

South Korea National Team Face Off Against the Socceroos at Regional Football Championship Final in Australia

On the eve of the final match up, an unbeaten South Korean team faces the tournament's host nation Australia. Both teams will take the pitch in their Nike home kits.

On Jan. 31, South Korea's unbeaten National football team will face Australia's Socceroos in Asia's leading national football competition in Sydney, Australia. Both national teams take the pitch with expectations running high. Korea looks for another chance to bring home the tournament cup, with their last tournament victory 55 years ago, while Australian fans hope for the team's first-ever trophy.

"There is pressure heading to the final this weekend but we feel upbeat and positive about the game. There is no greater honor than donning the green and gold for Australia, especially on home soil in front of our loyal fans," said Socceroos forward, Robbie Kruse.

The stage is set for a highly competitive game, South Korea is the first team since 1976 to hold a clean sheet throughout five tournament matches. Australia has given up just two goals during its campaign — with the only loss coming at the hands of the South Koreans.

"We are ready and well-prepared," said Ki Sung-Yueng, Korean National Team captain. "We are up against Australia on their home turf. This tournament will be the moment that we will prove to the world and to the fans that Korean football is strong. It's about time we bring home the cup."

Both teams will be wearing their Nike-designed home kits to reflect national pride and culture. South Korea's red jersey is emblazoned with elements from the Taegeuk, the yin-and-yang circle symbol found at the center of the Korean flag, to reflect the balanced and harmonious team spirit of the Korean national team. Australia's striking yellow and green kit features design details that capture the unique and pioneering spirit of Australia, paying homage to the 1974 national team.

Crafted for performance and style, the kits are designed to help to regulate player body temperature over the course of the match – which will be welcome for the players on a game day expected to be hot and sunny.

NIKE DRI-FIT TECHNOLOGY

Nike Dri-FIT technology draws sweat away from the body to the exterior of the shirts and shorts, where the moisture quickly evaporates. This allows players to perform at their absolute best by remaining cooler, drier and more comfortable.

Laser-cut ventilation holes and mesh panels in key areas of the kit are designed to improve performance by increasing air circulation to the players' bodies and regulating their temperatures throughout the 90 minutes on the pitch.

The kits are crafted from a new dual-knit fabric consisting of cotton and recycled polyester, which helps remove sweat and delivers a softer feel and an overall more flattering appearance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In line with Nike's commitment to superior performance with lower environmental impact, the kits continue to feature fabric made from recycled plastic water bottles. The shorts are made of 100 percent recycled polyester and the shirts are made of 96 percent recycled polyester, while the socks are composed of 78 percent recycled polyester.

Each kit is made using an average of 18 recycled plastic bottles, and since 2010, Nike has diverted almost 2 billion bottles from landfills.

By using recycled polyester, Nike also reduces the energy consumed in the entire process by up to 30 percent.

AN UPDATED AND PERFECT FIT

Nike captured 3-D body scans of many of the world's leading footballers to create a kit with an updated and perfect new fit. The modern fit effortlessly improves players' comfort and performance by allowing the body to move more naturally within the kit.

Nike's designers also spoke to players to understand what they want from a sock during a game. As a result, the Nike Elite Match fit sock for 2014 incorporates a sleeker and updated design created especially for football.

The sock features strategically cushioned zones designed to provide comfort and protection around the big toe and the anklebones — where the majority of impact occurs — while arch support helps provide a firm foundation for the foot to prevent slipping.

There is also less material on the sock to enhance players' touch, while flex grooves on the ankle and top of the foot prevent bunching.