



AFC
U23
CHAMPIONSHIP
CHINA 2018

CHINA 2018

空中盛会

邀你尽情畅谈



阿联酋航空头等舱及商务舱

阿联酋航空A380机上行政酒廊带给你高朋满座的喜悦，全程任意品尝美酒小食，或安坐于平躺式座椅，尽享一晚舒适睡眠，完美点缀你的旅途时光。

你好未来



AFC PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Welcome to China for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U23 Championship which will showcase the next generation of talent that is emerging from all corners of the Continent.

The stars of the future will be on show at the four world-class venues in Changzhou, Jiangyin, Changshu and Kunshan as the AFC delivers on its promise to provide outstanding competitions for the talent of Asia.

The AFC is most grateful to the Chinese Football Association, the four host cities and the Local Organising Committees for their hard work in ensuring that this event is a worthy successor to the tournament held two years ago in Qatar.

That event was won by Japan after they staged a stunning comeback in the final to defeat Korea Republic and I am sure we will all witness some exciting games and some surprising results during the next 18 days.

Congratulations to all Member Associations who have teams here at the AFC U23 Championship and also to those who staged the qualifying tournaments. Your commitment to the AFC competitions is much appreciated.

Also, a word of thanks to our match officials. Asia has some of the best refereeing teams in the world and just like the players you will see some of the best young referees from across the Continent in this event.

We wish everyone the best of luck and hope that the spectators, both in the stadium and watching on television or engaging through social media, enjoy a glimpse of the future talent of Asia.

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President



THE NEXT CHAPTER

AFTER TWO EXCITING EDITIONS OF THE AFC U23 CHAMPIONSHIP SO FAR, CHINA 2018 HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE BEST YET. THIS YEAR'S EVENT IN JIANGSU OFFERS THE TEAMS THE CHANCE TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IRAQ IN 2014 AND JAPAN IN 2016 WITH THE PAIR CROWNED CHAMPIONS AT MEMORABLE TOURNAMENTS IN OMAN AND QATAR.

A new era of Asian football began at 5pm, January 11th 2014 when the inaugural AFC U23 Championship kicked off in the cities of Muscat and Seeb in Oman.

Then known as the AFC U-22 Championship, the tournament is second only to the AFC Asian Cup in terms of importance in the national team competition's calendar and is the most senior youth level continental tournament in Asia.

Of the 16 teams who travelled to the Sultanate in 2014, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Korea Republic, Iraq and Japan were the nations who qualified from the group stages to reach the tournament's maiden knockout stages.

From the close-fought encounters, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Korea Republic and Iraq reached the semi-finals, with the Saudis and Iraqis progressing from the final four to the first-ever final, held on 26 January at Seeb Sports Complex.

Earlier in the day, Jordan enjoyed a best-ever AFC tournament finish by defeating Korea Republic on penalties to finish third before Hakim Shakir's Iraq side edged Saudi Arabia 1-0 thanks to a goal from future senior side striker Mohanad Abdulraheem.

The stakes were raised two years later with Qatar 2016 – now renamed the AFC U23 Championship – also acting as

a qualifier for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, with the top three finishers travelling to Brazil as the AFC representatives.

Korea Republic, Jordan, Japan, the UAE and defending champions Iraq all secured quarter-final places for the second tournament running, but this time were joined by hosts Qatar, DPR Korea and Islamic Republic of Iran.

After eight exciting encounters, the Koreans, Japanese and Iraqis along with the home nation reached the highly-anticipated semi-finals for a chance to earn their spot in the Summer Olympic Games.

Olympics regulars Korea Republic and Japan edged past Qatar and Iraq respectively, with the latter two playing off for the final place at Rio in a thrilling play-off which saw the Iraqis come out on top.

The final of Qatar 2016 saw old rivals Korea and Japan face-off and it was a competition climax to remember as the young Samurai Blue came back from two goals down to triumph 3-2.

China 2018 will be the third edition of this exciting, must-see addition to the AFC competitions calendar with 16 teams vying to join the Iraq and Japan teams of 2014 and 2016 as AFC U23 Championship winners.



SCHEDULE

GROUP A

A1	China
A2	Oman
A3	Qatar
A4	Uzbekistan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
China Oman Qatar Uzbekistan								
09/01/18 China v Oman Qatar v Uzbekistan	12/01/18 Uzbekistan v China Oman v Qatar	15/01/18 China v Qatar Uzbekistan v Oman						

GROUP B

B1	DPR Korea
B2	Japan
B3	Palestine
B4	Thailand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
DPR Korea Japan Palestine Thailand								
10/01/18 DPR Korea v Thailand Japan v Palestine	13/01/18 Palestine v DPR Korea Thailand v Japan	16/01/18 Japan v DPR Korea Thailand v Palestine						

GROUP C

C1	Iraq
C2	Jordan
C3	Malaysia
C4	Saudi Arabia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Iraq Jordan Malaysia Saudi Arabia								
10/01/18 Iraq v Malaysia Jordan v Saudi Arabia	13/01/18 Malaysia v Jordan Saudi Arabia v Iraq	16/01/18 Iraq v Jordan Saudi Arabia v Malaysia						

GROUP D

D1	Australia
D2	Korea Republic
D3	Syria
D4	Vietnam

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Australia Korea Republic Syria Vietnam								
11/01/18 Australia v Syria Korea Republic v Vietnam	14/01/18 Vietnam v Australia Syria v Korea Republic	17/01/18 Korea Republic v Australia Syria v Vietnam						

Quarter-Final 1

1ST GROUP A
VS
2ND GROUP B

19/01/18

Quarter-Final 2

1ST GROUP B
VS
2ND GROUP A

19/01/18

Quarter-Final 3

1ST GROUP C
VS
2ND GROUP D

20/01/18

Quarter-Final 4

1ST GROUP D
VS
2ND GROUP C

20/01/18

Semi-Final 1

WINNER OF QF1
VS
WINNER OF QF3

23/01/18

Semi-Final 2

WINNER OF QF2
VS
WINNER OF QF4

23/01/18

FINAL



AFC
U23
CHAMPIONSHIP
CHINA 2018

27/01/18

Third Place Play-Off

LOSER SF1
VS
LOSER SF2

26/01/18



CHINA

Having exited at the group stage of the past two editions of the AFC U23 Championship two years ago without picking up a point, China will be seeking a vast improvement this time out on home soil.

After a disappointing campaign in Muscat in the inaugural tournament, the East Asians were intent on a better performance at the second edition in Qatar 2016.

Drawn in a tough group against Syria, IR Iran and the hosts, China got off to a perfect start when Liao Lisheng netted just before half-time against Qatar in Doha.

However, a second half collapse saw Abdelkarim Hassan score a brace and Ahmed Alaa Strike as the Maroons ran rampant in a 3-1 defeat for the Chinese.

Matchday Two followed a similar vein, Liao Lisheng scoring the opener before Syria hit back with three goals. A 3-2 defeat in the final group stage tie against IR Iran concluded a tough time in Qatar for China.

Despite qualifying as hosts for the 2018 edition, China also

took part in the qualification process as a means to prepare the side ahead of January's competition and it was a decision that bore fruit after some impressive performances in Phnom Penh.

A goalless draw against hosts, who are always difficult opposition on home turf, was followed by a 2-0 win over the Philippines before China's most impressive result of the campaign: a 2-1 win over defending U-23 champions Japan.

The goalscorers against the young Samurai Blue were two players who could well be leading lights at China 2018, Shanghai SIPG winger Wei Shihao and Beijing Renhe defender Deng Hanwen. Both have been capped for the senior side with the former also making his AFC Champions League debut in the 2017 campaign.

Leading the line ahead of them is slated to be Werder Bremen loanee Zhang Yuning who has been slated to be the future of China's attack.



德国胎艺 技惊全场

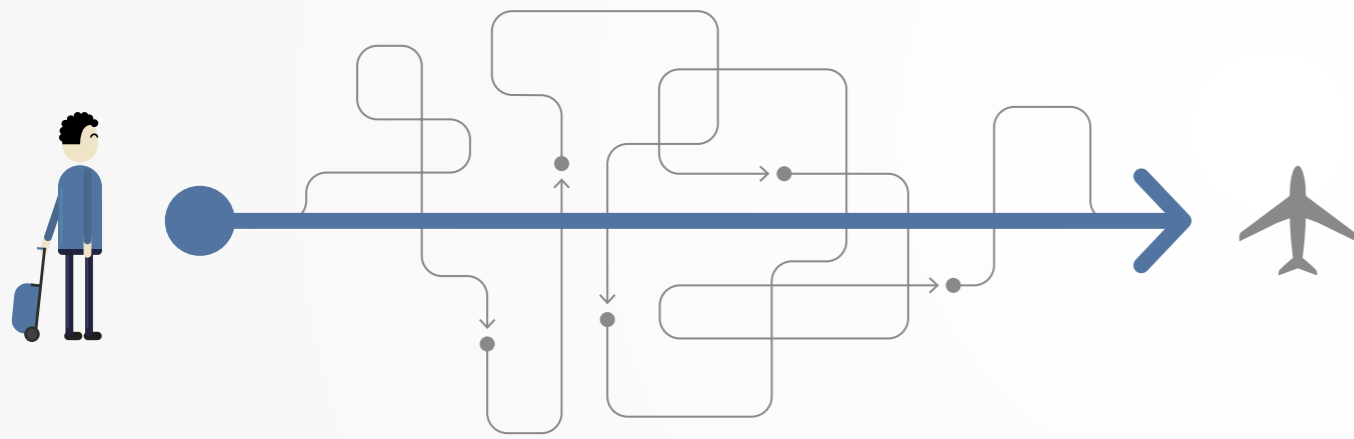
无论绿茵场，还是柏油路，由非凡技术带来传奇表现，都让我们激怀不已！德国马牌轮胎 ContiSportContact的卓越运动性能，让你在平稳之中感受极速快感，让超越从此变得简单，引领更是分秒既定。



CONTISPORTCONTACT™



SmartTravel



- 
 1 Self Check-In
- 
 2 Self Bag Drop
- 
 3 E-Registration
- 
 4 E-Border Gate
- 
 5 Self Boarding

Travel made simple

Abu Dhabi Airport is proud to launch a faster, hassle-free way to travel. A five-step smart and simple process leads you straight to your gate. Less time spent in queues and more time to travel smoothly through Abu Dhabi Airport, at your own pace.



QATAR

It is a testament to the quality in Qatar's youth setup that a fourth-place finish at the 2016 AFC U-23 Championship was deemed a disappointment. The home team impressed for most of the tournament before going down to Iraq in the third-place play-off and thus failing to qualify for the Olympics.

Going into the 2018 edition in China, Felix Sanchez's squad will have high expectations on their shoulders once again. The core of the squad is formed by players who were part of the 2016 campaign and have been coached by Sanchez continuously for almost four years, right from the U-19 category.

Led by the likes of Akram Afif and Ahmed Moein, this group of players first came to prominence at the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship. Qatar reached the final, where substitute Afif headed in the winner against DPR Korea. Skipper Moein was named as the tournament's MVP and subsequently as the AFC Youth Player of the Year.

A disappointing group stage exit at the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup was followed by a much-improved performance at the 2016

AFC U-23 Championship, giving hope to Qatari fans.

The gradual progress of this generation is key to Qatar's plans of developing a strong squad for 2022, when they will host the FIFA World Cup. Many players in this U-23 squad have already broken into the senior national team and have gained significant experience at the highest level.

In addition to Afif and Moein, the squad features Almoez Ali, who has scored for Al Duhail in the AFC Champions League, and Assim Madibo, who currently plays alongside Afif for Belgian first division side KAS Eupen.

The 2018 AFC U-23 Championship will be the culmination of Qatar's first successful qualifying campaign at this level, after they failed to reach the inaugural event in Oman and then hosted the 2016 edition.

Placed in Group C of the qualifiers, Qatar started off with a 2-0 win over Turkmenistan, before narrowly edging past India in the second game. Finally, a 1-1 draw with Syria secured top spot and automatic qualification for the finals.





UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan qualified for the AFC U-23 Championship after topping Group D with a 100 % record after beating hosts UAE 2-0 at the Tahnoun bin Mohammad Stadium in Al Ain. The Uzbeks have qualified for each of the two AFC U-23 Championship in 2013 and in 2016 but failed to reach the knockout stages on both occasions, this time, with former Uzbekistan head coach Ravshan Khaydarov in charge and a settled, young White Wolves side, things could be different.

In Doha two years ago, Uzbekistan lost their opening two matches of the 2016 tournament to Korea Republic 1-2, and despite netting in the first minute in their second match with Iraq, the Uzbeks lost 3-2 after conceding two goals in five minutes. Their only victory a 3-1 win over Yemen came when the side had already exited the competition with goals from Javokhir Sokhibov, Igor Sergeev and Jaloliddin Masharipov.

This time around in the Group D qualifying matches in the UAE, Uzbekistan were more professional in their

approach, pacing themselves in their opening game with a 3-1 victory over Lebanon, opening with an own goal from Lebanese defender Khalil Khamis before a Bobir Abdixolikov double extended their lead, with Lebanon only managing a consolation through substitute Hassan Hammoud and then beat Nepal with a respectable 2-0 score line on Matchday Two with goals from Dostonbek Tursunov and Azizjon Ganiev.

Both hosts the UAE and Uzbekistan were level on six points coming into the third and final match but the home side had a better goal difference and knew a draw would be enough to see them qualify. The UAE had looked odds-on to reach the finals as group winners with the score goalless until Uzbek defender Islomjon Kobilov headed in Jasurbek Yakhshiboev's corner on 67 minutes and despite the home side's best efforts to find an equaliser, the Uzbeks made sure of their qualification for the 2018 AFC U-23 Championship in China with a second from 20-year-old central midfielder Javokir Sidikov in the last minute of the game.



OMAN

Oman could be the surprise contenders at the 2018 AFC U-23 Championship in China as the Sultanate's team aim to build on their impressive qualifying campaign where they topped Group A, ahead of powerhouse IR Iran and hosts Kyrgyzstan.

The man behind Oman's resurgence is Hamad Al-Azani, coaching Oman U23 for the second time, having been dismissed halfway through the 2012 Olympic Games qualifiers. The 44 year-old has worked as an assistant coach and caretaker manager of the Oman national team on numerous occasions and returned to manage the U23 team in the summer of 2014 after guiding club side Al Nahda to the Oman Professional League title.

In Bishkek, Al-Azani's team were led by two of Oman's promising attacking players; 20-year-old striker Muhsin Al Ghassani and 21-year-old attacking midfielder Jameel Al Yahmadi, who both played a crucial part in the team's qualification for the 2018 AFC U23 Championship.

In their opening game against the hosts Kyrgyzstan, Oman found themselves 0-1 down after conceding a penalty in stoppage time of the first half. The result remained the same up until just after the hour mark when Al Ghassani popped up with a header. After the equaliser the floodgates opened, and midfielder Zahir Al Aghbari dispatched a penalty on 81 minutes before Al Ghassani added his second and Al Yahmadi added his name to the scoresheet a minute later, before Al Ghassani completed his hat-trick in stoppage time to give Oman a convincing 5-1 victory with five goals scored in the last half hour of the game.

With group opponents Iran having already beaten Kyrgyzstan 2-1 in the group opener, the winner of the final group match would qualify for the 2018 AFC U-23 Championship and it was the double act of Al Yahmadi and Al Ghassani who came up with the goals to clinch a 2-0 win over the Iranians and seal Oman's qualification to the finals.





Power Tools
that Shape the World

Makita Corporation



JAPAN

Defending champions Japan will look to retain the title they lifted in Qatar two years ago having followed up their quarter-final finish at the inaugural AFC U23 championship in style.

The tournament in Muscat in 2014 had begun with a topsy-turvy group stage in which Japan followed up a rollercoaster 3-3 draw with IR Iran in their opener with a goalless draw with Kuwait before an emphatic 4-0 win over Australia.

A 1-0 defeat to Iraq in the quarter-finals, though, was an underwhelming conclusion to their campaign, particularly as it contained players such as current stars Takuma Asano, Shoya Nakajima and Naomichi Ueda.

Nevertheless, Qatar 2016 proved a far more successful affair.

With a place at the 2018 Olympic Games in Rio at stake, Japan got off to a positive start as they edged DPR Korea 1-0 thanks to Ueda's fifth minute opener.

A comprehensive 4-0 win over Thailand included a brace from Yuya Kubo before a 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia completed a perfect group stage record.

IR Iran proved a tough test in the quarter-finals but after a goalless

90 minutes the Samurai Blue netted three times, including two superb Nakajima strikes, to eliminate the young Team Melli.

The semi-final proved an equally challenging task against Iraq but Riki Harakawa's late goal was enough to break a 1-1 deadlock to ensure a place in the final and a spot at Rio 2018.

Rivals Korea Republic were the opponents for Japan in the tournament climax in Doha and things looked dire for Makoto Teguramori's side when goals from Kwon Chang-hoon and Jin Sung-wook saw them go two goals down.

But two strikes in two minutes after the 66th minute mark from Asano and Shinya Yajima saw Japan restore parity before Asano netted the winner with nine minutes remaining.

Nakajima, whose silky skills and impressive long-range shooting wowed the crowd, was named tournament MVP, while their hero in the final Asano would go on to sign for English Premier League club Arsenal.

With the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo on the horizon, there can be no doubt that a starlet-filled Japan side will be on their way to China 2018.





DPR KOREA

DPR Korea head into the AFC U23 Championship in China with plans to build on their quarter-final stage appearance at the tournament in Qatar two years ago.

In the then AFC U-22 Championship in 2014, DPR Korea were disappointingly eliminated at the group stage but they bounced back at the 2016 edition.

A narrow 1-0 defeat to Japan in their opener at Doha's Grand Hamad Stadium was followed by an action-packed tie against Saudi Arabia.

Kim Yong-il netted the game's first goal before the half hour but Mohamed Kanno levelled the score ahead of the half time break.

Goals were exchanged again within the opening 20 minutes of the restart as Yun Il-gwang restored DPR Korea's lead only to see Fahad Al Muwallad ties thing up again at 2-2.

Abdulrahman Al Ghamdi gave the young Green Falcons the lead for the first time shortly after, but Jang Kuk-chol had the final say with a leveler five minutes before time.

A second back-and-forth tie saw DPR Korea share a 2-2 draw with

Thailand, a result that saw the Koreans edge into the quarter-finals based on a superior head-to-head record against the Southeast Asians and Saudi Arabia.

In the last knockout stages, the young Chollima were drawn to face hosts Qatar and their tie at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium got off to the worst start as they conceded a penalty in the opening five minutes which Akram Afif converted.

And despite spirited attempts to restore parity it looked like the one goal lead would be enough for the Qataris until So Kyong-jin netted the levelled in the added time.

But the DPR Korean joy was short-lived as Ali Assadella restored Qatar's lead inside the first minute of extra-time and it was a scoreline that endured to the game's final whistle.

DPR Korea's qualifying campaign for 2018 got off to a rocky start as they surprisingly drew with Hong Kong in Pyongyang but they bounced back with a heavy 7-1 thrashing of Chinese Taipei, followed off by a 6-0 win over Laos off to see DPR Korea qualify for Qatar 2016 as group winners.



THAILAND

Thailand secured their second appearance at the AFC U23 Championship as the best-placed runner-up from qualifying group that included ASEAN rivals Malaysia and Indonesia as well as Mongolia.

The young War Elephants were the hosts of qualifying Group H and got their campaign off to a slow start as Mongolia pulled off a stunning upset to draw 1-1 following a late Tuguldur Munkh-Erdene penalty.

The Thais did rebound in their second outing, though, with an impressive 3-0 win over Malaysia that saw Chenrop Samphaodi net a brace and Picha U-Tra score late on.

The last round of group stage ties left it all to play for still with Thailand and Indonesia in a winner-take-all tie.

However, in front of 4,400 fans at Bangkok's National Stadium, neither side proved the victor in a goalless draw. The result, though, was enough for the hosts who edged into China 2018 as second placed side in the group, a point ahead of the Indonesians.

Thailand will be looking to better their performance at Qatar 2016

when they were eliminated in the group stage.

Their campaign two years ago began positively with a hard-fought 1-1 draw with 2014 finalists Saudi Arabia as Pinyo Inpinit netted a late leveler.

A testing second outing though against eventual champions Japan resulted in a 4-0 defeat, effectively leaving a final showdown with DPR Korea on Matchday Three.

A win for the Thais would prove enough to join group winners Japan in the knockout stage.

Kim Yong-il opened the scoring for the Koreans but Narubadin Weerawatnodom replied on the half hour mark for Thailand.

A Thosawat Limwannasathian own goal gave DPR Korea the lead again before Thai star Chanathip Songkrasin made it 2-2 with 12 minutes remaining as the sides shared the spoils.

The draw, though, turned out to be insufficient for Kiatisuk Senamuang's men with DPR Korea edging through on superior head-to-head record.





PALESTINE

Palestine are set to make their AFC U-23 Championship debut for the first time in their history. Prior to Ayman Sandouqa's side reaching the finals, Palestine had won only three of their last eight matches in the competition's qualifiers, but they showed real fighting spirit to reach the finals in China.

The Group E qualifying matches were hosted at the Dura International Stadium in Hebron, and one of the biggest crowds of the qualifying rounds witnessed a morale rousing fightback from the home side after finding themselves 2-0 down to neighbours Jordan after half an-hour.

The Palestinian team had opened their account with a 2-2 draw with Tajikistan earning them a point. And as the Tajiks beat Bangladesh 3-1 hours prior to the Palestine-Jordan match, a defeat for Palestine would have made qualifying an impossible task and put Jordan and Tajikistan in pole position to qualify.

Qualification was the furthest from the minds of the coach

or his players at half-time on matchday 2 when they returned to their dressing room 1-2 down and facing certain defeat, but the second half witnessed a Palestinian fightback as their continuous pressure on the Jordanian goal paid off with a 65th minute Mahmoud equaliser.

Palestine knew the game was for the taking but were fortunate in the 75th minute when Jordanian custodian Rafat Alrabie failed collect a high ball from a free kick only managing to push it to the path of Bahaa Wridat and the substitute coolly side-footed the ball into the empty net to the delight of the home crowd.

Palestinian striker Mahmoud Abuwarda scored a hat-trick in the team's final qualifier in a 3-0 victory over Bangladesh to qualify as winners of Group E and see Palestine qualify for the finals of the AFC Asian U-23 Championship for the first time in their history.



尼康
影像 / 从心

Nikon 100th
anniversary
尼康100周年



看见 驭光致影

D850 FX 4K UHD 8K TIME-LAPSE EXPPEED 5 数码影像处理器

约4,575万
有效像素

ISO64-25600
感光度

153点
自动对焦系统

连拍速度约7幅/秒
可提高至约9幅/秒*

约8cm(约3.2英寸)
可翻折触摸屏

* 需使用另购的MB-D18电池匣(手柄)、EN-EL18b/EN-EL18a
锂离子电池组和BL-5电池舱盖。

看破界





IRAQ

Abdul-Ghani Shahad's young Iraqi charges will want to replicate the country's 2013 AFC U23 Championship success in Oman when Mohanad Abdulaheem's goal was enough to beat Saudi Arabia in the final. Eight members of that 2013 winning squad went on to feature in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

The U-23 side failed to get out of their group at the 2016 Olympics after managing a 1-1 draw with South Africa in their final match in São Paulo when only a victory could have helped them progress to the next round after holding Denmark and the hosts and eventual winners Brazil to goalless draws in their opening two matches in Brasília. Iraq were toothless in attack, their only goal of the tournament coming from a Saad Abdul-Amir header.

Abdul-Ghani Shahad was reassigned as coach of the Iraqi U-23 team in late 2016 and set out to form a new squad around three youngsters with significant international experience; right back Alaa Mahawi, midfielder Amjed Attwan and forward Aymen Hussein, who was appointed captain. Iraq qualified for the 2018

AFC U-23 Championship with a 100%-win record and scored an astounding twelve goals while conceding just a single goal in their three qualifiers.

Hussein, whose goal secured Iraq's qualification to Rio 2016, will lead the attack in China after missing the Olympic Games due to a long-term injury. He was also Iraq's top goalscorer in the qualifiers with six goals including four in an emphatic 8-0 thumping of Afghanistan to become the first Iraqi player since 1959 to score four goals in an Olympic qualifier. The last Iraqi player to achieve the same feat was the late Adil Abdullah, who like the 21-year-old striker, was born in the Iraqi province of Kirkuk.

After beating Afghanistan, Iraq dispatched Bahrain 2-1 with the goals from Amjed Attwan and Mazin Fayyadh. Hussein was sent off in Iraq's final qualifying match in Riyadh against Saudi Arabia after an altercation with an opposition defender on 66 minutes but by then, Iraq's captain had scored their second goal after teammate Hussein Ali had opened the scoring and Shahad's team went on to win 2-0.



JORDAN

Jordan will look to build on their status as a force to reckon with at the U-23 level, when they appear at their third straight AFC U-23 Championship.

'Al Nashama' finished in third place at the inaugural event in Oman in 2014 before reaching the quarter-finals at the Asian Games in Incheon later that year. In 2016, Jordan went to the AFC U-23 Championship in Qatar with high hopes but had to settle for a quarter-final exit.

Placed in Group D, Jordan began with a fine 3-1 win over Vietnam, riding on Bahaa Faisal's brace. This was followed by two goalless draws with Australia and the United Arab Emirates, which saw the team progress from the group as runners-up with an unbeaten record.

The quarter-finals would prove to be a different story as Al Nashama locked horns with Korea Republic, in what was a rematch of the third-place play-off from 2014 which had seen the former triumph on penalties.

This time around, Korea Republic proved to be superior,

edging their opponents with a narrow 1-0 win. This ended Jordan's dreams of making it to the Olympic Games for the first time in their history.

Jordan will now look to make amends for that disappointment when they travel to China for a third crack at the Asian title.

Coached by former Bolton Wanderers development coach Iain Brunskill, Jordan's main weapon on the pitch remains Faisal, who has been handed the armband and was instrumental in helping the team secure qualification.

The qualification campaign was not as perfect as Brunskill may have hoped. Although Jordan started off with a huge 7-0 win over Bangladesh, a 3-2 defeat to neighbours Palestine meant that their hopes depended on a must-win game against Tajikistan, while other games needed to go their way too.

In the end, goals from Faisal and Ahmed Al Reyahi saw Jordan get past Tajikistan, which ensured that they went through to the finals as one of the best six runners-up.





SAUDI ARABIA

DPR Korea head into the AFC U23 Championship in China with plans to build on their quarter-final stage appearance at the tournament in Qatar two years ago.

In the then AFC U-22 Championship in 2014, DPR Korea were disappointingly eliminated at the group stage but they bounced back at the 2016 edition.

A narrow 1-0 defeat to Japan in their opener at Doha's Grand Hamad Stadium was followed by an action-packed tie against Saudi Arabia.

Kim Yong-il netted the game's first goal before the half hour but Mohamed Kanno levelled the score ahead of the half time break.

Goals were exchanged again within the opening 20 minutes of the restart as Yun Il-gwang restored DPR Korea's lead only to see Fahad Al Muwallad ties thing up again at 2-2.

Abdulrahman Al Ghamdi gave the young Green Falcons the lead for the first time shortly after, but Jang Kuk-chol had the final say with a leveler five minutes before time.

A second back-and-forth tie saw DPR Korea share a 2-2 draw with

Thailand, a result that saw the Koreans edge into the quarter-finals based on a superior head-to-head record against the Southeast Asians and Saudi Arabia.

In the last knockout stages, the young Chollima were drawn to face hosts Qatar and their tie at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium got off to the worst start as they conceded a penalty in the opening five minutes which Akram Afif converted.

And despite spirited attempts to restore parity it looked like the one goal lead would be enough for the Qataris until So Kyong-jin netted the levelled in the added time.

But the DPR Korean joy was short-lived as Ali Assadella restored Qatar's lead inside the first minute of extra-time and it was a scoreline that endured to the game's final whistle.

DPR Korea's qualifying campaign for 2018 got off to a rocky start as they surprisingly drew with Hong Kong in Pyongyang but they bounced back with a heavy 7-1 thrashing of Chinese Taipei, followed off by a 6-0 win over Laos off to see DPR Korea qualify for Qatar 2016 as group winners.

MALAYSIA

AFC U23 Championship debutants Malaysia will be stepping into the unknown when their China 2018 campaign kicks off against Iraq in Group C on 10 January.

The Southeast Asians missed out on both Oman 2014 and Qatar 2016 but impressed in qualifying to reach the U23 finals for the first time.

With the qualifiers hosted in Bangkok last July, the Malaysians got off to a superb start with a stunning 3-0 victory over neighbours Indonesia thanks to goals from Syafiq Ahmad, Jafri Firdaus and Thanabalan Nadarajah.

A 3-0 loss to the hosts did mean that the fate of the three Southeast Asian sides would go down to the wire with Malaysia facing Mongolia and Thailand and Indonesia facing off with each other.

Thanabalan eased Malaysian nerves with a goal on 51 minutes before Syazwan Andik secured all three points with his strike four minutes from time.

And a goalless draw between the Thais and Indonesians later

that day ensured it would be Malaysia who would progress to China as Group H winners along with second placed side Thailand.

A month later, Malaysia impressed further still at the Southeast Asian Games hosted on home soil.

A flawless group stage campaign saw the Young Tigers chalk up four consecutive victories over Brunei, Singapore, Myanmar, and Laos, topping Group A and progressing to the semi-finals in the process.

A final four showdown at Shah Alam Stadium against Indonesia was Malaysia's reward and a capacity crowd was rewarded by Thanabalan's fourth of the tournament, four minutes from time, that secured his nation a place in the final against defending champions Thailand.

However, the final hurdle proved one too far. A heart-breaking own-goal from Johor Darul Ta'zim goalkeeper Haziq Nadzli gave the Thais the lead on 39 minutes and it proved a lead that would endure to the end as Malaysia were forced to settle for the silver medal following the 1-0 defeat.





KFA

KOREA REPUBLIC

Having bettered their fourth-place finish in the inaugural competition in 2014, Korea Republic head into the AFC U23 Championship looking to go a step further once more and improve on the runners-up finish in Qatar two years ago.

Beaten by Japan in the final in Doha at the 2016 edition, the Koreans had begun the tournament in West Asia on a positive note following a 2-1 win over Uzbekistan in the Group C opener before a 5-0 thumping of Yemen with starlet Kwon Chang-hoon netting a hat-trick.

A 1-1 draw with Iraq was enough to see the Koreans win the group ahead of the defending champions on goal difference.

Jordan were next up for the young Taeguk Warriors in the quarter-final and Moon Chang-jin's 23rd minute strike proved to be enough in a 1-0 win, before hosts Qatar were edged aside in the final four thanks to two late goals from Kwon and Moon in a 3-1 victory.

Korea Republic faced rivals Japan in the final and made

the perfect start with goals from Kwon and Jin Sung-wook putting them two goals to the good.

However, a second half collapse saw the Samurai Blue net three times without reply as it was Japan, not Korea, who were crowned the second-ever AFC U23 champions after a thrilling finale.

Two years earlier, at the inaugural tournament in Oman, Korea Republic advanced to the quarter-finals after finishing in second place in Group A behind Jordan. After a 1-1 draw in their group opener against Jordan, the East Asians went on to claim 3-0 and 2-0 wins over Myanmar and hosts Oman, but lost out on top spot on goal difference.

Early goals from Baek Sung-dong and Hwang Ui-jo then set Korea Republic up for a 2-1 victory over Syria in the last eight, but after being eliminated 1-0 by Iraq in the semi-finals, the Koreans also lost 3-2 to Jordan on penalties in the third-place play-off following a goalless draw after extra-time.



麦芽100%

只采用第一道麦汁



天然软水酿造，口感纯净甘醇

一番搾り





52

Debut Single

わたしセンシ



FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

A group stage elimination at the 2016 AFC U23 Championship would not have been on the agenda for the young Australia side that travelled to Qatar two years ago, and the men in green and gold will be keen to make up for that disappointment in China.

The Australians kicked off their qualifying campaign for the 2018 tournament with a 2-0 victory over Brunei in Yangon last July to set the early pace in Group F.

And Australia's momentum continued into the second Matchday with a 7-0 win over Singapore as George Blackwood and Milislav Popovic netted braces.

Nevertheless, with qualifying hosts Myanmar keeping pace, Australia went into their final group outing against the ASEAN side knowing that defeat could see their qualification hopes dashed at the expense of their opponents, who had also earlier beaten Singapore and Brunei.

In front of 30,000 fans at Thuwunna Stadium, an early goal from Bruce Kamau helped settle any Australian nerves before

Western Sydney Wanderers pair Jonathan Asproptomitis and Jaushua Sotirio added further strikes to secure a 3-0 victory and a pace at China 2018.

Two years ago in Qatar, Australia's campaign got off to a disastrous start as a late Giancarlo Gallifuoco own-goal gave United Arab Emirates all three points in their Group D opener.

A 2-0 win over Vietnam put the Australians back on track but a goalless draw with Jordan in Matchday Three saw the West Asians go through along with the Emiratis, with Aurelio Vidmar's men eliminated at the first hurdle.

The inaugural tournament in Oman had proved more successful. Australia advanced to the last eight at the top of Group C after successive 1-0 wins over Kuwait and Iran prior to a 4-0 defeat at the hands of Japan.

But pair of quickfire goals from eventual runners-up Saudi Arabia either side of the hour mark ended Australia's title hopes as the 10 men lost 2-1 in Muscat after Andrew Hoole was sent-off.





SYRIA

Syria's budding talents will head to China for the AFC U-23 Championship looking to get inspired by their seniors, who went through an extraordinary run to the 2018 FIFA World Cup play-offs.

Some of the stars of the current senior team were prominent members of the U-23 squad when Syria reached the quarter-finals of the 2013 AFC U-23 Championship in Oman.

Nassouh Al Nakdali netted a brace while Hamid Mido and Mardik Mardikian also got on the scoresheet as Syria topped Group B with an unbeaten record before going down 1-2 to Korea Republic in the quarter-finals.

Two years later at Qatar 2016, the Syrian squad was headlined by the presence of the rising talent Omar Khribin. However, their campaign started off on a wrong note with a 0-2 defeat to Iran on the opening day.

The Qasioun Eagles then bounced back with a 3-1 win over China, as Khribin rose to the occasion with a brace while Mahmoud Al Baher also scored late on.

Facing a must-win game against the hosts on the final matchday, Syria started strongly with Yousef Kalfa's fourth minute goal. The match, however, turned against them when Qatar came back to take a 3-1 lead. Although Khribin reduced the deficit from the penalty spot, Qatar managed to secure a 4-2 win and knock them out.

Syria's campaign for redemption in 2018 saw them face Qatar once again in the qualifiers, after being placed in Group C, which also featured India and Turkmenistan.

Goals from Mohammad Rabie Surour and Fares Arnaout gave Syria a 2-0 win over India before they were held to a 0-0 draw by Turkmenistan in the second game.

A 1-1 stalemate on the final day with Qatar meant that Syria could only finish second in the group. Nevertheless, Mohannad Al Faqir's men were relieved to go through to their third successive AFC U-23 Championship as one of the six best runners-up.



VIETNAM

Vietnam return to the AFC U-23 Championship for the second tournament running after they made their competition debut two years ago in Qatar.

Three defeats at the group stage and an elimination without picking up a point does not tell the full story of a side that battled hard in Doha.

A difficult start in Group D saw Jordan go three goals up by the 72nd minute but any disappointment was mitigated by joy at the Vietnamese first ever goal at the AFC U23 Championship when Do Duy Manh netted three minutes from the end.

Australia edged past Vietnam in the second game in a 2-0 win, but it was the final group stage game against the United Arab Emirates at the Grand Hamad Stadium that will be most remembered for Toshiya Miura's side as they more than played their part in a thrilling 3-2 scoreline to sign off their maiden campaign.

Indeed, in last July's qualifiers for the 2018 edition, Vietnam's current generation impressed. In their Group I opener, the Southeast Asians comprehensively defeated Timor Leste 4-0 before a thumping

8-1 defeat of Macau.

The biggest test of all was the final round of qualifiers against former finalists Korea Republic and in front of 18,000 fans at Ho Chi Minh City's Thong Nhat Stadium, Vietnam acquitted themselves well in a narrow 2-1 defeat with Ngyuen Cong Phuong's goal sandwiched by strikes from Lee Sang-heon and Hwang In-beom.

The Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia came just a month after the qualifiers and Vietnam got off to positive starts in their opening ties, netting four times in their first three games against Timor Leste (4-0), Cambodia (4-1) and the Philippines (4-0) with Nguyen Cong Phuong again amongst the goals.

However, the Vietnamese side came up against a tougher test in the form of Indonesia with whom they shared a goalless stalemate in Selayang before a disappointing 3-0 defeat to eventual gold medalists Thailand.

The loss against the Thais meant Vietnam were edged out of the knockout stage by a point as Indonesia and Thailand progressed instead from Group B with Nguyen Huu Thang's men failing to match the bronze medal won at the 2015 edition.



奕泽 IZOA



Changzhou Olympic Centre Stadium
Capacity: 38,000



Changshu Sports Centre Stadium
Capacity: 30,000



Jiangyin Sports Centre Stadium
Capacity: 31,888



Kunshan Sports Centre Stadium
Capacity: 30,000

TNGA
Toyota
New
Global
Architecture
丰巢概念

倾心，不负等待。

来自TNGA，即将诞生，敬请期待。

注：此图仅为示意，具体请以实车为准。



AFC
U23
CHAMPIONSHIP
CHINA 2018

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS

