

Podcast 33 / 2008-9 Worksheet

The Asian World Cup Qualifiers

(March 28 2009)

Background information

The Asian qualifiers have entered the final stages for qualification for the South African World Cup in 2010.

Pre-Listening

A. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1 ___ reduce	a. another name for Australia
2 ___ seed	b. level, rank
3 ___ tier	c. make smaller, make less
4 ___ Oz	d. very important
5 ___ crucial	e. positive point, good part
6 ___ put the cat among the pigeons	f. a team that has been given a special position in a group because it is strong
7 ___ sneak	g. move quietly without others noticing
8 ___ bright spot	h. make everyone nervous

Listening

A. Listening for detail

Listen to the first half of the report. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word.

World Cup qualifiers are _____ around the world, and Asia is of course no different. 43 nations started the qualifying race last year but they have been _____ to 10 teams in what is now the fourth round of qualifying. It's no surprise that the _____ top _____ in Asia, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Iran are in that ten. They are joined by teams from the _____: Bahrain, Qatar, Uzbekistan, North Korea and United Arab Emirates.

The ten teams are now in two groups. The top two in each group automatically _____, while the two third place teams must play each other home and away in October to _____ who will play the representative from Oceania, New Zealand, again home and away in November.

So who are the _____ runners at the _____ way stage? The two Koreas top group B, with Iran comfortably in third. If Iran _____ Saudi Arabia at home, their rivals for third spot, they will move into second place as North Korea's visit to their southern cousins will mean either both teams or one team will _____ points. It should be an exciting finish to group B. A draw between the Koreas and a win by Saudi Arabia will really put the _____ the pigeons. The UAE already look out of it with only one point from four games. My _____: South Korea and Iran to qualify automatically with North Korea going through to the play off.

B. Listening for understanding

Listen to the second half of the report. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? If they are false, write the correct information.

1. T / F In group A, Australia are nearly top of the group.
2. T / F Before this World Cup, Australia played in the Oceania group.
3. T / F Australia have to play away in Japan before the end of qualifying.
4. T / F The speaker thinks that Bahrain will finish third in the group.
5. T / F In the last World Cup both Korea and Japan didn't do well.

Podcast 33 / 2008-9 Answers

The Asian World Cup Qualifiers

Pre-Listening

B. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1 <u>c</u> reduce	a. another name for Australia
2 <u>f</u> seed	b. level, rank
3 <u>b</u> tier	c. make smaller, make less
4 <u>a</u> Oz	d. very important
5 <u>d</u> crucial	e. positive point, good part
6 <u>h</u> put the cat among the pigeons	f. a team that has been given a special position in a group because it is strong
7 <u>g</u> sneak	g. move quietly without others noticing
8 <u>e</u> bright spot	h. make everyone nervous

Listening

A. Listening for detail

Listen to the first half of the report. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word.

World Cup qualifiers are **taking place** around the world, and Asia is of course no different. 43 nations started the qualifying race last year but they have been **reduced** to 10 teams in what is now the fourth round of qualifying. It's no surprise that the **five** top **seeds** in Asia, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Iran are in that ten. They are joined by teams from the **second tier**: Bahrain, Qatar, Uzbekistan, North Korea and United Arab Emirates.

The ten teams are now in two groups. The top two in each group automatically **qualify**, while the two third place teams must play each other home and away in October to **decide** who will play the representative from Oceania, New Zealand, again home and away in November.

So who are the **front** runners at the **half** way stage? The two Koreas top group B, with Iran comfortably in third. If Iran **beat** Saudi Arabia at home, their rivals for third spot, they will move into second place as North Korea's visit to their southern cousins will mean either both teams or one team will **drop** points. It should be an exciting finish to group B. A draw between the Koreas and a win by Saudi Arabia will really put the **cat among** the pigeons. The UAE already look out of it with only one point from four games. My **tips**: South Korea and Iran to qualify automatically with North Korea going through to the play off.

B. Listening for understanding

Listen to the second half of the report. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? If they are false, write the correct information.

1. T / **E** In group A, Australia are nearly top of the group.

They are 'top of the pile'

2. **I** / F Before this World Cup, Australia played in the Oceania group.

3. T / **E** Australia have to play away in Japan before the end of qualifying.

Japan has to play in Oz (Australia)

4. **I** / F The speaker thinks that Bahrain will finish third in the group.

5. T / **E** In the last World Cup both Korea and Japan didn't do well.

They both did well. South Korea made the semi-finals and Japan made the second round.

Podcast 33 / 2008-9 Transcript

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World Cup qualifiers are taking place around the world, and Asia is of course no different. 43 nations started the qualifying race last year but they have been reduced to 10 teams in what is now the fourth round of qualifying. It's no surprise that the five top seeds in Asia, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Iran are in that ten. They are joined by teams from the second tier: Bahrain, Qatar, Uzbekistan, North Korea and United Arab Emirates.

The ten teams are now in two groups. The top two in each group automatically qualify, while the two third place teams must play each other home and away in October to decide who will play the representative from Oceania, New Zealand, again home and away in November.

So who are the front runners at the half way stage? The two Koreas top group B, with Iran comfortably in third. If Iran beat Saudi Arabia at home, their rivals for third spot, they will move into second place as North Korea's visit to their southern cousins will mean either both teams or one team will drop points. It should be an exciting finish to group B. A draw between the Koreas and a win by Saudi Arabia will really put the cat among the pigeons. The UAE already look out of it with only one point from four games. My tips: South Korea and Iran to qualify automatically with North Korea going through to the play off.

In group A, it's Australia who are on top of the pile. This is the first time they have taken part in the Asian qualifiers: previously they were part of Oceania. They have three wins and one draw. Their draw came against their biggest threat in the group Japan. Actually, there is quite a rivalry is building up between these two. Australia will be confident of qualifying in top spot as Japan has to play away in Oz before the group is decided. Japan is in second and also look comfortable. They will all but sew up qualification with a win against Bahrain this Saturday in Yokohama. That means the real fight is between Bahrain and Qatar for the third spot. They meet in a crucial game in Bahrain next week. Look for Australia and Japan to qualify with Bahrain sneaking into third and taking on North Korea in the qualifiers.

In 2002, the World Cup came to Asia being hosted by South Korea and Japan. South Korea progressed to the semi-finals, a best for an Asian team, and Japan also made it to the second round. Despite that bright spot, don't look for an Asian team to set the competition in 2010 South Africa alight.