

# The Historical Development of the Results of the Iraqi National Team Participating in the Asian Cup Championships from 1972 to 2007 AD

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**Abstract---** *The importance of the research is highlighted in studying and analyzing the results of the Iraqi teams participating in the Asian Cup tournaments, documenting and analyzing them, as well as documenting the number of matches, the names of the players and the matches that ended with the penalty shootout, the golden goal matches, the number of tournaments that the Iraqi team did not participate in, and the analysis of the reasons for not participating so that this research serves the wheel of progress and advancement Scientific in our beloved Iraq. As for the theoretical side, the researcher discussed a historical account of the football game in the civilization of the Mesopotamia Valley, as well as a historical account of the origins of football in the world, as the researcher discussed the establishment of the International Football Association in the World (FIFA), as well as a historical account of the origin of the game of football in Iraq. The researcher used the historical curriculum or the so-called documentary approach, benefiting from an analysis and discussion of the national team's participation in the Asian Cup exclusively, and the researcher obtained the research results from the results of the Iraqi team in the Asian Cup qualifiers since 1972 until 2007, and the researcher came out with the most important findings, which are: Iraq's participation since the start of the Asian Cup in 1956 and the first participation of Iraq in 1972 in the Thai championship until the Indonesia session in 2007 (6). There are breaks in the Asian Cup championship from 1980 until 1996. The political situation prevented Iraq from stopping the Asian Cup, as well as the wars and conflicts that prevented participation.*

**Keywords---** *Historical, Team and Championships.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Every study carried out by a person reaps the fruits of his effort, so it has its importance and promises to be of general benefit to him and to society, and the study of history in the sports field has its importance and benefits because it examines the incidents of societies and what happened to them in the past time and stand on what has been accomplished and try to analyze and evaluate it so that it can be Starting from a known reality in future research and development. So history is the mirror of the nations, reflects its past, translates its present, and receives its future through it.

And the football game is one of the most important vital sports games that are specialized in the sports field because it is one of the old games and it has a long history and a very wide fan base, being the distinctive game in all parts of the world and the most exciting among sports games, and this game was and still is the first popular game in our country Iraqi and the whole world has attracted the interest of children, boys, youth and the elderly, and its matches have also attracted the attention of hundreds of millions of people in the world, and this interest was not

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limited to the general public, but we find among the fans and fans of the game people with high positions in the state. What distinguishes the football game is the nature of its own competitions and competitions, and because of its great competitions and challenges. 1

There are many football tournaments that start locally and end globally. In every country, an internationally recognized football federation is responsible for conducting local and continental competitions that have their own standards and globally leading this game and organized by the FIFA. The Asian Cup is one of the most powerful tournaments in The Asian continent is an Asian festival held every four years for which the Asian countries are preparing to participate in this tournament (the Asian Cup), as this tournament is a reason for the development of the level of this Asian game to reach the international level.

And the Asian Cup championship since its inception in 1956 in Hong Kong, and South Korea won this cup, and contributed greatly to the high level of the participating teams in it because it gives the true image of the technical level of all participating Asian teams and gain them competitive experience during competitions in tournaments. The Iraqi national team participating in the Asian Cup is considered one of the big teams that has a long history of achievements for this tournament, despite the Iraqi team's absence from (4) tournaments.2

The importance of the research is highlighted in studying and analyzing the results of the Iraqi teams participating in the Asian Cup tournaments, documenting and analyzing them, as well as documenting the number of matches, the names of the players and the matches that ended with the penalty shootout, the golden goal matches, the number of tournaments that the Iraqi team did not participate in, and the analysis of the reasons for not participating so that this research serves the wheel of progress and advancement Scientific in our beloved Iraq.

### ***Research Problem***

Any real treatment of any problem that impedes the development of the football game in our country is dealt with by referring to its causes and finding solutions to it and making plans on a scientific basis for the future teacher in addition to the scarcity of research in the Iraqi libraries in the field of this game. The researcher has asked some questions:

- Is there a comprehensive historical study of all Iraqi participation in the Asian soccer tournaments since the establishment of the Federation in 1951 until 2007?
- To reveal the reasons for hindering Iraq from obtaining advanced positions in the championships in which it participated.
- Are there reasons that prevented the Iraqi national team from participating in the Asian Cup championship from 1951 to 2007?
- Is there an archive in the Iraqi Football Association that contains information on Iraq's participation in all tournaments and tournaments in this game?

### ***Research Objectives***

- Knowing and documenting the results of the Iraqi teams in the Asian Cup championships from 1972 to 2007.
- Knowing the obstacles that prevented the Iraqi team from participating in some of the Asian Cup tournaments.
- Knowing the reasons that stand before the national team to reach the final rounds.

## **II. THEORETICAL STUDIES**

### ***A Brief History of the Football Game in Mesopotamia Civilization***

The ancient Iraqis practiced thousands of years ago many types of sports that left their traces, and most historians are certain that the first people who knew this game among the peoples of the ancient world are residents of the Mesopotamia Valley civilization. Perhaps the most important documents that indicate that the old Iraqis have played football .. as a team of Iraqi experts archaeological painting dating back to the nineteenth century BC. M and the leg of a man in front of him may show something resembling hate and has prepared to hit her so that he has taken the position of shooting or is similar to the method of exercising control commonly. 3

While another document indicates that the inhabitants of Mesopotamia have played with the ball and the history of the plate discovered in (Nefer), specifically during the era of the Assyrian Empire that was founded around (1100 BC), through which historians have inferred that the Assyrians have used the ball in particular to express On religious connotations and there is not enough information about the origins of the game, its regulations and laws that were followed at that time (7-17). With the spread of the Mesopotamia Valley civilizations to other nations and civilizations through the historical mutual relations that prevailed, especially with the Chinese civilization - as the Chinese took the game from the Iraqis and developed it according to their circumstances and their religious rites. 4

### ***A Brief History of Football in the World***

Historical literature indicates that the origins of football were in Britain, when they practiced it in 217 AD in the city of (Ruba), when traces of the game of football were found, and that the first British serious document related to football appeared in 1174 AD written by "William Stevens in Latin on the biography of Saint (Thomas) in the year 1450 AD It is noted that all these barriers did not prevent football from invading the world (12-114).

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, work began organizing the football game and setting rules and foundations for it, and it became closer to the game that is practiced today, and the British have great credit for organizing the rules of the game and developing the foundations of its game as well as its spread (6-18). At the end of the nineteenth century, the football game spread around the world, as it was published by British sailors and merchants, and with various European travelers from Australia to Brazil and Hungary to Russia (16-12). In 1846 AD, the team consisted of (15-20) players, and in 1857 AD, the Sheffield Club was established, the first football club in the world, but in 1862 AD, the first football laws were established. 5

### ***Establishment of the International Football Association International (FIFA)***

The actual establishment of the Football Sports Association dates back to the year 1863 AD where eleven delegates from the British clubs and societies met in London to discuss how to develop laws for the game and with the aim of establishing the first official football association and at that time hundreds of schools and clubs practiced football with laws of their own ... the federation agreed to define the rules of the game and enacted its first laws, and in 1871 AD the first competition took place between Britain and the Aicos (p. 1225)

In 1900 AD, the first German football club was established in the city of Leipzig, and other clubs were created for this game, and in 1930 the first World Cup match was organized in Uruguay (p. 17).(FIFA) FIFA is the international authority that publishes rules and governs this sport and links all international competitions .6

### ***A Brief History of the Origins of the Football Game in Iraq***

The historical march of the football game in Iraq witnessed a great development, as it has received popularity and attention from young people. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Iraq was still under the control of the Ottomans and lived in the unknown world, as there was only ignorance, illiteracy, backwardness, poverty, disease, and this negative image is only a reflection of public life. To the Iraqi society and after 1900 AD during the First World War and before the occupation of Iraq by the British armies there was no football in Iraq and no one knew it except for some of the children of the Iraqi families (Astana) who returned to Baghdad with them football and do not know the origins of their play even those who came In it, the historical literature stated that Basra was the gateway to Iraq to the world and its ports were to receive merchant ships coming from England and India, and the period of the sixties of the nineteenth century witnessed the British and Indian ships transporting Indian and European mail to Basra and the British were landing in Basra while mooring their ships in Ports spend days unloading cargo, transporting Iraqi goods, or loading them on their ships, and in the rest period they often These sailors spend their free time playing ball on the sandy beaches. The people of Basra watched and shared with them playing, and from them they learned how to hit the ball and deal with it. 7

Often foreign sailors had friendly and friendship relations with the Basra youth, and when they departed, they exchanged gifts, so the visuals gave them dates. In return, the foreigners gave balls souvenirs to their Iraqi friends. Because the playing fields were not available, the visuals were playing the ball in a primitive way. The British military stations also took stock of their camps on the outskirts of Iraqi cities, and with them, they started establishing sports arenas inside the camps to watch matches and English players, and they became aware of the dates of exercises, matches, and even the names of some of the players. 8

And some of the Baghdadis were standing behind the goal, throwing every ball that crossed over the goal, considering that as an exercise and a joint. And when the British took control of Iraq's affairs, Major (two days) was appointed as the principal (general manager) of the knowledge at that time, and the sport was carrying him the tasks of the glasses of knowledge so (two days) the corporal (Joseon) To supervise the football game in primary schools, the game went out to try to simulate the English players and understand the origins of the game and play it in an organized collective way, and Sheikh Omar Square witnessed the first practice of the game in the history of football

in Iraq, and after that (Heussen) began teaching primary school students The arts of soccer and bringing balls. Students were divided into two teams and put the regular ball in the middle of the square and explain to them the principles of playing the ball and practically applying that to them and asking them to apply what they saw. 9

### **III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND FIELD PROCEDURES**

#### ***Research Methodology***

The researcher used the historical curriculum, or what is called the documentary approach, benefiting from an analysis and discussion of the national team's participation in the Asian Cup exclusively, and the curriculum fit with the goals of the study (as the historical curriculum) is a description and record of the facts and past events, analysis and interpretation to arrive at facts for the purpose of setting future plans and must be recognized by Choosing (the historical method) for this research is in itself a difficult step that begins with initial steps surrounded by problems and lack of confidence with the loss of the basic means, which are documents, reports or records and sports magazines approved during which the team's participation in participation in addition to reasons and factors that are not encouraging mainly in the follow-up of sporting events from the interruption of a period of time.

#### ***Research Community***

The research limits included the results of the Iraqi national football team participating in the Asian Cup championship from 1974AD until 2007AD.

#### ***Means of Collecting Information***

1. Historical sources, publications, newspapers and magazines.
2. Archive of the Iraqi Central Football Association.
3. Network (Internet).
4. Presenting, analyzing and discussing the results.

### **IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Displaying and analyzing the results of the Iraqi teams participating in the Asian Championships from 1972 AD to 2007 AD.

Table (1) shows the results of the Iraqi national team participating in the Asian Championship in 1972 under the leadership of coach Adel Bashir and for the first time the Iraqi team line up alongside the Asian teams in the qualifiers that took place on Kuwait soil for the period from 10-20 December 1971 and the first meeting with the team was The Kuwaiti finished and tied (1-1). The Iraqi team scored the goal of player Dukles Aziz. The result was decided by a penalty shootout in favor of the Kuwaiti team (4-3), after which the Iraqi team managed to beat Bahrain (1-0). The player Riyadh Nuri scored and the Iraqi team was nominated for the first time. Asian Nations finals in Bangkok.

And that Adel Bashir abandoned his training mission to coach Abd El-Ilah Mohamed, who was unsuccessful in leading the team in the matches that took place in May 1972 in Thailand, so he lost his first match against Iran (3-0)

and drew in the South Korea match without goals (zero - zero) and with Thailand (1-1) was scored by Omar Youssef and he did not qualify to the second round and our players returned without result from Bangkok and the researcher sees it as a great achievement for the team despite his first participation in this tournament, either in the Asian Cup championship that was held in Tehran in 1976 AD. Baghdad narrowed the Asian qualifiers and the International People's Stadium witnessed its events with the participation of the teams (Iraq, Qatar, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia). The Iraqi team was led by the Scottish coach (Danny McLennan) who pushed a new group of players who established their feet in the ranks of the national teams later and the competitions took place in a way back and forth, but by grouping in Baghdad .

Table 1: Shows the Results of the Iraqi Team in the Asian Cup Qualifiers from 1972 AD to 2007 AD

Date	Championship	Place	Facing teams	Result	The goals scored for the Iraqi team
1972	Thailand Qualifiers	Bangkok	Iraq x Iran Iraq x South Korea Iraq x Thailand	Zero x 3 Zero x zero 1x 1	Iraq won on penalties (5-4) Omar Youssef
1976	Iran Qualifiers	Tehran	Iraq x Kuwait Iraq x China Iraq x Iran Iraq x Yemen	2x 3 Zero x 1 Zero x 1 1x zero	Ali Kazem (two goals) Kazem Daal
1996	Emirates Qualifiers	Abu Dhabi	Iraq x Iran Iraq x Saudi Arabia Iraq x Thailand Iraq x Emirates	2 x 1 Zero x 1 4 x 1 Zero x 1	Hossam Fawzy and Khaled Mohamed Cactus Haider Mahmoud (two goals) Laith Hussain (two goals) The Iraqi team lost the golden goal
2000	Lebanon Qualifiers	Beirut and	Iraq x Thailand Iraq x Iran Iraq x Lebanon Iraq x Japan	2 x zero Zero x 1 2 x 2 1 x 4	Qahtan Jazeer and Haidar Mahmoud Sabah Jaeer has two goals Goal of Iraq (Abbas Obaid)
2004	China Qualifiers	And catch	Iraq x Uzbekistan Iraq x Turkmenistan Iraq x Saudi Arabia Iraq x China	Zero x 1 3x 2 2x 1 Zero x 3	Hawar Mulla Muhammad and Razaq Farhan and Qusay Munir Akram and Younes Mahmoud grew up
2007	Indonesia Qualifiers	Shengdu	Iraq x Thailand Iraq x Australia Iraq x Vietnam Iraq x South Korea Iraq x Saudi Arabia	1x 1 3x 1 2x zero Zero x zero 1x zero	Younis Mahmoud Qusay Munir, Younis Mahmoud and Hawar Mulla Younis Mahmoud and Qusay Munir Iraq won a penalty shootout 4-3 Younis Mahmoud

In his first match against Qatar, the Iraqi team managed to win a result (1 - zero) scored by the player (Falah Hassan) and in his second match against Afghanistan, he managed to win with a score (3 - zero) he scored goals (Ahmed Subhi - Hassani Alwan - Ali Kazem) either in his third match In front of Saudi Arabia, a score of 1-1 is scored. The goal was scored by Iraq (Hadi Ahmed). In the second leg, he played the second match against Qatar and was able to win the result (3-0). The goals were scored by (Hassani Alwan, Falah Hassan and Kadhim Daal). Coming up with a positive result by winning (4-0) scored goals (Ali Hussein, Hisham Mustafa and Hadi Ahmed

(two goals)). As for his last match in the playoffs against Saudi Arabia, he managed to win as a result (2-1) he scored goals (Ahmed Sobhi and Falah Hassan).

After that, he moved to Tehran to play the final rounds in June 1976, and unfortunately, he lost three consecutive games against Kuwait (2-3) and China (zero-one) and Iran (zero -1), while he defeated Yemen (1-0) he scored the Iraqi goal (Kazem). Dall) to bid Iraq heroism. The researcher attributes this to the fact that the team presented games that deserve admiration, as well as the effective role of coach (Danny MacLennan) from Scotland and his assistant, Amo Baba, and their fingerprints in selecting the team and the good preparation, but luck was not their ally.<sup>10</sup>

Iraq was cut off from participating in the Asian tournaments (the Asian Cup) in the 1980s in Kuwait, 1984 in Singapore, 1988 in Qatar and 1992 in Japan due to the circumstances of the first and second Gulf War, so sports and politics must be separated and not exploited by some politicians. We must say on the negative side there are some The problems between countries are caused by sport. Sports have their philosophy and have their goals and concepts. Therefore, sport should be excluded from politics, and not be grouped on the basis of nationalism, gender, religion, or color. Sports and sports support or political support for the sports movement away from conflicts and disputes, and that the largest amount for the Iraqi teams' non-participation in some of the Asian Cup tournaments is the result of political factors and wars with the issuance of presidential orders to withdraw or not participate and after the interruption for four sessions from 1980 until 1996 he returned to participate ( 8-42), and the researcher believes the reason for this is that wars have a major impact on not participating in tournaments and achieving results as a result of the financial crisis that the country is going through during the war period by attrition The money to maintain and defend Iraq's security, as well as the period of the unfair siege, prevented Iraq from participating in the Asian Cup tournaments in the Asian Cup tournament held in the UAE in 1996. In the first game, the Iraqi team defeated Pakistan (3-0) scored goals (Sahib Abbas, Hussam Fawzi and Radi Schnichel) and in the second match the Iraqi team defeated Jordan (1-0) scored by the player (Hussam Fawzi) and in the finals that took place in Abu Dhabi he won The national team over Iran (2-1) was scored by (Hossam Fawzi and Khaled Muhammed Sabbar) and in the second match he lost to Saudi Arabia (zero -1), then he returned to beat Thailand (4-1) he scored the goals (Haider Mahmoud (two goals) and Laith Hussein (two goals) )) In the final match, he lost against the Emirates (zero -1) with the golden goal to bid the tournament. The researcher attributes this despite the results he achieved, but the long disruption from the sports field by preoccupation with regional and international wars made Iraq retreat from the sports level, as well as the decline in achievements and results as a result of moving away from international forums, As for the Asian Championship that was held in Lebanon in 2000AD.<sup>11</sup>

The Iraqi team faced its first match in Tajikistan and was able to win (2-1) scored by (Issam Ahmed) and in its second match it achieved a landslide victory over Kyrgyzstan (5-1) scored goals (Razak Farhan and Haider Mahmoud and Husam Fawzi and Abbas Obaid (two goals)) then He achieved a third victory over Oman (2-0), scored by (Razzaq Farhan), but he lost his remaining match against Iran (zero -1) and before Japan a severe loss (1-4) He scored the Iraqi goal (Abbas Obaid), so he found it difficult to pass to the quarter-finals to be deposited The championship, despite its victory over Thailand (2-0), scored goals (Qahtan Jathir and Haider Mahmoud) and tied against Lebanon (2-2) scored by the player (Sabah Jaeer). (5-37) And in the Asian Championship that was held in

China in June 2004 ,The Iraqi team participated in this Olympic team after the dissolution of the Iraqi national team as a result of its failures in the West Asia Championship that was held in Tehran and suffered three losses twice against Jordan (zero -2) and (1-3) and Iran (1-2) and losing the title that He obtained it in Damascus 2002 and the Iraqi Football Association decided to dissolve the national team. The Olympic team participated in its place in the 2004 Asian Nations in China.12

On the team's way to China, the Olympic team organized the Thai camp and played two experimental matches in Bangkok, which were tied in the first match against the Thai youth (4-4) and the Thai team (1-1).The Olympic team participated in this championship, along with the national teams of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, the Saudi national team and the Chinese national team. In the final matches, the Iraqi team fought four games, the first against Uzbekistan, which was lost by a goal against Lashi (zero -1) scored by the team leader from a direct free kick, and after this goal, the Uzbek team stopped its obstacle in the way of the Iraqi players to reach their goal. In the second match, the Iraqi team managed to beat the Turkmenistan team (3-2) scored goals (Hawar Mulla Muhammad, Zaraq Farhan and Qusay Munir) and in its third match it was against the Saudi team that won the Asian title three times and managed to win (2-1) scored both goals Akram and Younes Mahmoud grew up and sent this joy to the hearts of the Iraqi players and their manager Adnan Hamad, and in his fourth match against the Chinese team, which the Chinese players managed to match in their favor (3-0) after the Chinese advanced at the beginning of the match with a goal, then my goal from two penalties and then the Iraqi players lost Control of their nerves, especially Younis Mahmoud and goalkeeper Ahmed Ali, who intentionally struck the Chinese striker, and the referee expelled him from the match, thus securing their qualification to the final text, and they won over Iran, then rose to the final match, and they were convinced of the second place after they met Japan in the final match and lost to them. 13

As for the Asian Cup qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia 2007 and after the Iraqi team fought many matches, both in the qualifiers to reach the final match and achieve the Iraqi dream after many participations in the Asian Cup championship since its first round in 1972, the Iraqi team reached the quarter-finals after it achieved results A positive qualification through which to qualify in this round, his first match. As for Thailand, on July 7, 2007 in Bangkok, it equaled (1-1). The goal was scored (Younis Mahmoud). 1) He scored the goals (Qusai Munir, Younis Mahmoud and Hawar Mulla Muhammad) and in his third match in which he faced the Vietnamese team, he managed to beat him with a result (2-0).

He scored the two goals (Yunus Mahmoud and Qusay Munir) to qualify for the quarter-finals to meet the South Korea team in A fateful match whose original and additional time ended in a draw, and then resorted to penalty shoot-outs to win the Iraqi team (4-3) to qualify for the final match to meet the Saudi team that passed after Iran to meet two Arab teams in the 2007 Asian Cup final in Andon Sia Jakarta stadium, the Iraqi team presented a beautiful and wonderful match in which he managed to win against the Saudi team (1-0) scored by player (Younis Mahmoud).

Thus, the Iraqi team kidnapped the Asian title for the first time in the history of Iraqi football, and that this indicates walking is a sign of coordinated planning and training.



The scientific sense of the selection of the players by the coach (Vieira) and the results achieved by the team in competition with other teams until reaching the final match and kidnapped the championship title by winning the Asian Cup (2007).<sup>14</sup>

The researcher believes that the return of the Iraqi team to international forums and its achievement of the fourth position in Athens in 2004 because solidarity between societies is sport and is a tool to break social and political barriers in society, whether religious or racial, so sport has become recognized for the progress of peoples and this is what made Iraq open up again Towards prospects, and achieving these two achievements, is fourth in the 2004 Olympics and 2007 Asian Champions. <sup>15</sup>

Table 2: Shows the Asian Cup Winners from 1956 AD to 2007AD

Year	The country hosting the tournament	Final matches	Cup winning team
1956	Hong Kong	South Korea × China	South Korea
1960	South Korea	South Korea × Japan	South Korea
1964	Iran	South Korea × Iran	South Korea
1968	Iran	South Korea × Iran	Iran
1972	Thailand	Burma × Iran	Iran
1976	Iran	Iran × South Korea	Iran
1980	Kuwait	Iran × Kuwait	Kuwait
1984	Singapore	Kuwait × South Korea	Saudi
1988	Diameter	Saudi Arabia × China	Saudi
1992	Japan	Saudi Arabia × South Korea	Japan
1996	UAE	Japan × Saudi Arabia	Saudi
2000	Lebanon	Japan × Saudi Arabia	Japan
2004	China	Japan × China	Japan
2007	Indonesia	Iraq x Saudi Arabia	Iraq

## V. CONCLUSIONS

1. Iraq's participation since the start of the Asian Cup in 1956 and the first participation of Iraq in 1972 in the Thai championship until the Indonesia session in 2007 (6).
2. There are breaks in the Asian Cup championship from 1980 until 1996.
3. The political situation prevented Iraq from stopping the Asian Cup, as well as the wars and conflicts that prevented participation.
4. The foreign coach's accomplishments were better than the local coach and the evidence for that achievement by the Scottish (Danny McLean) in the Tehran qualifiers in 1976 and the achievement by (Vieira) in 2007.
5. Iraq won the Asian Cup from its first participation until 1972 until it won the cup in 2007.
6. The presence of players who participated in two championships such as Radhi Shanishal, Younis Mahmoud, Laith Hussein, Habib Jaafar, Issam Hamad, Haidar Mahmoud and others.
7. The presence of most coaches with the national team, the late coach Amo Baba, who experienced training as a coach and assistant coach, the first session in which Iraq participated in 1972 until 1996.

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