



Women's Basketball Confirms Cold Reality

Park Ji-hyun of the women's basketball team is participating in the game.

He's on the verge of elimination.

The Korean women's basketball team led by head coach Park Soo-ho lost to the Czech Republic 63-76 in the second Group A match of the preliminary qualifying round for the 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup at the Hurnacio Juan de la Barrera in Mexico City, Mexico on Sunday. Having suffered a come-from-behind loss to Venezuela, the weakest team, 78-84 on the previous day (20th), Korea also collapsed to the Czech Republic and suffered its second consecutive group league loss.

Still have showdowns with Mali, the team is in danger of losing the semifinal match given to the top two teams in the group. In this competition, in which eight teams compete in A and B groups, only the final winner can advance to the World Cup qualifying round. The rest of the teams have to compete again in continental competitions such as the FIBA Asia Cup to qualify for the finals. [투투사이트](#)

This is the first international competition under Park. She was appointed as the head coach of the women's basketball team in May. Park has been guaranteed tenure until the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi and Nagoya, which allowed her to draw up long-term plans. Park convened players from April 10 to conduct reinforcement training for about five weeks. Throughout the training sessions, she improved her sense of play in real games. In some cases, the injured players had to leave the team, but she had plenty of time to work together.

However, the team failed to display strong performance in actual matches. Park still remained dependent on Ryu, who was unstable in defense and advance. She suffered an upset loss to Venezuela, which was considered the weakest team in Group A, and was also lethargic against the Czech Republic. The performance was so disastrous that it was hard to see what she prepared for the past month.

Coach Park Soo-ho of the women's basketball team is watching the game.

This reporter confirmed the cold reality. The days when women used to be called the Asian

powerhouse have long passed. I realized how competitive they were in the international leagues. If Korea had ranked within the top four at the FIBA Women's Basketball Asia Cup last year, it would have been able to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, it only ranked fifth under coach Jeong Seon-min, failing to play in the final preliminary match of the Olympics. Women's basketball, which had been drifting away in the absence of an international competition for a while, has come to realize the reality.