



AFC
U-19
CHAMPIONSHIP
BAHRAIN 2016

**TECHNICAL REPORT
AND STATISTICS**

MESSAGE BY **AFC PRESIDENT**

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA

I am delighted to present the Technical Report for the AFC U-19 Championship held in Bahrain in October 2016.

This Technical Report is designed to provide Member Associations, coaches, players, media and other football enthusiasts with a record of the tournament and offer a detailed study of the technical trends and developments in Asia at under-19 level.

The Local Organising Committee, together with the Bahrain Football Association, worked tirelessly for months ahead of the tournament to create the perfect stage for Asia's finest young talents to thrive and shine. I would like to express my appreciation to all those involved for doing their part to deliver a truly memorable event.

I would like to congratulate Japan for an outstanding campaign and also praise Saudi Arabia for displaying utmost determination in the final. Both teams played some tremendous football throughout the course

of the competition, culminating in an exhilarating and memorable final.

During the 18 days of high-intensity action, I was heartened by the performance of our young Asian footballers, a clear sign of a successful future for Asian football. For the third successive edition, Asia will be represented by four different zones at the FIFA U-20 World Cup, reflecting the widespread progress of the continent – Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Korea Republic (hosts), Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

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

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

One Asia, One Goal.



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President





GENERAL INTRODUCTION

For the first time during the 57-year history of a competition that can be traced back to the introduction of the AFC Youth Championship in 1959, the final tournament was staged in Bahrain. Two venues were used for the final round played from 13 – 30 October 2016 at the the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa and the Bahrain National Stadium in Riffa. As the final tournament was to decide the four Asian representatives to join the hosts, Korea Republic, at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in May-June 2017, the original match schedule contemplated three additional play-off matches which would have been necessary had Korea Republic qualified for the semi-finals. In the event, An Ik-soo's team was eliminated by the slimmest of goal-difference margins at the end of the group stage, allowing the fixture list to be pared down to 31 games.

The 16 finalists were divided into four groups, with the top two in each progressing to the quarter-finals. One of the quarter-finals needed to be decided by a penalty shoot-out, allowing Saudi Arabia to join Islamic Republic of Iran, Vietnam and Japan as Asia's representatives at the FIFA World Cup. The semi-final between Saudi Arabia and IR Iran set a new goalscoring record for that stage of the tournament, with the former emerging as 6-5 winners.

The AFC technical team at the tournament in Bahrain was formed by Fahad Almukharreq (Bahrain) and Kazuyori Mochizuki (Japan) under the captaincy of the AFC Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, with Dr. Shamil Mohammed acting as coordinator. Their input and observations form the basis for this review of the tournament which, in addition to providing a permanent record of the event, aims to offer useful information to coaches working at the development levels of the game.



CONTENTS

TOURNAMENT
OVERVIEW

RESULTS AND
STATISTICS

TEAMS AND
KEY FEATURES

GOALS ANALYSIS
AND STATISTICS

TECHNICAL
TOPICS

TALKING
POINTS

PLAYERS
TO WATCH

COACHES
TALKING POINTS

REFEREES

EXTRA TIME - LINKS AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A



Bahrain

Hosts Bahrain made a winning start in the opening-day match after Ahmed Mohamed came off the bench to seal an injury-time 3-2 victory over Saudi Arabia. Despite a narrow 2-1 defeat to Korea Republic in their next match, the young Reds managed to top the group, advancing into the semi-finals after a 3-2 victory over Thailand in their final group match.



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia seemed to emerge stronger as the competition progressed. Brushing aside their opening-day loss to Bahrain, the young Green Falcons responded convincingly in their next match, registering a 4-0 win over Thailand. With nothing less than a victory required to advance into the quarter-finals, Saudi Arabia then defeated Korea Republic 2-1 to join leaders Bahrain in the competition's last eight.



Korea Republic

As the most successful team in the history of the competition, Korea Republic kicked-off their campaign in convincing fashion with a 3-1 victory over Thailand. A 2-1 comeback victory against hosts Bahrain ensured the young Taegeuk Warriors were in pole position to qualify from the group after notching six points from their first two matches.

In the final group match, however, Korea Republic were narrowly knocked out of the competition after their 2-1 defeat to Saudi Arabia. The superior number of goals scored by both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in matches between the trio meant Korea Republic bowed out.



Thailand

Despite a spirited performance in their opening match, Thailand succumbed to a 3-1 defeat against Korea Republic. Suffering a 4-0 loss at the hands of Saudi Arabia in their next match sealed the young War Elephants' exit from the competition. The Thais ended their campaign with a narrow 3-2 defeat against hosts Bahrain.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP B



Iraq

Iraq proved to be an early dominant force in the competition, opening their campaign with a 1-0 win over UAE after some fine finishing by Waleed Kareem. A convincing 4-0 victory over 2014 runners-up DPR Korea, courtesy of Kareem's brace, resulted in Iraq being the first team to qualify for the quarter-finals of the competition.

A goalless draw against Vietnam in their final match ensured Iraq's unbeaten record, advancing impressively with five goals scored and a perfect defensive record.



Vietnam

Having never progressed past the group stages in their history, Vietnam's exploits in the group stage took everyone by surprise. The young Golden Stars opened their account with an impressive 2-1 victory over DPR Korea with Doan Van Hau's 30-metre scorching proving the decider.

After holding UAE to a 1-1 draw, a determined 0-0 draw with group leaders Iraq in their final match gave Vietnam five points and the historic place in the quarter-finals.



UAE

After their opening day defeat to Iraq, UAE were then held to a 1-1 by Vietnam in their next match. Jakub Dovalil's side responded valiantly with a 3-1 victory over DPR Korea. Despite their best efforts, UAE were eliminated after collecting four points, scoring four goals and conceding three in the process.



DPR Korea

DPR Korea entered the AFC U-19 Championship with the pressure of being runners-up in the last edition. Following their narrow defeat to Vietnam in the opener, DPR Korea were unable to find their footing in the next match, losing 4-0 to Iraq. Despite taking the lead against UAE in their last match, DPR Korea eventually succumbed to a 3-1 defeat that spelt elimination.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP C



Japan

Despite their impressive records in Asian football, Japan had surprisingly never won the AFC U-19 Championship in 35 previous attempts. Eager to set the record straight, the East Asians stormed past Yemen in the opening match with a convincing 3-0 victory.

A goalless draw against Islamic Republic of Iran did little to deter the young Blue Samurais who finished their campaign with an emphatic 3-0 victory over defending champions Qatar, sealing their position as leaders in the group with six goals scored and an immaculate defensive record.



Islamic Republic of Iran

An eventful night for Abolfazl Razzaghpour, who scored at both ends, led to Islamic Republic of Iran's 1-1 draw with Qatar in their opening match. Following their 0-0 draw with heavyweights Japan in the next match, IR Iran then secured their spot in the quarter-finals with five points, after a 1-0 victory over Yemen, courtesy of Razzaghpour's solitary winner.



Qatar

Arriving in Bahrain as defending champions, Qatar began their campaign with a spirited 1-1 draw against IR Iran and then forged onwards in their second match after Abdulrasheed Umaru came off the bench to ensure a 1-0 win over Yemen.

With victory ensuring a spot in the quarter-finals, the Qataris failed to find their breakthrough against a seemingly indestructible Japanese defence. Their drives forward left their defence vulnerable and exposed, leading them to concede three goals to Japan.



Yemen

Yemen were unlucky not to qualify for the knockout round two years previously when they finished third in Group A, losing out only on goal difference. Having never progressed beyond the group stage in their history, Yemen could take comfort from closely-fought battles against Qatar and IR Iran, falling short by the solitary goal on both occasions.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

GROUP D



Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan had been one of the better performers in recent years, reaching the semi-finals in both 2012 and 2014. The young White Wolves began their 2016 campaign in similar fashion with a 2-1 victory over Tajikistan.

Following a convincing 3-2 victory over Australia, and with qualification guaranteed, Uzbekistan were then held to goalless draw by China in the last match. With seven goals and three conceded, Uzbekistan finished their group as leaders on seven points.



Tajikistan

Despite losing their grip against Uzbekistan in their Group D opener, where they held the lead for 72 minutes, Tajikistan showed immense character to defeat China PR 2-0 in their next match.

The result ignited hopes of a historic place in the last eight of the AFC U-19 Championship. Custodian Behruz Khayriev's penalty save in the fifth minute to deny Australia's Anthony Kalik in their final game guaranteed Tajikistan the better goal difference and their first-ever appearance in the quarter-finals of the competition.



Australia

Australia can count themselves extremely unlucky not to have reached the knockout round after being eliminated agonisingly on goal difference. Australia, who have never failed to qualify for the AFC U-19 Championship in six attempts, kicked-off their campaign with a fine 1-0 victory over China PR.

Defeat to Uzbekistan in their next match meant nothing less than three points against Tajikistan in their final group match were required to see them advance into the quarter-finals. Tajikistan meanwhile required only a draw, after defeating China PR 2-0 in their second match. Despite piling on the attacks, Australia's fate was sealed by a goalless draw.



China PR

China PR were looking to build on their success from a dominating performance in the qualifiers, where they scored 16 goals and conceded none. A narrow opening defeat to Australia set the tone for the Chinese, who were unable to recover in the next game, suffering a surprise defeat to Tajikistan. Looking back, however, the Chinese could take some positives as the only team in the group to take a point from powerhouse Uzbekistan in their final match.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: QUARTER-FINALS

With the coveted place in the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017 up for grabs, the continent's best eight teams were well aware of the high stakes in the quarter-finals in Bahrain.

In an action-filled spectacle, Iraq and Saudi Arabia demonstrated determination and ambition in the competition's first quarter-final. Deadlocked at 2-2 after extra-time, Saudi Arabia became the first team through to the semi-finals after custodian Amin Al Bukhari showed immense resolve to save, not once, but twice as Saudi Arabia defeated their opponents 6-5 in a sudden death penalty shootout.

In the next quarter-final match, Vietnam's Tran Thanh's sublime chip sealed the Young Golden Stars narrow 1-0 victory over Bahrain, abruptly ending the hosts' journey. In doing so, Vietnam created history by qualifying for their first-ever FIFA U-20 World Cup and the semi-finals of the AFC U-19 Championship.

Meanwhile Japan edged closer to a historic triumph after a convincing 4-0 victory over Tajikistan at the Bahrain National Stadium.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, who were looking to end a forty-year championship title drought, eased into the semi-finals with a 2-0 victory over Uzbekistan. The match was a battle of midfield supremacy. In the finishing half, however, it was the Reza Jafari show, with the IR Iran striker dazzling his way to register an emphatic brace against the young White Wolves.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

KNOCKOUT STAGE: SEMI-FINALS

A look back at history revealed that the AFC U-19 Championship has rarely seen two teams with a completely contrasting past in the semi-finals. Japan, with 36 appearances and six runners-up medals to boast were paired with Vietnam, who were making their first-ever semi-final appearance in just seven attempts.

Though the Japanese were a collective threat, it was Shunta Nakamura who proved to be brightest star as his brace sealed his side's place in the final with a convincing 3-0 win over the Southeast Asia side, after Takeru Kishimoto had given the young Samurai Blue an early lead in sixth minute.

With ten changes from their quarter-final victory against Tajikistan, Japan's victory also showcased the depth of Atsushi Uchiyama's squad. The Young Samurai Blues' route to the final was made more impressive, having scored 13 and failing to concede a single goal throughout the course of the competition.

Saudi Arabia were made to work harder though in their semi-final clash against Islamic Republic of Iran. The young Green Falcons emerged victorious from a remarkable 11 goal thriller against IR Iran at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium, where a 6-5 win booked their place in the final.

Like most evenly-fought contests, the match was waiting eagerly for a definitive moment of magic. A dazzling run, an overhead kick, a perfectly floated defence-splitting pass. The match between the two Asian giants produced not just one but all of those moments.

Abdulrahman Al Yami was perhaps the liveliest player on the pitch, picking the perfect time to score the competition's first-ever hat-trick. A brace by captain Sami Al Naji and another from Ayman Al Khulaif capped a captivating 90 minutes for the Young Green Falcons.

IR Iran reduced Saudi Arabia's deficit to a single goal on five occasions, courtesy of some fine finishing from Reza Jafari, Aref Aghasi and Reza Shekari and Mehdi Mehdikhani.

IR Iran's Reza Karmollachaab produced the one of the best finishes of the match with a perfectly executed overhead kick but the late surge was not enough to deny Saudi Arabia their place in the final.



SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

FINAL

The stage was set for an epic final, as the competition's most lethal attack in Saudi Arabia, with 16 goals, faced off with Japan, who boasted the best defence, having not conceded a single goal in 840 minutes dating back to their qualifiers of the competition in October 2015.

The Japanese had never won the title despite appearing in six previous finals, with the country's most recent loss coming to DPR Korea in a penalty shoot-out in 2006. Saudi Arabia meanwhile, were seeking to win the title for the first time since 1992.

Saudi Arabia started brightly and could have taken the lead after Ayman Al Khulaif's shot was denied by a fine save from Ryosuke Kojima in the opening minutes.

With seven minutes remaining in the first half, the Saudis went close again when Abdulrahman Al Yami had time and space to pick his spot, but the young striker fired high over the bar from just 12 yards out.

With the sides deadlocked after extra time, the game went into a penalty shoot-out and, after three successful rounds Abdullah Magrshi thumped his effort over the bar.

Koki Ogawa then scored the deciding penalty in the final round of spot kicks to give Japan their first-ever AFC U-19 Championship title.

Japan's win came just nine months after the country claimed the AFC U23 Championship crown in Qatar in January, highlighting once again the work being done at youth level within the nation.

Saudi Arabia will at least be able to console themselves with an appearance at the finals of the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Korea Republic next year, and coach Saad Al Shehri promised his team would do their best to make an impact on the global event in May.



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
BAHRAIN *	3	2	0	1	7	6	1	6
KOREA REPUBLIC *	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
THAILAND	3	0	0	3	3	10	-7	0

MATCH

THAILAND vs KOREA REPUBLIC
 BAHRAIN vs SAUDI ARABIA
 SAUDI ARABIA vs THAILAND
 KOREA REPUBLIC vs BAHRAIN
 BAHRAIN vs THAILAND
 KOREA REPUBLIC vs SAUDI ARABIA

SCORE

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

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
IRAQ	3	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
VIETNAM	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
DPR KOREA	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0

MATCH

DPR KOREA vs VIETNAM
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES vs IRAQ
 VIETNAM vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
 IRAQ vs DPR KOREA
 DPR KOREA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
 IRAQ vs VIETNAM

SCORE

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

* The standing table is base on points, goal-difference and number of goals of the teams tied

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	2	1	0	6	0	6	7
I.R. IRAN	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	5
QATAR	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4
YEMEN	3	0	0	3	0	5	-5	0

MATCH

JAPAN vs YEMEN
 QATAR vs I.R. IRAN
 I.R. IRAN vs JAPAN
 YEMEN vs QATAR
 QATAR vs JAPAN
 YEMEN vs I.R. IRAN

SCORE

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

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	7
TAJIKISTAN	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
AUSTRALIA	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
CHINA P.R.	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1

MATCH

UZBEKISTAN vs TAJIKISTAN
 CHINA P.R. vs AUSTRALIA
 TAJIKISTAN vs CHINA P.R.
 AUSTRALIA vs UZBEKISTAN
 UZBEKISTAN vs CHINA P.R.
 AUSTRALIA vs TAJIKISTAN

SCORE

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

SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

QUARTER-FINALS

MATCH

IRAQ vs SAUDI ARABIA

BAHRAIN vs VIETNAM

JAPAN vs TAJIKISTAN

UZBEKISTAN vs I.R. IRAN

SCORE

2-2 a.e.t. (2-2, 0-0) 5-6 Penalty shoot-out

0-1 (0-0)

4-0 (2-0)

0-2 (0-1)



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

SEMI-FINALS

MATCH

SAUDI ARABIA vs I.R. IRAN

VIETNAM vs JAPAN

SCORE

6-5 (3-2)

0-3 (0-2)



SECTION 2: RESULTS AND STATISTICS

FINAL

MATCH

JAPAN vs SAUDI ARABIA

SCORE

0-0 a.e.t. (0-0, 0-0) 5-3 Penalty Shoot-out



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

BAHRAIN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABDULAZIZ ABDO OMAR

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ABDULAZIZ ALKANDARI	16/09/1997	Goalkeeper
2	MOHAMED JAMAL MOHAMED	13/07/1998	Defender
3	AHMED BUGHAMMAR	30/12/1997	Defender
4	HUSAIN JAMEEL	3/10/1997	Defender
5	HAMAD ALSHAMSAN	29/09/1997	Defender
6	FAISAL SHAWQI	17/06/1997	Defender
7	ZEYAD ALI	28/11/1997	Forward
8	MOHAMED JASIM MOHAMED ALI ABDULLA MARHOON	12/2/1998	Midfielder
9	TALAL ALI ALNAAR	2/11/1997	Forward
10	MOHAMED YUSUF	6/10/1997	Midfielder
11	ABDULAZIZ KHALID	17/03/1997	Forward
12	SAYED MOHAMED AMEEN HUSAIN MOHAMED SHUBBAR	7/3/1999	Defender
13	SAYED EBRAHIM	25/10/1997	Forward
14	AHMED MOHAMED	10/10/1997	Midfielder
15	HASAN ALKARRANI	27/11/1997	Forward/Defender
16	HASHIM SSAYED ISA HASAN RADHI HASHIM	3/4/1998	Forward
17	GHANEM AHMED ZAIN AHMED	30/01/1998	Defender
18	JASIM REDHA	20/01/1997	Midfielder
19	AHMED SALEH SANAD RASHED SANAD	11/1/1998	Midfielder
20	FAISAL EBRAHIM ISA AHMED ALISA	28/03/1998	Forward
21	AMMAR MOHAMED ABBAS JAAFAR AHMED	10/2/1999	Goalkeeper
22	YUSUF HABIB	9/1/1998	Goalkeeper
23	SALEM ADEL	3/7/1997	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. Flexible 4-2-3-1 or 4-4-2 with two controlling midfielders
2. 4-5-1 defensive block, evolving into 3-1-2-4 attacking
3. Preference for well-constructed passing moves, solo abilities
4. Yusuf (10) the leader; influential in linking attacking play
5. Good use of wings; full-backs forward, wingers cutting in
6. Centre-back Bughammar (3) marshalling strong back four
7. Good flexibility and movement; excellent team spirit



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

KOREA REPUBLIC

SQUAD LIST

COACH : AN IK-SOO

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	SONG BUMKEUN	15/10/1997	Goalkeeper
2	LEE JAEIK	21/05/1999	Defender
3	JEONG TAEWOOK	16/05/1997	Defender
4	LEE YOUHYEON	8/02/1997	Defender
5	PARK HANBIN	21/09/1997	Midfielder
6	LEE SANG-MIN	1/01/1998	Defender
7	LEE DONGJUN	1/02/1997	Midfielder
8	HAN CHANHEE	17/03/1997	Midfielder
9	LEE GIUN	15/02/1997	Forward
10	CHO YOUNG-WOOK	5/02/1999	Forward
11	KIM GEONUNG	29/08/1997	Midfielder
12	CHOE IKJIN	3/05/1997	Defender
13	KANG JIHUN	6/01/1997	Forward
14	PAIK SEUNGHO	17/03/1997	Midfielder
15	LEE SEUNGMO	30/03/1998	Midfielder
16	LIM MINHYEOK	5/03/1997	Midfielder
17	KIM SIWOO	26/06/1997	Midfielder
18	KIM JEONGHWAN	4/01/1997	Midfielder
19	YOON JONGGYU	20/03/1998	Defender
20	WOO CHANYANG	27/04/1997	Defender
21	LEE JUN	14/07/1997	Goalkeeper
22	KANG YOONSEONG	1/07/1997	Defender
23	MOON JUNGIN	16/03/1998	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1; compact, well-organised back four holding high line
2. High levels of technique; possession-play; quick, accurate passing
3. Emphasis on building through midfield; neat combinations in final third
4. Dangerous penetrations in wide areas by wingers and full-backs
5. Quick attack-to-defence transitions; immediate pressure after ball-loss
6. Goalkeeper playing short to initiate patient building from back
7. Tactically disciplined; good links between lines; attractive style



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

SAUDI ARABIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : SAAD ALI ALSHEHRI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	AMIN ALBUKHARI	02/05/1997	Goalkeeper
2	ABDULLAH TARMIN	19/03/1997	Defender
3	NASSER ALOTAIBI	14/01/1997	Midfielder
4	AWN MUTLAQ ALSLALULI	02/09/1998	Defender
5	ABDULELAH ALAMRI	15/01/1997	Defender
6	SAMI ALNAJI	07/02/1997	Midfielder
7	RAKAN ALANAZE	14/07/1998	Forward
8	ANAS ZABBANI	07/04/1997	Defender
9	AMMAR ALNAJJAR	24/02/1997	Midfielder
10	AYMAN ALKHULAIF	22/05/1997	Midfielder
11	ABDULRAHMAN ALYAMI	19/06/1997	Forward
12	MOHAMMED ALZUBAIDI	25/08/1997	Defender
13	KHALID DUBAYSH	27/11/1998	Defender
14	ALI HASSAN ALASMARI	12/01/1997	Forward
15	NAIF KIREIRI	16/04/1998	Midfielder
16	ABDULRAHMAN ALDOSARI	25/09/1997	Midfielder
17	ABDULRAHMAN GHAREEB	31/03/1997	Midfielder
18	NASSER ALDAWSARI	19/12/1998	Midfielder
19	FAHAD ALHARBI	25/02/1997	Defender
20	MANSOUR ALMUWALLAD	24/01/1997	Forward
21	MOHAMMED ALYAMI	14/08/1997	Goalkeeper
22	ZAID ALBAWARDI	26/01/1997	Goalkeeper
23	ABDULLAH MAGRSHI	24/08/1997	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 or 4-2-3-1 with two screening midfielders; 4-5-1 or 4-4-2 defence
2. Compact defensive block; long pass to launch dangerous counters on flanks
3. Strong dribbling skills opening spaces for combinations in final third
4. Alnaji (6) the free spirit linking middle-to-front play and counterattacks
5. Fast, dangerous wingers running at defence, supplying crosses, cut-backs
6. Individual pressure on ball-carrier rather than collective pressing
7. Excellent team spirit; mental strength in compromising match situations



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP A

THAILAND

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ANURAK SRIKERD

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	KORRAPHAT NAREECHAN	07/10/1997	Goalkeeper
2	MEECHOK MARHASARANU	12/12/1997	Defender
3	APISIT SORADA	28/02/1997	Midfielder
4	TORSAK SAARDAIEM	30/06/1997	Defender
5	KRITSADA KAMAN	18/03/1999	Forward
6	SAHARAT SONTISAWAT	13/01/1998	Forward
7	WISARUT IMURA	18/10/1997	Midfielder
8	SUKSAN MUNGPAO	05/03/1997	Forward/Defender
9	WARUT BUNSUK	23/08/1997	Forward
10	SANSERN LIMWATTHANA	31/07/1997	Midfielder
11	SUPACHOK SARACHART	22/05/1998	Midfielder
12	KANNARIN THAWORNSAK	27/05/1997	Midfielder
13	ANON AMORNLETSAK	06/11/1997	Midfielder
14	SORAWIT PANTHONG	20/02/1997	Forward
15	SITTICHOK PASO	28/01/1999	Forward
16	SARINGKAN PROMSUPA	29/03/1997	Defender
17	JAKKIT WACHPIROM	26/01/1997	Midfielder/Defender
18	CHAKHON PHILAKHLANG	08/03/1998	Goalkeeper
19	SIRIMONGKHON JITBANJ	08/08/1997	Forward
20	TIRAPON THANACHARTKUN	23/08/1998	Forward/Defender
21	SUPACHAI CHAIDED	01/12/1998	Forward
22	WORACHIT KANITSRIBUMPHEN	24/08/1997	Midfielder
23	TARO PRASARNKARN	27/11/1997	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-3-3 with fast transitions to compact 4-1-4-1 defensive block
2. One screening, two attacking midfielders in technically-gifted triangle
3. Set out to build through midfield; good combinations with central striker
4. Positional interchanging in front line with striker drifting wide
5. Immediate pressure on ball-carrier after loss of possession
6. Comfortable in possession when under pressure; ability to turn with ball
7. Dangerous counterattacks; game-opening long passes to wide area



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

DPR KOREA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : RI SONG-HO

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	RI IN-HAK	01/01/1997	Goalkeeper
2	PAK YON-SONG	11/09/1997	Defender
3	KIM THAE-UK	20/06/1998	Defender
4	JONG TONG-CHOL	21/04/1997	Midfielder
5	PAK KWANG-CHON	12/01/1999	Defender
6	YON JUN-HYOK	15/01/1998	Midfielder
7	RI HUN	31/08/1997	Midfielder
8	KIM CHONG	04/08/1998	Midfielder
9	KIM KWANG-HYOK	24/03/1997	Midfielder
10	HAN KWANG-SONG	11/09/1998	Forward
11	RYANG HYON-JU	31/05/1998	Forward
12	JANG SONG-IL	21/03/1998	Defender
13	YUN KANG-HYOK	01/08/1998	Forward
14	CHOE JIN-NAM	20/11/1998	Defender
15	HO TAE-IL	20/08/1998	Defender
16	KANG KUK-CHOL	29/09/1999	Forward
17	CHOE SONG-HYOK	08/02/1998	Midfielder
18	KIM YU-IL	30/01/1997	Goalkeeper
19	KIM WI-SONG	17/01/1998	Forward
20	PAK YONG-GWAN	26/12/1998	Midfielder
21	RI CHOL-SONG	13/03/1998	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 with disciplined, quick transitions in both directions
2. Attacks based on neat combinations, off-the-ball movement
3. Lone striker Kwang Song (10) strong on technique, solo 1 v 1 skills
4. Adventurous full-backs combining with wingers to supply good crosses
5. Good combination play between wide players and central striker
6. Strong, disciplined back four, well protected by two screening midfielders
7. Good fitness, athletic condition; strong team and work ethics



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

IRAQ

SQUAD LIST

COACH : ABBAS ATIYAH ZWAYYER

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MOHAMMED ABBAS ALI	16/09/1998	Goalkeeper
2	KAREEM DELI NAJIM	16/04/1998	Defender
3	MUSTAFA MOHAMMED AL-EZAIREJ	15/01/1997	Defender
4	YASIR AMMAR SAMI	31/01/1997	Defender
5	AHMED ABDULRIDHA	02/04/1997	Defender
6	KARRAR FALIH MOUSA	12/03/1998	Defender
7	AMEER SABAH KHUDHAIR	03/06/1998	Midfielder
8	AHMED JALAL HASAN	17/03/1998	Midfielder
9	SAJJAD HUSSEIN ABED	09/09/1998	Forward
10	ALAA ABBAS ABDULNABI	27/07/1997	Forward
11	MUSTAFA ALI NEAMAH AL-DELFI	20/03/1998	Forward
12	HASANAIN MOHAMMED	09/08/1997	Goalkeeper
13	JASIM MOHAMMED OGLAH	23/01/1998	Midfielder
14	MAZIN FAYYADH AJEEL	02/04/1997	Forward
15	AYAD KAREEM CHYAD	04/02/1997	Defender
16	SAFAA HADI ABDULLAH	07/10/1998	Midfielder
17	AMJED ATTWAN KADHIM	12/03/1997	Midfielder
18	ALI HUSSEIN HABEEB	27/05/1997	Defender
19	SAIF HATEM ABOOD	25/10/1998	Defender
20	WALEED KAREEM ALI	10/06/1997	Defender
21	MURTAGI AHMED ATIYAH	30/03/1998	Midfielder
22	ALI KADHIM HADI	24/10/1997	Goalkeeper
23	MOHAMMED KAREEM	01/09/1997	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. Deep-lying 4-1-4-1 with compact nine-man defending
2. Extensive use of counters via direct passing towards lone striker
3. Mix of zonal and man-marking; strong, disciplined defending
4. Centre-back Abdulridha (5) leader of defence; strong in 1 v 1 situations
5. Wingers quick to break forward, deliver dangerous crosses
6. Lone striker Abdulnabi (10) good in air, shielding ball well
7. Physically strong; aerial power; work ethic; mental resilience



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

UAE

SQUAD LIST

COACH : JAKUB DOVALIL

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MOHAMED HASAN	04/01/1997	Goalkeeper
2	MAJID IBRAHIM	14/10/1997	Defender
3	AHMED RASHID	19/01/1997	Defender
4	ADEL SUBEEL	01/02/1998	Defender
5	MOHAMAD OMAR	05/08/1997	Defender
6	AHMED ALAKBERI	15/07/1997	Midfielder
7	ALI EID GHUMAIL AMER ALYAHYAE	01/03/1998	Forward
8	ZAYED ABDULLA	14/01/1997	Forward
9	MOHAMMAD JUMA	28/01/1997	Midfielder
10	JASSIM YAQOOB	16/03/1997	Midfielder
11	FAISL AHMED MOHAMED AHMED MOHAMED ALMATROUSHI	29/11/1998	Midfielder
12	JASSIM SALEM	27/02/1997	Midfielder
13	YUSEF ABDULKAREEM MOHAMED ALAMERI	16/01/1998	Defender
14	MOHAMMED ALI	27/04/1997	Defender
15	ABDULLA FAISAL NASSER NASSER ALKARBI	26/08/1998	Defender
16	KHALID MOHAMED	17/07/1997	Midfielder
17	ABDULLRAHMAN ABDULLA	30/04/1998	Goalkeeper
18	SAUD ABDELRAZAQ	23/01/1998	Midfielder
19	MOHAMMED KHALFAN ZAYED BAROUT AL HARASI	28/08/1998	Midfielder
20	HUSAIN ABDULLA	11/01/1997	Midfielder
21	YAHYA HASSAN	22/02/1997	Defender
22	MOHAMMED WALEED	17/07/1997	Goalkeeper
23	MOHAMED RAHSID	11/05/1997	Forward



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-4-2 with Yaqoob (10) as shadow striker behind Rashid (23)
2. Possession game based on quick passing, confident dribbling skills
3. High defensive line with goalkeeper covering spaces as sweeper
4. Positive build-up play from back; combination moves in attacking areas
5. Full-backs supporting wingers, especially Hassan (21) on right
6. Constant positional interchanging among front four
7. Athletic team with attack-minded approach and good solo skills



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP B

VIETNAM

SQUAD LIST

COACH : HOANG ANH TUAN

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	BUI TIEN DUNG	28/02/1997	Goalkeeper
2	MAC DUC VIET ANH	16/01/1997	Defender
3	HUYNH TAN SINH	04/06/1998	Defender
4	NGUYEN HUU LAM	16/08/1998	Defender
5	DOAN VAN HAU	19/04/1999	Defender
6	BUI DUNG	23/11/1998	Midfielder
7	NGUYEN TRONG DAI	07/04/1997	Midfielder
8	TONG ANH TY	24/01/1997	Midfielder
9	HA DUC CHINH	22/09/1997	Forward
10	TRIEU VIET HUNG	19/01/1997	Midfielder
11	HO MINH DI	17/02/1998	Midfielder
12	LUONG HOANG NAM	02/03/1997	Midfielder
14	TRUONG VAN THAI QUY	22/08/1997	Midfielder
15	NGUYEN TIEN LINH	20/10/1997	Forward
16	PHAN THANH HAU	12/01/1997	Midfielder
17	TRAN THANH	08/02/1997	Forward
18	DUONG VAN HAO	15/02/1997	Midfielder/Forward
19	TRUONG TIEN ANH	25/04/1999	Midfielder
20	NGUYEN BA MINH HIEU	23/05/1997	Goalkeeper
21	DO SY HUY	16/04/1998	Goalkeeper
22	HO TAN TAI	06/11/1997	Defender
23	NGUYEN QUANG HAI	12/04/1997	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. Compact 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 with two screening midfielders
2. Disciplined, well-organised deep 4-5-1 defending; good aerial power
3. Bui Dung (6) key ball-winner, catalyst in linking with attack
4. High levels of technique, ability to shield and run with ball
5. Strong, hard-working players; intense pressing as from midfield
6. Fast counterattacking mostly channelled through wide areas
7. Well-drilled set plays at both ends; excellent team spirit and resolve



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : AMIRHOSSEIN PEIRAVANI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	NIMA MIRZAZAD	27/02/1997	Goalkeeper
2	AMIRHOSSEIN TAHERI	18/09/1997	Defender
3	ALI SHOJAEI	27/01/1997	Defender
4	AREF GHOLAMI	19/04/1997	Defender
5	NIMA TAHERI	15/04/1997	Defender
6	MOHAMMAD SOLTANIMEHR	04/02/1999	Midfielder
7	REZA SHEKARI	31/05/1998	Midfielder
8	MOHAMMAD GHOLAMREZA	29/03/1997	Midfielder
9	MEHDI MEHDIKHANI	28/07/1997	Forward
10	REZA KARMOLLACHAAB	12/07/1997	Forward
11	NIMA MOKHTARI	10/05/1998	Midfielder
12	SHAHAB ADELI	19/01/1997	Goalkeeper
13	OMID NOR AFKAN	09/04/1997	Midfielder
14	MOJTABA NAJARIAN	25/01/1998	Midfielder
15	AREF AGHASI	02/01/1997	Defender
16	ALI TAHERAN	07/08/1997	Midfielder
17	HOSSEIN SAKI	10/05/1997	Midfielder
18	MOHAMMAD AGHAJANPOUR	20/02/1997	Midfielder
19	REZA JAFARI	11/01/1997	Forward
20	SHAHIN ABBASIAN	16/06/1997	Midfielder/Defender
21	SINA KHADEMPUR	09/01/1997	Defender
22	MOHAMADAMIN BAHRAMI	31/01/1998	Goalkeeper
23	ABOLFAZL RAZZAGHPUR	17/09/1997	Defender



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-2-3-1 with deep 4-5-1 defending, solitary striker up front
2. Emphasis on direct attacking; long diagonals to striker or wingers
3. Quick transitions in both directions; intense pressure on ball-carrier
4. Shekari (7), Jafari (19) with solo skills to retain possession in counters
5. Dangerous set plays; good left-footed deliveries by Razzaghpour (23)
6. Physically strong; quick, committed tackling; compact unit
7. Strong team ethic; self-belief, mental strength, winning attitude



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

JAPAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : UCHIYAMA ATSUSHI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	KOJIMA RYOSUKE	30/01/1997	Goalkeeper
2	FUJITANI SO	28/10/1997	Defender
3	NAKAYAMA YUTA	16/02/1997	Defender
4	MACHIDA KOKI	25/08/1997	Defender
5	TOMIYASU TAKEHIRO	05/11/1998	Defender
6	HATSUSE RYO	10/07/1997	Defender
7	KAMIYA YUTA	24/04/1997	Midfielder
8	MIYOSHI KOJI	26/03/1997	Midfielder
9	OGAWA KOKI	08/08/1997	Forward
10	SAKAI DAISUKE	18/01/1997	Midfielder
11	NAGANUMA YOICHI	14/04/1997	Midfielder
12	HIROSUE RIKU	06/07/1998	Goalkeeper
13	KISHIMOTO TAKERU	16/07/1997	Forward
14	NAKAMURA SHUNTA	10/05/1999	Forward
15	DOAN RITSU	16/06/1998	Midfielder
16	IWATA TOMOKI	07/04/1997	Defender
17	ICHIMARU MIZUKI	08/05/1997	Midfielder
18	ENDO KEITA	22/11/1997	Midfielder
19	FUNAKI KAKERU	13/04/1998	Defender
20	YUTO IWASAKI	11/06/1998	Forward
21	HARA TERUKI	30/07/1998	Midfielder
22	ITAKURA KOU	27/01/1997	Defender
23	WAKAHARA TOMOYA	28/12/1999	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. Well-structured 4-4-2; high defence with goalkeeper ready to cover
2. Strong technique in all departments; compact unit with lines well-linked
3. Penetration at pace in wide areas with constant support by full-backs
4. Determined pressing, fast interceptions immediately after ball-loss
5. Patient, fluent passing moves with good options; comfortable under pressure
6. Aerial power in both boxes; dangerous set plays with good deliveries
7. Strong temperament, collective spirit; ability to control, dictate tempo



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

QATAR

SQUAD LIST

COACH : OSCAR MORENO

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	MOHAMMED AHMED ALBAKARI	28/03/1997	Goalkeeper
2	MONKEZ ADI	22/01/1997	Defender
3	NASSER ALSADI	30/09/1998	Midfielder
4	TAREK SALMAN	05/12/1997	Midfielder
5	BASSAM ALRAWI	16/12/1997	Defender
6	KHALID MUBARAK A A AL-NAIMI	22/10/1998	Defender
7	ABDULRASHEED UMARU	12/08/1999	Midfielder
8	ABDULLAH ABDULSALAM	10/05/1997	Midfielder
9	SAYED ISSA	14/09/1997	Forward
10	HOMAM AHMED	25/08/1999	Defender
11	ABDELRAHMAN MOUSTAFA	05/04/1997	Midfielder
12	KHALIFA SAAD KH S KHALAF	02/03/1998	Defender
13	MOUFAK AHMED	11/05/1997	Defender
14	MESHAAL IBRAHIM I S FARAJ	09/09/1998	Defender
15	HUSSAIN ALI A A BAHZAD	08/04/1998	Defender
16	HASSAN AL-ALI	06/11/1997	Defender
17	AHMED ALBAKHEET	05/05/1999	Defender
18	ADEL BADER MUSA	17/01/1997	Midfielder
19	HASSAN AHMAD PALANG	02/04/1998	Forward
20	KHALID MUNEER MAZEED	24/02/1998	Forward
21	MOHAMED SAEED M A IBRAHIM	17/01/1998	Goalkeeper
22	YAZAN NAIM HUSSEIN	05/06/1997	Goalkeeper
23	NASSER ABDULSALAM A ALAHRK	05/01/1999	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. 3-5-2 with 3-4-3 v Yemen; wing-backs drop into 5-4-1 defending
2. Passing game based on good technique, 1 v 1 dribbling skills
3. Well-organised, disciplined deep defensive block led by Alrawi (5)
4. Good use of wide areas with wing-backs pushing up, supplying crosses
5. Middle-to-front variations; twin strikers or target-man + shadow striker
6. Intelligent use of space = good combinations in final third
7. Attack-minded approach with emphasis on building from back



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP C

YEMEN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : MOHAMMED AL-NUFIAY

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	EZZADDIN AL-RABUOI	30/04/1998	Goalkeeper
2	MUNTASSER	26/01/1997	Defender
3	MAYLAD AL-OMAI	01/06/1998	Defender
4	MUGAHED FAREA	01/01/1997	Defender
5	ESAM MAHDI	01/01/1997	Defender
6	RAMI AL-WASMANI	01/02/1997	Defender
7	ALI AL-HERWI	07/07/1998	Midfielder
8	ABDULHAKIM AHMED	07/08/1997	Midfielder
9	MUAAD SALEH MOHAMMWD ALI	01/07/1997	Forward
10	AHMED AL-SARORI	09/08/1998	Forward
11	MAGED AL-QASHAA	03/11/1998	Forward
12	OMAR ABDULLAH AL-DAHI	15/12/1999	Midfielder
13	ZAKARYA ABDULRAHMAN YAHYA TAWAF	25/06/1998	Forward
14	TAHA ABDULLAH ABDULLAH KANDASH	20/02/1998	Defender
15	MOHAMMED SALEM	13/01/1997	Midfielder
16	ALI AMEEN AHMED NOMAN	01/12/1997	Midfielder
17	NASSER AL-GAHWASHI	24/05/1999	Defender
18	ALI HAFEEDH	21/02/1997	Midfielder
19	AHMED GAWBAH	26/06/1997	Forward
20	AHMED NASSER	06/04/1997	Midfielder
21	MOHAMMED AL-NAGGAR	04/08/1997	Midfielder
22	KHALED SHARHAN	01/03/2000	Goalkeeper
23	SALEM AL-HARSH	07/10/1998	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. Variations on 4-3-3 with Ahmed (8), Salem (15) as screening midfielders
2. Patient, elaborate passing moves through midfield
3. Quick transitions to deep 4-5-1 defence with Farea (4) as sweeper
4. High level of technique; composed possession play, dribbling skills
5. Controlled attacking without over-committing numbers in final third
6. Good use of width with full-backs forward, notably Al-Wasmani (6) on right
7. Excellent team spirit, tactical discipline, work ethic



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

AUSTRALIA

SQUAD LIST

COACH : UFUK TALAY

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	DANIEL MARGUSH	28/11/1997	Goalkeeper
2	WILLIAM MUTCH	27/02/1998	Defender
3	LACHLAN SCOTT	15/04/1997	Forward
4	THOMAS DENG	27/03/1997	Defender
5	JACKSON BANDIERA	16/04/1998	Defender
6	LIAM ROSE	07/04/1997	Midfielder
7	RENO PISCOPO	27/05/1998	Forward
8	MARIO SHABOW	05/05/1998	Midfielder
9	JAYDEN PRASAD	05/02/1997	Forward
10	KALIK ANTHONY	05/11/1997	Midfielder
11	CONNOR O'TOOLE	04/07/1997	Defender
12	TOM GLOVER	24/12/1997	Goalkeeper
13	GEORGE BLACKWOOD	04/06/1997	Forward
14	JOSEPH CHAMPNESS	27/04/1997	Forward
15	PATRICK FLOTTMANN	19/04/1997	Defender
16	STEVE KUZMANOVSKI	04/01/1997	Forward
17	TARIQ MAIA	11/06/1997	Midfielder
18	JASMIN KERANOVIC	02/03/1998	Goalkeeper
19	GEORGE CHRISTOS TIMOTHEOU	29/07/1997	Defender
20	JOSH HOPE	07/01/1998	Midfielder
21	JAKE WILLIAM BRIMMER	03/04/1998	Midfielder
22	KEANU BACCUS	07/06/1998	Midfielder
23	LIAM YOULLEY	20/02/1997	Midfielder



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-3-3 with Youlley (23) as single controlling midfielder
2. Quick transitions between 3-2-5 attacking, 4-4-2 defending
3. Possession-based game; accurate passing; good combination play
4. Wingers supported by both full-backs; good supply of high crosses
5. High defensive line with goalkeeper quick to offer cover behind
6. Good diagonal passing by centre-backs to open play to wings
7. Excellent fitness, work ethic; dangerous well-rehearsed set plays



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

CHINA PR

SQUAD LIST

COACH : LI MING

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ZHANG YAN	30/03/1997	Goalkeeper
2	WEI LAI	01/02/1997	Forward
3	WEI ZHEN	02/12/1997	Defender
4	GUO TIANYU	03/05/1999	Forward
5	HUANG CHUANG	01/02/1997	Defender
6	CONG ZHEN	02/09/1997	Midfielder
7	ZHANG HONGJIANG	13/06/1997	Defender
8	DENG YUBIAO	06/08/1997	Defender/Midfielder
9	WU WEI	02/05/1997	Midfielder
10	ZHANG YUAN	28/01/1997	Midfielder
11	LIN LIANGMING	06/04/1997	Midfielder
12	LI ZHENG	18/03/1997	Goalkeeper
13	HUANG CONG	01/06/1997	Midfielder
14	GAO HUAZE	20/10/1997	Midfielder
15	YAO DAOGANG	09/01/1997	Defender
16	FENG BOXUAN	18/03/1997	Midfielder
17	YANG LIYU	13/02/1997	Forward
18	HU JINGHANG	23/03/1997	Midfielder
19	CAO YONGJING	15/02/1997	Midfielder
20	HUANG ZHENGYU	24/01/1997	Forward/Defender
21	GAO HAISHENG	01/06/1997	Defender
22	SHI XIAODONG	26/02/1997	Goalkeeper
23	NING WEICHEN	18/03/1997	Forward



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-3-3 with two controlling midfielders close to back four
2. Rapid transitions from deep defending to 3-3-4 or 2-5-3 attacking
3. Emphasis on crisp, accurate passing game through the thirds
4. Good use of flanks by fast wingers and hard-running full-backs
5. Compact unit; good collective pressing as from midfield
6. Physically strong players, mostly from top end of age-bracket
7. Disciplined, hardworking team strong in collective virtues



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

TAJIKISTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : LEVCHENKO VITALII

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	ISMOILOV SHAHROM	16/10/1998	Goalkeeper
2	NURMATOV KHUSEYN	18/09/2000	Defender
3	TABREZI DAVLATMIR	06/06/1998	Defender
4	DAVLATBEKOV MUNIR	26/12/1998	Midfielder
5	ERGASHEV DOROBJON	14/12/1997	Defender
6	ALISHERI KHOTAM	03/02/1997	Defender
7	SAIDOV KAROMATULLO	10/12/1999	Midfielder
8	ZIYOEV HOJIBOY	04/03/1998	Midfielder
9	MUHAMMADJONI HASAN	15/10/1998	Forward/Midfielder
10	PARPIEV MUKHSINZHON	04/09/1997	Midfielder
11	HAMROQULOV NURIDDIN	19/04/1999	Forward
12	SAFAROV AMIRDZHON	27/05/1997	Forward
13	RUSTAM TOLIBOV	24/03/1998	Forward
14	HANONOV VAHDAT	25/07/2000	Defender
15	ZOIR JURABAEV	16/09/1998	Defender
16	BOBOEV FATHULLO	10/09/1997	Goalkeeper
17	EHSONI PANSCHANBE	05/12/1999	Midfielder
18	YODGOROV DALER	05/01/2000	Midfielder
19	RAKHMONOV AZIMCHON	10/07/1998	Defender
20	FUZAYLOV ZIYOVUDDIN	03/07/2000	Defender
21	BOBOEV SHERIDDIN	21/04/1999	Forward
22	KARIMOV OTABEK	01/04/1998	Midfielder
23	BEHRUZ KHAYRIEV	05/01/1998	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. Deep-lying 5-4-1 with quick transitions to 3-4-3 attacking
2. Counterattacks via direct supply to hard-working lone striker Hasan (9)
3. Defensive block backed by excellent, influential goalkeeper Khayriev (23)
4. Wing-backs advancing only when required to by game situation
5. Well-rehearsed set plays a major weapon in attacking armoury
6. Good individual technique; able to retain possession in tight situations
7. Outstanding team spirit, work ethic, commitment to cause



SECTION 3: TEAMS AND KEY FEATURES

GROUP D

UZBEKISTAN

SQUAD LIST

COACH : AMIN AL-SUNAINI

JERSEY NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION
1	UMIDJON KHAMROEV	13/05/1997	Goalkeeper
2	AZIZBEK SUYUNOV	29/09/1997	Defender
3	KHOJIAKBAR ALIJONOV	19/04/1997	Defender
4	ISLOMJON KOBILOV	06/01/1997	Defender
5	KHUSHNUDBEK AVILOV	08/04/1998	Defender
6	AZIZJON GANIEV	22/02/1998	Midfielder
7	SANJAR KODIRKULOV	27/05/1997	Midfielder
8	SAYIDJAMOL DAVLATJONOV	05/07/1997	Midfielder
9	JASURBEK YAKHSHIBOEV	24/06/1997	Forward
10	SUKHROB NURULLOEV	01/04/1998	Midfielder
11	BOBIR ABDIXOLIKOV	23/04/1997	Forward
12	UMIDJON ERGASHEV	20/03/1999	Goalkeeper
13	JAVOKHIR ESONKULOV	20/04/1997	Forward
14	SHAROF MUKHITDINOV	14/07/1997	Midfielder
15	OYBEK RUSTAMOV	04/02/1997	Defender
16	JAMSHID YUSUPOV	27/01/1997	Midfielder
17	SHOKHRUKH MAHMUDXOJIYEV	19/07/1998	Forward
18	DOSTON IBRAGIMOV	23/01/1997	Midfielder
19	HUSNIDDIN GOFUROV	20/03/1997	Defender
20	SHOKHRUKHJON RAIMOV	19/02/1997	Goalkeeper
21	BEGZOD GANIJONOV	08/07/1998	Midfielder/Forward
22	NURILLO TUKHTASINOV	19/02/1997	Midfielder/Forward
23	MOHAMMED KHAMIS AHMED BIN HAMEEDAN	09/12/2000	Goalkeeper



KEY FEATURES

1. 4-1-4-1 with rapid transitions to 4-3-3 attacking
2. Compact, well-organised defence holding high line
3. Possession game, building through midfield with quick accurate passing
4. Ganiev (6), as screening midfielder, linking lines, initiating attacks
5. Yakhshiboev (9) showing pace, skill, finishing power cutting in from right
6. Fast attack-to-defence transitions with intense pressing in midfield
7. Attacking philosophy; strong team spirit, work ethic and commitment



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

THE BALANCE FROM BAHRAIN

When the ball stopped rolling in Bahrain, the final balance from the tournament showed a total of 84 goals at an average of 2.71 per game. This figure was significantly lower than the averages posted at the AFC U-23 and U-16 tournaments played earlier in 2016: 3.22 and 3.52 respectively. In Bahrain, it has to be pointed out, the overall total was inflated by the extravagant 6-5 scoreline in the semi-final between Saudi Arabia and IR Iran. Without this result, the mean would have been 2.43 per fixture – more in line with the average of 2.46 to emerge from the 24 group-stage matches. The final was the fifth of the 31 games played in Bahrain to end with an unmoving 0-0 on the scoreboard.

The prolific semi-final allowed Saudi Arabia to emerge as the highest-scoring side in the final tournament with a tally of 16. The champions, Japan, scored 13 times in their six fixtures while none of the other contestants broke into double figures. Semi-finalists IR Iran were the third-highest scorers with nine goals.

In Bahrain, dead-ball situations accounted for 31% of the goals. Penalties accounted for eight – a figure which would have been higher had spot-kicks by Australia and Japan found the net. Free-kicks originated 15% of the goals scored during the tournament. Three direct free-kicks were successful during the group stage, with Japan attacker Koki Ogawa adding

a fourth to put his side 3-0 ahead during the quarter-final against Tajikistan. The champions also provided four of the nine successes derived from indirect free-kicks, with IR Iran contributing a further two.

By contrast, the dividend from corner-kicks was miserly: four goals in 2,850 minutes of football at a rate of one per 713 minutes. In the seven knockout matches, the only successful corner was the one from the right which, after a header and a rebound, allowed IR Iran to come back to 3-2 down in the semi-final against Saudi Arabia. The same match provided the only goal to stem from a throw-in – a long throw allowing IR Iran to come back again to 5-4 behind. In fact the long throw made something of a comeback as an offensive weapon during the tournament in Bahrain, where Iraq's Ameer Khudhair was among specialists who created danger via long deliveries from the touchline.

Through passes were the most fertile source of open-play goals, accounting for 26% of the total. But the 15 goals scored in this fashion were a blend of deft touches in the final third and direct attacking / counterattacking from the back. Four of the Korea Republic's six goals were created by through passes, with Saudi Arabia also cashing-in three times.

Combination play in the final third provided 21% of the tournament's open-play goals with Saudi Arabia once again at the forefront –

notably during the semi-final against IR Iran. Five of the team's 16 goals were created by neat interchanges. Japan and Uzbekistan also scored two apiece as a result of passing moves. This provided a stark contrast with the AFC U-16 final tournament in Goa, where combination play had yielded barely 5% of the open-play goals.

Another contrast was illustrated by the fact that, in Bahrain, only 14% of the open-play goals originated from crosses and that the

combined total for crosses and cut-backs was 21% - a significantly lower level than at the AFC U-16 and U-23 tournaments which had yielded an identical figure of 32.5%.

Although running with the ball was one of the salient features of the U-19 tournament, dribbling skills tended to be instrumental in disturbing defences – but not in the scoring of goals. Solo efforts were the source of only 7% of open-play goals.



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
ABDULRAHMAN ALYAMI	SAUDI ARABIA	4 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 4 (total)
SAMI ALNAJI	SAUDI ARABIA	2 (G), 2 (PK), 0 (Own), 4 (total)
OGAWA KOKI	JAPAN	3 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 3 (total)
RAKAN ALANAZE	SAUDI ARABIA	3 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 3 (total)
REZA JAFARI	I.R. IRAN	3 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 3 (total)
WALEED KAREEM ALI	IRAQ	3 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 3 (total)
YUTO IWASAKI	JAPAN	3 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 3 (total)
ABOLFAZL RAZZAGHPUR	I.R. IRAN	2 (G), 0 (PK), 1 (Own), 2 (total)
AYMAN ALKHULAIF	SAUDI ARABIA	2 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
CHO YOUNG WOOK	KOREA REPUBLIC	2 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
DOSTON IBRAGIMOV	UZBEKISTAN	2 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
MAZIN FAYYADH AJEEL	IRAQ	1 (G), 1 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
MOHAMED YUSUF	BAHRAIN	0 (G), 2 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
NAKAMURA SHUNTA	JAPAN	2 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 2 (total)
ABDULELAH ALAMRI	SAUDI ARABIA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
ABDULRAHMAN GHAREEB	SAUDI ARABIA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
ABDULRASHEED UMARU	QATAR	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
AHMED BUGHAMMAR	BAHRAIN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
AHMED MOHAMED	BAHRAIN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
AHMED RASHID	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
ALAA ABBAS ABDULNABI	IRAQ	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
ANON AMORNLETSK	THAILAND	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
AREF AGHASI	I.R. IRAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
BOBIR ABDIXOLIKOV	UZBEKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
DOAN RITSU	JAPAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
DOAN VAN HAU	VIETNAM	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
EHSONI PANSCHANBE	TAJIKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
FAISL AHMED MOHAMED AHMED MOHAMED ALMATROUSHI	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HA DUC CHINH	VIETNAM	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HAMROQULOV NURIDDIN	TAJIKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HAN CHANHEE	KOREA REPUBLIC	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)

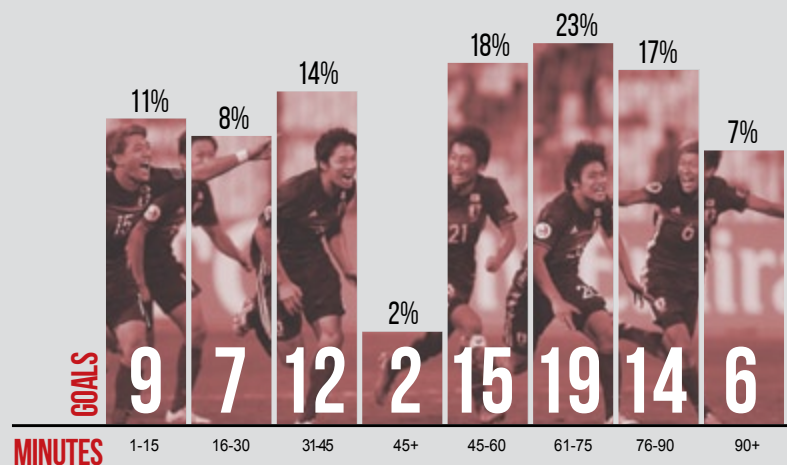
NAME	TEAM	GOALS
HAN KWANG SONG	DPR KOREA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HARA TERUKI	JAPAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HO MINH DI	VIETNAM	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
HUSAIN ABDULLA	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0 (G), 1 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
JASSIM YAQOOB	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
JASURBEK YAKHSHIBOEY	UZBEKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
JEONG TAEWOOK	KOREA REPUBLIC	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
KANG JIHUN	KOREA REPUBLIC	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
KIM GEONUNG	KOREA REPUBLIC	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
KISHIMOTO TAKERU	JAPAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
LIAM YOULLEY	AUSTRALIA	0 (G), 1 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
MANSOUR ALMUWALLAD	SAUDI ARABIA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
MARIO SHABOW	AUSTRALIA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
MEHDI MEHDIKHANI	I.R. IRAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
MIYOSHI KOJI	JAPAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
MOHAMED JASIM MOHAMED ALI ABDULLA MARHOON	BAHRAIN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
REZA KARMOLLACHAAB	I.R. IRAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
REZA SHEKARI	I.R. IRAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
RYANG HYON JU	DPR KOREA	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SAIDOV KAROMATULLO	TAJIKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SAJJAD HUSSEIN ABED	IRAQ	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SAYED EBRAHIM	BAHRAIN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SAYIDJAMOL DAVLATJONOV	UZBEKISTAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SITTICHOK PASO	THAILAND	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
SUPACHAI CHAIED	THAILAND	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
TALAL ALI ALNAAR	BAHRAIN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
TARIQ MAIA	AUSTRALIA	0 (G), 1 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
TOMIYASU TAKEHIRO	JAPAN	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)
TRAN THANH	VIETNAM	1 (G), 0 (PK), 0 (Own), 1 (total)

SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

During the final tournament in Bahrain, only 16 goals (19% of the total) were scored during the opening half-hour of play and 30 during the first half. Almost two-thirds (64%) were scored after the interval, with almost half (47%) hitting the net after the 60th minute. Although almost a quarter of the tournament total went on to the scoreboard beyond the 75th minute to raise questions about the fatigue factor, the two periods of extra-time when fatigue symptoms could be expected to be at their most acute, failed to yield a goal.

The AFC technical observers in Bahrain, along with technical director Andy Roxburgh, took on the enviable task of selecting the best open-play and set-play goals of the tournament. Spectacular long-range shooting provided the largest slice of the cake while, in the set-play category, the selection provided a fair reflection of a tournament where goals derived from corners proved to be a rarity, whereas free-kicks were the source of many more goals, some of them crucial to the final result.

GOAL TIMES



SECTION 4: GOALS ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

BEST GOALS – OPEN PLAY

SCORER	MATCH	
Yakhshiboev	Uzbekistan v Tajikistan	WATCH VIDEO
Saidov	Tajikistan v Uzbekistan	WATCH VIDEO
Kwang-Song	DPR Korea v UAE	WATCH VIDEO
Karmollachaab	IR Iran v Saudi Arabia	WATCH VIDEO
Al-Khulaif	Saudi Arabia v IR Iran	WATCH VIDEO
Miyoshi	Japan v Qatar	WATCH VIDEO
Razzaghpour	IR Iran v Qatar	WATCH VIDEO
Al Yami	Saudi Arabia v IR Iran	WATCH VIDEO
A. Mohamed	Bahrain v Saudi Arabia	WATCH VIDEO
Van Hau	Vietnam v DPR Korea	WATCH VIDEO

BEST GOALS – SET PLAYS

SCORER	MATCH	
Thanh	Vietnam v Bahrain	WATCH VIDEO
Panshanbe	Tajikistan v China PR	WATCH VIDEO
Al Najai	Saudi Arabia v Korea Rep.	WATCH VIDEO
Razzaghpour	IR Iran v Yemen	WATCH VIDEO
Al Amri	Saudi Arabia v Korea Rep.	WATCH VIDEO

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS



SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

"We made Vietnam football history," said head coach Hoang Anh Tuan after leading his side to the semi-finals, "and we showed that the map of Asian football is gradually changing." At the same time, the final tournament in Bahrain confirmed that there are still challenges facing the nations who are steadily climbing the rungs of the international ladder. "Our success was the result of a long period of preparation, not just the matches we played in Bahrain," the Vietnam coach added. After the semi-final defeat by Japan, he reflected, "At the end of the day, the strong team beat the weak team. Our players tried very hard but they were tired, both mentally and physically. Against a strong team like Japan, you cannot be less than 100 percent. At times, we were just trying to keep the scoreline down. The game showed us the gulf in quality. We now look towards the U-20 World Cup and there are many things to improve on – but we need time."

The example of Vietnam summed-up a fascinating final tournament which offered success stories for climbers such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan or Vietnam (all of whom qualified for the knockout rounds) and fired warning shots across the bows of more established powers such as Korea Republic, UAE, DPR Korea or Qatar – to name the last four winners of the U-19 competition. It also shed light on road maps for countries who still need to make up ground. Li Ming, head coach of the

China PR team that travelled home without having scored a goal, admitted "there is still a long way to go for China. This is a good stage for our young players, though, and we will improve given time." As a player-development tournament, it was undoubtedly a great success.

WHO WANTS THE BALL?

While throwing light on the changing strata within Asian football, the event in Bahrain also highlighted a diversity of playing styles. As it happened, the final was contested by two possession-based teams. But, as the AFC technical observers pointed out, the two teams exploited possession in different ways. Japan used the ball to control the tempo of the game, to build patiently, and to launch attacks with sudden changes of pace. Saudi Arabia used the ball to run with it, setting out to use solo skills to open spaces for quick, penetrating combinations in the final third.

Neither finalist, however, pursued possession as an end in itself. Japan, in fact, had a smaller share of the ball during the final and during the group match against Qatar which produced a 3-0 victory rated by the technical observers as the team's best performance. And also by their head coach. "It was the turning point in the competition," Atsushi Uchiyama commented. "We played a good game and did exactly what we had been trying to do all along."



Bahrain vs Vietnam

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

Saudi Arabia had, similarly, had less of the ball against Thailand and Korea Republic, yet won both games. Indeed, one of the salient features of the group stage was that, of the 18 matches that produced victory for one of the teams, 11 were won by the team which had less possession.

This tendency became less visible during the knockout rounds where Uzbekistan (in the quarter-final against IR Iran) were alone in dominating possession but not the score. In the semi-final against Vietnam, Japan set a tournament-high by enjoying 84% of the ball during the first half and 77% after the break. In that case, however, the statistics did not reflect the realities of the Vietnam style. As technical observer Fahad Almukharreq pointed out, "Vietnam were among the teams who clearly focused on a one-touch passing game which was very pleasing to the eye."

In the final, Saudi Arabia registered a substantial 58-42 advantage over Japan yet failed to win. It was noticeable that – the finalists apart – the teams that headed the field in terms of average ball-possession (China PR 63%, Qatar 62%, UAE 61% and Thailand 57%) went home at the end of the group stage. At the other end of the scale, Yemen were also eliminated after a 39% share of the ball over their three matches. Yet Vietnam (41%) and Tajikistan (37%) progressed to the knockout phase. As AFC technical observer

Kazuyori Mochizuki remarked, "dominating possession can be an advantage. But, in itself, it is not enough to win games."

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

Mochizuki and his colleague as technical observer, Fahad Almukharreq, pointed out that the majority of the teams in Bahrain set out to play a passing game rather than focus on direct attacking as their default style. Tajikistan, Iraq and IR Iran were the main exponents of direct attacks via long supply to the target striker; long diagonals to the wide areas; and emphasis on winning the second ball. Amir Peiravani's IR Iran side drew shades of meaning. After a quarter-final against Uzbekistan based on long-pass counterattacking, the team adopted a less direct approach during the semi-final against Saudi Arabia, with greater emphasis on trying to build through midfield with combination play.



Japan vs Tajikistan

The use of direct, long passing as soon as possession was won in the defensive third invited debate on definitions of 'counterattacking'. But the top teams were equipped to mix patient construction through the thirds with fast, straight-to-the-point counters. Japan and Saudi Arabia were especially well-equipped to launch rapid breaks along the wings while the latter, during the quarter-final against Iraq, demonstrated that set plays for the opponents can offer opportunities for the quick counterpunch, as they often provide rare situations where centre-backs can be caught out of position. Saudi Arabia cashed-in on an Iraq corner to break quickly, to play a neat pass through the middle, and for Abdulrahman Alrami to round the keeper and score.

The tournament provided conflicting evidence. The statistics conclusively demonstrate that 17 goals could be traced to immediate

counterattacking as soon as possession was won – and this represented 29% of the goals scored in open play. However, the technical observers felt that this was not always due to the systematic use of well-choreographed collective counterattacking from deep positions. As Fahad Almukharreq remarked, "during the tournament there were not that many signs of well-organised counters."

SHAPING UP

In Bahrain, defensive blocks were, in the main, composed of zonal back fours protected by two screening midfielders. Of the 16 contestants, only Australia, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan and, occasionally, Iraq operated with a single holding midfielder. The 4-2-3-1 set-up was most prevalent, with seven teams using this structure as the default setting and three more adopting its older brother, the 4-3-3 formation. Iraq and



Korea Republic vs Bahrain

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

Uzbekistan used 4-1-4-1, gravitating towards 4-2-3-1 and 4-3-3 respectively according to game plans and match situations. Japan and UAE opted for a 4-4-2 structure, although the latter could at times have borne the 4-2-3-1 label. Tajikistan were alone in preferring a deep-lying 5-4-1 set-up with clear defensive priorities and occasional transitions to 3-5-2 attacking. Qatar were alone in defending with three at the back and operating in either 3-4-3 or 3-5-2 formation.

However, the tournament demonstrated that shapes were one thing and keeping them was another. One of the areas where Japan excelled was to combine mobility and fluent movement with the ability to maintain the team shape and to facilitate rational and rapid transitions from attack to defence and vice-versa. IR Iran, during the chaotic semi-final against Saudi Arabia, managed to constantly halve two-goal deficits only for the hasty pursuit of an equaliser to open breaches in their formation, notably in the critical areas in front of the back four. Saudi Arabia, while maintaining the threats by their two lively, hard-running wingers, had a much more liquid structure in the core areas, where captain Sami Alnaji floated around as a free spirit in the middle-to-front areas.

Tactical flexibility, however, was not one of the commonest denominators at the tournament in Bahrain. The technical observers noted few

Hirosue Riku (JPN)



variations aimed at finding solutions to adverse situations, with a majority of matches adhering to the same tactical script for the full 90 minutes. Most substitutions, they pointed out, were straight swaps rather than changes aimed at posing new questions to the opposition.

WHERE IS THE GOALKEEPER?

The tournament in Bahrain was not overly generous in offering examples of the type of 'sweeper-keeper' currently fashionable in other

areas of planet football. There were exceptions to the general rule. Notably Australia's Tom Glover, who always made himself available to take part in play and initiate build-up from the back by advancing to the edge of the box or beyond. Or Japan's keepers with Hirotsue Riku, during the semi-final against Vietnam, making some 80% of his interventions with his feet.

Elsewhere, the emphasis was clearly on shot-stopping abilities. Tajikistan's Behruz Khayriev, named Man of the Match after keeping a clean

sheet in the group match against Australia, produced top-quality work between the posts but, given his team's proficiency in deep defending, was rarely required to make outward sorties.

One of the salient features noted by the technical observers, however, was a widespread reluctance to bring the goalkeeper into play. "I don't like to think that it was a lack of confidence in the goalkeepers' abilities," commented Kazuyori Mochizuki – a former keeper and goalkeeper coach himself. "But we could see a lot of situations that defenders could have resolved with a simple pass to the goalkeeper. Instead, they tried to twist and turn – and often got themselves into trouble and lost possession in a key area. Or they just kicked the ball into touch. It was as if the defenders didn't have the goalkeeper on their mental radar as a useful member of the team's play."

THE ART OF DEFENDING

Games that are rich in physical contact and punctuated by free-kicks can tick positive boxes in terms of 'intensity' or 'commitment'. On the other hand, they can raise questions about the art of defending – as they did among the technical observers in Bahrain. There were outstanding examples of 1 v 1 defending skills – coupled with examples which fell short of best-practice levels in terms of clumsy or even reckless tackling. The observers' attention

SECTION 5: TECHNICAL TOPICS

was drawn to situations where tackles or fouls stemmed from poor decision-making or, to be more precise, lack of proficiency in closing opponents down without infringing the laws of the game; not being equipped to squeeze spaces or block passing lines; or lack of expertise in shepherding opponents into non-critical or crowded areas, rather than engaging in confrontation.

"The tournament gave us food for thought," the technical observers commented, "on what can be done on the training ground to assist players who have still not fully learned how to defend in an intelligent and skilful way. This is an important part of player development. Because the education of individual defensive skills lays the foundations for the sort of collective high pressing that we often see elsewhere but is maybe not common enough in the Asian game."

THE WAY FORWARD?

Tajikistan were standard-bearers for the teams who travelled to Bahrain with humble 'underdog' mentalities and who gave clear priority to not conceding goals, rather than chancing their arms in the pursuit of scoring them. After Vietnam's goal-less draw with Iraq, Hoan Anh Tuan expressed this approach by freely conceding "a 0-0 result against a team with better tactics, technique and stamina than us makes me proud."

As Kazuyori Mochizuki commented "there are still big gaps in terms of quality – and this makes it fully understandable that some teams concentrate on defence. At the same time, I would stress that we are seeing fewer and fewer teams with a 'long ball and hope for the best' approach. But there is scope for more teams to commit numbers to organised attacking." His colleague, Fahad Almukharreq, agreed: "when you see teams concentrating 70% or 75% of their efforts on defensive play, you instinctively wish for a better balance in terms of emphasis on attack. I think this is an important age-group for the development of attacking qualities. We sometimes saw an over-reliance on solo attacking rather than collective play based on sustained passing movements." Among the symptoms of this dis-balance was the feeling



Iraq vs Vietnam

that, by and large, attack-to-defence transitions were conducted with greater alacrity than the transitions in the other direction. Was this a question of strategy? Or did the reluctance to counterattack in numbers raise doubts about levels of fitness?

The tournament in Bahrain served to highlight the competitive nature of an event where, as Fahad Almukharreq reflected, "strong teams such as Australia, UAE or Korea Republic, who

could have gone all the way, were eliminated in the group phase – sometimes because they couldn't find solutions against teams equipped to defend and compete with intensity." The technical observers were concerned that the fact that Japan lifted the trophy at the end of six games without conceding a goal might be misinterpreted as a victory for defensive football when, in fact, the final had been disputed by two teams with different but equally clear attacking philosophies.



Bahrain vs Saudi Arabia

SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS



SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS

EDUCATION AND ROTATION

You are the coach. Your team has played four games in 12 days at a final tournament and has had two days' rest since the last match. The next opponents have had one more day to rest and recover. Your team has won three and drawn one of the four games. They have scored 10 goals and have conceded none. They have been praised by the media for their standard of play. As the next game is the semi-final, a place in the final of an international competition is at stake. What's more, there is the prospect of lifting a trophy that your country has never won.

As the coach, what do you do? Do you field an unchanged team? Do you rest a couple of players who might be carrying minor niggles, knocks or symptoms of fatigue? Or do you make 10 changes to your starting line-up, keeping only one midfielder as a token gesture towards continuity and bringing in five players who have not previously started a match at the tournament?

That was the scenario facing Japan's head coach Atsushi Uchiyama as he prepared his strategy for the semi-final against Vietnam at the National Stadium in Bahrain. And the last question in the last paragraph is not rhetorical. That is what he did.

There were, admittedly, a couple of further details to be painted into the landscape. A

primary objective had already been achieved. Reaching the last four had clinched a place at the following year's FIFA U-20 World Cup. And, from a long-distance perspective, there were coherent reasons for starting to lay foundations for a team to compete on home soil at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Even so, ten changes?! For a semi-final!

The principle of squad rotation is, of course, nothing new. Especially at a high-intensity international tournament where the heavy schedule sows the seeds of physical and/or mental fatigue. In Bahrain, Uzbekistan coach Jasur Abduraimov allowed himself the luxury of wholesale changes for his team's third fixture, after taking six points from the first two and clinching a quarter-final place with a game to spare. As a result, his four starting line-ups involved 21 of his squad, six of whom made just one start at the tournament. The same applied to Abbas Attiyah who, after seeing his Iraq team take six points from the opening two games, brought in nine new players for the final group game against Vietnam "to give them a chance to experience the atmosphere".

Resources also have a word to say. A case in point being Tajikistan, who travelled to Bahrain with only five players born in 1997. The young squad featured 10 from 1998 and four apiece from 1999 and 2000. The youngest was barely four weeks past his 16th



Yemen vs IR Iran

birthday. Ukrainian coach Vitalii Levchenko, who had taken charge shortly before the tournament in Bahrain, understandably stuck to an unchanged starting line-up for all four of Tajikistan's fixtures, despite the workload of four fixtures in 10 days.

Uchiyama, on the other hand, had no shortage of riches in his 23-man squad. His decision to make such radical changes for the semi-final could be interpreted as the coach's vote of confidence in the quality of his squad as a whole ("I selected 23 winners", he insisted) – and, arguably, as a morale-booster in the dressing-room. His line-up against Vietnam was also a clear statement that the names could change but the team's playing philosophy would remain untouched.

There were other messages that the Japan coach was keen to transmit. He maintained that the core objective of the U-19 tournament was the development of players. He also wanted to give opportunities for the players to send messages to the coaches of clubs (where they might or might not be playing regularly) about their quality and potential. This, he insisted, could not be done by allowing players to spend the entire tournament on the bench. At the same time, he was equally adamant that his first priority was to win matches and to do so with a side that reflected his concerns about the players' welfare and athletic condition. Is this brave approach a valid one?

The results pages of this report show that Japan won 3-0. What if the result had gone

SECTION 6: TALKING POINTS

the other way? How would the media have reacted? And, in consequence, public opinion? Had you been the coach, would you have opted for the Uchiyama formula?

TIME FOR THE FANS?

An Under-19 tournament can be expected to involve players who are already playing first-team football; players who are on the fringes of the senior team; and players who have yet to make the senior grade but aspire to do so. At this formative stage, 'player development' focuses on tactical and technical education, allied with the acquisition of a more mature psychological approach to the game. At what stage – if at all – do the words 'entertainment value' enter the player development equation?

During the final tournament in Bahrain, four of the 31 matches (two of them involving Japan) offered spectators more than 60 minutes of real playing time. At the other end of the spectrum, the ball-in-play action was timed at a miserly 40 minutes and 23 seconds – well below half of the allotted playing time. It was one of 10 matches in which the ball was rolling for less than 50 minutes. And in three more, the total topped the 50-mark by no more than a few seconds. Interestingly, all of the matches where real time was between 40 and 50 minutes corresponded to the group phase. In other words, 42% of the group games offered the fans less than 50 minutes of entertainment.

By way of comparison, it could be pointed out that 14 of the 51 matches played at the 2016 European Championship finals played (in midsummer) in France exceeded the hour-mark in terms of real playing time. And only two games (4%) fell short of 50 minutes.

What can be done to reduce the levels of wasted time? Who is responsible for making young players aware that the top-level game, if it is to continue to flourish as a spectator sport, needs to offer the fans attractive levels of entertainment value?

PLUS OR MINUS?

Talking of time, what about extra-time? Is it an added value? Or is it just another perspective on the concept of 'time-wasting'? Two of the seven matches in the knockout rounds – including the final – ended in stalemate after the 90 minutes. In line with the competition regulations, the match officials initiated procedures for two additional periods of 15 minutes to be played. In both cases, the extra half-hour failed to produce a goal and the winner was decided by a penalty shoot-out.

In this age group, and in a final tournament that entails as many as six games in 18 days, is it appropriate to play extra-time? As it happened, both matches in Bahrain involved Saudi Arabia. Was it fair that Saad Al Shehri's team had to cope with an additional hour of football?

Bearing in mind that, at the final tournament of the AFC U-16 Championship (played just over a month earlier), no extra-time was stipulated, should greater uniformity be applied to the age-limit competitions?

SPOT-ON?

Still on the subject of extra-time and penalties, the quarter-final between Iraq and Saudi Arabia raised a debating point. In the final minute of extra-time, the Iraq coach Abbas

Atiyah replaced his goalkeeper. Discussion is not about that particular decision in that particular match – but rather to present the situation to coaches as if it were a question on a coach-education course. Do you hold back a substitution with a view to sending on a 'penalty-saving specialist' in case the game goes to a shoot-out? Do you send him on even though he may not have had time for a proper warm-up and hasn't been 'part of the game'? Answers on a postcard, please...



Iraq vs Saudi Arabia

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH



SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

PLAYERS TO WATCH

The AFC Technical Observers in Bahrain singled-out a Most Valuable Player at the end of every match but, after the conclusion of the tournament, were asked to name some of the players whom they felt could make their presence felt in future tournaments and are able to maintain their player development momentum into the next age-group. Here is the squad of 23 that they selected:

GOALKEEPERS

Behruz Khayriev

The Tajikistan No. 23 was given plenty of work during his team's four matches but came away with two clean sheets to his credit. He was well-protected by a deep-lying defence but his reactions and shot-stopping were outstanding and gave confidence to the team.

Tom Glover

The Australia No. 12 fitted perfectly into the profile of the modern keeper. He made himself available to receive passes and initiate his team's build-up play with sensible distribution. And he was good at coming out of his box to cover behind a high back four.

Ryosuke Kojima

The champions' No. 1 injected confidence into Japan's defensive structure by making himself available to receive and distribute intelligently from the back. His handling was safe and, in the final, he made decisive saves to ensure his team took the title without conceding a goal.



Ryosuke Kojima (JPN)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

DEFENDERS

AHMED BUGHAMMAR

The Bahrain No. 3 earned a brace of Man of the Match awards – one of them in his team's defeat by Vietnam. The strong centre-back led his line with composure, using his ability to read the game to shut down spaces, anticipate danger and play from the back.

AHMED ABDULRIDHA

The Iraq No. 5 was a tower of strength at the heart of his team's defence. He was good in the air; was especially accomplished at dealing with 1 v 1 situations; and was quick to provide cover for his colleagues in the back four.

THOMAS DENG

The Australia No. 4 was strong on leadership qualities at the heart of his team's defence. The strong centre-back displayed good covering skills while his ability to read the game stood him in good stead in spotting and pre-empting dangerous situations.

TAKEHIRO TOMIYASU

The Japan No. 5 was one of the tournament's outstanding centre-backs, playing with positional discipline and displaying excellent ability to read the game. His strength in the air was based on outstanding timing as he rose to meet the ball and his ability in 1 v 1 defending was good.

GEORGE TIMOTHEU

The Australia No. 19 displayed great efficiency in the left-sided centre-back role. He not only ticked defensive boxes with good 1 v 1 defensive skills and well-timed tackling, but also contributed good control and passing skills to the team's philosophy of building from the back.

YUTA NAKAYAMA

The Japan No. 3 provided a prime example of the 'unsung hero' who performed a valuable role for his team and earned praise from his coach. The proficient centre-back played with composure, positional sense, physical presence and ability to play sensibly out from the back.



Ahmed Bughammar (BHR)



Takehiro Tomiyasu (JPN)



Yuta Nakayama (JPN)



Ahmed Abdulridha (IRQ)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MIDFIELDERS

SHAROF MUKHITDINOV

The Uzbekistan No. 14 was the left-hand point of his team's impressive midfield triangle. He moved fluently while linking defence to attack, shielding the ball well; displaying high levels of individual skill; and always being ready to unleash powerful long-range shots with his left foot.

AZIZJON GANIEV

Wearing the No. 6 shirt, he was another key component in the Uzbekistan engine-room. Covering a lot of ground as the holding midfielder in front of the back four, he orchestrated his side's attacking combinations with excellent technique and tactical awareness.

DAISUKI SAKAI

The Japan No. 10 played a captain's role as one of the controlling midfielders. He was, indeed, a 'controller'. Underpinning his game with strong technique, he moved fluently through the core areas of midfield, distributing play while helping his team to attack with positional balance.

ABDULLAH ABDULSALAM

The Qatar No. 8 played a central role in front of his side's three-man defence. The captain's armband illustrated leadership qualities as he set about his tasks with excellent positional sense and discipline, allied with technique and the abilities of a controlling midfielder par excellence.

MIZUKI ICHIMARU

The Japan No. 17 provided the ideal balance with Sakai, his partner in the midfield controlling positions. He worked tirelessly and effectively at linking the defensive and attacking elements within the team; supported attacking moves through the middle and protected the back four.

MOHAMED AL HARDAN

The No. 10 shirt traditionally worn by the team's playmaker had an appropriate owner in the Bahrain line-up. The team captain excelled at finding space to lift his head, detect the decisive through pass and deliver it with perfect timing and weighting.

SAMI ALNAJI

The casual, loping gait masked the amount of ground covered by the Saudi Arabia No. 6 as he galvanised his team's attacking play. The captain floated like a free spirit, spotting and delivering neat one-touch through passes and contributing to the team's goal tally.

LEE DONGJUN

Despite missing the first game, the Korea Republic No. 7 made an impact when he re-possessed the captain's armband and linked his team's attacking play with outstanding technique, readiness to use his dribbling skills in 1 v 1 situations and ability to make impeccably timed forward runs.



Sami Alnaji (KSA)



Sharof Mukhitdinov (UZB)



Lee Dongjun (KOR)



Daisuki Sakai (JPN)



Mohamed Al Hardan (BHR)



Azizjon Ganiev (UZB)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

ATTACKERS

RAKAN AL ANAZE

The Saudi Arabia No. 7 could operate on either flank, working hard to disturb the opposition build-up; cleverly making himself available and, once in possession, driving at opponents to exploit his exceptional 1 v 1 skills and either deliver crosses or cut in dangerously towards goal.

RITSU DOAN

The Japan No. 15 could easily have adopted Lionel Messi as his role model. The left-footer took part in attractive combinations with his advancing full-back and was always ready to use his outstanding 1 v 1 skills to cut in from his right-wing starting position and look for goals.

JASURBEK YAKHSHIBOEV

The Uzbekistan No. 9 produced impressive performances on the right flank of his team's front line, the left-footer excelling in the role of a 'wrong-footed' winger. He combined high-quality ball skills with a turn of pace and accurate finishing.

JOSEPH CHAMPNESS

The Australia No. 14 displayed a compendium of physique, athletic qualities and the ability to combine pace and solo skills on the right flank of his team's attacking trio. Ready to run at opponents or play quick one-twos, he produced dangerous diagonal runs into scoring positions.

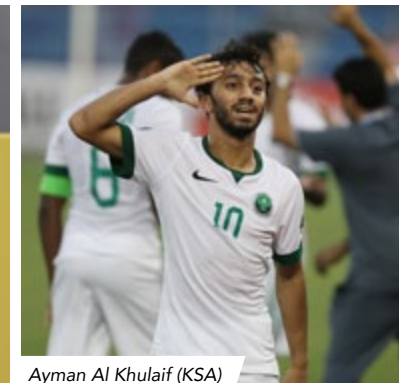
AYMAN AL KHULAIF

The Saudi Arabia No. 10 combined with Al Anaze to continually pose questions to opposing defences with penetrating wing-play. A hyper-active performer, he was capable of unsettling defences with fast dribbling skills and the ability to ride physical challenges.

KOKI OGAWA

The Japan No. 9 operated in a genuine striker role in his team's 4-4-2 formation, leading the attack with great mobility; dropping wide to draw defenders out of position; holding up the ball in excellent fashion with a sure first touch; and using his aerial ability to pose constant threats.

Ritsu Doan (JPN)



Ayman Al Khulaif (KSA)



Jasurbek Yakhshiboev (UZB)



Rakan Al Anaze (KSA)



Koki Ogawa (JPN)

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

GROUP A

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
13 Oct,16	BAHRAIN vs SAUDI ARABIA	RAKAN ALANAZE - SAUDI ARABIA
13 Oct,16	THAILAND vs KOREA REPUBLIC	HAN CHANHEE - KOREA REPUBLIC
16 Oct,16	SAUDI ARABIA vs THAILAND	NASSER ALOTAIBI - SAUDI ARABIA
16 Oct,16	KOREA REPUBLIC vs BAHRAIN	CHO YOUNG WOOK - KOREA REPUBLIC
19 Oct,16	BAHRAIN vs THAILAND	AHMED BUGHAMMAR - BAHRAIN
19 Oct,16	KOREA REPUBLIC vs SAUDI ARABIA	ABDULRAHMAN ALYAMI - SAUDI ARABIA



Thailand vs Korea Republic

GROUP B

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
14 Oct,16	DPR KOREA vs VIETNAM	BUI DUNG - VIETNAM
14 Oct,16	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES vs IRAQ	MAZIN FAYYADH AJEEL - IRAQ
17 Oct,16	VIETNAM vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	HO MINH DI - VIETNAM
17 Oct,16	IRAQ vs DPR KOREA	WALEED KAREEM ALI - IRAQ
20 Oct,16	DPR KOREA vs UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	ZAYED ABDULLA - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
20 Oct,16	IRAQ vs VIETNAM	HO TAN TAI - VIETNAM



DPR Korea vs Vietnam

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

GROUP C

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
14 Oct,16	QATAR vs I.R. IRAN	ABDULLAH ABDULSALAM - QATAR
14 Oct,16	JAPAN vs YEMEN	DOAN RITSU - JAPAN
17 Oct,16	I.R. IRAN vs JAPAN	DOAN RITSU - JAPAN
17 Oct,16	YEMEN vs QATAR	ABDULLAH ABDULSALAM - QATAR
20 Oct,16	QATAR vs JAPAN	YUTO IWASAKI - JAPAN
20 Oct,16	YEMEN vs I.R. IRAN	ABOLFAZL RAZZAGHPUR - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



Qatar vs I.R. Iran

GROUP D

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
15 Oct,16	UZBEKISTAN vs TAJIKISTAN	SAYIDJAMOL DAVLATJONOV - UZBEKISTAN
15 Oct,16	CHINA P.R. vs AUSTRALIA	GEORGE BLACKWOOD - AUSTRALIA
18 Oct,16	TAJIKISTAN vs CHINA P.R.	ZOIR JURABAEV - TAJIKISTAN
18 Oct,16	AUSTRALIA vs UZBEKISTAN	JASURBEK YAKHSHIBOEV - UZBEKISTAN
21 Oct,16	UZBEKISTAN vs CHINA P.R.	ZHANG HONGJIANG - CHINA PR
21 Oct,16	AUSTRALIA vs TAJIKISTAN	BEHRUZ KHAYRIEV - TAJIKISTAN



Australia vs Uzbekistan

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QUARTER FINALS

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
23 Oct,16	BAHRAIN vs VIETNAM	AHMED BUGHAMMAR - BAHRAIN
23 Oct,16	IRAQ vs SAUDI ARABIA	AHMED ABDULRIDHA - IRAQ
24 Oct,16	JAPAN vs TAJIKISTAN	DOAN RITSU - JAPAN
24 Oct,16	UZBEKISTAN vs I.R. IRAN	REZA SHEKARI - ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

SEMI FINALS

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
27 Oct,16	VIETNAM vs JAPAN	KISHIMOTO TAKERU - JAPAN
27 Oct,16	SAUDI ARABIA vs I.R. IRAN	AYMAN ALKHULAIF - SAUDI ARABIA



Bahrain vs Vietnam



Saudi Arabia vs I.R. Iran

SECTION 7: PLAYERS TO WATCH

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

FINAL

DATE	FIXTURE	PLAYER AND COUNTRY
30 Oct, 16	JAPAN vs SAUDI ARABIA	DOAN RITSU - JAPAN



AFC President, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, presents Doan Ritsu the MVP award

SECTION 8: COACHING CORNER



SECTION 8: COACHING CORNER

Tajikistan head coach Vitalii Levchenko might have been speaking for the entire coaching profession when he remarked during the final tournament in Bahrain “preparation time is never enough”. There was certainly a striking diversity among the contestants, with Korea Republic coach An Ik-soo, for example, commenting that, before travelling to Bahrain, he’d had his squad together for one training camp and had played no friendly matches. He was echoed by DPR Korea coach Ri Song-ho, who reported an identical pre-tournament scenario.

By contrast, Qatar coach Oscar Cano Moreno had a preparation schedule based on 14 get-togethers and 29 practice games, while his Uzbekistan counterpart Jasur Abduraimov had benefited from his national association’s policy of assembling the squad on a regular basis and preparing for action in Bahrain with some 20 warm-up fixtures. Many of the coaches would have welcomed more preparation games or, as Yemen coach Mohammad Al Nufiay stressed, “we could have done with more testing preparation matches”. Some of the participants – the champions among them – experienced occasional difficulties in persuading clubs to release players for training camps while Thailand’s preparations were affected by the fact that some players were released only a few days before departure to Bahrain.



Tajikistan head coach Vitalii Levchenko

Another slant on preparation for the final tournament was the amount of working time available to the coaching staff. Among the 16 finalists, 11 of the coaches had been working with their U-19 teams for a year or more. The most noticeable exceptions to this general trend were Australia, DPR Korea and Tajikistan. Ufuk Talay had been entrusted with the former’s U-19s two months before the final tournament; Ri Song-ho had taken over the DPR Korea team six weeks before

the trip to Bahrain; and Vitalii Levchenko had been at the Tajikistan helm for four months. The debating point is whether it was pure coincidence that Japan took the title under the guidance of Atsushi Uchiyama, head coach of the U-19s for two years and assistant coach when Japan had played the previous edition of the final tournament in Myanmar. How relevant is continuity in terms of the coaching staff?



Ri Song-ho (DPR Korea)

One of the facets related to preparations for the final tournament was how the preparation time was used. Here again, diversity ruled. The Saudi Arabia coach was alone in prioritising teamwork in the attacking third. Among the other purely training-ground issues, tactical awareness, team balance and transition play were listed as priorities. Match fitness was also a frequently-mentioned priority but the salient feature was the predominance of personal-development facets, such as discipline, team spirit, motivation and mental strength. The observers stressed that coaches were far from alien to behavioural issues. “The coach needs to educate players in terms of emotional control,” they commented, “and should organise and guide their teams in a balanced way.”

The observers also noted wide variations in teams’ warm-up procedures, with Australia alone in adopting ‘pre-hab’ techniques prior to the traditional warm-up on the pitch. In the benevolent conditions in Bahrain, these were conducted on the athletics track rather than in the dressing-room and consisted of 10-15 minutes of injury-prevention work using the foam-rolling techniques that have become almost standard practice at the country’s professional clubs and, indeed, in other sporting disciplines.

SECTION 8: COACHING CORNER

A major concern among the coaches in Bahrain focused on career pathways for an age-group where some players are already gaining experience at senior level; others have reached the senior squads but spend most of their time on the bench; and others have yet to be offered first-team opportunities. In the international arena, the challenge is to bridge the gap between the U-19 and U-23 levels.

Bahrain coach Abdulaziz Abdo stressed “the problem is that the players were short of stamina and other qualities because most of them are not getting any football in the league.” Saudi Arabia coach Saad Al Shehri commented after the final “now we need the players to focus on their future and for the clubs to allow them to play more games in the first team”. Atsushi Uchiyama, his opponent in the final, maintained “it’s difficult to have quick results in youth development. By winning the AFC U-23 and U-19 titles we have at least demonstrated that the development programme in Japan is good. But the players’ further development depends on facing tough opponents and experiencing serious, difficult games. Playing international competitions is important. That way you can keep challenging them and look for future improvements.”

The player-development value of exposure to high-level football was underlined by China PR coach Li Ming. “At this stage of their education,” he said, “it’s hard to determine whether we are at a high or low level. But I could see the players changing their method of play from game to game – and that was a good thing. This Asian Championship stage can really test the players’ potential and indicate the paths they can take in the future.”



Bahrain head coach Abdulaziz Abdo



Atsushi Uchiyama

SECTION 9: REFEREES



SECTION 9: REFEREES

THE TEAM OF REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

REFEREES

1. Gillett Jarred Gavan	AUS
2. Jameel Juma Abdulhusain Mohamed	BHR
3. Fu Ming	CHN
4. Iida Jumpei	JPN
5. Mohammad Mousa Khalaf Abu Loum	JOR
6. Faizullin Timur	KGZ
7. Alkhudhayr, Turki Mohammed A	KSA
8. Hanna Hattab	SYR
9. Khamis Mohammed S A Al-Marri	QAT
10. Muhammad Taqi Aljaafari Bin Jahari	SIN
11. Gamini Nivon Robesh	SRI
12. Ammar Ali Abdulla Jumaa Aljneibi	UAE

ASSISTANT REFEREES

1. Beecham Ashley	AUS
2. Nawaf Shaheen Khalifa Theyab Moosa	BHR
3. Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Salman	BHR
4. Ma Ji	CHN
5. Ochi Shinji	JPN
6. Ahmad Moannes Nadi Alroalle	JOR
7. Grishchenko Sergei	KGZ
8. Al Shammari Khalaf	KSA
9. Mohd Shahreen bin Che Omar	MAS
10. Al-Shamari Yousuf Aref	QAT
11. Goh Gek Pheng Jeffrey	SIN
12. Loku Kasthotage Iran Udayakantha	SRI
13. Kamal Zayed Dawood Salman	UAE
14. Tsapenko Andrey	UZB
15. Fok Pong Shing	HKG
16. Park Insun	KOR





2016 AFC UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REPORT

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

VIDEO LINKS

The Final:

<https://youtu.be/UHhOuZNnL6c>

Semi-finals :

Saudi Arabia vs I.R. Iran

<https://youtu.be/2Ulgq0WG28A>

Vietnam vs Japan

<https://youtu.be/q26vfjb5nKE>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editorial Group:

Andy Roxburgh
Graham Turner
Colin Gibson

Technical Study Group:

Fahad Ahmed Almurharreq (Bahrain)
Kazuyori Mochizuki (Japan)

TSG Coordinator:

Dr. Shamil Kamil Mohammed (AFC)

Production Team:

Helen Summers
Rofizan Rahman
Nadia Jamil
Adam Aidil Padali
Isaac Christian Danielson
Zainol Talep

Administration Team:

Masa Sugiyama
Jose Carpio
Khalid Idris

Photos:

Asian Football Confederation
Lagardère Sports

