAN VIET	12-07-2002	Goal Keeper
21	TRAN LAM HAO	28-10-2002	Goal Keeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-4-1-1/1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Constructive build up play
2. Both fullbacks in attacking role
3. Rotation in midfield to link up play with the strikers
4. Centre forward no. 19 Hu Trung Hau a target man
5. After ball loss team dropped back in own half applying pressure individually
6. Defending in a 1-4-1-4-1 formation starting pressure from the top of the circle
7. Fast counter breaks focused on the strikers

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

KOREA REPUBLIC

SQUAD LIST

COACH : KIM JUNG-SOO

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	SHIN SONGHOON	07-11-2002	Goalkeeper
2	LEE TAESEOK	28-07-2002	Defender
3	SON HOJUN	03-07-2002	Defender
4	LEE JUNSUK	09-03-2002	Defender
5	HONG SUNGWOOK	17-09-2002	Defender
6	YOON SUKJU	25-02-2002	Midfielder
7	JO JINHO	10-07-2003	Midfielder
8	PAIK SANGHOON	07-01-2002	Midfielder
9	CHOI MINSEO	05-03-2002	Forward
10	HONG YUNSANG	19-03-2002	Midfielder
11	JEONG SANGBIN	01-04-2002	Midfielder
12	KIM RYUNSEONG	04-06-2002	Defender
13	KWAK YONGCHAN	18-07-2003	Defender
14	SEO JAEMIN	16-09-2003	Midfielder
15	BANG WOJIN	27-02-2002	Defender
16	YOON JINSEO	10-07-2002	Midfielder
17	KANG YOUNGSUK	05-05-2002	Midfielder
18	KIM DONGHYEON	12-10-2002	Midfielder
19	AHN GIHUN	01-01-2002	Midfielder
20	MOON JUNHO	21-01-2003	Forward
21	KIM GIHUN	24-11-2002	Goalkeeper
22	CHEON SEYOON	06-11-2002	Midfielder
23	LEE SEUNGHWAN	05-04-2003	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-3-3/1-3-4-3



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Long forward ball alternated with short combination play at high tempo
2. Fullbacks both in attacking mode, good wing play
3. Good long forward passes to the strikers and from midfield quality through passes behind defenders
4. Quick and skilful strikers, good in 1v1
5. Fast counter attacks
6. Well organised defending organisation (Korea conceded only one goal in the tournament)
7. Aggressive defending on build up of opposite team with a high defensive line
8. After loss of possession immediate pressure on the ball by one or two players while team retreat in own half

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

AUSTRALIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : TREVOR MORGAN

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	AHMAD TALEB	04-12-2002	Goalkeeper
2	JAIDEN KUCHARSKI	25-06-2002	Defender
3	DANIEL WALSH	15-10-2002	Defender
4	TIMOTHY BOKE	21-01-2003	Defender
5	JORDAN BOS	29-10-2002	Defender
6	RYAN TEAGUE	24-01-2002	Midfielder
7	TRISTAN HAMMOND	05-01-2003	Forward
8	BIRKAN KIRDAR	07-02-2002	Midfielder
9	NOAH BOTIC	11-01-2002	Forward
10	LUKE DUZEL	05-02-2002	Midfielder
11	JOSHUA VARGA	07-02-2002	Forward
12	ADAM PAVLESIC	30-07-2002	Goalkeeper
13	KERRIN STOKES	11-12-2002	Defender
14	ALEXANDAR POPOVIC	07-09-2002	Defender
15	JORDAN COURTNEY-PERKINS	06-11-2002	Defender
16	ADAM LEOMBRUNO	25-08-2003	Defender
17	LACHLAN SEPPING	28-05-2002	Midfielder
18	OLIVER KALAC	09-11-2002	Goalkeeper
19	JAYDEN GORMAN	25-01-2003	Forward
20	ADAM ZERVAS	28-09-2003	Midfielder
21	JOSEPH RODDY	09-05-2003	Forward
22	JOSHUA BENSON	29-03-2003	Forward
23	THOMAS LAMBIRIS	08-02-2003	Defender



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Build up from the back through the thirds
2. Midfielder no.6 Ryan Teague dropping off to receive the ball linking up with strikers
3. Both fullbacks in attacking role
4. Wing players cut inside midfield with a mix of central attacks and quick wing play
5. Good combination play between central striker no.9 Noah Botic and shadow striker no.10 Luke Duzel
6. Quick forward transition after regaining possession
7. Defending in 1-4-2-3-1 formation in own half
8. Pressure from middle third forward.
9. Individual pressure after ball loss in the attacking third with the team dropping off in own half

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

IRAQ

SQUAD LIST

COACH : FAISAL A. JEBUR

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MOHAMMED HASAN AL-HAMADANI	30-07-2002	Goalkeeper
2	MUSTAFA NAJM ABDULRIDHA	20-11-2003	Defender
3	MURTADHA MOHAMMED ALI	20-04-2003	Defender
4	HUSSEIN JASIM AL LATEEF	01-05-2003	Defender
5	BAQER TALIB YASIR	04-02-2004	Defender
6	HUSSEIN KHALID ALMAGED	07-01-2002	Midfielder
7	ABDULLAH ZEYAD	12-11-2002	Midfielder
8	ABDULRAZZAQ QASIM SUBAIHAWI	19-02-2003	Midfielder
9	HASEM MOHAMMED	01-10-2002	Forward
10	HASAN MAJEED AL-DHAMADAWI	01-01-2002	Forward
11	ALI HIKMAT MAJEED	23-10-2002	Midfielder
12	MOHAMMED AHMED AL-KINANI	01-03-2002	Goalkeeper
13	HAYDER KADHIM	28-01-2003	Defender
14	HUSSEIN SADEQ RASETMEE	02-10-2003	Forward
15	HUSSEIN SAAD MOHSIN	01-02-2003	Defender
16	ALI KADHIM JOHNI	19-03-2003	Midfielder
17	ALI JASIM ELAIBI	20-01-2004	Midfielder
18	YASEEN AKRAM HUSSEIN	08-12-2002	Midfielder
19	AMEER MOHAMMED HNET	11-01-2003	Midfielder
20	AMEER HASAN FENJAN	28-07-2003	Midfielder
21	MURTADHA FAREED	15-01-2003	Midfielder
22	OSAMAH IMAD TAABAN	06-02-2003	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-2-3-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-5-1/1-4-4-2



KEY FEATURES

1. Building up alternated with long forward ball from the goalkeeper
2. Attacking fullbacks, one or both at the same time
3. Midfielder no.8 Qasim good passer of the ball, switching play. Occasionally long distance strikes at the goal
4. Quick wingers cutting inside midfield, skilful in 1v1
5. Defending in own half with high pressure on the ball
6. After ball loss pressure on the ball while dropping off in own half
7. Quick defence to attack transitions

SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

AFGHANISTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : SAYED HADI KAZEMI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	M. SHARIF AMINZADA	06-12-2002	Goalkeeper
2	SAJAD ALI KHALILI	05-09-2002	Defender
3	ABDUL MUNIR HAZRATI	06-08-2003	Defender
4	MOHAMMAD AMIN NEZAMI	23-09-2002	Defender
5	ESMATULLAH KAZIMI	06-03-2003	Defender
6	MAHDI	29-10-2004	Defender
7	FAIZUDDIN SHIRZAD	09-01-2003	Midfielder
8	MOHAMMAD HAROON NASERI	06-09-2002	Midfielder
9	EDRIS	05-10-2003	Forward
10	SAMIR SAMANDARI	05-11-2002	Midfielder
11	ABOZAR RAHMANI	15-10-2002	Forward
12	RAMIN	04-02-2004	Forward
13	ALI ZAHIDI	29-03-2004	Midfielder
14	SINA	16-11-2002	Midfielder
15	NASIR	10-10-2002	Midfielder
16	ZAKARIA	25-09-2003	Forward
17	PARWIZ	02-07-2003	Forward
18	IBRAHIM DAWOOD	13-08-2003	Defender
19	HASIBULLAH AHADI	21-03-2003	Midfielder
20	MASHAL	20-10-2002	Goalkeeper
21	HADI	06-09-2002	Goalkeeper



ATTACKING FORMATION
1-4-4-2/1-4-1-4-1



DEFENDING FORMATION
1-4-5-1



KEY FEATURES

1. Vertical attacking based on direct supply to forwards
2. Fullbacks push on and support attack
3. One striker dropping off in midfield to get on the ball
4. Defending with pressing mostly in own half
5. Quick defence to attack transitions after regaining possession
6. Immediate pressure after ball loss, good team work

SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

THE FINAL SCORE

Some might insist that numbers are incontestable. But the saying about coins having two sides is often applicable to statistics. Exuberant goalscoring rates are often interpreted as a measure of entertainment value. On the other side of the coin, more rational scoring rates hint at a more competitive environment. At the tournament in Malaysia, the numbers announce an 11% drop in goalscoring in comparison with the previous finals in India. Talking of the hosts of the 2016 event, India were one of three teams who found the net only once in Malaysia.

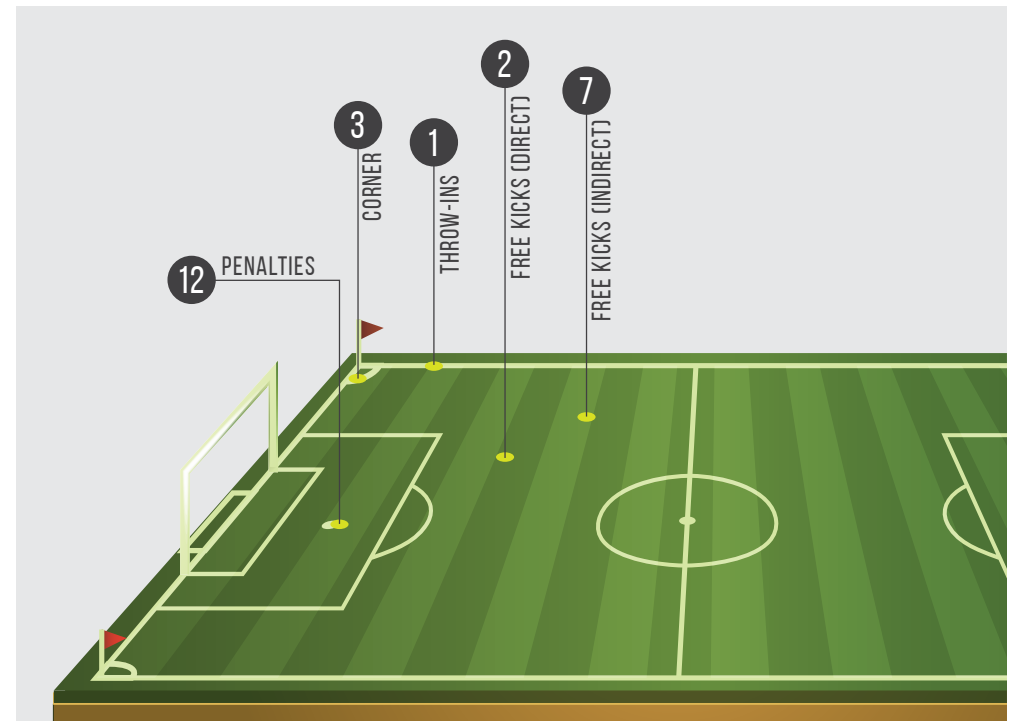
Bibiano Fernandes laid foundations for future development by building a well-organised unit which opponents found difficult to break down – to the extent that the only goal conceded in four matches signified the 0-1 quarter-final defeat by Korea Republic. India's matches against Indonesia and IR Iran provided two of the tournament's three goalless draws, the other being the group game between Japan and Tajikistan – the forerunner of the final.

While collective defensive work was functioning efficiently, India's only success at the other end of the pitch, on the other hand, stemmed from the late penalty that secured victory over Vietnam. The latter also owed their solitary goal of the tournament to

a dead-ball situation – the brilliant left-footed direct free-kick from wide on the right by Khuat van Khang which earned a 1-1 draw with Indonesia. On the other hand, Afghanistan – the third team to find the net only once – owed their success to an open-play move: the cross which allowed Ali Zahidi to give them an early lead in the 1-1 draw with Iraq.

Other teams were more productive, with Korea Republic (14 goals), Japan (13) and Australia (10) averaging two or more goals per game, along with Thailand and Malaysia, scorers of seven and eight respectively in the most prolific of the tournament's four groups. Overall, the 24 group games yielded 79 goals at 3.29 per fixture, while the KO ties delivered 18 at 2.57. The global balance was 3.13 goals per game – a healthy average, even though considerably lower than the 3.52 registered at the previous final tournament.

Set-play goals accounted for 26% of the tournament total of 97, compared with 29% in 2016. However, the main reason for the downturn was a fall of almost 30% in the number of penalties. After 17 in Goa, 12 spot-kicks hit the net in Malaysia (including one rebound). Even so, penalties (excluding shoot-outs, of course) accounted for almost half of the tournament's set-play successes: 48% to be precise. It meant that only 13 goals



GOALS FROM SET PLAY

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GOALS
Corners	Direct from / following a corner	3
Free kicks (direct)	Direct from a free kick	2
Free kicks (indirect)	Following a free kick	7
Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	12
Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	1

SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

were derived from other types of dead-ball situations, with indirect free-kicks accounting for seven of them.

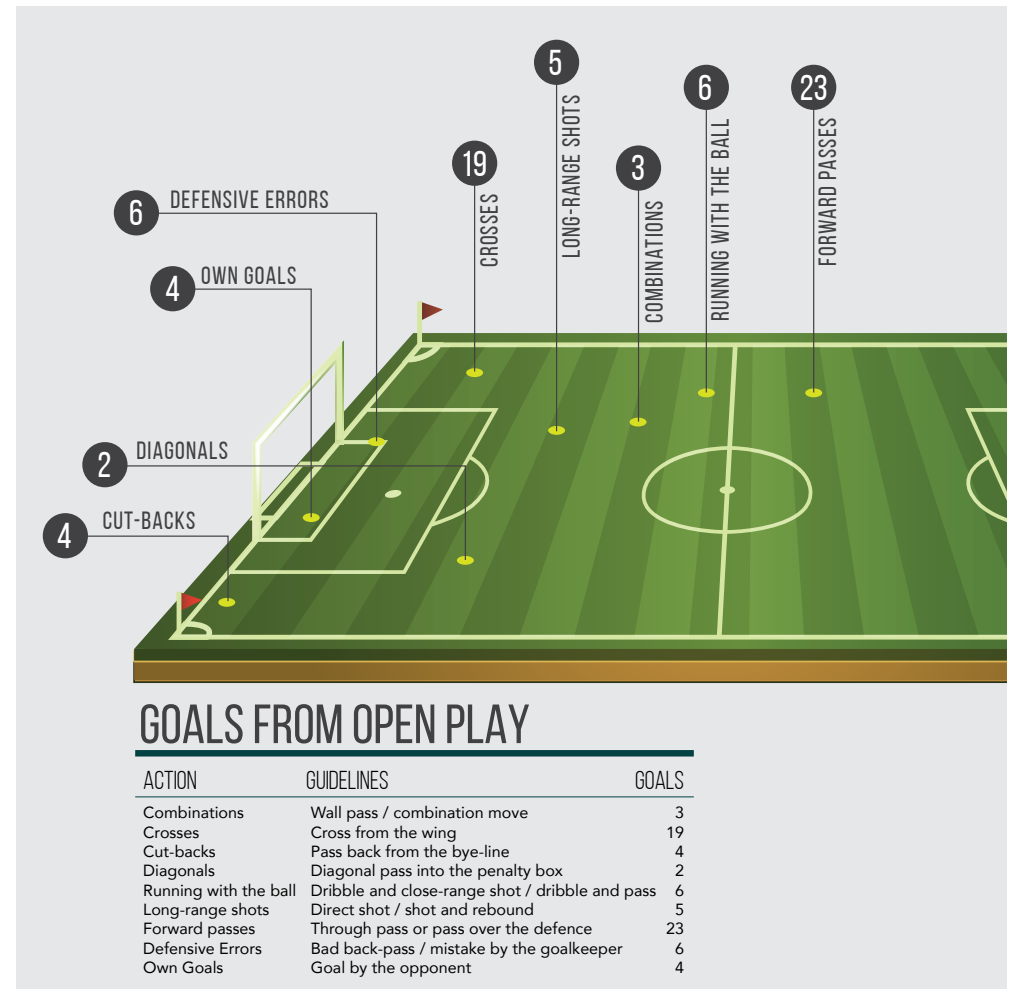
However, the most striking statistic to emerge from the set-play statistics was that only three goals were traceable to corners (compared with the already-low tally of eight in 2016). A success rate of one goal per 930 minutes of football provides food for thought among coaches when it comes to designing training programmes. Debate focuses on the amount of training-ground time to be dedicated to rehearsal of corner-kick routines and whether, given the time-limitations which often affect preparations at national team level, the tendency is to prioritise defensive mechanisms at set-plays rather working on creative aspects of corners in attack.

The figures related to the open-play goals which accounted for 74% of the tournament total reveal an unusually high success rate for the through pass – unusual in that, in other tournaments, central routes to goal tend to be barred by compact defensive blocks. In Malaysia, 32% of the open-play goals were derived from forward passing into or in the final third – a 53% increase on the figure posted at the 2016 finals. The thought-provoking aspect is to correlate this statistic with successes stemming from direct attacking or counterattacking. No fewer than 21% of the tournament’s open-play goals could be attributed to counterattacks: eight of them

rapid-response strikes after ball-winning in advanced areas; four of them collective counterattacking moves; two of them classic counters from deeper positions; and one, a solo run after a regain.

Talking of ‘soloists’, one of the salient features of the tournament was that 13% of all goals stemmed from individual rather than collective efforts: the two direct free-kicks; the five successes from long range; and the half-dozen goals attributable to solo dribbling skills. This fact gave added relevance to the fact that only three of the 97 goals were the result of coherent combination moves – another tendency which provides food for thought among coaches working at development levels.

Success for the through pass did not mask the relevance of wing-play in the creation of goals, yet the scarcity of effective combination moves was reflected by one of the other patterns to emerge from the tournament in Malaysia. While the number of goals scored from ‘traditional’ crosses increased from 14 in India to 19 (signifying 26% of the tournament’s open-play goals), the number of moves which led to profitable cut-backs from areas near the goal-line declined considerably – dramatically if expressed as a percentage – from 11 to only four. Another statistic to be thrown into discussions on how best, at development levels, to work on combination play in the final third.



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

BEST GOALS – OPEN PLAY

WATCH VIDEO

SCORER	MATCH
Ri Hun	DPR Korea v Tajikistan
Bagas	Indonesia v Iran
Botic	Australia v Indonesia
Al Salti	Oman v Jordan
Toyama	Japan v Oman

BEST GOALS – SET PLAYS

WATCH VIDEO

SCORER	MATCH
Khang	Vietnam v Indonesia
Al-Qaaod	Yemen v Jordan
Doustali	Iran v Vietnam
Suphanat	Thailand v Tajikistan
Pak Ryong-gwon	DPR Korea v Oman

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS



SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

The starting point, when the AFC Technical Observers teamed up prior to the opening of the AFC U16 Championship in Malaysia, was an agreement to permanently bear in mind that this was, indeed, a tournament for teenagers at an important stage of their development and that the young players should, in consequence, not be assessed in accordance with adult parameters.

Generally, the priorities for coaches at this level is to equip the players to adopt and cope with higher tempos of play and the demands that they entail: quicker individual decision-making (requiring greater insight); quicker handling of the ball (requiring enhanced technique); and higher demands on collective teamwork (involving greater communication skills). In addition, the experience of an international tournament can generate greater psychological pressures derived from live TV broadcasts and/or atmospheres created by higher numbers of spectators, with crowds of up to 11,000 attending fixtures involving the hosts or Indonesia.

THE COMFORT FACTOR

In terms of technique and combination play, Morteza Mohases, also a member of the team of AFC Technical Observers at the 2016 tournament in India, remarked “the games I saw in Malaysia suggested that, in comparison

with 2016, more teams tried to build from the back with goalkeepers as well as outfield players more comfortable on the ball. It’s clear that this is a common trend at the highest international level and young players need to prepare themselves for that. In this age group, though, when pressure was put on the player in possession during build-up, the response was quite often the decision to play the long forward ball. The Japan players provided a good example, showing that, even under pressure, the team managed to keep the ball and find space to move it into the opponent’s half.”

DEFAULT SETTINGS

Although a dozen of the 16 contestants had also been on the starting grid in 2016, there was a greater variety of team shapes. In India, there had been a fairly even split between 1-4-4-2 and 1-4-2-3-1 with, on that occasion, Thailand alone in adopting a 1-4-1-4-1 approach. In Malaysia, six teams used a 1-4-4-2 formation as their starting point, with one of the strikers regularly dropping into midfield to create a 1-4-3-2-1 variation on the theme. Four of the participants opted for 1-4-2-3-1 with two holding midfielders; one of the line of three operating in a more advanced role; and a lone striker high on the pitch. Four other teams preferred variations on 1-4-3-3 but with a single controlling midfielder and two more advanced – to create a 1-4-1-2-3 structure.



SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

BUILDING WORK

Some teams, like Korea Republic, showed variety in building from the back, with the two centre-backs splitting and the holding midfielder dropping in between them to receive and to initiate the attack. Others, like Thailand, had two midfield players dropping into the areas of space created by the attacking full-backs. Australia occasionally had their left centre-back travelling with the ball into midfield to deliver passes to the strikers or midfield players. But central defenders tended towards conservatism in their positional play.

Most of the teams had two holding midfield players rotating to receive the ball: Japan, DPR Korea, IR Iran, Afghanistan... On the other hand, Indonesia and Australia mainly functioned with one player in midfield dropping off to start the attack going forward, while the other midfielder operated in a more attacking role in support of the strikers.

At the 2018 tournament, full-backs generally played an active attacking role, in line with international trends. Variations on the theme were provided by teams prepared to throw both forward at the same time and the more cautious approach adopted by teams who attacked with one up and one back, such as the champions Japan.

As a measure of their effectiveness, full-backs were involved in 18% of the tournament's open-play goals: three times as goalscorer and 10 times as the source of an assist.

In general, attacking moves along the flanks involved the wide midfielders or wingers cutting inside from advanced midfield areas to create space for the overlapping runs of the full-back. There was also occasional use of the underlapping run taking the full-back on a direct route towards goal, culminating in an attempt at goal or the delivery of a through ball or a square pass – with the Tajikistan No4 Rasul and the Oman No23 Mulham offering prime examples.

The tournament also underlined the value of awareness in switching play to wide areas in order to release the ball from crowded areas



into open spaces where opportunities for fast penetration could be obtained. Japan, Australia, Iraq and Korea Republic were especially adept at this.

MOVING TO THE FRONT

There was considerable variety among the participants in terms of the movement of strikers. The two DPR Korea strikers showed great off-the-ball movement when midfield players or defenders were able to play the forward ball into space behind the opponents' defensive line. The Tajikistan strikers also displayed a similar level of movement away from the ball, causing considerable problems for opposing defenders. Other strikers preferred to move more often towards the player in possession to initiate short combination play through the middle, linking up with shadow strikers or supporting midfield players. Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan

and Malaysia caught the eye with this style of attack-building.

In general, attacks were preferentially launched through the wide areas. The initial set-up of the attack might often have been directed through the centre but the overcrowded area in front of the box forced players to open play towards the wings. Hence the statistic that 19 goals (26% of those scored in open play) were derived from crosses.

All of these attacking actions were, of course, strongly conditioned by the opposing teams' defensive strategies. In many cases, pressure on the ball-carrier provoked losses of possession due to hurried, inaccurate passes, crosses or the final ball inside the box, as well as inducing players to embark on uncontrolled runs with the ball. Players, forced to act more quickly, were often unable to

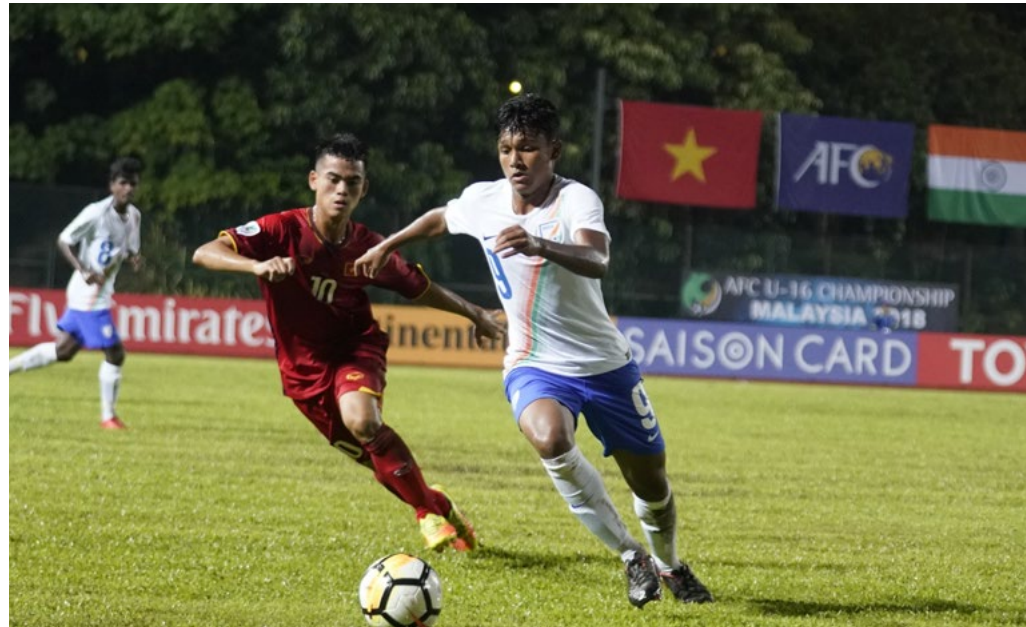


SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

master the ball properly and, under pressure, lost their awareness in terms of finding the best solution, especially in the tightest areas within the attacking third or the penalty area. This was a frequent characteristic at the tournament – and in this age-group. The teenagers experienced high-intensity matches which form an important aspect of their education and their development as potential senior-team players.

REACTING TO LOSS OF POSSESSION

Losing the ball in opposition territory triggered the defensive reactions rehearsed on training grounds. Most teams opted to exert immediate pressure on the opponent in possession (to pre-empt a quick forward pass or a rapid counterattack), via one or two players who were nearest the ball, while the rest of the team dropped rapidly into defensive formation. Other teams set out to win the ball back in the attacking third with organised collective pressing by players 'swarming' the ball. Effectively executed, this immediately yielded scoring opportunities during a phase of play when the opposition was spreading into attacking mode. Japan, Korea Republic and DPR Korea were especially proficient in this facet of the game and, overall, eight successful counters could be attributed to ball-regains in advanced areas.



The fact that 21 % of open play goals were scored from a fast break emphasised that the ability to counter is a valuable weapon in the attacking armoury. The four teams mentioned earlier illustrated this point by hitting the fast-forward button after regains in any sector of the pitch.

The question for coaches to address at this level (and beyond) is how to maintain a defensive organisation while the team is attacking. In

Malaysia, the trend towards pushing both full-backs forward gave special relevance to this aspect of the game. Two centre-backs in the vicinity of the halfway line protected by one or two screening midfielders created wide open spaces between the last line of defence and the goalkeeper which sent clear invitations for sharp, dangerous counterattacking.

Hence the more conservative approach adopted by the likes of Japan, Korea

Republic, India or Tajikistan, who were more reluctant to commit full-backs to attack, if any at all. Those who opted to attack with only one kept the other back to create a defensive line of at least three with one or two holding midfield players in front of them. This was in combination with an aggressive, individual (India, Tajikistan) or organised (Japan, Korea Republic) pressing mechanism to immediately regain possession in the area where it had been lost.

As counterattacking provides a significant source of goals at senior level, the question for coaches at this level is to what extent players should be made aware of this threat and coached in the art of countering the counter? In Malaysia, it has to be said, levels of awareness could often be measured by the number of fouls deliberately committed with a view to pre-empting the fast break.

DEFENSIVE MECHANISMS

Playing the numbers game, it could be argued that the main defensive structures noted during the tournament were 1-4-4-2 (zonal), 1-4-1-4-1 and 1-4-2-3-1. Teams such as Japan and Korea Republic provided examples of well-organised, compact defending with little space between players and lines within an effective block, combined with aggressive pressure on the ball. The better teams tended

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

to be the ones who also showed a better understanding of when to drop and when to press.

Tajikistan were an interesting case due to the adjustment of their defensive organisation/strategy after losing the first group match against Malaysia 6-2. In the second match against Japan (0-0) they created a five- or, at times, six-man defensive line protected by three midfielders, with their No9 Soirov Rustam patrolling the halfway line as a lone attacker. It proved to be a successful ploy as, despite the heavy defeat, they managed to reach the final after a draw (v Japan), a win (v Thailand) and two penalty shoot-out victories after a further brace of draws. The 1-0 defeat by Japan in the final meant that they had conceded four goals in five matches – which had included an hour of extra-time. In other words, four goals conceded in 510 minutes of football. The tournament statistics speak volumes for levels of defensive organisation: Korea Republic conceded one in five games; India one in four; and champions Japan four in six.

The technical observers noted that, understandably in this age-group, there was room for improvement in individual defensive skills, especially on the wings, where defenders found difficulties in 1v1 situations and/or in coping with overlaps. This was in line with the trend at all levels of the

game towards a greater focus on full-backs' attacking qualities – and the need to balance them with the team's defensive requirements.



SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS



SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS

DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

Discussions with the coaches of the participating teams and amongst the members of the AFC Technical Study Group focused on the core issues which coaches are required to address when leading their squads on to the first rung of the international ladder and shepherding them through an event which, for a vast majority of the players, represents the first experience of a major tournament.

The first issue facing the coach is the question of player selection, allied with the definition of objectives. As the AFC competition is organised on a biannual basis, FIFA U-17 World Cup places are at stake – in Malaysia, the incentive to reach the semi-finals was the opportunity to further the players' development at the final tournament of the FIFA competition in Peru in 2019. This carried a certain weight when coaches were calculating or aiming to achieve an appropriate balance between results and development.

Going back to selection criteria, the debating point is whether the quest for success generates a trend towards the selection of players at the top end of the age bracket. Japan, the champions in Malaysia, took the title with 21 players born in 2002 – more than any of their rivals in the

tournament. Their squad was completed by two players born in 2003. This, as it happens, underscores the trend set in India in 2016, when Iraq lifted the trophy with a practically identical shape to their squad: 22 players born in 2000 plus one from 2001.

In Malaysia, the Iraq squad featured only eight players born in 2002 – fewer than any of the other contestants. Their list included 13 born in 2003 plus two in 2004. They were eliminated in the group stage.

The fact that this crops up frequently as a debating point at this level underlines the importance of addressing it. In terms of player development and, eventually, shepherding youngsters into the senior team, is it reasonable to focus so sharply on players born in even-numbered years? What more can be done to offer equal opportunities to those whose year of birth ends in an odd number?

SQUAD LISTS AND TEAM SHEETS

Walking further along the same path, what are the coach's criteria when it comes to handing in his team sheet? Is match-play about development? About winning? About a combination of both? And, if the answer to the last question is affirmative, how best to apply that principle and achieve the right balance.



The Japan players herded together to throw Yorisho Moriyama into the air after lifting the trophy in Bukit Jalil. The collective enthusiasm was understandable, bearing in mind that their coach had given each and every one of them a chance to play. Even in the crucial knockout rounds. For the semi-final against Australia, Moriyama made seven changes to the line-up that had defeated Oman in the quarter-final. And then four more modifications to the team sheet for the final against Tajikistan. Only two players started all six matches; and only two more started five fixtures and came on as subs in the other. In other words, the clear philosophy

among the coaching staff was to allow all the players to gain experience, to further their development and, as Moriyama put it, "to improve game by game throughout a tough tournament".

The fact that Japan made this principle compatible with winning speaks volumes, it could be argued, for the overall strength of the squad. And, of course, not all national associations can count on such strength in depth in this age bracket. Differing parameters were clearly illustrated by the final. In sharp contrast to Moriyama, Zayniddin Rakhimov used only 16 of his 23-player squad

SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS



and seven players started all six fixtures. Two others started five times. To his credit, the Tajikistan coach managed to revive his team psychologically after the morale-sapping 2-6 defeat by Malaysia in their opening game and, instead of making wholesale changes, adjusted the side's playing strategy and maintained practically the same starting eleven for the rest of the historic run to the final.

In other words, two different approaches led to a similar outcome – including the qualification of both nations for the FIFA World Cup, where the players will enjoy opportunities to further their development by measuring themselves against the world's best – and, by acquiring more big-tournament experience, enhancing their prospects of climbing the rungs right up to the senior team. The question for coaches

to debate is which of the two approaches is more appropriate for the groups of players at their disposal.

PREPARING TO SUCCEED

How does the coach prepare for a final tournament? National team coaches frequently lament the lack of time to assemble the squad and work on team-building. But this did not appear to be the case for the teams who successfully made it through to the last 16. Jordan, for example, played three games at a tournament in Serbia; as many again when they hosted an event involving Japan, India and Yemen; played two friendlies apiece against IR Iran and Tunisia; went to Turkey to play friendlies; and finally travelled to Malaysia a week in advance to commence a training camp.

Indonesia prepared their challenge by meeting 10 opponents from within the AFC ambit. Oman played nine preparation matches, seven of them in the two months preceding the tournament. Silver-medallists Tajikistan travelled to Japan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, racking up no fewer than 19 practice matches. Thailand hosted three preparation games and went to Spain to take on opposition from Atlético Madrid, UD Levante, Valencia CF and Rayo Vallecano... and so it goes on.

There are various aspects to take into account. On the one hand, the coach needs to work on team strategy and the development of individual skills. But the parameters of final tournaments differ considerably within a Confederation with huge differences in climates and time zones. Specific preparations aimed at helping the players to cope with local conditions therefore form an important ingredient on the pre-tournament menu. Temperatures, humidity or altitude can affect the coach's strategy with regard, for example, to the feasibility of sustained high pressing. Management can become an important facet when players are together, far from families, for long periods of time prior to and during a final tournament.

In this age-group, players may be encountering all of these issues for the first time – and the technical staff within the member associations also need to possess levels of expertise in terms of programming, designing and controlling workloads. The ultimate aim is to start to prepare the players, physically, mentally and tactically, for major tournaments at senior level which may be played in various types of conditions. What is the best way to prepare for a final tournament?

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH



SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

GOALKEEPERS



TAIKI YAMADA (JPN)



SHIN SONGHOON (KOR)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

DEFENDERS



LEE TAESEOK (KOR)



LEE JUNSU (KOR)



JORDAN COURTNEY PERKINS (AUS)



RIKU HANDA (JPN)



KOSHIRO SUMI (JPN)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MIDFIELDERS



MOCHAMMAD SUPRIADI (IDN)



YOON SUKJU (KOR)



PAIK SANGHOON (KOR)



ASAHI YOKOHAWA (JPN)



KEITA NAKANO (JPN)



HIKARU NARUOKA (JPN)



OMAR AL SALT (OMA)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

FORWARDS



JUN NISHIKAWA (JPN)



SHOJI TOYAMA (JPN)



NOAH BOTIC (AUS)



RUSTAM SOIROV (TJK)

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



“ MY EXPECTATIONS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT WERE THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT TOURNAMENT, AND THAT OUR PLAYERS HAD TO IMPROVE GAME BY GAME. AND THEY DID WELL TO GROW AND IMPROVE THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT. WE OVERCAME WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES THROWN AT US AND GOT THE TROPHY. ”

**YOSHIRO MORIYAMA- COACH
JAPAN U-16 TEAM**



“ I DIDN'T SCORE ANY GOALS BEFORE THIS GAME, SO GOING INTO THE MATCH, I REALLY WANTED TO SCORE AGAINST TAJIKISTAN, AND I DID IT, AND I'M REALLY GLAD. IT'S A GREAT FEELING WINNING THE MVP OF ASIA, I'M REALLY HAPPY AND IT'S A GOOD ACHIEVEMENT FOR ME. WE'VE HAD A LOT OF TOURNAMENTS AND TRAINING CAMPS WITH THIS TEAM, WE HAVE REALLY GOOD CHEMISTRY AND UNITY, SO IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO WIN THE TOURNAMENT WITH THIS TEAM. I REALLY WANT TO TRY AND IMPROVE TOWARDS THE 2019 FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP PERU AND HAVE A GREAT TOURNAMENT. ”

**JUN NISHIKAWA- JAPAN
MVP OF THE AFC U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP**

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



“FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK MY PLAYERS FOR A GOOD PERFORMANCE. I AM VERY PROUD OF MY PLAYERS. AFTER OUR FIRST (6-2) LOSS TO MALAYSIA, OUR BOYS COMPLETED A SPECTACULAR TURNAROUND TO REACH THE FINAL. ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO OUR PLAYERS, WHO DID THEIR VERY BEST, NOT ONLY IN THIS GAME, BUT IN THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT. ”

**ZAYNIDIN RAKHIMOV - COACH
TAJIKISTAN U-16 TEAM**



“FOR US, THE CHALLENGE BEFORE WE GO TO THE WORLD CUP IS TO SOLVE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. TO BE FITTER, TO BE SMARTER WITH OUR DECISION MAKING AND BETTERING ALL OF OUR QUALITY. IT WAS A GOOD LESSON FOR US TODAY. THERE WERE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS THAT CAME OUT OF WHAT THE BOYS DID, THE MARGIN OF ERROR AT THIS LEVEL IS VERY SMALL AND CONGRATULATIONS TO JAPAN BECAUSE THEIR LEVEL IS VERY HIGH. ”

**TREVOR MORGAN- COACH
AUSTRALIA U-16 TEAM**

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



“IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A WINNING TEAM, THEY NEED TO PLAY THESE GAMES, PLAY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. THIS IS VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR THEM FOR THE FUTURE. WE ARE REALLY HAPPY THAT WE’RE TAKING MANY OF THESE PLAYERS FORWARD. THAT IS OUR JOB, THIS IS WHAT WE NEED TO DO. WE NEED TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS, AND NOT JUST FOCUS ON THE RESULTS. THE RESULTS ARE COMING, MAYBE LATER, BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING.”

**YAQOUB AL SABAHI - COACH
OMAN U-16 TEAM**



“WE DIDN’T PLAY VERY WELL IN THIS MATCH, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIRST HALF, AND AFTER THE RED CARD, OUR PLAYERS LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE AND THE TEMPO OF THE GAME. BUT IN THE SECOND HALF, WE CHANGED THINGS UP, WE WERE MORE DISCIPLINED AND ORGANISED AND THE TEAM SPIRIT RECOVERED. THIS IS A VERY BIG TOURNAMENT FOR ME AND THE PLAYERS. OF COURSE WE MADE SOME MISTAKES BUT WE WILL LEARN FROM THOSE MISTAKES. I ALSO THINK IT’S VERY GOOD FOR MY COACHING CAREER AND ALSO FOR MY PLAYERS’ FUTURE.”

**VUT HONG VIET- COACH
VIETNAM U-16 TEAM**

SECTION 8: COACHES TALKING POINTS



“ WE KNEW THIS TOURNAMENT IS A PLACE TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR THESE YOUNG PLAYERS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL. IN SUCH AN AGE GROUP, THE TECHNICAL ASPECT IS NOT EVERYTHING AS IT'S ALSO ABOUT THE PLAYERS' MENTALITY. AFTER THE FIRST GAME, WE TRIED TO FOCUS ON THE MENTAL PREPARATION TO FIX THAT PROBLEM AND TODAY WAS THE RESULT OF FIXING THAT PROBLEM.”

**ABBAS CHAMANIAN - COACH
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN U-16
TEAM**



“ AFTER LOSING OUR FIRST TWO MATCHES, WE PLAYED WELL TODAY AND WON THE MATCH. THE PLAYERS WERE READY AND PREPARED TO FACE JORDAN. THIS IS THE WAY WE ALWAYS PLAY AND WE PLAYED TODAY WITH NOTHING TO LOSE. WE WANTED TO SHOW THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE FANS HERE AND AT HOME WHAT WE CAN DO, AND WE MADE THEM HAPPY. IF OUR PREPARATIONS WERE BETTER, WE COULD HAVE MADE THEM HAPPIER.”

**ABDALLAH SAMIH EQUITATI - COACH
YEMEN U-16 TEAM**

SECTION 9: REFEREES



SECTION 9: REFEREES

THE TEAM OF REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

REFEREES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Ammar Ebrahim Hasan Mahfoodh | BHR |
| 2. Banerjee Pranjal | IND |
| 3. Heidari Payam | IRN |
| 4. Ahmad Yacoub Ibrahim Ibrahim | JOR |
| 5. Yusuke Araki | JPN |
| 6. Kim Woosung | KOR |
| 7. Alhunfush Shukri Hussain A | KSA |
| 8. Muhammad Nazmi Bin Nasaruddin | MAS |
| 9. Saoud Ali H J Al-Adba | QAT |
| 10. Mongkolchai Pechsri | THA |
| 11. Chen Hsin-Chuan | TPE |
| 12. Omar Mohamed Ahmed Hassan Al-Ali | UAE |

ASSISTANT REFEREES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Ma Ji | CHN |
| 2. Samar Pal | IND |
| 3. Assadi Arman | IRN |
| 4. Akram Ali Jabbar | IRQ |
| 5. Ayman Faisal Hamzeh Obeidat | JOR |
| 6. Nishihashi Isao | JPN |
| 7. Talipzhanov Ismailzhan | KGZ |
| 8. Jang Jongpil | KOR |
| 9. Alrefaei Hesham Mohammed A | KSA |
| 10. Mohamad Zairul Bin Khalil Tan | MAS |
| 11. Muhammad Ali | PAK |
| 12. Juma Mohammed K H Al-Burshaid | QAT |
| 13. Abdul Hannan Bin Abdul Hasim | SIN |
| 14. Pattarapong Kijsthit | THA |
| 15. Chen Jia-Hao | TPE |
| 16. Sabet Obaid Suroor Sabet Al Ali | UAE |



SECTION 10: EXTRA-TIME



SECTION 10: EXTRA-TIME

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



IMPRESSIONS
10,736,944

REACH
7,613,857

% INCREASE
1018



IMPRESSIONS
6,428,388

ENGAGEMENTS
433,440

% INCREASE
240



IMPRESSIONS
14,685,504

LIKES
1,330,794

STORIES IMPRESSIONS
2,922,273

SECTION 10: EXTRA-TIME

AFC COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

- 1. Mr. Saoud Al-Mohannadi QAT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

- 1. Mr. Lin Xiaohua CHN

MEMBER

- 1. Ms. Han Un Gyong PRK
- 2. Mr. Mark Flavo AUS
- 3. Major Gen. Khiev Sameth KHM
- 4. Mr. Mehdi Taj IRN
- 5. Mr. Ali Jabbar Dabat IRQ
- 6. Mr. Tetsu Hirai JPN
- 7. Mr. Chun Hanjin KOR
- 8. Mr. Sabeeh J Abal KWT
- 9. Datuk Wira Mohd Yusoff Mahadi MYS
- 10. Mr. Bigyan Raj Sharma NPL
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SECTION 10: EXTRA-TIME

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Design and Layout:
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Pictures:
Asian Football Confederation
Lagardère Sports