

AFC U-16 Championship India 2016 Draw Concluded



GROUP A	GROUP B
A1 INDIA A2 ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN A3 SAUDI ARABIA A4 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	B1 AUSTRALIA B2 JAPAN B3 VIETNAM B4 KYRGYZSTAN
GROUP C	GROUP D
C1 KOREA REPUBLIC C2 MALAYSIA C3 OMAN C4 IRAQ	D1 DPR KOREA D2 UZBEKISTAN D3 THAILAND D4 YEMEN

Group A: India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates

Group B: Australia, Japan, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan

Group C: Korea Republic, Malaysia, Oman, Iraq

Group D: DPR Korea, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Yemen

Each group will play a one-round league, from which the top two teams in each group (eight teams in total) will qualify to the quarter-final where the four winners will qualify to the semi-final. The winners of semi-final will advance to the final.

The top four ranked teams of this year's AFC U-16 Championship will qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017, the-afc.com wrote.

In the event that India finish among the top four teams, three play-off matches will be organized among the four losing teams of the quarter-final to determine the fifth placed team that will qualify for India 2017.

FIBA's Asia Regional Office Grants FIBA Asia Champions Cup Hosting Rights to Atlas Sports

BEIRUT (FIBA) - FIBA's Asia Regional Office on Tuesday awarded the hosting rights for the 25th FIBA Asia Champions Cup to Beijing Atlas Sports and Cultural Development Co. Ltd.

The event will take place in Chenzhou city in China's Hunan province from 8-16 October.

FIBA Regional Director - Asia, Hagop Khajirian, made the decision after having met with the representatives of Atlas Sports in Beijing.

"Atlas Sports will now have the full marketing and TV rights for Asia's most prestigious event for basketball club teams in Asia," said Khajirian.

"Atlas Sports is known for their long-term association with CBA (Basketball Association of

the People's Republic of China) especially in the development of China's youth teams. We do hope that this partnership too continues on a long term-basis."

Atlas Sports, formed in 1994, is currently the CBA's partner in the promotion and development of all Chinese teams apart from the senior men and women. The company is known in particular in the promotion of China's youth national teams.

"We are grateful to the CBA and FIBA's Asia Regional Office for granting us this opportunity," said Guo Qilin, the Founder and Managing Director of Atlas Sports.

"After our association with the youth and developmental teams in China, we are ready to move to the next level and host this prestigious event in a grand manner."

Galatasaray Beats Fenerbahçe to Claim Third Consecutive Turkish Cup



Galatasaray captured the Ziraat Turkish Cup

ANKARA (Hurriyet Daily News) - Galatasaray captured the Ziraat Turkish Cup late May 26, defeating city archrival Fenerbahçe 1-0 in the southern province of Antalya.

German forward Lukas Podolski provided the Lions with the game winner, scoring the only goal of the final in the 30th minute. The German international was also voted Man of the Match.

"It has been a difficult season," Podolski said after the game. "This was ... an opportunity for a victory. We succeeded. Tonight's victory was for our fans."

It was Galatasaray's third consecutive Turkish Cup trophy and 17th in total, padding its lead in the list of all-time Turkish domestic cup winners.

"This was a very important victory. Galatasaray was dominant in every area in the first half," Galatasaray's interim coach, Jan Olde Riekerink, told a post-game press conference. "In the second half Galatasaray put on a very good defensive show. I want to

thank all of my players, medical team and the coaching team."

Riekerink, who was in charge of the grassroots until taking over the post until the end of the season, also bid farewell.

"I've had an amazing and proud three months," he said. "My players have come a long way with me, but I also want to thank everybody."

He also praised the club's fans. "Our fans deserve the biggest congratulations," said the Dutchman. "They made a great atmosphere. Galatasaray fans deserve a round of applause."

Galatasaray would have qualified for the 2016-17 Europa League Group Stage with the cup victory, but UEFA banned the club from European competition for one season for financial reasons. Konyaspor, which finished third in the Super League, will take Galatasaray's place in the Europa League Group Stage in the Central Anatolian club's first-ever foray into continental competition.

Argentinian Players Threatened With Firearms

BUENOS AIRES (Xinhua) -- Fans of soccer club Deportivo Moron, in Argentina's third division, threatened two of the team's players with firearms on Thursday surrounding payment issues, informed local media.

The victims, forward Javier Rossi and defender Emiliano Mayola, were brought to their knees while guns were pressed to their chests.

The threats led to goal scorer Rossi announcing his departure from the club who, four points behind the leaders, are currently placed fifth in the league.

The Argentinean government decided to suspend Deportivo's upcoming match against Acassuso on Sunday just "to be on the safe side."

"If they wanted Rossi to leave then

they achieved this. Rossi is going," the soccer player told local media in between tears.

Three days before this incident, Rossi publicly declared that the team was owed three months pay and that this situation had also reached the Buenos Aires clubs management.

"I don't know what these people (the violent fans) were thinking and if tomorrow they will have other intentions. Luckily they didn't shoot because if they had, I wouldn't be talking to you now. I am completely in shock," said the player.

Deportivo Moron's fans are among the most violent in Argentinean soccer and in 2015, during a fight between factions, one of the leaders died.

Manchester United Appoints Jose Mourinho as New Manager

LONDON (DAWN) - Manchester United have appointed Jose Mourinho as their new manager, Sky Sports News reported on Thursday.

The 53-year-old Portuguese replaces Dutchman Louis van Gaal whose two-year reign at Old Trafford ended on Monday, two days after United lifted the FA Cup.

The self-styled 'Special One', Mourinho was sacked by Chelsea in December, ending his second spell in charge of the London club.

He has also managed Porto, Inter Milan and Real Madrid.



Jose Mourinho has won 23 trophies since 2003 — Manchester United

The prospect of Jose Mourinho becoming Manchester United's next boss has unleashed hopes across Europe of a mega-spending spree by the English giants to get back into the elite.

Manchester United, however, is not commenting on the report that Jose Mourinho has signed a contract to become the club's new manager.

The club is yet to announce the deal. Former United defender Rio Ferdinand posted on Facebook his "congratulations to Jose on being announced manager of the biggest club in the world!"

Curry, James Named 2015-16 All-NBA First Team



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) dunks during the third quarter against the Toronto Raptors half in game five of the Eastern conference finals of the NBA Playoffs at Quicken Loans Arena.

WASHINGTON (China Daily)- NBA announced Thursday that Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors and forward LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook and San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard and Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan were selected as 2015-16 All-NBA First Team.

Curry is the only unanimous pick from all 129 ballots, earning First Team honors for the second straight year. James has been named to the First Team for the 10th time in 13 seasons, tying seven players for the second-most selections in NBA

history. The All-NBA Second Team is composed of forwards Kevin Durant of the Thunder and Draymond Green of the Warriors, center DeMarcus Cousins of the Sacramento Kings, guards Chris Paul of the Clippers and Damian Lillard of the Portland Trail Blazers.

The All-NBA Third Team consists of forwards Paul George of the Indiana Pacers and LaMarcus Aldridge of the Spurs, center Andre Drummond of the Detroit Pistons, guards Klay Thompson of the Warriors and Kyle Lowry of the Toronto Raptors.

Penguins Beat Bolts to Reach Stanley Cup Final



Bryan Rust (2R) of the Pittsburgh Penguins celebrates after scoring against Tampa Bay Lightning during Game Seven of the Eastern Conference Final

Pittsburgh is back in the Stanley Cup final for the fifth time overall, and the Sharks are in it for the first time in franchise history.

"It is going to be fast hockey," said Penguins forward Sidney Crosby of the next round.

American right winger Bryan Rust scored both goals for the Penguins, who will be playing in their first final in seven years as they won three of the first four they appeared in.

"We are having a lot of fun. One more to go," Rust said.

Rookie goalie Matt Murray stopped 16 or 17 shots as the Penguins finished off a comeback from a 3-2 series deficit to deny the Lightning a return trip to the finals.

Murray is now 11-4 in the playoffs after heading into the postseason as the team's backup netminder.

Tampa Bay got an emotional lift from the surprise return of captain Steven Stamkos, who played for the first time

since March 31 after developing a blood clot near his neck. But his impact Thursday was minimal.

Rust is one of the Penguins' young guns who are battling for ice time behind superstars Crosby and Evgeni Malkin -- the lone holdovers from Pittsburgh's 2009 Stanley Cup winning team.

After a scoreless first period in which shots and scoring opportunities were scarce, everything changed in the second period. Rust beat Tampa's Russian net minder Andrei Vasilevskiy after being left by himself in the lightning zone at 1:55.

Canadian forward Jonathan Drouin managed to tie it midway through the period with his fifth of the playoffs.

Rust answered just 30 seconds later with his fifth of the playoffs.

Besides missing Stamkos for most of the series, Tampa Bay also had to play without Vezina Trophy finalist goaltender Ben Bishop, who has been out with an undisclosed injury since the first period of game one.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Pittsburgh Penguins punched their ticket to the Stanley Cup final Thursday with a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the deciding seventh game of their Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Penguins begin the best-of-seven championship on Monday when they

host the San Jose Sharks, who beat the St. Louis Blues in six games in the other NHL semi-final.

"The third period was electric. It was the loudest I've heard a building in all my years in this league," said Penguins coach Mike Sullivan of the crowd of 18,600 at the Penguins' Consol Energy Center.