



Light Hyunwoo's Secret to the Penalty Shootout

Cho Hyun-woo, who listened well to his wife, showed a brilliant defense in the penalty shootout.

The Korean national soccer team, led by coach Jürgen Klinsmann, defeated Saudi Arabia after a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in the round of 16 teams of the 2023 Asian Football Confederation Qatar Asian Cup held at the Education City Stadium in Al-Rayan, Qatar, at 1 a.m. on April 31. With this, Korea will meet Australia in the quarterfinals.

The first half was tight. Korea displayed stable defense based on the three backs and intermittently seized opportunities to attack. They allowed a run as soon as the second half started. Salem Aldousari made a mistake by touching the ball in the first minute of the second half, but it was headed to Abdullah Radif who came in as a substitute. Radif neatly finished the ball with his left foot when the goalkeeper was on one-on-one.

South Korea launched an onslaught to tie the score. However, Saudi Arabia's goal was rarely opened. It was blocked by the Saudi goalkeeper's good defense and the defense's hand-to-hand defense. Korea finally tied the score. At 9 minutes in the second half of extra time, Kim Tae-hwan scored a left-footed cross from the right side and Seol Young-woo passed with a header. Cho Kyu-sung pushed the game back with his head.

The game led to extra time. They played each other carefully in extra time, and no match was made. Finally, the winner was decided in the penalty shootout. Cho Hyun-woo showed remarkable performance. Both teams succeeded in getting the No. 2 kicker. However, Cho won by perfectly blocking the shots of the Saudi's No. 3 and No. 4. It was a dramatic victory. After the game, Cho said, "I expected a very tough game today, and I participated in the game while keeping in mind that the players believed in me. I was confident that I would win if I went to the penalty shootout. As I analyzed, no players came out until the third kicker. So I just went with my gut."

"Our players put in well and tried to block it comfortably without any pressure. I was on the phone with my wife before the game and she suddenly told me to block it to the right, and I remembered that. The goalkeeper coach gave me strong faith and I feel good to repay my faith. It's not over yet, so I'll do my best and play a good game," he added.

Cho Hyun-woo was a backup goalkeeper. Korea's main goalkeeper was Kim Seung-gyu. He played well underfoot, and was suitable for Bento's soccer team, who wanted a rear build-up. Even after changing to Clinton's manager, Kim Seung-gyu's position remained solid. Kim Seung-gyu played nine out of 11 games that he played since Clinton's inauguration. In the first game of this year's event, Kim Seung-gyu was also the starting pitcher. [투투사이트](#)

However, unfortunate news spread ahead of the second leg. The Korea Football Association officially announced on Wednesday that the cancellation of the Asian Cup has been decided after Kim Seung-gyu suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during training. As Kim Seung-gyu left the team, Cho Hyun-woo had a chance. Cho displayed good defense in the second and third legs, but he allowed a total of five runs, drawing criticism. However, he became a leading player when he led the team to victory in the round of 16.