

Podcast 15 Worksheet

The ASEAN Cup – football in Thailand

By Damian Fitzpatrick (February 8th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Competitions mentioned in the report

- The ASEAN Cup – a competition for nations in South-east Asian (Association of South-east Asian Nations)
- The Asia Cup – the biggest and most important competition for all countries in Asia (Japan are holders)
- World Cup qualifiers – matches to try and reach the World Cup finals

Countries mentioned in the report

Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, Oman, Iraq

A. Main idea

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

Example: Damian is not having so much fun in Thailand.

though Damon thinks I am only enjoying the beach I am also enjoying the football

1. Damian is upset because he cannot watch football on TV in Thailand.
2. Thailand qualified for the 2002 World Cup Finals.
3. Thailand are ranked 105 in FIFA's rankings.
4. Qualifying for the World Cup from Asia will become easier in the future.
5. Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore will host the Asian Cup in July.
6. Thailand is one of the favourites to win the upcoming Asian Cup.

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the second half of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

To warm up for the (1) _____ major competition in July, the Thai team participated in the ASEAN Cup this month along with seven other teams in the region and after defeating Vietnam in the semi-finals (which I went to see) they played the two-legged final against Singapore which has recently become one of Thailand's biggest rivals. The first leg was played in Singapore last week and in a (2) _____ and often, physical match and the score at 1-1 the referee awarded a (3) _____ penalty against Thailand who promptly walked off the pitch. They stayed there for 15 minutes before finally coming back on. Singapore scored the penalty and (4) _____ to win the first game 2-1. Not a very good advertisement for the game in south-east Asia.

For the return game in Bangkok, (5) _____ were high. Newspapers from both countries were full of accusations of cheating against the other nation and security was very (6) _____. The game was tense again but also scrappy and though Thailand scored first they never looked comfortable and with just 8 minutes to go Singapore equalised and held on to win their 3rd ASEAN Cup. This was a big (7) _____ to the Thais who had hoped victory in this tournament would help their chances in the (8) _____ Asian Cup and the World Cup qualifiers that start next year. It looks like a difficult road ahead for the football-crazy nation.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. What reasons does Damian list to show that 'Thais are football-crazy'?
2. Why did the Thai team walk off the pitch against Singapore in the first leg (game)?
3. What does Damian mean when he says: 'Not a very good advertisement for the game in South-east Asia.'

Podcast 15 Worksheet - ANSWERS

The ASEAN Cup – football in Thailand

A. Main idea

Listen to the first half of the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

1. Damian is upset because he cannot watch football on TV in Thailand.
there is more football on TV here than anywhere else I know
2. Thailand qualified for the 2002 World Cup Finals.
Thailand has never qualified for a World Cup finals
3. Thailand are ranked 105 in FIFA's rankings.
with a FIFA ranking of 125
4. Qualifying for the World Cup from Asia will become easier in the future.
particularly as Australia now play in the Asian qualifiers and the fact that Asia may well lose a qualifying spot for future tournaments
5. Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore will host the Asian Cup in July.
The country is joint hosts (along with Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia)
6. Thailand is one of the favourites to win the upcoming Asian Cup.
Thailand is not expected to win and may even struggle to qualify from their group

B. Listening - vocabulary

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. continent's | 5. tensions |
| 2. tense | 6. tight |
| 3. dubious | 7. disappointment |
| 4. held on | 8. forthcoming |

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. What reasons does Damian list to show that 'Thais are football-crazy'?
- football is played everywhere
- so much football on TV
- Thais wear their favourite Premier League team's shirts
2. Why did the Thai team walk off the pitch against Singapore in the first leg (game)?
- they disagreed with the dubious penalty decision against them.
3. What does Damian mean when he says: 'Not a very good advertisement for the game in South-east Asia.'
- to the rest of the world it did not look good at all – not very serious.

Podcast 15 Worksheet

Transcript

The ASEAN Cup – football in Thailand

By Damian Fitzpatrick (February 8th 2007)

Yes, I am in Thailand at the moment and though Damon thinks I am only enjoying the beach I am also enjoying the football here. Thailand is a football-crazy country – there are games of football being played everywhere, people wear the colours of their Premier League favourite team and there is more football on TV here than anywhere else I know.

Now, Thailand has never qualified for a World Cup finals though they did reach the final group of 6 for the 2002 finals but with a FIFA ranking of 125 it does not look as if they will challenge in the near future, particularly as Australia now play in the Asian qualifiers and the fact that Asia may well lose a qualifying spot for future tournaments.

The country is joint hosts (along with Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia) for the upcoming Asian Cup tournament, which is the Asian equivalent of the European Championships. Thailand is not expected to win and may even struggle to qualify from their group, which includes Australia, Oman and Iraq though they will play their home matches in front of 35,000 noisy locals at Bangkok's Suphalasai Stadium.

To warm up for the continent's major competition in July, the Thai team participated in the ASEAN Cup this month along with seven other teams in the region and after defeating Vietnam in the semi-finals (which I went to see) they played the two-legged final against Singapore which has recently become one of Thailand's biggest rivals. The first leg was played in Singapore last week and in a tense and often physical match and the score at 1-1 the referee awarded a dubious penalty against Thailand who promptly walked off the pitch. They stayed there for 15 minutes before finally coming back on. Singapore scored the penalty and held on to win the first game 2-1. Not a very good advertisement for the game in South-east Asia.

For the return game in Bangkok, tensions were high. Newspapers from both countries were full of accusations of cheating against the other nation and security was very tight. The game was tense again but also scrappy and though Thailand scored first they never looked comfortable and with just 8 minutes to go Singapore equalised and held on to win their 3rd ASEAN Cup. This was a big disappointment to the Thais who had hoped victory in this tournament would help their chances in the forthcoming Asian Cup and the World Cup qualifiers that start next year. It looks like a difficult road ahead for the football-crazy nation.