



# AFC U23 CHAMPIONSHIP QATAR 2016 TECHNICAL REPORT & STATISTICS



**ONE ASIA • ONE GOAL**





**AFC**  
**U23**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**QATAR 2016™**

AFC U23 CHAMPIONSHIP QATAR 2016  
TECHNICAL REPORT AND STATISTICS

**ONE ASIA**  **ONE GOAL**



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## MESSAGE BY AFC PRESIDENT SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA

### AFC U23 Championship Qatar 2016

*Dear friends*

The Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) U23 Championship Qatar 2016 continued the recent trend of AFC competitions in setting new milestones.

Japan clinched the title beating Korea Republic 3-2 in a thrilling final. Both teams qualified for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, with third-placed Iraq completing the Asian trio travelling to Brazil. In the process they – and the other competing nations – produced some excellent football and the highlights are captured here in this Technical Report.

Sixteen teams from across the continent, representing Jordan to Japan and Uzbekistan to Australia, competed at the AFC U23 Championship 2016, with Qatar as the world-class host. The tournament ran across 13

match days with 32 matches played, 103 goals scored at four state-of-the-art stadiums in the capital of Qatar, Doha.

I am sure that this comprehensive report will help coaches across the continent as the AFC seeks to close the gap on other Confederations.

There is no doubt the AFC U23 Championship Qatar 2016 was a great success and our thanks must also go to the Local Organising Committee and the Qatar Football Association.

A total of 93,639 fans attended the matches to see the future stars of Asian football in action. The average attendance was 2,926, almost tripling that of the 2013 edition in Oman. Highlighting the international interest

in the tournament, a total of 1,800 visas were issued for the championship.

The accredited media totalled 1,192 (Host Broadcaster 402, Rights-holding TV 407, print & photo: 383) and all matches were broadcast live on beIN Sports, the tournament's host broadcaster. An amazing 5,200 kg of filming equipment came into Qatar to cover the games from abroad.

The growing importance of digital media was also reflected in the fact that AFC's digital media channels were very busy during the tournament, keeping fans and the media up to date around the world.

The AFC thanks everyone for their contribution to a great event.

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







# COMPETITION OVERVIEW



## Competition Overview

### GROUP STAGE



A galaxy of Asian football's brightest stars took centre stage as a tournament that promised to deliver excitement aplenty lived up to the expectations right from kick-off. Sixteen teams who came to Qatar harbouring hopes of continental glory and qualification to the 2016 Olympic Games were whittled down to eight after a thrilling Group Stage.

#### Group A

Qatar took their place in the quarter-finals in impressive fashion after the AFC U23 Championship hosts topped Group A with a 100% record ahead of Iran, Syria, and China.

Following a shaky start against the Chinese, Qatar overcame a first-half deficit to defeat the East Asians 3-1 before Felix Sanchez's side made it two wins out of two with a 2-1 victory over inaugural WAFF (West Asian Football Federation) U-23 Championship winners Iran, who had kicked-off their campaign with a 2-0 triumph over Syria, as the two teams that contested the regional final back in October met again in Doha.

With six points, Qatar were in a strong position for a place in the knockout stage but still needed a positive result against Syria and, after falling behind to a fourth-minute goal, the tournament hosts once again showed their resolve and raced to a 3-1 lead at the interval.

An 81st minute Omar Kharbin penalty suggested a late Syria fightback but Qatar restored their two-goal advantage

instantaneously through Ahmed Alaa, whose 82nd minute strike was his fourth of the campaign and matched the tally of Qatari captain Abdelkarim Hassan, with the duo both getting on the scoresheet in all three group stage matches.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Torabi became the fifth different Iranian to find the net over the three games, with the Saipa winger scoring Iran's third as the Group A runners-up secured their second win of the campaign with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over China.

#### Group B

The passage of Group B's top two sides could not have been more different as Japan booked their quarter-final ticket with a game to spare while DPR Korea squeezed through having scored more goals against Saudi Arabia and Thailand as the trio all drew with each other to end proceedings with two points each.

Naomichi Ueda's fifth minute goal was enough for Japan to edge the North Koreans and emerge as the early pacesetters after the Saudis and Thais had opened their respective campaigns with a 1-1 draw in the later fixture at the Grand Hamad Stadium.

Japan turned on the style against Thailand in their penultimate group stage fixture as the East Asians stormed to a 4-0 victory over the South East Asians, and with DPR Korea and Saudi Arabia sharing the spoils in a six-goal thriller, Makoto Teguramori's side were guaranteed a top-of-the-table finish.

But the Japanese were still to play a key role in determining who would be joining them in the quarter-finals with all three other teams still in with a chance of progress on a thrilling final day of Group B action.

As it transpired, it was DPR Korea who would join their fellow East Asians in the knockout stage following their tense 2-2 draw with the Thais and Japan's 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia.

The West Asians' hopes of a second appearance in the final following their runners-up finish to Iraq at the inaugural tournament were dashed by the fact that the North Koreans had scored one more than them as second-place ultimately came down to the number of goals scored in the group matches between Yun Jong-su's side, the Saudis, and Thailand.



## Group C

Korea Republic and Iraq both secured quarter-final spots with a game in hand after recording victories over Uzbekistan and Yemen, setting up a final day showdown to determine the top two places.

Reigning champions Iraq kicked-off the defence of the title they won in Oman two years ago with a 2-0 defeat of Yemen, with both goals coming in a three-minute spell in the first half, while the South Koreans also scored twice through a Moon Chang-jin double as the East Asians edged Uzbekistan 2-1 in their Group C curtain raiser.

Topping his teammate's individual tally, Kwon Chang-hoon scored the first hat-trick of the tournament as Korea Republic assured themselves of at least a second-place finish in the standings with a 5-0 victory over Yemen.

However, the Suwon Samsung Bluewing's midfielder would have to share the limelight with Uzbekistan's Dostonbek Khamdamov after the 2015 AFC Youth Player of the Year found the net after 11 seconds of the later fixture, scoring what was the second fastest goal in AFC history.

Khamdamov's second of the campaign, following his strike in the opener against the South Koreans, gave Uzbekistan the perfect start in their crucial clash with Iraq but it was to end in disappointment for the Central Asians as the defending champions shaded a thrilling encounter 3-2.

With both Iraq and Korea Republic going into their final fixture with six points, the two sides met at the Grand Hamad Stadium in a top-of-the-table clash that looked to have been settled in the East Asians' favour thanks to Kim Hyun's 22nd minute goal until Amjed Hussein struck two minutes into stoppage time to earn the West Asians a share of the spoils.

Korea Republic still ended up topping the group ahead of the Iraqis courtesy of a superior goal difference, while Uzbekistan ended their campaign on a positive note with a 3-1 win over Yemen sealing third place for Samvel Babayan's side with 2015 WAFF U-23 Championship semi-finalists Yemen bringing up the rear without a point.



## Group D

Group D proved to be the tightest of all four groups going into the final round of matches, with three teams – Australia, Jordan and the UAE - all still in the hunt for a top two finish.

With back-to-back defeats at the hands of Jordan (3-1) and Australia (2-0), Vietnam were out of the reckoning. However, the ASEAN side was determined to bow out of the tournament on a positive note, with the outcome of their final fixture against the UAE also determining the fate of the West Asians.

And the UAE, who had kicked-off their campaign with a late 1-0 win over Australia before being held to a goalless draw by Jordan, were made to fight tooth-and-nail for the 3-2 victory that ultimately saw them finish top of the table.

Abdullah Misfir's side, whose only goal had come from an 84th minute Giancarlo Gallifuoco own goal, had to twice come from behind against an enterprising, if inexperienced, Vietnam before Ahmed Al Hashmi's 78th minute penalty sealed the crucial triumph at the Grand Hamad Stadium.

There wasn't quite the same level of drama in the other match that kicked-off simultaneously over at the Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium although the outcome was just as significant, with Jordan's second successive goalless draw enough to see Jamal Ahmad's side join the UAE in the last eight as Group D runners-up, with Australia consigned to third place ahead of the Vietnamese, who had saved their best performance for last.



## QUARTER-FINALS

The four teams that remained in the race to be crowned the U23 champions of Asia emerged after two days of hugely competitive quarter-final action, that saw three of the four last-eight matches go into extra-time. As the dust settled, hosts Qatar, inaugural AFC U-22 Championship winners Iraq, and the East Asian powerhouse duo of Japan and Korea Republic advanced to the semi-finals.

### Qatar 2-1 DPR Korea (aet)

Ali Asad scored inside the first 90 seconds of extra-time as hosts Qatar secured a place in the semi-finals of the AFC U23 Championship after holding off the spirited challenge of DPR Korea to claim a hard-fought 2-1 win at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium. Belgium-based midfielder Akram Afif coolly converted from the penalty spot after just five minutes to hand Qatar the lead only for So Kyong-jin to snatch an equaliser with a free-kick in second-half stoppage time to send the tie into extra-time. However, Asad swept home Afif's cross inside the first two minutes of extra-time to maintain Qatar's 100% tournament record with a fourth consecutive win.



### Japan 3-0 Iran (aet)

Extra-time goals from Yuta Toyokawa and Shoya Nakajima kept Japan's hopes of a sixth consecutive appearance at the Olympic Games alive with a 3-0 win over Iran that moved Makoto Teguramori's side into the semi-finals with a perfect record of four wins out of four. Toyokawa put Japan in front five minutes into the first additional period of extra time before Nakajima struck two spectacular efforts within the space of a minute in the second half to settle what had been a tighter contest than the eventual scoreline suggests.

## Korea Republic 1-0 Jordan

In the only quarter-final to finish in regulation time, Korea Republic survived a turbulent second-half to hand a gallant Jordan side a 1-0 defeat at the Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium and set up a semi-final meeting with tournament hosts Qatar. Moon Chang-jin scored the only goal of the game midway through the first half as Shin Tae-yong's side kept alive their nation's hopes of appearing at an eighth consecutive Olympic Games.

## United Arab Emirates 1-3 Iraq (aet)

Former AFC Youth Player of the Year Mohanad Abdulraheem and Amjad Attwan Kadhim scored in extra-time as Iraq set-up an AFC U23 championship semi-final with Japan after the defending champions edged out the United Arab Emirates 3-1 at Grand Hamad Stadium. Alaa Ali Mhawi's 75th minute own goal had handed the UAE the lead in a tight quarter-final tie only for Ali Hisny to equalise for Iraq just two minutes later. And having netted the winner in the final against Saudi Arabia as Iraq won the 2013 AFC U-22 Championship, 2012 AFC Youth Player of the Year Abdulraheem struck at the end of the first half of extra-time before Kadhim sealed the win



## SEMI-FINALS

Japan secured a place in the final of the AFC U23 Championship and qualification for the 2016 Olympic Games after snatching a dramatic 2-1 semi-final win over Iraq, while Korea Republic ensured it was be an entirely East Asian final as Shin Tae-yong's side scored two late goals to down hosts Qatar 3-1 - a victory that also saw the South Koreans book their ticket to Rio.

### Qatar 1-3 Korea Republic

Korea Republic coach Shin and his counterpart Felix Sanchez made only one change to their outfield players from the quarter-finals, with Fahad Ali making way for Moez Ali in Qatar starting 11, while Shin chose not to risk Hwang Hee-chan after he picked up an ankle injury in the win over Jordan, choosing to field Kim Hyun instead. Shin also switched his goalkeeper after Gu Sung-yun's unconvincing display in the quarter-final, replacing the Consadole Sapporo custodian with Seongnam FC's Kim Dong-jun. After a goalless first half at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Ryu Seung-woo put Korea Republic in front three minutes after the interval only for Qatar to draw level through an Ahmed Alaa goal with 11 minutes remaining. But with extra-time looming, Kwon Chang-hoon scored with a minute left of normal time before a Moon Chang-jin effort sealed the victory in the 95th minute, ensuring the South Koreans took their place in the final having already qualified for an eighth consecutive Olympic tournament.



### Japan 2-1 Iraq

In the earlier semi-final at the Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium Japan were looking to secure participation at the Olympics for the tenth time at the expense of AFC Under 22 Championship winners Iraq, who were aiming for a return to the Summer Games for the first time since finishing fourth in Athens in 2004 as well as continuing their hold on the title they won in Oman two years ago. Japan coach Makoto Teguramori made four changes from the quarter-final success over Iran, notably the recall of both striker Musashi Suzuki

and midfielder Takumi Minamino, while Iraq counterpart Shahad Abdulghani brought in Saad Natiq and Amjed Hussein following their last-eight victory over the United Arab Emirates. Yuya Kubo had given Japan a 26th minute lead only for Saad Natiq to head home an equaliser for Iraq two minutes before half-time. The deadlock remained until three minutes into second-half stoppage time when Riki Harakawa rifled home from the edge of the penalty area as Japan ended Iraq's hopes of successfully retaining their crown.



## THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF



Defeat in the semi-finals may have meant that Qatar and Iraq would miss out on continental glory in Doha but it was by no means the end of their tournament, with the hosts and deposed champions going head-to-head in a third-place playoff that would also determine who would join Japan and Korea Republic as Asia's third representatives at the 2016 Olympic Games.

### Qatar 1-2 Iraq (aet)

Iraq coach Shahad made two changes to the Iraqi team that lost to Japan in the semi-finals, bringing Humam Tareq back into midfield in place of Mahdi Kamil while Safaa Jabbar returned from suspension in place of Amjed Hussein.

Qatar, meanwhile were unchanged from the side that lost to Korea Republic. Shahad made two changes to the Iraqi team that lost to Japan in the semi-finals, bringing Humam Tareq back into midfield in place of Mahdi Kamil while Safaa Jabbar returned from suspension in place of Amjed Hussein.

It was to be the hosts who shaded the opening quarter of the game as both sides attempted to establish a rhythm before the home side took a 27th minute through Ahmed Alaa, who slotted the ball past the Iraqi goalkeeper.

After Iraq came close to restoring parity four minutes later when Tareq saw his goal-bound shot deflected to safety by teammate

Mustafa Nadhim, Qatar squandered a number of chances to increase their lead in the first-half with Musaab Khidir, Moez Ali and Ahmed Yasser all failing to add to the home side's advantage.

Afif and Alaa also had sighters in an evenly-fought second half and Qatar were left rueing their missed opportunities with four minutes remaining when Mohanad Abdulkareem headed home the equaliser before the home side had their hearts broken again via the head of an Iraqi as substitute Aymen Hussein nodded in what transpired to be the match-winner four minutes into the second period of extra-time.



# FINAL

Korea Republic 2-3 Japan



## TAKUMA ASANO THE: SUPREME CATALYST

In the world of legend, transmuting base metal into gold was the job of the alchemist. During the AFC U23 Championship 2016 final in Qatar, Japan's Takuma Asano played the role of the catalyst when he transformed his team from runners-up in waiting, to champions of Asia and gold-medal winners.

For Korea Republic, Japan's opponents in the final, it was a case of black magic. The prize was theirs and then, inextricably, it was gone. The Taeguk Warriors' fiercest rivals had played their ace card and produced a surprising and unlikely outcome in Doha's Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium.

The South Koreans took the initiative from the start of the match, imposing their high tempo, pressing game on the cautious Japanese.

Shin Tae-yong's side operated a basic 4-3-3 system, with the dominant Park Yong-woo as the pivot in front of an uncompromising back four. The Korea Republic number 6, as in previous games, was willing and able to drop into the back line when required.

Consequently, the boys in red defended as 4-1-4-1 or sometimes with five at the back.

In attack, they were fluid and often used long diagonals in order to create opportunities on the flanks and it was this move which triggered the opening goal.

Moon Chang-jin played the ball wide to the left, full back Sim Sang-min delivered the deep cross, Jin Seon-guk set up the chance, and Kwon Chang-hoon swept the ball into net with a right-foot volley. Korea Republic had the lead, and their domination of the ball and the territory put them in the driving seat.

But the Japanese are resilient and remain calm, even in adversity. So, Makoto Teguramori's young Samurai Blue quietly went about their usual business.

They operated a 4-2-3-1 formation, but with a lot of flexibility middle-to-front. When they defended, they formed into a compact 4-4-1-1 shape.

Their initial attempts to hold a high line gradually dissipated as they found themselves under increasing pressure.

While the Korea Republic tended to play long and fight for the second ball, the Japanese

tried to build from the back and play through the middle. Left winger Shoya Nakajima was a threat with his trickery, but at the end of the first half, the Koreans were in full control and favourites for the title.

After just one minute of the second half, Shin's team had one hand on the trophy. After a clever cut-back from Lee Chang-min, the Red's number 18, Jin Seon-guk, turned and fired a powerful shot into the Japanese net, with the ball going through defender Sei Muroya's legs to add insult to injury.

JFA (Japan Football Association) coach Teguramori, looking uncomfortable in his collar and tie, glanced forlornly at his watch. Being a coach in this situation requires boldness, emotional stability and football know-how, and the Japanese tactician quickly recovered his composure.

He decided it was time to reinvigorate his anxious team with new energy, and Asano was introduced at the apex of the attack.

With 30 minutes remaining, Teguramori hoped that his young charges could stage a spectacular comeback.



Asano had form. A month before the U23 final in Doha, the Sanfrece Hiroshima striker had come off the bench to score in the quarter-final of the FIFA World Club Championship against African champions, TP Mazembe.

In addition, he appeared as a substitute against River Plate in the semi-final, and started in the Bronze Medal victory against Guangzhou Evergrande.

And with two league titles and three Super Cup triumphs behind him, the 2015 J.League Rookie of the Year, was well equipped to make an impression. But could he lead his team back from impending defeat?

Six minutes after entering the field, Asano struck. The Japanese number 16 made an angled run to latch on to the through pass from teammate Shinya Yajima and swept the ball first time past Korea Republic goalkeeper Kim Dong-jun.

Two minutes later, Japan scored again. This time Asano made the decoy run to the front-post area, and Yajima headed the ball, with power and precision, into the top corner of the net, following a driven cross from the left by full back Ryosuke Yamanaka.

The game was tied at two all, but the South Koreans were in shock as the momentum had swung, in the blink of an eye, towards those in Japanese blue.

Almost inevitably, and with just nine minutes remaining, Japan scored again.

Nakajima played the ball forward and 'super sub' Asano spun past his marker, controlled the ball with his right and smashed it, left-footed, into the bottom corner of the net, from just outside the penalty box.

To say that the Japanese comeback was surprising and unlikely was an understatement.

Korea Republic won the first hour, Japan won the match. For two-thirds of the game the Japanese seemed to be outnumbered on the pitch, just as their supporters were in the stands. But, the amazing resilience of the Samurai Blue was fully in evidence on a cold evening in Doha.

When Qatar's Abdulrahman Al Jassim blew the whistle for full-time, those in red remained isolated, lost in their own thoughts of what might have been, while those in blue congregated into a celebration dance, culminating in coach Teguramori being thrown into the air.

Both teams qualified for the 2016 Olympics Games in Rio, along with third-placed Iraq.

All three will be ready to compete; Iraq with their fighting spirit and technical quality, Korea Republic with their power and skill, and Japan with their organisation and mental strength.

But the latter, as champions of Asia, will have a new-found confidence, not-to-mention the supreme catalyst – Takuma Asano.

by Andy Roxburgh, AFC Technical Director





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# WINNING COACH





# Teguramori's top-class tactics

It isn't every day that the coach of a beaten finalist embraces fair-play concepts closely enough to heap praise on his opposite number. But, after the Doha final, the accolade publicly delivered by Korea Republic coach Shin Tae-yong was that Makoto Teguramori "had created the tactics that changed the game." Understandably, the Japan head coach exuded satisfaction as he walked off the pitch at the Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium with a gold medal around his neck as recompense for a six-match campaign in Qatar that had yielded six victories, with 15 goals scored and four conceded.

The statistics, however, conceal some delicate moments. Japan had been chased to the wire in all three knockout games: extra-time against Iran; a 90+3 winner in the semi-final against Iraq; and the unlikely recovery from 2-0 down in the final. Enough to convince Teguramori that, after the euphoria in Qatar "we need to improve every aspect of our team if we are to make an impact at the Olympic Games in Rio". But he was quick to take positives from the adversities his side had experienced. "In the semi-final," he admitted, "Iraq took control for a period – and it was a good opportunity for the players to learn how to withstand this." Control is one of the basic

words in Teguramori's football lexicon and, according to him, the key to the memorable comeback in the final. "I never thought that we were completely defeated," he maintained, "because I knew that if we could dominate possession we would be able to manage the game against opponents who were slowing down."

Endurance and suffering are also key words. After a playing career, alongside his twin brother Hiroshi, during the period when Sumitomo Metals evolved into Kashima Antlers, he had made his coaching name during a six-season spell at Vegalta which embraced the traumas suffered by the city of Sendai as a result of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami of 2011. Character and mental strength are among the qualities he looks for. Before the final, he admits, "I told the players that we should show everyone our bravery."

The praise by Shin Tae-yong and many observers at the final tournament had, nevertheless, been inspired by the quality of his substitutions – notably the introduction of Takuma Asano in the semi-final and the final. But it could be argued that the wisdom and efficiency of his changes were the fruit

of carefully-considered man-management policies. Onlookers were surprised by four changes in the starting line-up for the second game; five for the third. By the end of the group stage, all of his outfielders and two of the three goalkeepers had been deployed.

"I rotated the squad throughout the tournament," he commented, "because I wanted to make use of all our weapons and to help each player to grow." As a result, he developed in-depth knowledge of the individual qualities among his squad-members – which, in turn, laid foundations for the shrewd substitutions that made an impact in the crucial moments of the route to the title.

Not least in the final. "My script for that game," he confessed afterwards, "was to take control in the second half and win 2-0." When the team that had conceded only two goals in the previous five games allowed the Koreans to score as many in 47 minutes, he admitted "I was surprised, because I hadn't thought about that possibility. He was surprised but not nonplussed. Makoto Teguramori's belief and man-management expertise helped Japan to exorcise ghosts of former defeats and to take the U-23 title for the first time.









# TECHNICAL TOPICS



## TECHNICAL TOPICS



In addition to diversity in terms of playing styles and footballing cultures, the final tournament demonstrated the importance of concentration and mental strength – a perspective highlighted by Japan's comeback from a two-goal deficit in the final.

It was a fitting end to a tournament in which teams bounced back on eight occasions to win matches despite conceding the opening goal. With the 32 matches played in Qatar producing only two goalless draws (both of them involving Jordan) it means that 27% of the matches that yielded goals were ultimately won by the team which had fallen 1-0 behind.

To put that statistic into a global perspective, it can be pointed out that in the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League only five of 125 fixtures were won by teams who conceded the first goal – in other words, 4.27%.

The data gathered in Qatar, however, accentuated a trend which had been a salient feature of the AFC Champions League, where 18% of games had been won by the team

falling 1-0 behind. During the continental club competition, 63% of matches were won by the team scoring first, while in Qatar, this figure dropped to 56%.

Comparisons with the 80% registered in the UEFA Champions League inevitably raise questions about the reasons underlying such a notable contrast between the European and Asian competitions. On the other side of the coin, the percentage of teams who relinquished a 1-0 lead represents an invitation to address game-management skills.

This prompted the AFC Technical Observers at the final tournament, while giving rightful credit to the exceptional level of mental resilience, to look at the statistics from various angles. Morteza Mohases, for example, highlighted the need to remind players that the minutes following a goal can be of vital importance. And, in Qatar, the fervour of some celebrations certainly prompted debate as to how easily euphoria can translate into vulnerability.

Abdulla Hassan raised further questions about levels of risk management during the final tournament. Looking at the number of late goals (and) he wondered to what extent teams were only prepared to take risks when they had to – in other words, when they were behind.

This led to discussion about the percentages of proactive and reactive teams and the number of sides who clearly set out to dominate games.

Islam Akhmedov pointed out that some of the comebacks could be traced to lapses in discipline, concentration or emotional intelligence – factors which he felt could be given greater relevance at youth development levels, not only in national teams but also at clubs, where most players receive the bulk of their footballing education. The observers noted, for instance, that opponents were frequently offered opportunities for set-play deliveries into the box as a result of careless and/or unnecessary tackles in key areas.

## The possession game

Questions about proactive and reactive teams received no ready answers from data on ball-possession.

The final four demonstrated the lack of conclusive evidence. Japan peaked at 55% of ball-possession against DPR Korea but enjoyed only 45% against Iraq and 44% against Saudi Arabia. Korea Republic registered a massive 67% against Yemen yet otherwise shared possession fairly evenly with their opponents, apart from the quarter-final against Jordan which warrants a mention elsewhere. Iraq, by and large, shaded narrow advantages against their opposition yet had only 46% of the ball against Uzbekistan. The high-point of Qatar's domination was 55% against China, yet the hosts had only 45% against Syria and 47% in their quarter-final against DPR Korea.

China had significantly less of the ball than their opponents during the side's three matches, while Yemen averaged only 42%; Vietnam 44%; Thailand 47%. The fact that all four teams fell at the group hurdle does not, however, provide a convincing argument that possession equals success. Saudi Arabia, averaging 55%, were also among the group-stage fallers.

In Doha, the team with the highest level of ball-possession was Australia. But, despite an average of 60%, the continental champions at senior level were also eliminated during the group phase, scoring only twice (from set plays). In two of their three games, the lion's share of possession was not translated into goals.

The technical observers, while discussing to what extent teams set out to dominate games, were keen to signal that many of the teams on show were technically equipped to play an attractive, fluent possession game yet failed to marry it with results.



## To press or not to press

The AFC technical team in Doha also commented that, in comparison with what they had witnessed at previous tournaments, “teams had clearer ideas about when to press and when to drop back quickly into a compact defensive block. In this respect, their reading of the game was noticeably better.”

The question of pressing is conditioned by physical fitness, with the observers quick to praise the standards visible in Doha – as illustrated during the four games in the knockout rounds which went to extra-time. Most games were played with great intensity and, as the observers commented, Japan were outstanding in the art of dictating and changing the tempo of the game.

Few teams, however, invested calories in sustained high pressure on opponents. The general tendency was for immediate aggressive pressure on the ball-carrier as soon as possession was lost. The players not in the vicinity prioritised a quick transition into a defensive block, with collective pressing based on cutting-off short-passing options used only once the opposition had crossed the halfway line. Matches such as DPR Korea v Saudi Arabia showcased teams’ efficiency in this type of pressing, while Iran and Iraq were effective exponents of fierce middle-third pressure on the ball-carrier.

The technical observers, however, cited the quarter-final between Korea Republic and Jordan as a particularly instructive example of the values of high pressing. A review of the DVD of the match played at the Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium reveals a classic ‘game of two halves’. During the opening period, the Jordan players focused on accelerating towards the ball-carrier but hitting the brakes at a prudential distance with the aim of blocking passing routes rather than winning the ball. Tackling was rare. Korea Republic responded with 45 minutes of slick, one-touch combination play and a scandalous share of ball-possession.

Jordan, fortunate to head for the dressing-room only 1-0 down, acted out a different script after the interval. Pressing aggressively, they effectively disrupted the South Koreans’ short-passing construction, pushed for goal after some productive ball-winning in their attacking third and were a shade unfortunate not to be rewarded for their second-half endeavours. This provoked further discussion on levels of risk-management during the tournament. Were teams prepared to take risks only when they had to?

As the technical observers pointed out, the issue of pressing is a double-sided coin. Apart from exerting it, they stressed, players need to cope with it. Even the top teams struggled to play their way out of tight situations when exposed to high pressing, though Qatar were especially adept at defusing opposition pressure with quick diagonal passing to the other flank.





## Shaping up for the future

With several of the players on display in Doha having already been recruited for duty at senior level, the status of the U-23 competition as a 'development tournament' is open to debate.

The policy of Japan coach Makoto Teguramori, for example, in rotating his squad was interpreted as a "method of giving more opportunities to those who might make it into the senior teams of the future".

The AFC technical team also highlighted the tendency towards a tactical flexibility which might stand the players in better stead when it comes to finding their feet on the senior international stage.

A simplified reading of the teamsheets in Doha could signal a clear trend towards a 4-3-3 playing structure or its younger brother, the 4-2-3-1. Default settings during the tournament revealed six of one and half-

a-dozen of the other, with the other four formations more readily wearing the 4-4-2 label.

There was, however, a full spectrum of variations. Qatar, for instance, adopted 4-2-3-1 as the habitual structure but switched to 4-4-2 against Iran. Japan permuted 4-3-3 with 4-4-2. Yemen, starting in 4-3-3 with a single screening midfielder, switched to 4-2-3-1 against Korea Republic with two players protecting the back four.

Saudi Arabia metamorphosed in similar fashion during the tournament. Korea Republic, deploying 4-3-3 as the default setting, were able to change to 4-4-2 with a midfield diamond. And, of course, there were opportunities to juggle while playing the numbers game.

Although the basic diagram of Thailand, Iraq or UAE – to name but three – might

have been 4-2-3-1, heat maps showing the operational areas of the wide middle-to-front men might have made 4-1-4-1, 4-5-1 or 4-4-1-1 (respectively) more accurate descriptions of the team structure.

The technical team remarked that, in their opinion, the pathway to tactical flexibility is linked to further progress in coach education.



## Keepers and sweepers

As the previous paragraphs indicate, the flat back four was a common (or, rather, universal) denominator in Doha.

Three-at-the-back was a rare occurrence and in the case of Iran during extra-time of the quarter-final against Japan, a ploy enforced by an injury after three changes had been made rather than a tactical option.

However, the modus operandi of the back four varied significantly with Vietnam, for example, preferring the back line to retain its shape, whereas a majority of contestants relied on their full-backs to afford attacking support in the wide areas. Qatar's captain and left-back Abdelkarim Hassan provided the most striking example of attacking full-back play by contributing four goals to his team's campaign.

Although defences were often prepared to hold a high line, the tournament rarely offered examples of Manuel Neuer-style goalkeeping – though Qatar's Muhannad Naim and Japan's Masatoshi Kushibiki were outstandingly quick to come off their lines to cover spaces behind the back four.

Kushibiki was one of very few goalkeepers who practised ball-distribution with their feet during pre-match warm-ups, with the vast majority focusing on shot-stopping or, in some cases, catching or punching-out crosses. The analysis of goalscoring patterns in Doha reveals a relatively high success rate in terms of goals derived from through passes into the spaces between goalkeepers and advanced back lines.



## Building from the back



On the other hand, it would be a fallacy to suggest that goalkeepers had limited relevance in the launching of attacks.

The technical observers signalled Thailand's Somporn Yos as an example of the keeper who was influential in terms of leadership as well as goalkeeping qualities.

But, by and large, the tournament produced a mix of building from the back and direct supply based on in-the-depth distribution by goalkeepers, followed by effective second-ball support from midfield.

China were among the teams who capably blended the two options, while the general trend was for the two full-backs to spread,

leaving a screening midfielder to drop back towards the centre-backs to form a triangular defensive anchor once the ball was in the goalkeeper's hands.

In terms of building from the back, it was frequently the screening midfielder who supplied the creative construction work, prime examples provided by two occupants of the No.6 shirt – Qatar's Ahmed Yasser and Korea Republic's Park Yong-woo.

The technical observers remarked that, by and large, job descriptions for the centre-backs prioritised defensive and athletic qualities over the ability to thread passes into midfield. Passing interchanges at the back, they commented, were often designed

to buy time for positional defence-to-attack transitions and a prelude to a long back-to-front delivery and second-ball support.

As the technical team observed, the event showcased a wealth of middle-to-front talent, with the group stage matches demonstrating the significant progress made by teams who had not been among the pre-tournament favourites but were highly competitive.

The way forward, they felt, was to offer greater opportunities for emerging talents at youth-development level to gain experience of demanding, high-intensity international competition.







# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS



## Goalscoring: The Doha Data

The top-scorer award in Doha was won by Qatar's No7 Ahmed Alaa, even though he played only two matches in their entirety and was not in the host team's starting line-up for the opening match against China.

His tally of six goals – failing to score only in the quarter-final against DPR Korea – made the Al Rayyan striker the only genuine front-man to appear at the head of the scoring chart.

Second place went to Korea Republic midfielder Kwon Chang-hoon while third place was shared by his team-mate Moon Chang-jin, a versatile creator and finisher, and Qatar full back Abdelkarim Hassan, who was always ready to make powerful upfield runs and to pose problems at set plays.

The tournament was rich in goals and in goalscorers, with 67 players sharing the 103 goals scored over the 32 matches. The

average of 3.22 goals per game at the AFC U23 Championship represents a 21.5% increase on the 2.65 registered during the 2015 AFC Champions League.

One of the salient features of the goalscoring pattern was the modest success rate of set plays.

The 20 goals resulting from dead-ball situations add up to 19.4% of the total, compared with 27% in the ACL and 26% in its European counterpart.

What's more, penalties accounted for half of the set-play goals in Doha, leaving a scant total of 10 traceable to corners or free kicks.

Of the four goals derived from corner kicks, two were converted by Qatar defender Abdelkarim Hassan. The other two (Japan's solitary winner against DPR Korea and Australia's opener in the 2-0 victory over

Vietnam) came from rebounds after corners had been partially cleared.

Australia, it might be added, were on the receiving end when a corner was turned into their own net to give the UAE their 1-0 group win.

In the free-kick category, special mention is due to China's Liao Lisheng for superbly directing the dead ball over the wall and into the net to give his side the lead against both Qatar and Syria.

The Chinese, on the other hand, were the victims of Iran's Mahdi Torabi, while So Kyong-jun's late free kick earned DPR Korea extra-time in the quarter-final against the hosts.

The unusually low ratio of set-play goals signified, logically, that four out of five goals in Doha resulted from open play.



In this category, there was much greater alignment with the goalscoring patterns in the ACL. In the latter, 26% of the open-play goals had their source in crosses. If the own goal resulting from a cross (UAE's equaliser at 1-1 against Vietnam) is included, 24% of the open-play goals in Qatar came from crosses.

Over half of the crosses – 11 to be precise – were headed into the net. Headers accounted for 15 of the tournament's 103 goals – and 18% of those scored in open play.

The conversion rate from crosses was almost matched by the through pass among the most fertile sources of goals, with many of the successes exploiting the spaces between goalkeeper and high defensive lines. The 22% in Doha aligns with the 20% registered in the ACL.

Long-range shooting accounted for 19% of the open-play goals (15% in the ACL) with the technical observers commenting on the generalised tendency to shoot from distance rather than to continue combination play into the box.

The statistics corroborate this theory in the sense that combination play was translated into only 7% of the open-play goals in Doha, compared with 10% in the ACL and, more strikingly, 23.6% in the UEFA Champions League (UCL).

On the other hand, goalscoring via solo runs with the ball was more closely aligned: 6% in Doha, 7% in the ACL, and 6% in the UCL.

There is always an element of personal interpretation, with the sources of some goals reasonably assignable to more than one category. The chart, however, gives a fair indication of how the 103 goals were created.







# TALKING POINTS



## Questions of importance

How important was the tournament in Qatar? With the opportunity to lift an international trophy and the additional incentive of places at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the overwhelming response would have been to give the 2016 AFC U23 Championship an 'extremely important' rating. At the same time, there are other perspectives which come into focus when the tournament is seen from different angles.

For example, how important was it for clubs which were asked to release players? Here, the response fell slightly short of unanimity. Aurelio Vidmar travelled to Doha without five of the players who might have been regular starters in the tournament for Australia. It was not the only issue related to player release. And, apart from those who were ultimately absent from the tournament, there were instances where squad members were only released at the eleventh hour, giving their coaches precious little time to integrate them into the team ethic.

Preparation times raised further debating points about a final tournament where player release was not backed by the FIFA calendar. In other words, FIFA dates could not be invoked as a means of enforcement. The January schedule was totally legitimated by the climatic conditions to be expected in Doha but, at the same time, generated a few discrepancies. For the sake of argument, it could be said that domestic championships in the West Asia zone are, by and large, pegged to the autumn-to-spring segment of the calendar. By contrast, the rule of thumb in East Asia is that championships tend to be more closely associated with the calendar year. In Japan, for example, the J.League had come to its conclusion in mid-December, with the result that Makoto Teguramori could assemble his squad in good time to prepare for the arduous match schedule which awaited his team and to rotate his players in the confidence that all of them were well-prepared. Was it coincidence that two teams from East Asia contested the final?

The counter-argument is that, in many of the participating teams, most of the players needed minimal familiarisation time, given that they had been playing together right the way through the age-limit teams. But how often is this the case? How many national associations engage in long-term thinking in terms of establishing a clear national playing philosophy. To fuel debate, the case of Spain could be thrown on to the debating table. The national association had achieved unparalleled success in Europe's age-limit tournaments yet the senior team did not enjoy similar success until one of soccer's old adages had been turned on its head. Traditionally, youth teams had been required to implant the style of play employed by the coach of the senior team. Spain's success was based on insisting that the senior team adhered to the philosophy implanted in the youth teams. How valid is this concept? To what extent could – or should – it be applied in Asia?



## Happy birthday?



During the 19-day tournament played from January, 12 to 30, 27 players commemorated their birthday. A statistician might be quick to point out that this is 50% in excess of the ratio one might expect. So the happy piece of trivia provokes a talking point which is often raised on the lower rungs of football development ladders all over planet football but which might raise an eyebrow or two once the Under-23 level has been reached.

Statistically, a squad of 23 footballers would normally include, as a rule of thumb, five or six players born in the first three months of the calendar year. In Doha, Australia (4), Thailand (4) and runners-up Korea Republic (3) fell

below that norm. But they were exceptions to a general rule. According to the dates of birth supplied to the AFC, 37% of the participating players were born in January, February or March. The squads of Syria, Yemen and China provided the most striking examples, with the latter featuring 12 players born in the first three months of the year and one from the last three.

This is generally accepted as a fact of life at the lower age levels, where a difference of, say, nine months can have a palpable effect on physical and mental maturity. The debating point is whether the young players excluded at those early levels are being given

opportunities to come to the fore at the later levels where a few months difference become less relevant. Or are we seriously arguing that players from the back end of the year are less talented than those who are a few months older? Taking the debate a stage further, is there a case for trying to organise more youth development events at which 'late developers' could be given opportunities? And is it time to ask whether it is correct to align this competition so closely with Olympic Games requirements or whether it could productively be lowered to another development level? Under-21s for example?









# TEAM PROFILES



## Group A

### CHINA P.R.



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	3-1 (0-1)	CHINA P.R.
15 Jan,16	16:30:00	CHINA P.R.	1-3 (1-1)	SYRIA
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	3-2 (2-1)	CHINA P.R.



## Team Profile

Having exited at the group stage of the inaugural Championship two years ago following three successive defeats, China were aiming to put in a better performance this time out in Qatar.

The East Asians were unfortunate in their opening fixture of the then AFC U-22 Championship in Oman two years ago as two stoppage-time goals snatched victory from the hands of defeat for Uzbekistan after Yang Chaosheng had earlier put China ahead.

And after Luo Senwen equalised against Saudi Arabia on Matchday Two, China then conceded a penalty in the final 15 minutes as a 2-1 defeat saw them eliminated with one game remaining.

A 1-0 defeat to group winners and eventual champions Iraq concluded a disappointing campaign for China.

China were, however, far more impressive in qualifying for the 2016 edition after claiming maximum points in topping Group J in Vientiane in March.

Wu Xinghan, Xie Pengfei and Xu Xin scored as China raced into a three-goal lead at half-time against Mongolia before substitute Chan Hao's second half brace secured a comfortable 5-0 win as China set the early pace in the group.

Xu and Wu then notched their second goals of the campaign against Singapore on Matchday Two, with further strikes from Li Yuanyi, Feng Gang and Zang Yifeng sealing a second successive 5-0 victory.

And despite needing just a point from their final group tie against hosts Laos, Feng, Xie and Guo Hao helped China to a 3-0 success as the East Asians advanced to Qatar with a perfect record having scored 13 without conceding.

With the AFC U23 Championship also doubling as the qualifiers for the 2016 Olympic Games, China were hoping to bounce back after failing to secure a place at London 2012 and secure only a third appearance in the football tournament.

China first appeared at the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988, with their last outing as hosts in 2008 when a 1-1 draw against New Zealand in their opening Group C encounter was followed by defeats to eventual semi-finalists Belgium and Brazil.

And in qualification for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, China were eliminated by Oman in the second round of qualifiers.

After losing the first leg 1-0 at home, China took the return fixture to extra-time before three goals in the final 30 minutes secured a 4-1 aggregate win for their opponents.

## Head Coach



### Fu Bo

Having had plenty of success as a player with Liaoning FC, winning seven Chinese league titles and the 1989-90 Asian Club Championship during an 11-year spell, it was no surprise that it was at the same club where he began his coaching career as an assistant in 2003. After gaining his badges in Cologne, Fu was appointed to assist China coach Gao Hongbo in 2009 and has been involved with the national setup ever since.



## Group A

### I.R. IRAN



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,16	16:30:00	SYRIA	0-2 (0-0)	I.R. IRAN
15 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	1-2 (0-1)	QATAR
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	3-2 (2-1)	CHINA P.R.

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
22 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	3-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0)	I.R. IRAN



## Team Profile

After claiming victory at the inaugural WAFF U-23 Championship in October in Qatar, Iran were looking to take their good run of form into the AFC U23 Championship.

Iran topped Group B at the 2015 WAFF U-23 Championship after following up a 2-0 win over Bahrain with a 2-2 draw with Saudi Arabia, before going on to claim a 2-1 victory against Yemen in the semi-finals.

And goals from Alireza Naghizad and Arsalan Motahhari then secured a 2-0 win over Syria in the final of the regional championship ahead of Iran's return to Qatar at the start of 2016 for the AFC U23 Championship.

Iran, having seen the senior side reach the quarter-finals of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup, had already qualified for the AFC U23 Championship as the second best-placed runner-up after claiming second in Group C behind Saudi Arabia during March's qualifiers in Tehran.

The home side stormed to a 5-0 opening day victory over Nepal thanks to goals from Motahhari, captain Behnam Barzay, Sardar Azmoun, Ali Karimi and Shahin Saghebi. And Azmoun, scorer of two goals for the senior side at the 2015 AFC Asian Cup, then opened the scoring against Palestine on Matchday Two before a Motahhari brace wrapped up a 3-0 victory.

A double from Azmoun and further goals from Mohammad Moradmamand, Milad Kamandani, Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Roozbeh Cheshmi then secured a 6-0 win over Afghanistan in front of 80,000 in Tehran to leave Iran needing just a point from their final group encounter with Saudi Arabia to advance as group winners.

But after a goalless 69 minutes at Azadi Stadium, Saudi Arabia scored twice in 11 minutes to seal a 2-1 win despite a late own goal in Iran's favour.

After eventually claiming one of the five places available for the best runners-up, Iran were hoping they could improve on their showing at the AFC U-22 Championship in Oman two years ago when they were eliminated in the group stage.

An understrength Iran had opened with a hard-fought 3-3 draw with Japan before losing 1-0 to Australia. And despite beating Kuwait 3-1, Iran missed out on a place in the last eight by a point.

Iran have made three previous appearances at the Olympic Games although their last was in 1976 after also qualifying in 1964 and 1972. Ahead of last tournament in London, Iran suffered a 5-0 defeat by Iraq in the second round of qualifiers.

## Head Coach



### Mohammad Khakpour

Mohammad Khakpour is a name that needs no introduction in Iranian football, having represented the country at the 1998 FIFA World Cup. The 46-year-old, who also had overseas stints in Turkey, Singapore and United States, took charge of the Iran U-23s in December 2014 and led them to victory at the 2015 WAFF U-23 Championship ten months later.



## Group A

# QATAR



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	3-1 (0-1)	CHINA P.R.
15 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	1-2 (0-1)	QATAR
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	4-2 (3-1)	SYRIA

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
22 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	2-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	DPR KOREA

### Semi-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
26 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	1-3 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC

### 3rd/4th Placing

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
29 Jan,16	17:45:00	QATAR	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	IRAQ



## Team Profile

Qatar were looking to take advantage of playing on home soil at the AFC U23 Championship and make up for the disappointment of failing to reach the inaugural edition of the tournament two years ago.

They were also boosted after winning the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship in Myanmar, with a number of that team set to feature in Qatar having already made their mark at full international level.

Qatar opened their account in Myanmar with a 3-1 win over DPR Korea before a 1-1 draw with Iraq and a 2-1 defeat of Oman saw them progress to the last eight as Group D winners.

A 4-2 win against China in the quarter-finals set-up a last four meeting with the hosts, which Qatar eventually won 3-2 after an extra-time thanks to Serigne Thiam's 92nd minute strike.

And Akram Afif then scored within seconds of coming on as a substitute in the final as Qatar claimed their maiden AFC U-19 Championship title after a 1-0 win over DPR Korea in a repeat of their opening-day encounter.

Qatar also boast a strong record in front of their own fans having been victorious in the 2006 Asian Games.

After qualifying from a group comprising Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates and

Jordan as runners-up, Qatar beat Thailand 3-0 in the quarter-finals before securing at least a silver medal by downing Iran 2-0 in the semi-finals.

And Bilal Mohammed then scored the decisive goal in a 1-0 win over Iraq in the final as Qatar claimed the gold medal.

More recently, Qatar hosted the 2015 WAFF U-23 Championship in October and finished third at the inaugural event.

Qatar opened their campaign with a 3-0 win over Palestine with Afif on target before beating Jordan 2-1 thanks to two goals from the midfielder. But after a goalless draw with Yemen secured top spot in Group A, Qatar lost 2-0 to eventual runners-up Syria in the semi-finals.

They, though, did secure third place as goals from Ahmed Alaaeldin, Afif and Hamza Sanhaji secured a 3-0 win over Yemen.

Qatar have previously appeared at the Olympic Games on two occasions and made their debut in 1984 in Los Angeles as they drew with France before losing to Chile and Norway.

Qatar then reached the quarter-finals in 1992 in Spain before suffering a 2-0 defeat by Poland having beaten Egypt and drawn with Colombia in the group stage before losing to the hosts.

## Head Coach



### Felix Sanchez

Felix Sanchez is no stranger to nurturing bright young talent, having been said to have worked closely with the likes of Cesc Fabregas and Bojan Krkic during his ten-year spell at Barcelona's famed La Masia academy. The Spaniard has already tasted success in his time with Qatar, having led the U-19s to a maiden AFC U-19 Championship title in 2014 following a 1-0 triumph over DPR Korea.



## Group A

### SYRIA



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,16	16:30:00	SYRIA	0-2 (0-0)	I.R. IRAN
15 Jan,16	16:30:00	CHINA P.R.	1-3 (1-1)	SYRIA
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	4-2 (3-1)	SYRIA





## Team Profile

Syria went to Qatar aiming to build on their impressive quarter-final appearance at the 2013 AFC U23 Championship after claiming maximum points in qualifying.

The West Asians stormed to a 4-0 victory over hosts Bangladesh in their opening Group E qualifying encounter in Dhaka in March with Omar Kharbin twice on target, and Mahmood Al Baher and Mahmoud Al Mawas also finding the net.

And Syria were equally impressive on Matchday Two with Kharbin and Al Mawas each scoring twice in a 4-0 win over India to set-up a final day decider with Uzbekistan after the Central Asians had also recorded back-to-back wins.

Syria knew a point in their third group game would secure their progression to Qatar 2016 event as winners of Group E due to a superior goal difference, but Kharbin's third consecutive brace secured a 2-1 win.

At the AFC U-22 Championship in Oman, Syria shared a 1-1 draw with the United Arab Emirates in their tournament opener as Hamid Mido equalised in the first half. Nasouh Nakdali's goal just before the hour was then enough to see off DPR Korea 1-0 on Matchday Two as Syria remained level with the UAE at the top of the table.

And Nakdali then scored his second decisive goal in a matter of games as Syria saw off Yemen 1-0 in their final group outing to advance to the last eight as table-toppers after the UAE shared a goalless draw with DPR Korea.

But defeat at the hands of Korea Republic saw Syria exit the tournament at the quarter-final stage as Mardek Mardkian's stoppage time goal proved to be too late after conceding twice inside the opening 11 minutes in Muscat.

Syria have only made one appearance at the Olympic Games after losing to Algeria and Germany either side of a goalless draw with Spain at the 1980 tournament in Moscow.

They did come close to a second appearance in London four years ago after beating Turkmenistan 6-2 on aggregate in the second round of qualifiers before claiming second place in Group C behind Japan and ahead of Bahrain and Malaysia.

But after beating Japan at home during the final round group stage en route to claiming four wins from their six games, Syria fell short of advancing to the continental showdown with Senegal after drawing 1-1 with Oman and losing 2-1 to Uzbekistan at the three-team play-off in Vietnam.

## Head Coach



### Muhannad Al Fakir

After spells in his native Syria with Al Wahda and Al Majd, Muhannad Al Fakir earned himself a move abroad when he joined Jordanian outfit Al Ramtha. His time at the Prince Hashim Stadium did not last long however, and he soon returned to his homeland, where he has been in charge of the U-23s since 2014.



## Group B

### DPR KOREA



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	1-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	DPR KOREA	3-3 (1-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	DPR KOREA	2-2 (2-1)	THAILAND

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
22 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	2-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	DPR KOREA



## Team Profile

DPR Korea headed to the AFC U23 Championship in Qatar looking to make amends for their group stage elimination at the inaugural edition of the tournament two years ago.

In the then AFC U-22 Championship in 2014, DPR Korea produced a strong start to their Group B campaign with a brace from Jo Kwang and a goal by Pak Kwang-ryong helping them to a 3-1 win over Yemen as they moved to the top of the table.

But the East Asians then lost 1-0 to Syria in their second group outing, leaving DPR Korea requiring a win against the United Arab Emirates to guarantee their progression to the knockout stage.

And a goalless draw against the West Asians meant it was a disappointing end to the continental campaign for DPR Korea as they exited the tournament, while Syria and their Matchday Three opponents advanced to the quarter-finals.

DPR Korea, though, got their qualification campaign for 2016 off to a winning start against the Philippines in Bangkok in March as Ri Hyong-jin and a So Kyong-jin penalty put them two up at the interval before substitutes Jang Ok-chol and Pak Hyon-il wrapped up a 4-0 win as DPR Korea set the early pace in Group G.

DPR Korea took their fine form into Matchday Two by picking up a 4-1 victory over Cambodia as Ho Myong-chol, Kim Ju-song, Jo and captain Jang Kuk-chol all got on the scoresheet to set up a top-of-the-table clash with hosts Thailand in their final group outing.

Ra Pong-gi's side went into the Matchday Three encounter ahead of their opponents on goal difference, and that was to prove crucial as the sides played out a scoreless draw to see DPR Korea qualify for Qatar 2016 as group winners, with Thailand also eventually advancing as one of the best-placed runners-up.

DPR Korea have only ever made one appearance at the Olympic Games after qualifying for the 1976 event in Montreal, Canada, where they reached the quarter-finals after beating the hosts 3-1 in Toronto before losing 3-0 to the Soviet Union and then suffering a 5-0 defeat by Poland in the last eight.

Ahead of London 2012, DPR Korea lost the first leg of their second round qualifier 1-0 at home to the UAE before the sides shared a 1-1 draw in the return fixture in Al Ain as the Emiratis sealed a 2-1 victory on aggregate.

## Head Coach



### Yun Jong-su

If there is one man who has the most abundant wealth of experience at his disposal in North Korean football, it is Yun Jong-su. The 54-year-old has had two separate spells in charge of the DPR Korea senior team, having led them in the qualification campaigns for both the 2006 and 2014 FIFA World Cup, and was also previously took the U-20s before his present reign as U-23 coach, which began in 2011.



## Group B

# JAPAN



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	1-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
16 Jan,16	16:30:00	THAILAND	0-4 (0-1)	JAPAN
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-2 (0-1)	JAPAN

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
22 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	3-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0)	I.R. IRAN

### Semi-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
26 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	2-1 (1-1)	IRAQ

### Final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
30 Jan,16	17:45:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	2-3 (1-0)	JAPAN



## Team Profile

Japan headed to Qatar determined to improve on their quarter-final exit at the inaugural edition of the AFC U23 Championship in Oman two years ago having narrowly missed out on a second medal at the Olympic Games at London 2012.

The East Asians have appeared at five consecutive Olympic Games and having claimed Asia's first-ever medal in 1968 in Mexico after beating the hosts in the bronze medal play-off, Japan also reached the same stage four years ago in London only to lose to Korea Republic.

In 1968, Japan were one of the surprises of the tournament as Kunishige Kamamoto's seven goals, which included both against Mexico, secured the historic medal which took the continent over 40 years to replicate.

Japan had begun their 2012 campaign with back-to-back 1-0 wins over Spain and Morocco before a goalless draw with Honduras sealed their place at the top of Group D.

A 3-0 victory over Egypt in the last eight maintained Japan's push for a medal, but a 3-1 defeat by eventual champions Mexico in the semi-finals denied them a place in the final.

And a 2-0 defeat by Korea meant Japan were unable to emulate the achievement of the country's women, who claimed a silver medal.

Japan, though, opened their qualifying campaign for 2016 tournament in Qatar with a 7-0 defeat of Macau in Malaysia in March thanks to two goals from Gakuto Notsuda while captain Wataru Endo, Musashi Suzuki, Yuta Toyokawa and Takumi Minamino were also on target in the Group I opener.

And the East Asians continued their form into Matchday Two as Shoya Nakajima's double secured a 2-0 win over Vietnam.

But Japan still needed to secure a point against hosts Malaysia to seal their passage to Qatar as group winners and forward Yuya Kubo scored the only goal of the game four minutes before half-time.

Two years ago at the then AFC U-22 Championship in Oman, Japan played out an entertaining 3-3 draw with Iran in their Group C opener with Nakajima's strike midway through the second half sealing the point in Muscat.

A goalless draw against Kuwait on Matchday Two then followed before Japan joined Group C winners Australia in the quarter-finals after recording a 4-0 win over the already-qualified Olyroos thanks to two goals from the impressive Nakajima.

But Japan's continental campaign was ended in the quarter-finals as eventual winners Iraq struck in the closing stages with extra-time looming to claim a 1-0 win.

## Head Coach



### Makoto Teguramori

While it is not unusual for managers to take some time to find their feet, Makoto Teguramori did not have any such problems after being handed his first top job in 2008. When he was handed the reins of Vegalta Sendai, they were still struggling to find their way out of the J.League Division 2 but he achieved promotion in two seasons, and then impressively led them to a second-place finish in the top flight in 2012. After parting ways with Vegalta the following year, Teguramori has been tasked with grooming Japan's next crop of talented youngsters ever since.



## Group B

# SAUDI ARABIA



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 (0-0)	THAILAND
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	DPR KOREA	3-3 (1-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-2 (0-1)	JAPAN



## Team Profile

Inaugural runners-up Saudi Arabia were hoping to go one better at the AFC U23 Championship in Qatar and avenge their defeat at the hands of Iraq in the 2014 final.

Two years ago in Oman in the then AFC U-22 Championship, Saudi Arabia lost their opener 3-1 to the eventual winners before bouncing back to beat China 2-1 and Uzbekistan 1-0 to advance to the quarter-finals as Group D runners-up.

Abdulfattah Asiri and Abdullah Al Ammar then scored goals either side of the hour mark against Australia in the last eight, and despite the 10-man Olyroos pulling a goal back in the closing stages, Saudi Arabia held on to claim a 2-1 win.

Asiri and Al Ammar, along with Mohammed Majrashi, were then on target as Saudi Arabia recorded a 3-2 win over Jordan to secure their place in the final.

But Iraq again proved too strong and claimed a 1-0 win in the tournament climax to claim the inaugural title.

Saudi Arabia, though, made a solid start to their five-team qualifying campaign for the 2016 tournament in Tehran in March with a late penalty from captain Abdullah Madu securing a 1-0 win over Palestine before they

shared a goalless draw with Afghanistan on Matchday Two.

The 2014 U-23 Gulf Cup winners then upped their game as Ahmed Al Nathiri scored twice as Saudi Arabia recorded a 6-0 win over Nepal.

But Saudi Arabia went into their final group outing trailing hosts Iran on goal difference in Group C and needing a win to advance to the AFC U23 Championship at the top of the table.

And Asiri and Abdulrahman Al Ghamdi scored in the second half as Saudi Arabia won 2-1 despite a late own goal from Saeed Al Yami giving Iran hope, although they also qualified for Qatar 2016 as one of the best runners-up.

Saudi Arabia have twice appeared at the Olympic Games, although they missed out on qualification for London 2012 after drawing just three games in the final round group stage in a group that contained Korea Republic, Oman and Qatar despite beating Vietnam 6-1 on aggregate in the second round of qualifiers.

On their debut in Los Angeles in 1984, Saudi Arabia lost all three games to Brazil, Morocco and Germany before posting similar results 12 years later after losing to Spain, Australia and France at the 1996 event in Atlanta.

## Head Coach



### Adrie Koster

A former winger with three caps for Netherlands to his name, Adrie Koster may not have enjoyed the most illustrious of playing careers as some of his peers but he has certainly had plenty of success in the dugout. The Zierikzee native has been in charge of a host of Dutch Eredivisie sides, including Ajax, Willem II and Roda JC, and also coached the Netherlands U-21s before moving to Saudi Arabia last year.



## Group B

### THAILAND



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 (0-0)	THAILAND
16 Jan,16	16:30:00	THAILAND	0-4 (0-1)	JAPAN
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	DPR KOREA	2-2 (2-1)	THAILAND





## Team Profile

Thailand secured an AFC U23 Championship debut as the best-placed runner-up from a qualifying group that also included DPR Korea.

The Southeast Asian hosts began their road to Qatar 2016 with a 2-1 comeback victory over Cambodia in March courtesy of a 95th minute winner from substitute Chenrop Samphaodi after Inpinit Pinyo had equalised just before the hour mark at the Rajamangala Stadium.

The hosts had a much easier time of it in their second encounter with goals from Kasidech Wattayawong, captain Pakorn Panrmpak, Chenrop, Chaowat Veerachat and Inpinit securing a 5-1 win over the Philippines.

But Thailand still went into their final group outing trailing opponents DPR Korea on goal difference and needing a win to advance to the continental competition as table-toppers after both teams had claimed successive wins.

A goalless draw meant it was DPR Korea who claimed top spot, but Thailand also booked their ticket to Qatar as the highest-placed runner-up.

Thailand failed to make the then AFC U-22 Championship in Oman after losing in the qualifiers.

The Southeast Asians suffered a 4-2 defeat at the hands of DPR Korea in their opening

fixture in Vientiane before hope was restored with a 4-0 victory over Cambodia on Matchday Two.

But a disappointing 1-0 defeat to hosts Laos in their third group encounter saw Thailand all but eliminated with two games left to play.

And their fate was sealed when China secured a 1-1 draw with an equaliser deep into stoppage-time on Matchday Four before Thailand rounded off their campaign with a 4-0 victory over bottom side Hong Kong to finish fourth in the six-team group.

Thailand have twice appeared at the Olympic Games, although having first qualified in 1956, they last featured in 1968.

In 1956 in Melbourne, Thailand lost 9-0 to Great Britain in the first round before in Mexico City in 1968, they lost all three games to Bulgaria, Guatemala and Czechoslovakia.

Thailand, though, have been more successful at a regional level and claimed a sixth Southeast Asian Games gold medal in Singapore in 2015 after beating Myanmar 3-0 in the final to complete a 100% tournament record with a seventh consecutive win.

They also reached the semi-finals at the 2014 Asian Games, but after losing 2-0 to eventual champions Korea Republic, Thailand suffered a 1-0 defeat by Iraq in the bronze medal play-off.

## Head Coach



### Kiatisuk Senamuang

Kiatisuk Senamuang may be a Thai legend for what he achieved in his playing days, but he is rapidly gaining recognition for being an equally outstanding coach. Since being handed the reins of both the senior and U-23 teams, the former striker has helped them assert their authority as the dominant side in Southeast Asia after winning the 2013 SEA Games and 2014 AFF Championship, as well as reaching fourth place at the 2014 Asian Games.



## Group C

### IRAQ



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	16:30:00	IRAQ	2-0 (2-0)	YEMEN
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	2-3 (1-2)	IRAQ
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	IRAQ	1-1 (0-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
23 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	1-3 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)	IRAQ

### Semi-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
26 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	2-1 (1-1)	IRAQ

### 3rd/4th Placing

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
29 Jan,16	17:45:00	QATAR	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	IRAQ



## Team Profile

Inaugural winners Iraq were out to continue their run of success at the AFC U23 Championship and win back-to-back continental titles.

With the top three teams also qualifying for the 2016 Olympic Games, the reigning champions were also aiming to go one better than the fourth-place finish achieved by their senior counterparts at the 2015 AFC Asian Cup in Australia.

The U-23 side themselves finished fourth at the 2004 Olympics in Greece after advancing to the quarter-finals as Group D winners ahead of Costa Rica, Morocco and Portugal.

But after defeating Australia 1-0 in the last eight, Iraq lost 3-1 to Paraguay in the semi-finals and 1-0 to Italy in the bronze medal play-off.

Iraq claimed victory in the AFC U-22 Championship in Oman two years ago after a first half strike from 2012 AFC Youth Player of the Year Mohanad Abdulaheem secured a hard-fought 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the final.

They had previously qualified for the knockout stage after defeating Saudi Arabia 3-1 in their Group D opener before completing a 100% group stage record with a 2-1 win over Uzbekistan and a 1-0 win over China.

A late goal by eventual tournament MVP Amjed Kalaf was enough for Iraq to eliminate Japan in the quarter-finals, before Mustafa Al Shabbani's winner against Korea Republic in the last four helped them advance to the final by another single goal margin.

And after winning their final rematch with Saudi Arabia, the holders kicked off their 2016 qualifying campaign in Muscat in March with a 4-1 victory over Lebanon in Group A.

A second half double from senior international Mahdi Kamil and a goal by Amjed Waleed added to Aymen Hussein's first half opener as Iraq eased to victory.

Iraq continued their momentum into Matchday Two with a comprehensive 7-1 win over the Maldives after braces from Waleed and Bashar Resan and further strikes from Kamil, Abdulqader Tareq and Ali Hisny wrapped up a comfortable win.

Iraq then moved a step closer to qualification with a 2-0 victory over Bahrain thanks to late goals from Hussein and Waleed.

A 2-2 draw with hosts Oman in their final group outing duly secured the holders the point they needed to top the group.

## Head Coach



### Abdul Ghani Shahad

Taking charge of the Iraq U-23s was never going to be a simple task, especially given Abdul Ghani Shahad will be looking to follow in the footsteps of Hakim Shaker, who led them to victory in the inaugural AFC U-22 Championship back in 2013. Nonetheless, the 47-year-old has no shortage of managerial experience and the highlight of his career thus far has been winning the Iraqi Premier League with Naft Al Wasat in their first year in the top flight.



## Group C

# KOREA REPUBLIC



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	KOREAREPUBLIC	2-1 (1-0)	UZBEKISTAN
16 Jan,16	16:30:00	YEMEN	0-5 (0-3)	KOREA REPUBLIC
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	IRAQ	1-1 (0-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
23 Jan,16	16:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	JORDAN

### Semi-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
26 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	1-3 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC

### Final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
30 Jan,16	17:45:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	2-3 (1-0)	JAPAN



## Team Profile

Having claimed a bronze medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Korea Republic went to the AFC U23 Championship looking to make up for their disappointing semi-final defeat to eventual winners Iraq in the inaugural edition of the competition two years ago.

Korea Republic finished fourth in the then AFC U-22 Championship in Oman, but with the 2016 competition also doubling up as the Olympic Games qualifying tournament, they will need to go at least one better this time out if they are to advance to Brazil 2016.

They began their Group H qualifying campaign for the 2016 tournament with a 5-0 victory over Brunei Darussalam in Jakarta in March thanks to goals from Lee Yeong-jae, Jung Seung-hyun, Kim Hyun, Kwon Chang-hoon and Jang Hyun-soon.

A brace from Moon Chang-jin and a Kim Seung-jun goal then helped the 2014 Asian Games gold medalists beat Timor Leste 3-0 on Matchday Two to set up a top-of-the-table clash with hosts Indonesia, who had also claimed successive victories.

And after Jung scored his second of the tournament shortly after the interval before Lee Chan-dong doubled their advantage, late goals from substitute Kim Seung-jun and Lee Chang-min secured a 4-0 win as Korea Republic booked their ticket to Qatar.

Two years ago 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, Korea Republic 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.

Even before their bronze medal success in London, which was secured thanks to a 2-0 win over Japan having lost 3-0 to Brazil in the semi-finals after drawing with eventual champions Mexico in the group stage, Korea Republic boast an impressive Olympic Games qualifying record and have appeared in the last seven tournaments following earlier appearances in both 1948 and 1964.

At the 2012 Olympic Games, Park Chu-young and Koo Ja-cheol scored the goals as Korea Republic beat Japan to claim only Asia's second medal in the men's football tournament.

## Head Coach



### Shin Tae-yong

Although Shin Tae-yong's playing career came to an end at Queensland Roar (now Brisbane Roar) due to an ankle injury, it was there where he had his first taste of coaching after being offered a role by Miron Bleiberg. The former attacking midfielder eventually returned to his homeland and won the 2010 AFC Champions League with the then-Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma, before accepting a role with Korea Republic in 2014.



## Group C

# UZBEKISTAN



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	KOREAREPUBLIC	2-1 (1-0)	UZBEKISTAN
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	2-3 (1-2)	IRAQ
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	3-1 (1-0)	YEMEN



## Team Profile

Uzbekistan secured a place at the AFC U23 Championship in Qatar after claiming the fifth and final best runner-up spot in qualifying.

The Central Asians began their Group E qualifying campaign for the 2016 tournament with a 2-0 win over India in Dhaka in March, although only courtesy of a 87th minute strike from full international Igor Sergeev which was followed up by Vladimir Kozak in stoppage time.

Uzbekistan then secured back-to-back wins with the 4-0 defeat of hosts Bangladesh thanks to a brace from Sardor Rakhmanov sandwiched between goals from Jaloliddin Masharipov and Abbosbek Makhstaliev before half-time.

But with Syria also claiming a pair of wins, it set up a final day decider to determine the automatic qualification berth with Uzbekistan trailing on goal difference.

And it was Syria who completed a 100% record as Makhstaliev's 59th minute effort was not enough after Omar Khirbin's first half double.

But Uzbekistan also secured qualification as a best runner-up alongside Thailand, Iran, Vietnam and Yemen.

At the 2013 AFC U-22 Championship, Uzbekistan secured a dramatic opening day victory as stoppage time goals from captain Egor Krimets and Sergeev snatched a 2-1 win over China.

But Uzbekistan then saw their hopes of progressing to the last eight dashed after a 2-1 defeat Iraq as Jamshid Iskanderov's strike just after the hour mark fell short of competing a comeback after the eventual winners had scored twice inside the opening 40 minutes.

And despite heading into the final round of fixtures ahead of Saudi Arabia on goal difference, a 60th minute strike from Zakaria Al Sudani handed Uzbekistan a second consecutive defeat to end their campaign at the first hurdle.

Uzbekistan have yet to appear at the Olympic Games, although they fell narrowly short ahead of London 2012 after losing in the play-offs.

Automatic qualification looked to have been secured after taking a 2-0 lead just after half-time of their final Matchday meeting with the United Arab Emirates in Tashkent in March 2012.

But after the visitors completed a devastating comeback win in stoppage time to snatch top spot in Group B, Uzbekistan dropped into a three-way play-off with Oman and Syria.

Uzbekistan made the ideal start to the round-robin tournament in Vietnam after beating Syria 2-1 thanks to late comeback goals from Kenja Turaev and Oleg Zoteev, but a 2-0 defeat by Oman sent the West Asians into the continental play-off with Senegal.

## Head Coach



### Samvel Babayan

After leading Uzbek giants Pakhtakor to a 10th league crown, Samvel Babayan was recognised for his efforts when he was chosen the successor of Mirdjalal Kasimov as Uzbekistan coach last June. Just five months later, Babayan was also handed the reins of the U-23s and will be at the helm when they make their second appearance at the AFC U-23 Championship.



## Group C

### YEMEN



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	KOREAREPUBLIC	2-1 (1-0)	UZBEKISTAN
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	2-3 (1-2)	IRAQ
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	3-1 (1-0)	YEMEN





## Team Profile

Yemen were hoping to improve on their showing at the inaugural edition of the AFC U23 Championship two years ago in Oman, when they were eliminated at the group stage following three successive defeats.

The West Asians suffered a disappointing AFC U-22 Championship in 2014, when they were eliminated at the group stage after failing to pick up a point.

After falling behind to an early DPR Korea goal in their Group B opener in Muscat, forward Sadam Hussein pulled Yemen back on level terms midway through the first half, only for goals either side of the interval to wrap up a 3-1 win for DPR Korea.

A 1-0 defeat to the United Arab Emirates in their second game then knocked the West Asians out of the continental competition with a game remaining before Yemen also lost by a single goal to Syria.

However, Yemen did kick off their qualifying campaign for Qatar 2016 with a 2-1 defeat of Tajikistan in Fujairah City, UAE, in March.

Aiman Al Hagri put Yemen in front in the first half before Tajikistan pulled one back just after the hour.

But after Al Hagri added a second with 12 minutes remaining, Yemen secured a winning start in Group D of the qualifiers.

Matchday Two proved to be much more comfortable for Yemen as they ran out 5-0 winners over Sri Lanka.

Ala Addin Mahdi opened the scoring in the first minute before Mohammed Al Sarori doubled their advantage inside the first 15 minutes.

And with substitute Yasser Al Gabr adding a brace after Waleed Al Hubaishi had added to the advantage just before the hour mark, Yemen sealed a comfortable win.

Yemen headed into the final group game level on points with the UAE, but trailing their opponents on goal difference. And a solitary Saif Rashid strike just after the interval was enough to give the hosts a hard-fought 1-0 victory to advance as group winners, while Yemen also progressed to the AFC U23 Championship as the fourth-best runner-up.

Yemen have never appeared at the Olympic Games and, after beating Singapore 3-0 on aggregate in the first round ahead of the 2012 edition in London, suffered a 7-0 aggregate defeat by Australia to miss out on the final round group stage.

They did, though, finish fourth at the 2015 WAFF U-23 Championship after being edged out 2-1 by Qatar in the bronze medal play-off.

## Head Coach



### Amin Al Sanini

A former goalkeeper who won six Yemeni League titles with Al Ahli San'a', Amin Al Sanini has been involved in management since 2002, when he was appointed coach of his country's U-17s. He had a stint in charge of the senior side from 2010 to 2012, but is now back developing the next generation with the U-23s.



## Group D

# AUSTRALIA



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,16	19:30:00	AUSTRALIA	0-1 (0-0)	UAE
17 Jan,16	16:30:00	VIETNAM	0-2 (0-1)	AUSTRALIA
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	JORDAN	0-0 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA



## Team Profile

Australia travelled to Qatar looking to improve on their quarter-final showing at the inaugural edition of the AFC U23 Championship two years ago, and attempting to emulate the success of the senior side who had won the AFC Asian Cup on home soil in early 2015.

The Olyroos kicked off their qualifying campaign for the 2016 tournament with a comprehensive 6-0 victory over Hong Kong in Chinese Taipei in March as a late treble from Jamie Maclaren, a brace from Connor Pain and a goal from captain Mustafa Amini helped Aurelio Vidmar's side set the early pace in Group F.

And Australia's momentum continued into the second Matchday as goals from Joshua Brillante, senior international Adam Taggart, Jaushua Sotirio and Brad Smith secured a 4-0 win over hosts Chinese Taipei.

But despite scoring ten without reply in their opening two encounters, Australia went into their final group outing against Myanmar knowing that defeat could see their qualification hopes dashed at the expense of their opponents, who had also earlier beaten Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong.

The 2014 quarter-finalists were not to be denied though, as a hat-trick from Andrew Hoole and a brace from top scorer Maclaren ensured Australia's comfortable passage

to Qatar as a 5-1 win also saw the Olyroos qualify with the best goalscoring record.

Two years ago in Oman at the AFC U-22 Championship, 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 despite a late Petros Skapetis penalty, a pair of quickfire goals from eventual runners-up Saudi Arabia either side of the hour mark ended Australia's title hopes as they lost 2-1 in Muscat after Hoole was sent-off.

In Qatar, the Olyroos were also hoping to improve on their 2014 showing and claim a top-three finish that would see them become the country's eighth representatives at the Olympic Games.

At the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Australia achieved their best ever performance by reaching the semi-finals before losing 6-1 to Poland, while they also reached the quarter-finals in 1956, 1988 and 2004.

Australia failed to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games in London after finishing bottom of their group in the then round-robin qualifying tournament behind the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Iraq after picking up just four points from six games.

## Head Coach



### Aurelio Vidmar

After a storied playing career which saw him play top-flight football in Spain, Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, Aurelio Vidmar took his first steps in management with Adelaide United after retiring in 2005. He was eventually handed the top job and helped the Reds become the first team from their country to reach the AFC Champions League final in 2008, before departing to work with the Socceroos.



## Group D

# JORDAN



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,16	16:30:00	JORDAN	3-1 (1-0)	VIETNAM
17 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	0-0 (0-0)	JORDAN
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	JORDAN	0-0 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
23 Jan,16	16:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	JORDAN



## Team Profile

Jordan were looking to continue their form at the AFC U23 Championship in Qatar after securing an impressive third-place finish in the inaugural edition of the tournament.

The West Asians claimed their spot in the 2016 competition after topping their qualifying group in Al Ain in May ahead of Kuwait, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Jordan kicked off their qualifying campaign in Group B with an impressive 5-0 victory over Pakistan thanks to two goals each from Mahmoud Al Mardi and substitute Laith Al Bashtawi and a strike from Saleh Ibrahim.

Jordan's momentum continued into Matchday Two with Ibrahim netting his second of the campaign and Al Mardi his third, while Feras Shilbaya and Baha' Faisal Mohammad also got on the scoresheet as they ran out comfortable 4-0 winners over Kyrgyzstan.

Despite comprehensive successes in their opening two Group B encounters, though, Jordan went into Matchday Three with all to play for against Kuwait, who had drawn with Kyrgyzstan and beaten Pakistan to remain in the qualification picture.

But after a goalless first half, an end-to-end second half ensued as the top-of-the-table clash lived up to its billing with Kuwait

equalising in stoppage time to earn a 3-3 draw after Mohammad had netted a hat-trick for Jordan.

At the AFC U-22 Championship in Oman, Jordan kicked off with a 1-1 draw against Korea Republic with Rim Chang-woo scoring at either end.

Jordan then defeated Oman 1-0 thanks to Belal Qwaider's 59th minute strike before Hamza Al Dardour, who would go onto score four goals for the national team against Palestine in the group stage of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup in Australia, netted a hat-trick in a 6-0 win over Myanmar which secured top spot in Group A.

A late goal from Ibrahim Daldoo then helped Jordan edge a tight affair against the United Arab Emirates in the last eight, but eventual runners-up Saudi Arabia prevailed 3-1 in their semi-final despite Al Dardour scoring in the first half.

But Jordan ended the tournament on a high note by sealing third place after edging out Korea Republic on penalties following a goalless draw after 120 minutes.

Jordan failed to qualify for London 2012 after losing 4-2 on aggregate to Korea Republic in the second round of qualifiers.

## Head Coach



### Jamal Abu Abed

Jamal Abu Abed is a famous name in Jordanian football, having been involved in five separate FIFA World Cup qualifying campaigns – 1986 to 2002 – as a player. The former winger decided to go into management after hanging up his boots following his 40th birthday and, following a two-year spell with the U-19s, has now been promoted to coach of the U-23s.



## Group D

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,16	19:30:00	AUSTRALIA	0-1 (0-0)	UAE
17 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	0-0 (0-0)	JORDAN
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	3-2 (0-1)	VIETNAM

### Quarter-final

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
23 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	1-3 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)	IRAQ



## Team Profile

The United Arab Emirates were attempting to build on their quarter-final showing at the inaugural edition of the AFC U23 Championship in 2014 as they aim to emulate the success of the senior side, which finished third at the 2015 AFC Asian Cup, and in turn qualify for their second successive Olympic Games.

The West Asians secured a maiden appearance at the Olympic Games in London after topping their qualifying group ahead of Uzbekistan following a dramatic final day win in Tashkent.

Having won three and drawn two of their opening games in a group that also contained Australia and Iraq, the Emiratis were heading for the play-offs just after half-time of the final game in Uzbekistan after conceding twice.

But after a quickfire double from Ahmed Khalil restored parity, Saleh Haboosh struck a 93rd minute winner to send the UAE to London as group winners.

The UAE did lose to both Uruguay and hosts Great Britain in Group A before sharing a 1-1 draw with Senegal, but Mahdi Ali's young charges drew numerous plaudits.

And the UAE began their qualifying campaign for Qatar 2016 with a comfortable 4-0 victory over Sri Lanka in Fujairah in March.

Khalfan Al Shamsi and a Yousif Saeed penalty put the hosts ahead at half-time before Ahmed Gheilani and an own-goal by Sunil Roshan sealed the win.

The UAE then doubled their points tally with a 3-0 win over 10-man Tajikistan on Matchday Two. Saeed netted his second penalty in two games after Tajikistan goalkeeper Muminjon Gadoyboev was sent-off before an Ahmad Barman strike and Gheilani's second of the campaign after the break helped consolidate their position at the top of the group.

But the UAE's work was not done, though, as they headed into their final Group D tie level on points with opponents Yemen and needing a draw to advance to the AFC U23 Championship as group winners.

And Saif Rashid scored the only goal of the game early in the second half as the UAE completed their 100% record having scored eight without reply.

At the 2013 AFC U-22 Championship in Oman, the UAE progressed to the quarter-finals as Group B runner-up after a 1-0 victory over Yemen was sandwiched in between draws against Syria and DPR Korea.

But a late strike by Ibrahim Daldoom in the last eight saw them ousted 1-0 by eventual third-placed Jordan.

## Head Coach



### Abdullah Mesfer

Barring his spells with club sides Fujairah and Al Dhafra, Abdullah Mesfer has spent his entire coaching career in the national setup and had two separate stints at the helm of the senior team. After parting ways with Al Dhafra in 2014, the 53-year-old returned to take the reins of the U-19s, before also being tasked to coach the U-23s last year.



## Group D

### VIETNAM



## FIXTURES

### Group Stage

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,16	16:30:00	JORDAN	3-1 (1-0)	VIETNAM
17 Jan,16	16:30:00	VIETNAM	0-2 (0-1)	AUSTRALIA
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	UAE	3-2 (0-1)	VIETNAM





## Team Profile

Vietnam earned a maiden appearance at the AFC U23 Championship after finishing as the third best runner-up of the qualifying campaign.

After falling behind in their opening Group I qualifier to hosts Malaysia in March, Vietnam equalised shortly after through Vo Huy Toan before Nguyen Cong Phuong netted the winner on the stroke of half-time to seal a 2-1 win.

But a 2-0 defeat to Japan on Matchday Two meant Vietnam went into the final group outing level on points with ASEAN rivals Malaysia in second place, and knowing that not even a victory over Macau would guarantee their progression to the continental championship.

However, hat-tricks from Nguyen and Le Thanh Binh added to Ho Ngoc Thang's opener as Vietnam ran out 7-0 winners to wrap up second place in Group I behind Japan - who edged Malaysia 1-0 in a tight encounter to eliminate the hosts.

The margin of the scoreline was crucial as it meant Vietnam secured their place at the AFC U23 Championship as one of the five best runners-up.

The ASEAN side failed to make the inaugural edition of the tournament in Oman two years ago after finishing a disappointing fifth in a six-team qualifying group.

A narrow 2-1 defeat by Chinese Taipei in their Group G opener in Yangon was followed by a 3-1 reversal to hosts Myanmar

The Southeast Asians then threw themselves a lifeline, though, with a comprehensive 9-0 victory over the Philippines.

But losses to Malaysia and Korea Republic brought to an end a disappointing qualifying campaign for Vietnam as they finished with just one win from five games.

Vietnam have never previously qualified for the Olympic Games, while they reached the Round of 16 at the last two editions of the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014

But at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games, three-time silver medalists Vietnam made it all the way to the bronze medal match and recorded a 5-0 win over Indonesia.

Vietnam had advanced from the group stage alongside Thailand after beating Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Laos and Timor-Leste before losing to the eventual gold medal winners.

They did fall short of a guaranteed medal after losing 2-1 to Myanmar in the semi-finals, but thanks to two goals from Vo Huy Toan and further strikes from Mac Hong Quan, Nguyen Huu Dung and Que Ngoc Hai, Toshiya Miura's Vietnam bounced back to beat Indonesia 5-0 to claim the bronze medal.

## Head Coach



### Toshiya Miura

Having built up his experience in his native Japan with a host of notable clubs including Consadole Sapporo, Vissel Kobe and Ventforet Kofu, Toshiya Miura took the next step in his managerial career when he agreed a two-year deal with Vietnam. The 42-year-old has also been in charge of the U-23s and led them to their first appearance at the AFC U-23 Championship after qualifying as one of the best runners-up.







# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



# Tournaments Results

## QUALIFIERS

GROUP A								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>IRAQ</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OMAN</b>	4	2	2	0	12	3	9	8
<b>BAHRAIN</b>	4	1	2	1	4	3	1	5
<b>LEBANON</b>	4	1	1	2	3	9	-6	4
<b>MALDIVES</b>	4	0	0	4	2	17	-15	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	23 Mar,15	17:30:00	BAHRAIN	1-1 (0-0)	OMAN
2	23 Mar,15	20:30:00	MALDIVES	1-2 (1-0)	LEBANON
3	25 Mar,15	17:30:00	LEBANON	1-4 (0-1)	IRAQ
4	25 Mar,15	20:30:00	MALDIVES	0-3 (0-1)	BAHRAIN
5	27 Mar,15	17:30:00	IRAQ	7-1 (2-1)	MALDIVES
6	27 Mar,15	20:30:00	OMAN	4-0 (3-0)	LEBANON
7	29 Mar,15	17:30:00	OMAN	5-0 (3-0)	MALDIVES
8	29 Mar,15	20:30:00	BAHRAIN	0-2 (0-0)	IRAQ
9	31 Mar,15	17:30:00	LEBANON	0-0 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
10	31 Mar,15	20:30:00	IRAQ	2-2 (1-0)	OMAN

GROUP B								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>JORDAN</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>KUWAIT</b>	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	3	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	16 May,15	18:15:00	JORDAN	5-0 (2-0)	PAKISTAN
2	16 May,15	21:15:00	KUWAIT	0-0 (0-0)	KYRGYZSTAN
3	18 May,15	18:15:00	PAKISTAN	0-2 (0-2)	KUWAIT
4	18 May,15	21:15:00	KYRGYZSTAN	0-4 (0-1)	JORDAN
5	20 May,15	18:15:00	JORDAN	3-3 (0-0)	KUWAIT
6	20 May,15	21:15:00	KYRGYZSTAN	1-3 (1-1)	PAKISTAN

GROUP C								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>I.R. IRAN</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PALESTINE</b>	4	2	0	2	6	4	2	6
<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>	4	1	1	2	2	8	-6	4
<b>NEPAL</b>	4	0	0	4	0	17	-17	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
2	23 Mar,15	15:00:00	AFGHANISTAN	0-2 (0-1)	PALESTINE
1	23 Mar,15	17:00:00	NEPAL	0-5 (0-2)	I.R. IRAN
3	25 Mar,15	15:00:00	PALESTINE	0-1 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
4	25 Mar,15	17:00:00	AFGHANISTAN	2-0 (0-0)	NEPAL
5	27 Mar,15	15:00:00	SAUDI ARABIA	0-0 (0-0)	AFGHANISTAN
6	27 Mar,15	17:00:00	I.R. IRAN	3-0 (0-0)	PALESTINE
8	29 Mar,15	15:00:00	NEPAL	0-6 (0-3)	SAUDI ARABIA
7	29 Mar,15	17:00:00	I.R. IRAN	6-0 (4-0)	AFGHANISTAN
9	31 Mar,15	15:00:00	PALESTINE	4-0 (1-0)	NEPAL
10	31 Mar,15	17:00:00	SAUDI ARABIA	2-1 (0-0)	I.R. IRAN

GROUP D								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>YEMEN</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TAJKISTAN</b>	3	1	0	2	6	6	0	3
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	3	0	0	3	1	14	-13	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	16:45:00	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4-0 (2-0)	SRI LANKA
2	27 Mar,15	19:45:00	YEMEN	2-1 (1-0)	TAJKISTAN
3	29 Mar,15	16:45:00	SRI LANKA	0-5 (0-2)	YEMEN
4	29 Mar,15	19:45:00	TAJKISTAN	0-3 (0-2)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
5	31 Mar,15	16:45:00	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1-0 (0-0)	YEMEN
6	31 Mar,15	19:45:00	TAJKISTAN	5-1 (1-1)	SRI LANKA

## GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>SYRIA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	3	0	1	2	0	6	-6	1
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	3	0	1	2	0	8	-8	1

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
2	27 Mar,15	15:00:00	UZBEKISTAN	2-0 (0-0)	INDIA
1	27 Mar,15	18:00:00	SYRIA	4-0 (3-0)	BANGLADESH
4	29 Mar,15	15:00:00	INDIA	0-4 (0-2)	SYRIA
3	29 Mar,15	18:00:00	BANGLADESH	0-4 (0-4)	UZBEKISTAN
5	31 Mar,15	15:00:00	SYRIA	2-1 (2-0)	UZBEKISTAN
6	31 Mar,15	18:00:00	INDIA	0-0 (0-0)	BANGLADESH

## GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MYANMAR</b>	3	2	0	1	6	6	0	6
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3
<b>HONG KONG</b>	3	0	0	3	2	11	-9	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	16:00:00	AUSTRALIA	6-0 (2-0)	HONG KONG
2	27 Mar,15	19:00:00	MYANMAR	3-0 (1-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
3	29 Mar,15	16:00:00	HONG KONG	1-2 (1-0)	MYANMAR
4	29 Mar,15	19:00:00	CHINESE TAIPEI	0-4 (0-2)	AUSTRALIA
5	31 Mar,15	16:00:00	AUSTRALIA	5-1 (2-0)	MYANMAR
6	31 Mar,15	19:00:00	CHINESE TAIPEI	3-1 (2-0)	HONG KONG



**GROUP G**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>DPR KOREA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THAILAND</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	16:00:00	DPR KOREA	4-0 (2-0)	PHILIPPINES
2	27 Mar,15	19:00:00	THAILAND	2-1 (0-1)	CAMBODIA
4	29 Mar,15	16:00:00	CAMBODIA	1-4 (0-2)	DPR KOREA
3	29 Mar,15	19:00:00	PHILIPPINES	1-5 (0-1)	THAILAND
6	31 Mar,15	16:00:00	CAMBODIA	3-1 (3-0)	PHILIPPINES
5	31 Mar,15	19:00:00	DPR KOREA	0-0 (0-0)	THAILAND

**GROUP H**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>KOREA REPUBLIC</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>INDONESIA</b>	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
<b>TIMOR LESTE</b>	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3
<b>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</b>	3	0	0	3	0	10	-10	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	15:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	5-0 (3-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
2	27 Mar,15	19:00:00	INDONESIA	5-0 (2-0)	TIMOR LESTE
3	29 Mar,15	15:30:00	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-2 (0-0)	INDONESIA
4	29 Mar,15	19:00:00	TIMOR LESTE	0-3 (0-2)	KOREA REPUBLIC
5	31 Mar,15	15:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	4-0 (0-0)	INDONESIA
6	31 Mar,15	19:00:00	TIMOR LESTE	3-0 (1-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



**GROUP I**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>JAPAN</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>VIETNAM</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	3	1	0	2	3	3	0	3
<b>MACAU</b>	3	0	0	3	0	16	-16	0

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	16:00:00	JAPAN	7-0 (4-0)	MACAU
2	27 Mar,15	20:45:00	MALAYSIA	1-2 (1-2)	VIETNAM
3	29 Mar,15	16:30:00	MACAU	0-2 (0-1)	MALAYSIA
4	29 Mar,15	20:15:00	VIETNAM	0-2 (0-1)	JAPAN
6	31 Mar,15	17:00:00	VIETNAM	7-0 (6-0)	MACAU
5	31 Mar,15	20:45:00	JAPAN	1-0 (1-0)	MALAYSIA

**GROUP J**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>CHINA P.R.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LAOS</b>	3	1	1	1	7	3	4	4
<b>SINGAPORE</b>	3	0	2	1	2	7	-5	2
<b>MONGOLIA</b>	3	0	1	2	2	14	-12	1

No.	Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
1	27 Mar,15	16:00:00	CHINA P.R.	5-0 (3-0)	MONGOLIA
2	27 Mar,15	19:00:00	LAOS	0-0 (0-0)	SINGAPORE
4	29 Mar,15	16:00:00	SINGAPORE	0-5 (0-2)	CHINA P.R.
3	29 Mar,15	19:00:00	MONGOLIA	0-7 (0-2)	LAOS
6	31 Mar,15	16:00:00	SINGAPORE	2-2 (1-2)	MONGOLIA
5	31 Mar,15	19:00:00	CHINA P.R.	3-0 (1-0)	LAOS





## GROUP STAGE

GROUP A								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>QATAR</b>	3	3	0	0	9	4	5	9
<b>I.R. IRAN</b>	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
<b>SYRIA</b>	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
<b>CHINA P.R.</b>	3	0	0	3	4	9	-5	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,16	16:30:00	SYRIA	0-2 (0-0)	I.R. IRAN
12 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	3-1 (0-1)	CHINA P.R.
15 Jan,16	16:30:00	CHINA P.R.	1-3 (1-1)	SYRIA
15 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	1-2 (0-1)	QATAR
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	4-2 (3-1)	SYRIA
18 Jan,16	19:30:00	I.R. IRAN	3-2 (2-1)	CHINA P.R.

GROUP B								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>JAPAN</b>	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9
<b>DPR KOREA *</b>	3	0	2	1	5	6	-1	2
<b>SAUDI ARABIA *</b>	3	0	2	1	5	6	-1	2
<b>THAILAND *</b>	3	0	2	1	3	7	-4	2

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	1-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 (0-0)	THAILAND
16 Jan,16	16:30:00	THAILAND	0-4 (0-1)	JAPAN
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	DPR KOREA	3-3 (1-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	SAUDI ARABIA	1-2 (0-1)	JAPAN
19 Jan,16	16:30:00	DPR KOREA	2-2 (2-1)	THAILAND

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



GROUP C								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>KOREA REPUBLIC</b>	3	2	1	0	8	2	6	7
<b>IRAQ</b>	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	3	1	0	2	6	6	0	3
<b>YEMEN</b>	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,16	16:30:00	IRAQ	2-0 (2-0)	YEMEN
13 Jan,16	19:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	2-1 (1-0)	UZBEKISTAN
16 Jan,16	16:30:00	YEMEN	0-5 (0-3)	KOREA REPUBLIC
16 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	2-3 (1-2)	IRAQ
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	IRAQ	1-1 (0-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
19 Jan,16	19:30:00	UZBEKISTAN	3-1 (1-0)	YEMEN

GROUP D								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	3	2	1	0	4	2	2	7
<b>JORDAN</b>	3	1	2	0	3	1	2	5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	4
<b>VIETNAM</b>	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,16	16:30:00	JORDAN	3-1 (1-0)	VIETNAM
14 Jan,16	19:30:00	AUSTRALIA	0-1 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
17 Jan,16	16:30:00	VIETNAM	0-2 (0-1)	AUSTRALIA
17 Jan,16	19:30:00	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0-0 (0-0)	JORDAN
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	JORDAN	0-0 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
20 Jan,16	19:30:00	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3-2 (0-1)	VIETNAM



## QUARTER-FINALS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>JAPAN</b>	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
<b>IRAQ</b>	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
<b>QATAR</b>	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
<b>KOREA REPUBLIC</b>	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
<b>DPR KOREA</b>	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
<b>JORDAN</b>	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
<b>I.R. IRAN</b>	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
22 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	3-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0)	I.R. IRAN
22 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	2-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	DPR KOREA
23 Jan,16	16:30:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	JORDAN
23 Jan,16	19:30:00	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1-3 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)	IRAQ

## SEMI-FINALS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>KOREA REPUBLIC</b>	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
<b>JAPAN</b>	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
<b>IRAQ</b>	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
<b>QATAR</b>	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
26 Jan,16	16:30:00	JAPAN	2-1 (1-1)	IRAQ
26 Jan,16	19:30:00	QATAR	1-3 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC





### 3RD/4TH PLACING

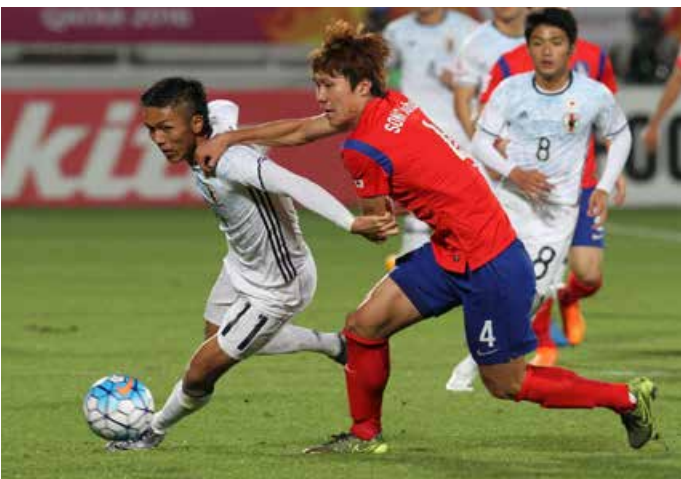
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>IRAQ</b>	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
<b>QATAR</b>	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
29 Jan,16	17:45:00	QATAR	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	IRAQ

### FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>JAPAN</b>	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
<b>KOREA REPUBLIC</b>	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0

Date	Time	Team A	Score	Team B
30 Jan,16	17:45:00	KOREA REPUBLIC	2-3 (1-0)	JAPAN



## MATCH DATA

### GROUP A

QATAR v. CHINA P.R.		3-1 (0-1)
<b>1</b>	<b>12-01-2016 19:30 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>6340</b>
QAT:	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 10 AFIF, 11 MUNTARI, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 19 ALMOEZ, 22 MUHANNAD N., 23 F. SHANIN	
CHN:	1 DU J, 3 MI H L, 5 SHI K, 6 WANG T, 7 XU X, 9 ZHANG Y N, 10 LIAO L SH, 11 WU X H, 12 ZHANG X B, 17 XIE P F, 20 LI Y Y	
Scorers:	0-1 43' LIAO L SH(10), 1-1 65' A. KARIM(3), 2-1 72' A. KARIM(3), 3-1 82' A. ALAAELDIN(7)	
Referee:	KIM JONG HYEOK (KOR)	
Assistant Referee:	YOON KWANG YEOL (KOR), MOHD YUSRI (MAS)	
4th Official:	MOHD AMIRUL (MAS)	
Substitution:	QAT: 46' out MUNTARI(11), in ASAD(8), 78' out ALMOEZ(19), in A. ALAAELDIN(7) 82' out MADIBO(18), in A. FADHIL(5) CHN: 66' out XIE P F(17), in YANG CH SH(16) 76' out MI H L(3), in CHEN ZH CH(15) 77' out WaU X H(11), in LIU B B(21)	
Cautions:	QAT: 13' ALMOEZ(19) 42' MADIBO(18) CHN: 30' ZHANG Y N(9) 58' LI Y Y(20)	
Expulsions:	CHN: 90+3' XU X(7)	

SYRIA v. I.R. IRAN		0-2 (0-0)
<b>2</b>	<b>12-01-2016 16:30 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1133</b>
SYR:	1 A.NASAAN, 3 M.AJAAN, 4 H.JWAYED, 5 O.MIDANI, 6 A.JENIAT, 8 O.KHRBIN, 9 N.NAKKDAHLI, 10 M.MAWAS, 11 K.MBAYED, 15 M.KHOULI, 21 H.MIDO	
IRN:	1 M.R.AKHARI, 2 M.DANESHGAR, 3 V.HEYDARIEH, 4 R.CHESMI, 7 A.KARIMI, 8 F.ESMAEILI, 10 A.MOTAHHARI, 11 M.MOHAMMADI, 13 A.ABDOLLAHZADEH, 16 A.NAGHZAD, 17 M.TORABI	
Scorers:	0-1 64' A.MOTAHHARI(10), 0-2 72' M.MOHAMMADI(11)	
Referee:	CHRISTOPHER BEATH (AUS)	
Assistant Referee:	ABU BAKAR AL-AMRI (OMA), JAKHONGIR	
4th Official:	SAIDOV (UZB)	
Substitution:	SYR: 71' out N.NAKKDAHLI(9), in M.BAHER(13), 78' out H.JWAYED(4), in M.AHMAD(19) 83' out H.MIDO(21), in A.SHAMI(17) IRN: 56' out F.ESMAEILI(8), in M.KAMANDANI(14) 88' out M.TORABI(17), in E.PAHLAVAN(19) 90+1' out M.MOHAMMADI(11), in M.MOHAMMADI(23)	
Cautions:	SYR: 38' O.KHRBIN(8) 43' H.MIDO(21) 48' H.JWAYED(4) IRN: 85' M.MOHAMMADI(11)	
Expulsions:		



CHINA P.R. v. SYRIA		1-3 (1-1)
<b>9</b>	<b>15-01-2016 16:30 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1205</b>
CHN:	1 DU J, 3 MI H L, 5 SHI K, 6 WANG T, 9 ZHANG Y N, 10 LIAO L SH, 11 WU X H, 12 ZHANG X B, 14 FENG G, 18 ZHAO Y H, 21 LIU B B	
SYR:	1 A.NASAAN, 3 M.AJAAN, 5 O.MIDANI, 6 A.JENIAT, 8 O.KHRBIN, 10 M.MAWAS, 11 K.MBAYED, 13 M.BAHER, 15 M.KHOULI, 17 A.SHAMI, 20 Y.KALFA	
Scorers:	1-0 21' LIAO L SH(10), 1-1 43' O.KHRBIN(8) Pen, 1-2 53' O.KHRBIN(8), 1-3 83' M.BAHER(13)	
Referee:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Assistant Referee:	PALITHA HEMATHUNGA (SRI), NAWAF SHAHEEN MOOSA (BHR)	
4th Official:	MOHAMMED ABDULLA HASSAN (UAE)	
Substitution:	CHN: 42' out LIU B B(21), in ZHANG Y N(22) 60' out ZHANG Y N(9), in YANG CH SH(16) 60'' out LIAO L SH(10), in GUO H(8) SYR: 67' out Y.KALFA(20), in N.NAKKDAHLI(9) 75' out K.MBAYED(11), in M.AHMAD(19) 86' out M.BAHER(13), in J.BUSMAR(18)	
Cautions:	CHN: 90+3' WU X H(11) SYR: 52' M.AJAAN(3)	
Expulsions:	CHN: 41' DU J(1)	

I.R. IRAN v. QATAR		1-2 (0-1)
<b>10</b>	<b>15-01-2016 19:30 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>11026</b>
IRN:	1 M.R.AKHBARI, 2 M.DANESHGAR, 3 V.HEYDARIEH, 4 R.CHESMI, 5 H.KANANI, 6 M.RAHMANI, 7 A.KARIMI, 10 A.MOTAHHARI, 11 M.MOHAMMADI, 16 A.NAGHIZAD, 23 M.MOHAMMADI	
QAT:	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 7 A. ALAAELDIN, 8 ASAD, 10 AFIF, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 19 ALMOEZ, 22 MUHANNAD N.	
Scorers:	0-1 35' A. ALAAELDIN(7), 0-2 56' A. KARIM(3), 1-2 90+1' A.KARIMI(7)	
Referee:	MOHD AMIRUL (MAS)	
Assistant Referee:	MOHD YUSRI (MAS), YOON KWANG YEOL (KOR)	
4th Official:	KIM JONG HYEOK (KOR)	
Substitution:	IRN: 62' out M.MOHAMMADI(11), in M.TORABI(17) 62'' out M.RAHMANI(6), in M.KAMANDANI(14) 72' out M.MOHAMMADI(23), in E.PAHLAVAN(19) QAT: 68' out A. ALAAELDIN(7), in MUNTARI(11) 72' out ALMOEZ(19), in F. SHANIN(23) 83' out MADIBO(18), in A. FADHIL(5)	
Cautions:	QAT: 47' MOEIN(4) 68' A. YASSER(6) 78' MUNTARI(11)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP A

QATAR v. SYRIA		4-2 (3-1)
<b>17</b>	<b>18-01-2016 19:30 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>9255</b>
<b>QAT:</b>	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 7 A. ALAAELDIN, 8 ASAD, 10 AFIF, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 19 ALMOEZ, 22 MUHANNAD N.	
<b>SYR:</b>	1 A.NASAAN, 3 M.AJAAN, 4 H.JWAYED, 6 A.JENIAT, 8 O.KHRBIN, 10 M.MAWAS, 11 K.MBAYED, 13 M.BAHER, 15 M.KHOULI, 17 A.SHAMI, 20 Y.KALFA	
<b>Scorers:</b>	0-1 4' Y.KALFA(20), 1-1 10' A. KARIM(3), 2-1 24' A. ALAAELDIN(7), 3-1 28' ALMOEZ(19), 3-2 81' O.KHRBIN(8) Pen, 4-2 82' A. ALAAELDIN(7)	
<b>Referee:</b>	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
<b>Assistant Referee:</b>	ABU BAKAR AL-AMRI (OMA), NAWAF SHAHEEN MOOSA (BHR)	
<b>4th Official:</b>	MOHAMMED ABDULLA HASSAN (UAE)	
<b>Substitution:</b>	<b>QAT:</b> 60' out MADIBO(18), in A. FADHIL(5) 78' out MOEIN(4), in ABDULLAH(9) 84' out A. YASSER(6), in BASSAM(20) <b>SYR:</b> 46' out M.KHOULI(15), in N.NAKKDAHLI(9) 70' out M.AJAAN(3), in H.MIDO(21) 83' out O.KHRBIN(8), in M.AHMAD(19)	
<b>Cautions:</b>	<b>QAT:</b> 22' ALMOEZ(19) <b>SYR:</b> 38' M.KHOULI(15) 65' M.AJAAN(3) 90+1' M.AHMAD(19)	
<b>Expulsions:</b>		

I.R. IRAN v. CHINA P.R.		3-2 (2-1)
<b>18</b>	<b>18-01-2016 19:30 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>IRN:</b>	1 M.R.AKHBARI, 4 R.CHESHMI, 5 H.KANANI , 6 M.RAHMANI, 10 A.MOTAHHARI, 13 A.ABDOLLAHZADEH, 14 M.KAMANDANI, 17 M.TORABI, 19 E.PAHLAVAN, 20 SH.SAGHEBI, 21 R.ALIYARI	
<b>CHN:</b>	3 MI H L, 4 JIN Y Y, 6 WANG T, 9 ZHANG Y N, 12 ZHANG X B, 13 WANG Q M, 14 FENG G, 18 ZHAO Y H, 19 CHANG F Y, 21 LIU B B, 22 ZHANG Y N	
<b>Scorers:</b>	1-0 38' A.MOTAHHARI(10), 2-0 40' E.PAHLAVAN(19), 2-1 40' CHANG F Y(19), 3-1 48' M.TORABI(17), 3-2 70' LIAO L SH(10) Pen	
<b>Referee:</b>	TANTASHEV ILGIZ (UZB)	
<b>Assistant Referee:</b>	JAKHONGIR SAIDOV (UZB), PALITHA HEMATHUNGA (SRI)	
<b>4th Official:</b>	CHRISTOPHER BEATH (AUS)	
<b>Substitution:</b>	<b>IRN:</b> 61' out A.MOTAHHARI(10), in M.MOHAMMADI(23) 70' out M.TORABI(17), in S.M.KARIMI(9) 79' out SH.SAGHEBI(20), in A.KARIMI(7) <b>CHN:</b> 46' out LIU B B(21), in XIE P F(17) 46'' out ZHAO Y H(18), in LIAO L SH(10) 66' out ZHANG Y N(9), in WU X H(11)	
<b>Cautions:</b>	<b>IRN:</b> 56' H.KANANI (5) <b>CHN:</b> 23' LIU B B(21) 45' CHANG F Y(19)	
<b>Expulsions:</b>		





**GROUP B**

<b>SAUDI ARABIA v. THAILAND</b>		1-1 (0-0)
<b>3</b>	<b>13-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1531</b>
KSA:	2 ALZUBAIDI, 3 MADU, 5 TALAL, 7 ALSULAYHIM, 8 ALBASSAS, 10 FHAD , 11 HAZAZI, 14 ALNAKHLI, 16 KANNO, 17 ALSAIARI, 21 ALHARBI	
THA:	1 Y.SOMPORN, 2 N.PERAPAT, 5 P.ADISON, 7 P.THITIPHAN, 9 S.CHAYAWAT, 10 P.PAKORN, 11 I.PINYO, 17 K.TANABOON, 18 S.CHANATHIP, 19 D.TRISTAN, 22 S.CHENROP	
Scorers:	1-0 71' ALSAIARI(17), 1-1 84' I.PINYO(11)	
Referee:	MOHAMMED ABDULLA HASSAN (UAE)	
Assistant Referee:	MOHAMED ALHAMMADI (UAE), HASAN ALMAHRI (UAE)	
4th Official:	TANTASHEV ILGIZ (UZB)	
Substitution:	KSA: 65' out HAZAZI(11), in MAJED (6) 70' out ALSULAYHIM(7), in SALEH (19) 79' out ALSAIARI(17), in ALGHAMDI(9) THA: 67' out S.CHENROP(22), in S.TANASITH(16) 75' out P.THITIPHAN(7), in K.WORACHIT(14) 81' out P.PAKORN(10), in K.SAHARAT(6)	
Cautions:	KSA: 44' MADU(3) 88' ALNAKHLI(14)	
Expulsions:		

<b>JAPAN v. DPR KOREA</b>		1-0 (1-0)
<b>4</b>	<b>13-01-2016 16:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1531</b>
JPN:	1 M.KUSHIBIKI, 3 ENDO, 4 IWANAMI, 5 UEDA, 6 YAMANAKA, 8 OHSHIMA, 9 M.SUZUKI, 10 NAKAJIMA, 11 KUBO, 12 MUROYA, 18 MINAMINO	
PRK:	1 A. TAE SONG, 5 J. KUK CHOL, 6 R. IL JIN, 8 R. UN CHOL, 9 K. YONG IL, 10 K. JU SONG, 12 R. HYONG JIN, 14 Y. IL GWANG, 16 P. MYONG SONG, 17 K. CHOL BOM, 20 S. KYONG JIN	
Scorers:	1-0 5' UEDA(5)	
Referee:	ALIREZA FAGHANI (IRN)	
Assistant Referee:	REZA SOKHANDAN (IRN), PALITHA HEMATHUNGA (SRI)	
4th Official:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Substitution:	JPN: 62' out MINAMINO(18), in YAJIMA(21) 77' out OHSHIMA(8), in HARAKAWA(7) 89' out KUBO(11), in TOYOKAWA(14) PRK: 46' out Y. IL GWANG(14), in S. JONG HYOK(15) 64' out K. JU SONG(10), in J. HYOK(13)	
Cautions:	JPN: 30' OHSHIMA(8) PRK: 22' R. IL JIN(6) 80' K. CHOL BOM(17)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP B

THAILAND v. JAPAN		0-4 (0-1)
<b>11</b>	<b>16-01-2016 16:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1674</b>
THA:	1 Y.SOMPORN, 2 N.PERAPAT, 5 P.ADISON, 7 P.THITIPHAN, 9 S.CHAYAWAT, 10 P.PAKORN, 11 I.PINYO, 13 W.NARUBADIN, 17 K.TANABOON, 18 S.CHANATHIP, 19 D.TRISTAN	
JPN:	1 M.KUSHIBIKI, 3 ENDO, 4 IWANAMI, 7 HAKAWA, 9 M.SUZUKI, 12 MUROYA, 13 NARA, 14 TOYOKAWA, 15 KAMEKAWA, 16 ASANO, 21 YAJIMA	
Scorers:	0-1 27' M.SUZUKI(9), 0-2 49' YAJIMA(21), 0-3 75' KUBO(11), 0-4 84' KUBO(11) Pen	
Referee:	TANTASHEV ILGIZ (UZB)	
Assistant Referee:	JAKHONGIR SAIDOV (UZB), REZA SOKHANDAN (IRN)	
4th Official:	ALIREZA FAGHANI (IRN)	
Substitution:	THA: 46' out P.PAKORN(10), in S.CHENROP(22) 57' out P.THITIPHAN(7), in V.CHAOWAT(4) 66' out I.PINYO(11), in S.TANASITH(16) JPN: 46' out M.SUZUKI(9), in ADO(20) 71' out ASANO(16), in KUBO(11) 78' out YAJIMA(21), in MINAMINO(18)	
Cautions:	THA: 11' P.PAKORN(10) 63' N.PERAPAT(2) 78' D.TRISTAN(19) JPN: 40' MUROYA(12)	
Expulsions:		

DPR KOREA v. SAUDI ARABIA		3-3 (1-1)
<b>12</b>	<b>16-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1674</b>
PRK:	1 A. TAE SONG, 5 J. KUK CHOL, 6 R. IL JIN, 8 R. UN CHOL, 9 K. YONG IL, 10 K. JU SONG, 11 J. OK CHOL, 14 Y. IL GWANG, 16 P. MYONG SONG, 17 K. CHOL BOM, 20 S. KYONG JIN	
KSA:	2 ALZUBAIDI, 3 MADU, 5 TALAL, 6 MAJED, 7 ALSULAYHIM, 8 ALBASSAS, 10 FHAD, 14 ALNAKHLI, 16 KANNO, 17 ALSAIARI, 21 ALHARBI	
Scorers:	1-0 27' K. YONG IL(9), 1-1 40' KANNO(16), 2-1 52' Y. IL GWANG(14), 2-2 62' FHAD (10), 2-3 69' ALGHAMDI(9), 3-3 85' J. KUK CHOL(5)	
Referee:	ADHAM MOHAMMAD MAKHADMEH (JOR)	
Assistant Referee:	AHMAD MOANNES ALROALLE (JOR), WANG DEXIN (CHN)	
4th Official:	MA NING (CHN)	
Substitution:	PRK: 65' out S. KYONG JIN(20), in R. HYONG JIN(12) 67' out K. JU SONG(10), in J. KWANG(7) 79' out J. KWANG(7), in S. JONG HYOK(15) KSA: 59' out ALSULAYHIM(7), in ASIRI(23) 59'' out ALSAIARI(17), in ALGHAMDI(9)	
Cautions:	PRK: 45+1' R. UN CHOL(8) 64' K. CHOL BOM(17) KSA: 50' KANNO(16) 72' ALNAKHLI(14) 83' MAJED (6)	
Expulsions:		



<b>SAUDI ARABIA v. JAPAN</b>		1-2 (0-1)
<b>19</b>	<b>19-01-2016 16:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>807</b>
KSA:	2 ALZUBAIDI, 3 MADU, 5 TALAL, 6 MAJED , 8 ALBASSAS, 9 ALGHAMDI, 10 FHAD , 13 ALOBAID, 16 KANNO, 21 ALHARBI, 23 ASIRI	
JPN:	2 MATSUBARA, 5 UEDA, 6 YAMANAKA, 8 OHSHIMA, 10 NAKAJIMA, 13 NARA, 17 MISAO, 18 MINAMINO, 19 IDEGUCHI, 20 ADO, 22 SUGIMOTO	
Scorers:	0-1 32' OHSHIMA(8), 0-2 53' IDEGUCHI(19), 1-2 57' MADU(3)	
Referee:	MOHAMMED ABDULLA HASSAN (UAE)	
Assistant Referee:	MOHAMED ALHAMMADI (UAE), HASAN ALMAHRI (UAE)	
4th Official:	ALI SABAH AL-QAYSI (IRQ)	
Substitution:	KSA: 54' out ALBASSAS(8), in ALSULAYHIM(7) 71' out ALGHAMDI(9), in ALSAIARI(17) 90' out ALSULAYHIM(7), in SALEH (19) JPN:: 66' out MISAO(17), in ASANO(16) 68' out MATSUBARA(2), in KAMEKAWA(15) 85' out ADO(20), in KUBO(11)	
Cautions:	KSA: 61' MAJED (6) 70' MADU(3) 72' KANNO(16) 90+4' ALOBAID(13) JPN: 10' NARA(13) 29' MATSUBARA(2)	
Expulsions:		

<b>DPR KOREA v. THAILAND</b>		2-2 (2-1)
<b>20</b>	<b>19-01-2016 16:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1086</b>
PRK:	1 A. TAE SONG, 4 K. IL NAM, 5 J. KUK CHOL, 6 R. IL JIN, 8 R. UN CHOL, 9 K. YONG IL, 10 K. JU SONG, 11 J. OK CHOL, 14 Y. IL GWANG, 16 P. MYONG SONG, 20 S. KYONG JIN	
THA:	1 Y.SOMPORN, 2 N.PERAPAT, 5 P.ADISON, 6 K.SAHARAT, 8 S.NATTAWUT, 11 I.PINYO, 13 W.NARUBADIN, 17 K.TANABOON, 18 S. CHANATHIP, 19 D.TRISTAN, 21 L.THOSSAWAT	
Scorers:	1-0 17' K. YONG IL(9), 1-1 30' W.NARUBADIN(13), 2-1 45' L.THOSSAWAT(21), 2-2 78' S.CHANATHIP(18)	
Referee:	MOHD AMIRUL (MAS)	
Assistant Referee:	MOHD YUSRI (MAS), AHMAD MOANNES ALROALLE (JOR)	
4th Official:	ADHAM MOHAMMAD MAKHADMEH (JOR)	
Substitution:	PRK: 80' out Y. IL GWANG(14), in S. JONG HYOK(15) THA: 33' out S.NATTAWUT(8), in S.TANASITH(16) 46' out W.NARUBADIN(13), in P.PAKORN(10) 73' out K.SAHARAT(6), in K.WORACHIT(14)	
Cautions:	PRK: 56' Y. IL GWANG(14) 84' P. MYONG SONG(16) 90' R. IL JIN(6) THA: 82' L.THOSSAWAT(21)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP C

IRAQ v. YEMEN		2-0 (2-0)
<b>5</b>	<b>13-01-2016 16:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>803</b>
IRQ:	1 FAHAD T., 3 HAMZA A., 4 MUSTAFA N., 5 ALI F., 6 SAIF S., 9 MAHDI K., 10 ALI H., 11 HUMAM T., 15 SAFAA J., 18 AYMEN H., 19 AMJED A.	
YEM:	3 ALAWI, 5 ABDULMUAIN, 7 WALEED, 8 BASHEER, 10 SULAIMAN, 12 AL-HIFI, 13 ALA ADDIN, 14 AMMAR, 19 BOQSHAN, 21 A. AL-SARORI, 23 SALEM	
Scorers:	1-0 36' ALI F.(5), 2-0 39' ALI H.(10)	
Referee:	RYUJI SATO (JPN)	
Assistant Referee:	OTSUKA HARUHIRO (JPN), ISMAILZHAN TALIPZHANOV (KGZ)	
4th Official:	DMITRII MASHENTSEV (KGZ)	
Substitution:	IRQ: 68' out MAHDI K.(9), in ALAA A.(17) 81' out AYMEN H.(18), in MOHANAD A.(8) 88' out ALI H.(10), in ALI Q.(21) YEM: 46' out BASHEER(8), in ALOS(18) 70' out SULAIMAN(10), in Y. AL-GABR(20) 85' out AL-HIFI(12), in OSAMAH(15)	
Cautions:	IRQ: 80' SAFAA J.(15) YEM: 40' MUROYA(12) 74' Y. AL-GABR(20)	
Expulsions:		

KOREA REPUBLIC v. UZBEKISTAN		2-1 (1-0)
<b>6</b>	<b>13-01-2016 19:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>803</b>
KOR:	1 KIM DONGJUN, 2 SIM SANGMIN, 3 LEE SEULCHAN, 4 SONG JUHUN, 5 YEON JEIMIN, 6 PARK YONGWOO, 7 MOON CHANGJIN, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 10 RYU SEUNGWOO, 18 JIN SEONGUK, 20 HWANG HEECHAN	
UZB:	2 KOMILOV, 4 BOLTABOEV, 6 FOMIN, 7 KOZAK, 8 SOKHIBOV, 10 ISKANDEROV, 11 SERGEEV, 12 ABDULJALILOV, 17 KHAMDAMOV, 19 SHUKUROV, 23 SHOMURODOV	
Scorers:	1-0 20' MOON CHANGJIN(7) Pen, 2-0 48' MOON CHANGJIN(7), 2-1 57' KHAMDAMOV(17)	
Referee:	FAHAD ALMIRDASI (KSA)	
Assistant Referee:	ABDULAH ALSHALWAI (KSA), MOHAMMED MAKI A ALABAKRY (KSA)	
4th Official:	ADHAM MOHAMMAD MAKHADMEH (JOR)	
Substitution:	KOR: 60' out JIN SEONGUK(18), in KWON CHANGHOON(22) 78' out MOON CHANGJIN(7), in LEE YEONGJAE(14) 88' out LEE CHANGMIN(8), in KIM HYUN(9) UZB: 55' out ISKANDEROV(10), in RAKHMANOV(3) 68' out SHOMURODOV(23), in MASHARIPOV(9) 82' out KHAMDAMOV(17), in GAFUROV(13)	
Cautions:		
Expulsions:	UZB: 71' BOLTABOEV(4)	



YEMEN v. KOREA REPUBLIC		0-5 (0-3)
<b>13</b>	<b>16-01-2016 16:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>686</b>
YEM:	2 FAISAL, 3 ALAWI, 7 WALEED, 11 ABDULWASEA, 12 AL-HIFI, 13 ALA ADDIN, 14 AMMAR, 18 ALOS, 19 BOQSHAN, 21 A. AL-SARORI, 23 SALEM	
KOR:	1 KIM DONGJUN, 2 SIM SANGMIN, 3 LEE SEULCHAN, 5 YEON JEIMIN, 6 PARK YONGWOO, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 10 RYU SEUNGWOO, 11 KIM SEUNGJUN, 15 JUNG SEUNGHYUN, 20 HWANG HEECHAN, 22 KWON CHANGHOON	
Scorers:	0-1 14' KWON CHANGHOON(22), 0-2 31' KWON CHANGHOON(22), 0-3 41' KWON CHANGHOON(22), 0-4 72' RYU SEUNGWOO(10), 0-5 76' KIM SEUNGJUN(11)	
Referee:	DMITRII MASHENTSEV (KGZ)	
Assistant Referee:	ISMAILZHAN TALIPZHANOV (KGZ), MOHAMED ALHAMMADI (UAE)	
4th Official:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Substitution:	YEM: 34' out AL-HIFI(12), in BASHEER(8) 61' out WALEED(7), in M. AL-SARORI(17) 83' out ABDULWASEA(11), in Y. AL-GABR(20) KOR: 46' out LEE CHANGMIN(8), in MOON CHANGJIN(7) 71' out HWANG HEECHAN(20), in KIM HYUN(9) 78' out RYU SEUNGWOO(10), in LEE YEONGJAE(14)	
Cautions:		
Expulsions:		

UZBEKISTAN v. IRAQ		2-3 (1-2)
<b>14</b>	<b>16-01-2016 19:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>686</b>
UZB:	2 KOMILOV, 3 RAKHMANOV, 7 KOZAK, 8 SOKHIBOV, 10 ISKANDEROV, 11 SERGEEV, 12 ABDULJALILOV, 14 MIRABDULAEV, 17 KHAMDAMOV, 19 SHUKUROV, 23 SHOMURODOV	
IRQ:	1 FAHAD T., 3 HAMZA A., 4 MUSTAFA N., 5 ALI F., 8 MOHANAD A., 9 MAHDI K., 10 ALI H., 11 HUMAM T., 15 SAFAA J., 19 AMJED A., 21 ALI Q.	
Scorers:	1-0 1' KHAMDAMOV(17), 1-1 38' AMJED A.(19), 1-2 43' MAHDI K.(9), 2-2 79' T. KHAKIMOV(22), 2-3 84' HUMAM T.(11)	
Referee:	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
Assistant Referee:	ABU BAKAR AL-AMRI (OMA), OTSUKA HARUHIRO (JPN)	
4th Official:	RYUJI SATO (JPN)	
Substitution:	UZB: 46' out ISKANDEROV(10), in MASHARIPOV(9) 74' out RAKHMANOV(3), in ALIBAEV(16) 76' out KHAMDAMOV(17), in T. KHAKIMOV(22) IRQ: 66' out MOHANAD A.(8), in AYMEN H.(18) 76' out ALI H.(10), in MAZIN F.(14) 87' out MAHDI K.(9), in SUAD N.(2)	
Cautions:	UZB: 29' RAKHMANOV(3) 84' SOKHIBOV(8) IRQ: 84' HUMAM T.(11) 90+5' SUAD N.(2)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP C

IRAQ v. KOREA REPUBLIC		1-1 (0-1)
<b>21</b>	<b>19-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1086</b>
IRQ:	2 SUAD N., 6 SAIF S., 7, 14 MAZIN F., 16 MOHAMMED M., 17 ALAA A., 18 AYMEN H., 20 KARAR I., 21 ALI Q., 22, 23 AHMED M.	
KOR:	1 KIM DONGJUN, 4 SONG JUHUN, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 9 KIM HYUN, 11 KIM SEUNGJUN, 12 KU HYUNJUN, 13 PARK DONGJIN, 14 LEE YEONGJAE, 15 JUNG SEUNGHYUN, 16 HWANG KIWOOK, 17 YU INSOO	
Scorers:	0-1 22' KIM HYUN(9), 1-1 90+2' (7)	
Referee:	ABDULRAHMAN AL-JASSIM (QAT)	
Assistant Referee:	TALEB SALEM AL-MARRI (QAT), SAOUD AHMED ALMAQALEH (QAT)	
4th Official:	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
Substitution:	IRQ: 65' out AYMEN H.(18), in MOHANAD A.(8) 71' out (22), in BASHAR R.(13) 77' out ALI Q.(21), in MUSTAFA N.(4) KOR: 46' out LEE CHANGMIN(8), in MOON CHANGJIN(7) 58' out KIM SEUNGJUN(11), in KWON CHANGHOON(22) 75' out YU INSOO(17), in KANG SANGWOO(19)	
Cautions:	IRQ: 26' AHMED M.(23) 65' SAIF S.(6) KOR: 9' YU INSOO(17) 80' LEE YEONGJAE(14)	
Expulsions:		

UZBEKISTAN v. YEMEN		3-1 (1-0)
<b>22</b>	<b>19-01-2016 19:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>227</b>
UZB:	2 KOMILOV, 4 BOLTABOEV, 7 KOZAK, 8 SOKHIBOV, 9 MASHARIPOV, 11 SERGEEV, 12 ABDULJALILOV, 14 MIRABDULAEV, 17 KHAMDAMOV, 19 SHUKUROV, 23 SHOMURODOV	
YEM:	3 ALAWI, 11 ABDULWASEA, 12 AL-HIFI, 13 ALA ADDIN, 14 AMMAR, 15 OSAMAH, 17 M. AL-SARORI, 18 ALOS, 19 BOQSHAN, 21 A. AL-SARORI, 23 SALEM	
Scorers:	1-0 18' SOKHIBOV(8), 2-0 68' SERGEEV(11), 2-1 82' A. AL-SARORI(21), 3-1 90+3' MASHARIPOV(9)	
Referee:	MA NING (CHN)	
Assistant Referee:	WANG DEXIN (CHN), HSU MIN YU (TPE)	
4th Official:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Substitution:	UZB: 67' out KHAMDAMOV(17), in ISKANDEROV(10) 78' out SHOMURODOV(23), in J. KHAKIMOV(15) YEM: 67' out AL-HIFI(12), in BASHEER(8) 83' out ALAWI(3), in WALEED(7) 85' out ABDULWASEA(11), in KHALED(9)	
Cautions:	UZB: 8' BOLTABOEV(4) 41' KOMILOV(2) 47' KOZAK(7)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP D

JORDAN v. VIETNAM		3-1 (1-0)
<b>7</b>	<b>14-01-2016 16:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1392</b>
JOR:	2 Y. RAED, 4 A. ABUHUDIEB, 6 O. MAANASRAH, 7 F. AWAD, 8 M. ALMARDI, 16 A. HISHAM, 17 R. AYED, 20 B. FAISAL, 21 F. SHILBAYA, 22 Y. ABULAILA, 23 E. HDDAD	
VIE:	2 N.T.HIEN, 4 D.D.KHANH, 6 B.T.DUNG, 8 L.X.TRUONG, 10 N.C.PHUONG, 11 LT.BINH, 17 H.TAN TAI, 19 N.V.TOAN, 20 D.D.MANH, 22 N.H.DUNG, 23 P.M.LONG	
Scorers:	1-0 38' B. FAISAL(20), 2-0 68' O. MAANASRAH(6), 3-0 72' B. FAISAL(20), 3-1 87' D.D.MANH(20)	
Referee:	MA NING (CHN)	
Assistant Referee:	WANG DEXIN (CHN), HSU MIN YU (TPE)	
4th Official:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Substitution:	JOR: 69' out E. HDDAD(23), in S. RATIB(13) 77' out A. HISHAM(16), in Y. THLJI(14) 90+1' out M. ALMARDI(8), in L. BASHTAWI(10) VIE: 62' out H.TAN TAI(17), in P.M.HUNG(3) 62'' out N.H.DUNG(22), in N.P.H.DUY(7)	
Cautions:	JOR: 35' A. HISHAM(16) VIE: 15' B.T.DUNG(6)	
Expulsions:		

AUSTRALIA v. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		0-1 (0-0)
<b>8</b>	<b>14-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>307</b>
AUS:	1 DUNCAN, 3 GALLIFUOCO, 4 DONACHIE, 6 BRILLANTE, 7 HOOLE, 8 EDWARDS, 9 MACLAREN, 11 PAIN, 15 GALLOWAY, 16 UGARKOVIC, 20 GERSBACH	
UAE:	4 A. BARMAN, 7 Y. SAEED, 12 M. ALAKBERI, 13 A. RASHID, 14 A. KAZIM, 15 A. ALI, 16 S. SULTAN, 19 S. SAIF, 21 SAEED M., 22 M. BUSANDA, 23 A. GHANIM	
Scorers:	0-1 86' GALLIFUOCO(3)	
Referee:	ABDULRAHMAN AL-JASSIM (QAT)	
Assistant Referee:	TALEB SALEM AL-MARRI (QAT), SAOUD AHMED ALMAQALEH (QAT)	
4th Official:	ALI SABAH AL-QAYSI (IRQ)	
Substitution:	AUS: 64' out UGARKOVIC(16), in AMINI(10) 77' out PAIN(11), in SOTIRIO(17) 80' out GALLOWAY(15), in ANTONIS(14) UAE: 72' out Y. SAEED(7), in W. AMBAR(2) 72'' out S. SAIF(19), in A.ALHASHMI(9) 88' out A. KAZIM(14), in S. ALI(5)	
Cautions:	AUS: 16' DONACHIE(4) 59' BRILLANTE(6) UAE: 28' A. GHANIM(23) 87' A. RASHID(13)	
Expulsions:		



## GROUP D

VIETNAM v. AUSTRALIA		0-2 (0-1)
<b>15</b>	<b>17-01-2016 16:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>539</b>
VIE:	3 P.M.HUNG, 4 D.D.KHANH, 6 B.T.DUNG, 10 N.C.PHUONG, 11 L.T.BINH, 17 H.TAN TAI, 19 N.V.TOAN, 20 D.D.MANH, 21 P.D.HUY, 22 N.H.DUNG, 23 P.M.LONG	
AUS:	1 DUNCAN, 2 GERIA, 4 DONACHIE, 7 HOOLE, 8 EDWARDS, 9 MACLAREN, 10 AMINI, 19 O, 20 GERSBACH, 21 BORRELLO, 23 DENG	
Scorers:	0-1 2' DONACHIE(4), 0-2 61' MACLAREN(9)	
Referee:	ALI SABAH AL-QAYSI (IRQ)	
Assistant Referee:	ABDULAH ALSHALWAI (KSA), MOHAMMED MAKI A ALABAKRY (KSA)	
4th Official:	FAHAD ALMIRDASI (KSA)	
Substitution:	VIE: 44' out D.D.KHANH(4), in N.N.ANH(15) 71' out N.H.DUNG(22), in N.T.ANH(12) AUS: 66' out HOOLE(7), in SOTIRIO(17) 78' out DENG(23), in GALLIFUOCO(3) 85' out AMINI(10), in ANTONIS(14)	
Cautions:	VIE: 44' H.TAN TAI(17) 87' N.N.ANH(15) AUS: 11' AMINI(10) 75' SOTIRIO(17)	
Expulsions:		

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES v. JORDAN		0-0 (0-0)
<b>16</b>	<b>17-01-2016 19:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1752</b>
UAE:	4 A. BARMAN, 7 Y. SAEED, 12 M. ALAKBERI, 13 A. RASHID, 14 A. KAZIM, 15 A. ALI, 16 S. SULTAN, 19 S. SAIF, 21 SAEED M., 22 M. BUSANDA, 23 A. GHANIM	
JOR:	1 N. ATEYAH, 2 Y. RAED, 4 A. ABUHUDIEB, 6 O. MAANASRAH, 7 F. AWAD, 13 S. RATIB, 16 A. HISHAM, 17 R. AYED, 20 B. FAISAL, 21 F. SHILBAYA, 23 E. HDDAD	
Scorers:	-	
Referee:	KIM JONG HYEOK (KOR)	
Assistant Referee:	YOON KWANG YEOL (KOR), HSU MIN YU (TPE)	
4th Official:	MOHD AMIRUL (MAS)	
Substitution:	UAE: 57' out S. SAIF(19), in A.ALHASHMI(9) 57' out A. KAZIM(14), in W. AMBAR(2) 86' out Y. SAEED(7), in S. RASHID(20) JOR: 64' out E. HDDAD(23), in M. ALMARDI(8) 79' out B. FAISAL(20), in B. QWAIDER(18) 86' out A. HISHAM(16), in Y. THLJI(14)	
Cautions:	UAE: 62' A. ALI(15) JOR: 49' F. SHILBAYA(21) 75' F. AWAD(7)	
Expulsions:		





JORDAN v. AUSTRALIA		0-0 (0-0)
<b>23</b>	<b>20-01-2016 19:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>2338</b>
JOR:	1 N. ATEYAH, 3 M. ALSOULIMAN, 4 A. ABUHUDIEB, 6 O. MAANASRAH, 7 F. AWAD, 8 M. ALMARDI, 16 A. HISHAM, 17 R. AYED, 20 B. FAISAL, 21 F. SHILBAYA, 23 E. HDDAD	
AUS:	2 GERIA, 4 DONACHIE, 5 BURGESS, 6 BRILLANTE, 9 MACLAREN, 10 AMINI, 12 LENNOX, 13 MAUK, 19 O, 20 GERSBACH, 21 BORRELLO	
Scorers:	-	
Referee:	RYUJI SATO (JPN)	
Assistant Referee:	OTSUKA HARUHIRO (JPN), ISMAILZHAN TALIPZHANOV (KGZ)	
4th Official:	DMITRII MASHENTSEV (KGZ)	
Substitution:	JOR: 73' out B. FAISAL(20), in B. QWAIDER(18) 77' out M. ALMARDI(8), in S. RATIB(13) 85' out E. HDDAD(23), in L. BASHTAWI(10) AUS: 62' out MAUK(13), in HOOLE(7) 71' out BRILLANTE(6), in ANTONIS(14) 86' out BORRELLO(21), in EDWARDS(8)	
Cautions:	AUS: 90+1' ANTONIS(14)	
Expulsions:		

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES v. VIETNAM		3-2 (0-1)
<b>24</b>	<b>20-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>623</b>
UAE:	2 W. AMBAR, 4 A. BARMAN, 5 S. ALI, 9 A.ALHASHMI, 12 M. ALAKBERI, 13 A. RASHID, 16 S. SULTAN, 20 S. RASHID, 21 SAEED M., 22 M. BUSANDA, 23 A. GHANIM	
VIE:	1 P.V.TIEN, 3 P.M.HUNG, 5 P.H.LAM, 8 L.X.TRUONG, 10 N.C.PHUONG, 12 N.T.ANH, 14 V.V.THANH, 15 N.N.ANH, 16 T.H.D.TRIEU, 18 H.T. TAI, 21 P.D.HUY	
Scorers:	0-1 24' N.C.PHUONG(10) Pen, 1-1 65' P.H.LAM(5), 1-2 68' N.T.ANH(12), 2-2 74' M. ALAKBERI(12), 3-2 78' A.ALHASHMI(9) Pen	
Referee:	FAHAD ALMIRDASI (KSA)	
Assistant Referee:	ABDULAH ALSHALWAI (KSA), MOHAMMED MAKI A ALABAKRY (KSA)	
4th Official:	ABDULRAHMAN AL-JASSIM (QAT)	
Substitution:	UAE: 12' out A. BARMAN(4), in M. SUROUR(18) 21' out S. ALI(5), in A. ALI(15) 34' out S. RASHID(20), in K. MUBARAK(10) VIE: 66' out P.H.LAM(5), in B.T.DUNG(6) 69' out T.H.D.TRIEU(16), in N.P.H.DUY(7) 83' out H.T. TAI(18), in L.T.BINH(11)	
Cautions:	UAE: 39' A. GHANIM(23) 82' SAEED M.(21) VIE: 68' N.N.ANH(15) 75' P.M.HUNG(3) 84' N.N.ANH(15)	
Expulsions:	VIE: 77' L.X.TRUONG(8) 84' N.N.ANH(15)	



## QUARTER-FINALS

QATAR v. DPR KOREA		2-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)
<b>25</b>	<b>22-01-2016 19:30 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>9702</b>
<b>QAT:</b>	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 7 A. ALAAELDIN, 8 ASAD, 10 AFIF, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 22 MUHANNAD N., 23 F. SHANIN	
<b>PRK:</b>	1 A. TAE SONG, 3 H. JIN SONG, 4 K. IL NAM, 8 R. UN CHOL, 9 K. YONG IL, 10 K. JU SONG, 11 J. OK CHOL, 14 Y. IL GWANG, 16 P. MYONG SONG, 17 K. CHOL BOM, 20 S. KYONG JIN	
<b>Scorers:</b>	1-0 6' AFIF(10) Pen, 1-1 90+1' S. KYONG JIN(20), 2-1 92' ASAD(8)	
<b>Referee:</b>	TANTASHEV ILGIZ (UZB)	
<b>Assistant Referee:</b>	JAKHONGIR SAIDOV (UZB), NAWAF SHAHEEN MOOSA (BHR)	
<b>4th Official:</b>	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
<b>Substitution:</b>	QAT: 78' out A. ALAAELDIN(7), in MUNTARI(11) 95' out F. SHANIN(23), in M. ALAA(17) 120' out A. YASSER(6), in A. FADHIL(5) PRK: 65' out Y. IL GWANG(14), in S. JONG HYOK(15) 87' out K. YONG IL(9), in J. HYOK(13) 99' out J. OK CHOL(11), in R. HYONG JIN(12)	
<b>Cautions:</b>	QAT: 89' F. SHANIN(23) 105' A. KARIM(3) 107' MUNTARI(11) PRK: 5' K. IL NAM(4) 79' S. KYONG JIN(20) 120' S. JONG HYOK(15)	
<b>Expulsions:</b>		

JAPAN v. I.R. IRAN		3-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0)
<b>26</b>	<b>22-01-2016 16:30 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1703</b>
<b>JPN:</b>	1 M.KUSHIBIKI, 3 ENDO, 4 IWANAMI, 5 UEDA, 7 HAKAKAWA, 10 NAKAJIMA, 11 KUBO, 12 MUROYA, 15 KAMEKAWA, 20 ADO, 21 YAJIMA	
<b>IRN:</b>	1 M.R.AKHBARI, 2 M.DANESHGAR, 3 V.HEYDARIEH, 4 R.CHESMI, 7 A.KARIMI, 10 A.MOTAHARI, 11 M.MOHAMMADI, 13 A. ABDOLLAHZADEH, 16 A.NAGHIZAD, 17 M.TORABI, 20 SH.SAGHEBI	
<b>Scorers:</b>	1-0 95' TOYOKAWA(14), 2-0 108' NAKAJIMA(10), 3-0 110' NAKAJIMA(10)	
<b>Referee:</b>	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
<b>Assistant Referee:</b>	PALITHA HEMATHUNGA (SRI), HSU MIN YU (TPE)	
<b>4th Official:</b>	MA NING (CHN)	
<b>Substitution:</b>	JPN: 82' out KUBO(11), in ASANO(16) 88' out YAJIMA(21), in TOYOKAWA(14) 113' out ENDO(3), in OHSHIMA(8) IRN: 87' out M.MOHAMMADI(11), in S.M.KARIMI(9) 98' out A.ABDOLLAHZADEH(13), in E.PAHLAVAN(19) 106' out SH.SAGHEBI(20), in M.KAMANDANI(14)	
<b>Cautions:</b>	JPN: 99' ENDO(3) IRN: 33' M.DANESHGAR(2) 67' SH.SAGHEBI(20) 105' A.NAGHIZAD(16) 105+1' R.CHESMI(4)	
<b>Expulsions:</b>		



KOREA REPUBLIC v. JORDAN		1-0 (1-0)
<b>27</b>	<b>23-01-2016 16:30 Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>3126</b>
KOR:	2 SIM SANGMIN, 3 LEE SEULCHAN, 4 SONG JUHUN, 5 YEON JEIMIN, 6 PARK YONGWOO, 7 MOON CHANGJIN, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 10 RYU SEUNGWOO, 20 HWANG HEECHAN, 22 KWON CHANGHOON, 23 GU SUNGYUN	
JOR:	1 N. ATEYAH, 3 M. ALSOULIMAN, 4 A. ABUHUDIEB, 6 O. MAANASRAH, 7 F. AWAD, 8 M. ALMARDI, 16 A. HISHAM, 17 R. AYED, 20 B. FAISAL, 21 F. SHILBAYA, 23 E. HDDAD	
Scorers:	1-0 23' MOON CHANGJIN(7)	
Referee:	ALIREZA FAGHANI (IRN)	
Assistant Referee:	REZA SOKHANDAN (IRN), OTSUKA HARUHIRO (JPN)	
4th Official:	RYUJI SATO (JPN)	
Substitution:	KOR: 56' out HWANG HEECHAN(20), in KIM HYUN(9) 75' out RYU SEUNGWOO(10), in KIM SEUNGJUN(11) 89' out KWON CHANGHOON(22), in HWANG KIWOOK(16) JOR: 71' out A. HISHAM(16), in S. RATIB(13) 80' out B. FAISAL(20), in L. BASHTAWI(10) 87' out M. ALMARDI(8), in Y. THLJI(14)	
Cautions:	KOR: 35' RYU SEUNGWOO(10) 88' LEE SEULCHAN(3)	
Expulsions:		

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES v. IRAQ		1-3 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)
<b>28</b>	<b>23-01-2016 19:30 Grand Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1030</b>
UAE:	1 A. SHAMBIH, 7 Y. SAEED, 10 K. MUBARAK, 12 M. ALAKBERI, 13 A. RASHID, 14 A. KAZIM, 15 A. ALI, 16 S. SULTAN, 18 M. SUROUR, 19 S. SAIF, 21 SAEED M.	
IRQ:	1 FAHAD T., 3 HAMZA A., 4 MUSTAFA N., 5 ALI F., 8 MOHANAD A., 9 MAHDI K., 10 ALI H., 11 HUMAM T., 15 SAFAA J., 19 AMJED A., 21 ALI Q.	
Scorers:	1-0 75' ALAA A.(17), 1-1 77' ALI H.(10), 1-2 103' MOHANAD A.(8), 1-3 120+3' AMJED A.(19)	
Referee:	CHRISTOPHER BEATH (AUS)	
Assistant Referee:	YOON KWANG YEOL (KOR), TALEB SALEM AL-MARRI (QAT)	
4th Official:	ADHAM MOHAMMAD MAKHADMEH (JOR)	
Substitution:	UAE: 17' out S. SULTAN(16), in S. KHALFAN(6) 86' out S. SAIF(19), in W. AMBAR(2) 93' out M. ALAKBERI(12), in A.ALHASHMI(9) IRQ: 54' out SAFAA J.(15), in ALAA A.(17) 54'' out MAHDI K.(9), in AYMEN H.(18) 78' out HAMZA A.(3), in BASHAR R.(13)	
Cautions:	UAE: 90+3' A. RASHID(13) IRQ: 40' AMJED A.(19) 45' HAMZA A.(3) 49' SAFAA J.(15) 110' AYMEN H.(18)	
Expulsions:		



## SEMI-FINALS

QATAR v. KOREA REPUBLIC		1-3 (0-0)
<b>29</b>	<b>26-01-2016 19:30 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>11840</b>
QAT:	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 7 A. ALAAELDIN, 8 ASAD, 10 AFIF, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 19 ALMOEZ, 22 MUHANNAD N.	
KOR:	1 KIM DONGJUN, 2 SIM SANGMIN, 3 LEE SEULCHAN, 4 SONG JUHUN, 5 YEON JEIMIN, 6 PARK YONGWOO, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 9 KIM HYUN, 10 RYU SEUNGWOO, 16 HWANG KIWOOK, 22 KWON CHANGHOON	
Scorers:	0-1 48' RYU SEUNGWOO(10), 1-1 79' A. ALAAELDIN(7), 1-2 89' KWON CHANGHOON(22), 1-3 90+5' MOON CHANGJIN(7)	
Referee:	CRISHANTHA DILAN PERERA (SRI)	
Assistant Referee:	HSU MIN YU (TPE), WANG DEXIN (CHN)	
4th Official:	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
Substitution:	QAT: - KOR: 60' out HWANG KIWOOK(16), in MOON CHANGJIN(7) 80' out RYU SEUNGWOO(10), in HWANG HEECHAN(20) 90+4' out KIM HYUN(9), in JUNG SEUNGHYUN(15)	
Cautions:	QAT: 44' MADIBO(18) 67' ASAD(8) KOR: 17' LEE SEULCHAN(3) 43' YEON JEIMIN(5)	
Expulsions:		

JAPAN v. IRAQ		2-1 (1-1)
<b>30</b>	<b>26-01-2016 16:30 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>1489</b>
JPN:	1 M.KUSHIBIKI, 3 ENDO, 5 UEDA, 6 YAMANAKA, 7 HARAKAWA, 9 M.SUZUKI, 10 NAKAJIMA, 11 KUBO, 12 MUROYA, 13 NARA, 18 MINAMINO	
IRQ:	1 FAHAD T., 2 SUAD N., 3 HAMZA A., 4 MUSTAFA N., 5 ALI F., 7, 8 MOHANAD A., 9 MAHDI K., 10 ALI H., 17 ALAA A., 19 AMJED A.	
Scorers:	1-0 26' KUBO(11), 1-1 43' SUAD N.(2), 2-1 90+3' HARAKAWA(7)	
Referee:	MOHD AMIRUL (MAS)	
Assistant Referee:	MOHD YUSRI (MAS), NAWAF SHAHEEN MOOSA (BHR)	
4th Official:	FAHAD ALMIRDASI (KSA)	
Substitution:	JPN: 68' out M.SUZUKI(9), in ADO(20) 78' out KUBO(11), in ASANO(16) 90+3' out NAKAJIMA(10), in TOYOKAWA(14) IRQ: 67' out MAHDI K.(9), in BASHAR R.(13) 85' out (7), in HUMAM T.(11) 90+1' out ALI H.(10), in MAZIN F.(14)	
Cautions:	JPN: 81' MINAMINO(18) IRQ: 90+3' MUSTAFA N.(4)	
Expulsions:		



## 3RD AND 4TH PLACING

QATAR v. IRAQ		1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)
<b>31</b>	<b>29-01-2016 17:45 Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>10049</b>
QAT:	2 MUSAAB, 3 A. KARIM, 4 MOEIN, 6 A. YASSER, 7 A. ALAAELDIN, 8 ASAD, 10 AFIF, 16 T. ALMUHAZA, 18 MADIBO, 19 ALMOEZ, 22 MUHANNAD N.	
IRQ:	1 FAHAD T., 2 SUAD N., 3 HAMZA A., 4 MUSTAFA N., 5 ALI F., 8 MOHANAD A., 10 ALI H., 11 HUMAM T., 15 SAFAA J., 17 ALAA A., 19 AMJED A.	
Scorers:	1-0 27' A. ALAAELDIN(7), 1-1 86' MOHANAD A.(8), 1-2 109' AYMEN H.(18)	
Referee:	AHMED ABU BAKAR AL KAF (OMA)	
Assistant Referee:	ABU BAKAR AL-AMRI (OMA), ABDULAH ALSHALWAI (KSA)	
4th Official:	CHRISTOPHER BEATH (AUS)	
Substitution:	QAT: 74' out A. ALAAELDIN(7), in MUNTARI(11) 80' out ALMOEZ(19), in F. SHANIN(23) IRQ: 46' out SAFAA J.(15), in MAHDI K.(9) 82' out HAMZA A.(3), in AYMEN H.(18) 112' out MAHDI K.(9), in MOHAMMED M.(16)	
Cautions:	QAT: 115' A. YASSER(6) IRQ: 62' MUSTAFA N.(4) 76' ALI H.(10) 111' AMJED A.(19)	
Expulsions:		

## FINAL

KOREA REPUBLIC v. JAPAN		2-3 (1-0)
<b>32</b>	<b>30-01-2016 17:45 Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha</b>	<b>5394</b>
KOR:	1 KIM DONGJUN, 2 SIM SANGMIN, 3 LEE SEULCHAN, 4 SONG JUHUN, 5 YEON JEIMIN, 6 PARK YONGWOO, 7 MOON CHANGJIN, 8 LEE CHANGMIN, 10 RYU SEUNGWOO, 18 JIN SEONGUK, 22 KWON CHANGHOON	
JPN:	1 M.KUSHIBIKI, 3 ENDO, 4 IWANAMI, 5 UEDA, 6 YAMANAKA, 8 OHSHIMA, 10 NAKAJIMA, 11 KUBO, 12 MUROYA, 20 ADO, 21 YAJIMA	
Scorers:	1-0 20' KWON CHANGHOON(22), 2-0 47' JIN SEONGUK(18), 2-1 66' ASANO(16), 2-2 68' YAJIMA(21), 2-3 81' ASANO(16)	
Referee:	ABDULRAHMAN AL-JASSIM (QAT)	
Assistant Referee:	TALEB SALEM AL-MARRI (QAT), MOHAMED ALHAMMADI (UAE)	
4th Official:	MOHAMMED ABDULLA HASSAN (UAE)	
Substitution:	KOR: 77' out JIN SEONGUK(18), in KIM HYUN(9) 77'' out LEE CHANGMIN(8), in KIM SEUNGJUN(11) 82' out YEON JEIMIN(5), in JUNG SEUNGHYUN(15) JPN: 46' out ADO(20), in HARAKAWA(7) 60' out OHSHIMA(8), in ASANO(16) 74' out YAJIMA(21), in TOYOKAWA(14)	
Cautions:	JPN: 23' YAMANAKA(6) 85' IWANAMI(4)	
Expulsions:		



QATAR 2016

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# REFEREES



## REFEREE / ASSISTANT REFEREE LIST



### Referees

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Christopher James Beath        | AUS |
| 2. Ma Ning                        | CHN |
| 3. Alireza Mohammad Faghani       | IRN |
| 4. Ryuji Sato                     | JPN |
| 5. Ali Sabah Adday Al-Qaysi       | IRQ |
| 6. Adham Mohammad Makhadmeh       | JOR |
| 7. Kim Jong Hyeok                 | KOR |
| 8. Dmitrii Mashentsev             | KGZ |
| 9. Mohd Amirul Izwan Bin Yaacob   | MAS |
| 10. Ahmed Abu Bakar Said Al Kaf   | OMA |
| 11. Abdulrahman Ibrahim Al Jassim | QAT |
| 12. Hettikankanamge Dilan Perera  | SRI |
| 13. Fahad Adwan Almirdasi         | KSA |
| 14. Mohammed Abdulla Hassan       | UAE |
| 15. Ilgiz Tantashev               | UZB |

### Assistant Referees

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Nawaf Shaheen                    | BHR |
| 2. Wang De Xin                      | CHN |
| 3. Reza Sokhandan                   | IRN |
| 4. Yoon Kwang Yeol                  | KOR |
| 5. Ismailzhan Talipzhanov           | KGZ |
| 6. Ahmad Moannes Nadi Alroalle      | JOR |
| 7. Otsuka Haruhiro                  | JPN |
| 8. Mohd Yusri Bin Muhamad           | MAS |
| 9. Abu Bakar Salim Mahad Al Amri    | OMA |
| 10. Saoud Ahmed Almaqaleh           | QAT |
| 11. Taleb Salem H A Al-Marri        | QAT |
| 12. Deniye GP Parakkrama Hemathunga | SRI |
| 13. Abdulah Mutlaq Al Shalwai       | KSA |
| 14. Mohammed Maki Alabakry          | KSA |
| 15. Hsu Min-Yu                      | TPE |
| 16. Hasan Mohamed Hasan Abdulla     | UAE |
| 17. Saidov Jakhongir                | UZB |

### Stand by Referee

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Fahad Jaber Al-Marri | QAT |
|-------------------------|-----|

\*UAE second assistant referee is Mohamed Ahmed Al Hammadi









# STAR SELECTION



# ALL STAR SELECTION

## Forwards



**Arsalan Motahari** (10, IRN)



**Mohamad Abdulraheem Karrar** (8, IRQ)



**Zhang Yuning** (9, CHN)

## Midfielders



Left: **Shoya Nakajima** (10, JPN)



**Akram Hassan Affif** (10, QAT)



Central: **Riki Harakawa** (7, JPN)



**Mustafa Nadhim Al Shabbani**  
(4, IRQ)



Ahmed Alaa (7, QAT)



Park Yong-woo (6, KOR)



Ahmad Moein Doozandeh (4, QAT)



Right: Ali Hisny Faisal (10, IRQ)



Kwon Chang-hoon (22, KOR)

## Defenders



Left: **Abdelkarim Hassan** (3, QAT)



**Sim Sang-min** (2, KOR)



Central: **Naomichi Ueda** (5, JPN)



Right: **Sei Muroya** (12, JPN)



**Lee Seul-chan** (3, KOR)



**Roozbeh Cheshmi** (4, IRN)



**Ali Faez Atiyah** (5, IRQ)



**Yeon Jei-min** (5, KOR)

## Goalkeepers



**Kim Dong-jun** (1, KOR)



**Masatoshi Kushibiki** (1, JPN)







# BEST GOALS



# BEST GOALS

## Set Plays

1. Liao Lisheng - China. 21st minute v Syria (Group Stage). Direct free-kick
2. Mahdi Torabi - Iran. 48th minute v China (Group Stage). Direct free-kick
3. So Kyong-jin - DPR Korea. 90th (+1) minute v Qatar (Quarter-final). Direct free-kick
4. Liao Lisheng - China. 43rd minute v Qatar (Group Stage). Direct free-kick
5. Naomichi Ueda - Japan. 5th minute v DPR Korea (Group Stage). Corner

## Open Play

1. Shoya Nakajima - Japan. 108th minute v Iran (Quarter-final)
2. Jin Seon-guk - Korea Republic. 47th minute v Japan (Final)
3. Ryota Oshima - Japan. 32nd minute v Saudi Arabia (Group Stage)
4. Abdelkarim Hassan - Qatar. 65th minute v China (Group Stage)
5. Shoya Nakajima - Japan. 110th minute v Iran (Quarter-final)
6. Mohamed Al Akberi - United Arab Emirates. 74th minute v Vietnam (Group Stage)
7. Dostonbek Khamdamov - Uzbekistan. 57th minute v Korea Republic (Group Stage)
8. Ali Asadalla- Qatar. 92nd minute v DPR Korea (Quarter-final)
9. Omar Ahmad Al Manasrah - Jordan. 68th minute v Vietnam (Group Stage)
10. Ahmad Al Sarori - Yemen. 82nd minute v Uzbekistan (Group Stage)





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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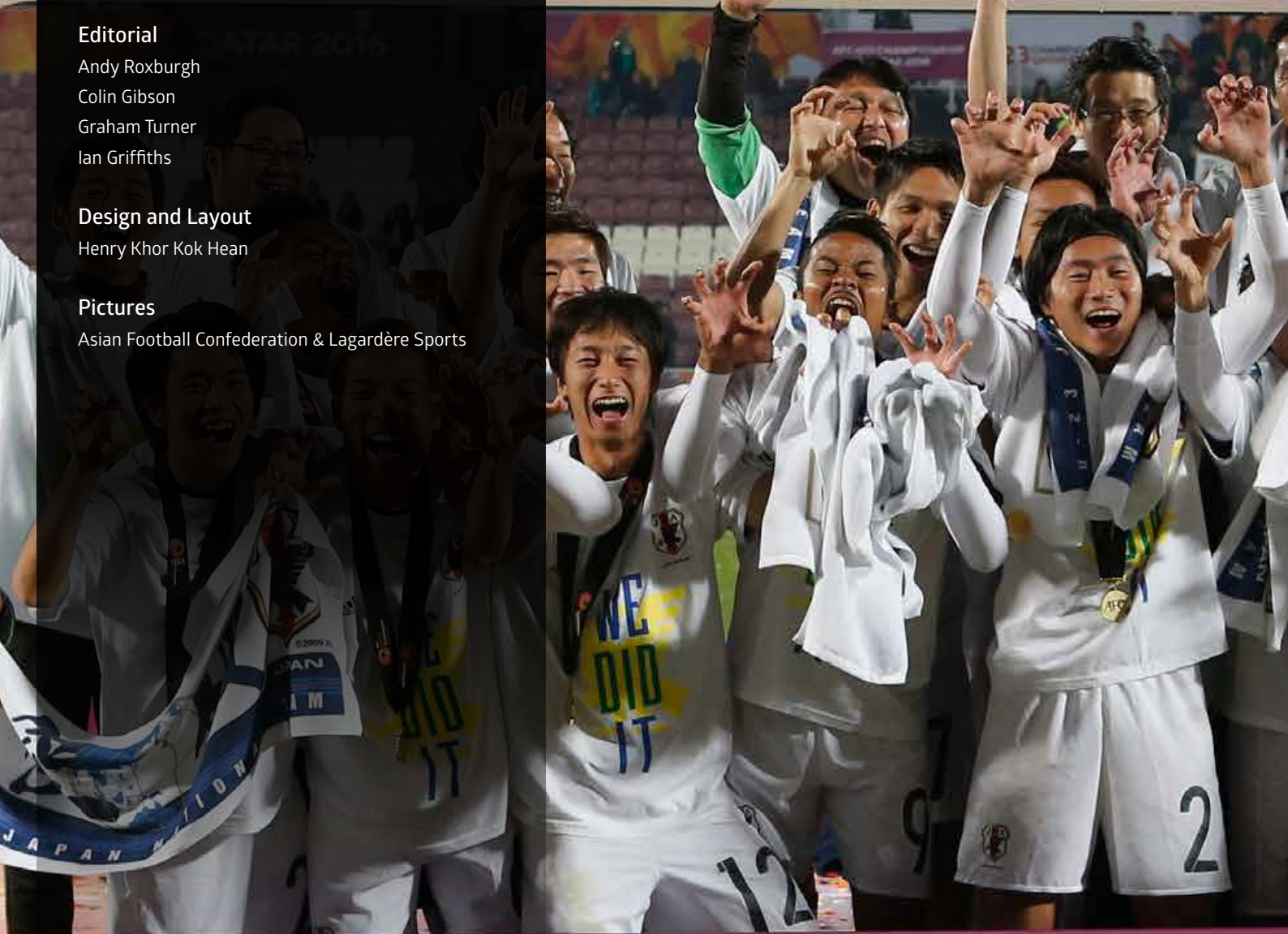
Henry Khor Kok Hean

## Pictures

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