

Podcast 34 Worksheet

2010 World Cup Qualifiers: Asia and CONCACAF

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 28th 2008)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

This report focuses on the qualifying stages for the 2010 World Cup in the North and Central American region (CONCACAF) and the Asian section.

Pre-listening task

1. What countries do you think are the strongest in each of the two regions?
2. Which countries from these regions qualified for the last World Cup in Germany?

A. Listening – Main point

How many different countries can you hear in the report? Listen to the whole report and fill in the chart below.

CONCACAF	ASIA

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to whole the report and explain why the following statements are all false.

1. All the international matches this week were friendly games.
2. Montserrat are lower-placed than Aruba in the FIFA rankings.
3. Grenada were lucky to beat the US Virgin Islands.
4. Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea all lost.
5. The biggest surprise was that Saudi Arabia were beaten.
6. The Japanese coach resigned after the game.
7. China had no chances to win their game against Australia.
8. There are six matches remaining in each of the groups.

C. Listening – gap-fill

Listen to the whole report again and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. There may have been a _____ of meaningless international friendlies this week, sorry Mr Beckham
2. ... in the five Asian groups with goals, cards and _____ a plenty ...
3. ... North Korea, in a match played in Shanghai due to a _____ over flags and anthems. Saudi ...
4. ... he was not forced to resign _____ the Thai manager who quit after his team, albeit ...
5. ... this time away at Qatar, while an _____ Australia ground out a scoreless draw with China...
6. Iraq and China can ill-afford another _____ up or else they will be joining the likes of Montserrat...

D. Comprehension

Listen again and answer the questions below.

1. Why does Damian mention ‘Mr. Beckham’?
2. Why was Antigua’s victory over Aruba strange?
3. What does ‘powerhouse’ mean? Give an example of a powerhouse in Asia.
4. What does Damian think of the Thai and Omani teams?
5. What is the connection between Aruba, Montserrat and Brazil 2014?

ANSWERS

Pre-listening task

1. What countries do you think are the strongest in each of the two regions?

Possible answers – Mexico/USA in CONCACAF and Japan, Iraq, Iran, South Korea, Saudi Arabia in Asia

2. Which countries from these regions qualified for the last World Cup in Germany?

Mexico / USA / Trinidad and Tobago / Costa Rica in CONCACAF and (Australia) / Japan / Iran / South Korea / Saudi Arabia

A. Listening – Main point

How many different countries can you hear in the report? Listen to the whole report and fill in the chart below.

CONCACAF	ASIA
<p>Aruba Antigua Montserrat Suriname US Virgin Islands Grenada</p>	<p>Saudi Arabia Japan South Korea North Korea Bahrain Thailand Uzbekistan Qatar Australia China Iraq Iran</p>

B. Listening – main idea

Listen to whole the report and explain why the following statements are all false.

1. All the international matches this week were friendly games.
World Cup Qualifiers took place too
2. Montserrat are lower-placed than Aruba in the FIFA rankings.
Both at the bottom (202)
3. Grenada were lucky to beat the US Virgin Islands.
10-0!!
4. Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea all lost.
Korea drew 0-0 with Korea (north!)
5. The biggest surprise was that Saudi Arabia were beaten.
Japan losing to Bahrain was bigger
6. The Japanese coach resigned after the game.
He is under pressure
7. China had no chances to win their game against Australia.
They missed a last-minute penalty
8. There are six matches remaining in each of the groups.
There are only 4

C. Listening – gap-fill

Listen to the whole report again and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. There may have been a **host** of meaningless international friendlies this week, sorry Mr Beckham
a lot
2. ... in the five Asian groups with goals, cards and **shocks** a plenty ...
surprises
3. ... North Korea, in a match played in Shanghai due to a **dispute** over flags and anthems. Saudi ...
argument, quarrel
4. ... he was not forced to resign **unlike** the Thai manager who quit after his team, albeit ...
as opposed to, not like

5. ... this time away at Qatar, while an **under-strength** Australia ground out a scoreless draw with China...
not at full strength, weaker than usual.
6. Iraq and China can ill-afford another **slip** up or else they will be joining the likes of Montserrat...
mistake

D. Comprehension

Listen again and answer the questions below.

1. Why does Damian mention 'Mr. Beckham'?
He played his 100th cap for England in one of the meaningless friendlies
2. Why was Antigua's victory over Aruba strange?
They only had 8 men
3. What does 'powerhouse' mean? Give an example of a powerhouse in Asia.
Strong team, always winning. Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia
4. What does Damian think of the Thai and Omani teams?
Thais = unlucky; Omanis = cynical
5. What is the connection between Aruba, Montserrat and Brazil 2014?
They are out of the South African version so have to focus on the next WC in Brazil.

Transcript

There may have been a host of meaningless international friendlies this week, sorry Mr. Beckham, but there was plenty of football around the world that actually counted for something. Like qualifying for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Three teams that are ranked 202 and bottom of the FIFA rankings were all in action in the CONCACAF region qualifiers this week. It does not look as if they will be moving up either after Aruba lost 0-1 to 8-man Antigua, Montserrat lost 1-7 to Suriname and the US Virgin Islands were thrashed 0-10 by Grenada. Well, that's that for another four years then, I suppose.

There were also ten games in the five Asian groups with goals, cards and shocks a plenty. The three powerhouses of the region, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea were not able to muster a win between them, though at least South Korea managed to pick up a point, after a scoreless draw against their neighbours, North Korea, in a match played in Shanghai due to

a dispute over flags and anthems. Saudi Arabia were thrashed 0-3 by Uzbekistan but the biggest shock was three-time Asian Champions Japan's 0-1 defeat away in Bahrain. They will surely qualify for the next round as the top two make it but the poor performance has put the coach Okada under intense pressure. At least he was not forced to resign unlike the Thai manager who quit after his team, albeit unluckily, lost 0-1 at home to an extremely cynical Omani team.

How about the group of death? Well, Asian champions Iraq are bottom with no points after another defeat, this time away at Qatar, while an under-strength Australia ground out a scoreless draw with China thanks mainly to Mark Schwarzer's last-minute penalty save. So, with the top two in each group to qualify and four matches to be played in June there is still lots to play for, though teams like Japan, Thailand, Iran, Iraq and China can ill-afford another slip up or else they will be joining the likes of Montserrat and Aruba in preparing for the Brazil World Cup of 2014.