

# Learning English Through Football

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## Football in China

February 21st 2015

A Happy Year of the Sheep (or Goat) to all our listeners around the world and as it is Chinese New Year we take a look at football in China through numbers in this week's main listening report. Vocabulary support (**in bold**) appears at the foot of the post.

### A. Main Idea – Note taking

Listen to the report and take notes under the sub-headings below

<b>82</b>	
<b>1</b>	
<b>2004</b>	
<b>112</b>	

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## B. Main Idea – True / False

*Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false*

1. T | F The Chinese women's team is ranked higher than the men's.
2. T | F China failed to beat Costa Rica in the 2002 World Cup finals.
3. T | F There have been no changes in the number of teams Chinese Super League.
4. T | F Li Weifeng is the all-time top scorer in the Chinese national team.

## C. Listening - Vocabulary

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

1. Though this is an improvement, it is still a long way from the 1998 \_\_\_\_\_ of 37. The Chinese women's national team is currently in 13th position – up from 18th last year.
2. The team failed to \_\_\_\_\_ from the group stage which included Brazil, Costa Rica and Turkey...
3. ... and did not even \_\_\_\_\_ or score a goal.
4. Shenzhen Jianlibao were the \_\_\_\_\_ winners but the most successful club in Super League history is Guangzhou Evergrande who ...
5. There are now 16 teams in the league with the top 3 teams qualifying for the Asian Champions League while the bottom two sides are relegated to the second \_\_\_\_\_.

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## ANSWERS

### B. Main Idea – True / False

*Listen to the whole report and choose whether the following statements are true or false*

1. **I** | F The Chinese women's team is ranked higher than the men's.  
**The women are ranked 13 while the men are in 82<sup>nd</sup> place**
2. **I** | F China failed to beat Costa Rica in the 2002 World Cup finals.  
**China lost all three matches in the 2002 World Cup.**
3. T | **F** There have been no changes in the number of teams Chinese Super League.  
**False. At the start there were 12 and now there are 16 teams.**
4. T | **F** Li Weifeng is the all-time top scorer in the Chinese national team.  
**False. He has made the most appearances for the national team.**

### C. Listening - Vocabulary

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

- (a) **the 1998 high**
- (b) **to progress from**
- (c) **register a point**
- (d) **inaugural**
- (e) **the second tier.**

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## TRANSCRIPT

### 82

This is the current FIFA ranking for the Chinese men's football team – an increase of 15 places since the start of the year thanks to their performances in the recent Asian Cup. Though this is an improvement, it is still a long way from **the 1998 high** of 37. The Chinese women's national team is currently in 13th position – up from 18th last year.

### 1

The Chinese national team has only played on one occasion in the World Cup – in 2002 in Japan/Korea. The team failed **to progress from** the group stage which included Brazil, Costa Rica and Turkey and did not even **register a point** or score a goal. They have not really looked like qualifying since then and indeed in the 2014 qualification campaign they did not even manage to make it into the final group stage in the Asian section.

### 2004

The Chinese Super League first started in 2004 with 12 teams taking part. Shenzhen Jianlibao were the **inaugural** winners but the most successful club in Super League history is Guangzhou Evergrande who have won the last four titles followed by Shandong Luneng with three wins. There are now 16 teams in the league with the top 3 teams qualifying for the Asian Champions League while the bottom two sides are relegated to **the second tier**.

### 112

The most capped player in Chinese history is Li Weifeng with 112 appearances for the national side, while the all-time leading scorer is Hao Haidong with 41 goals in 107 games – not too **shabby** at all.

## Further Links

- [FIFA.com's page on the Chinese national team](#)
- [Wikipedia's page on football in China](#)

## Vocabulary support

**the 1998 high:** The highest position that China has featured on FIFA's ranking of countries

**to progress from:** To qualify

**register a point:** To earn a point

**inaugural:** The first ever

**the second tier:** The second division

**shabby:** Not too bad at all