

# LEGENDARY TALE ABOUT CHOLLIMA FOOTBALL TEAM



# **LEGENDARY TALE ABOUT CHOLLIMA FOOTBALL TEAM**

Foreign Languages Publishing House, DPRK  
Juche 107 (2018)



**Korean footballers rise as stars by presenting exciting scenes at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup Finals.**







**Pyongyangites accord hearty cheers to the footballers on their return home.**

On July 12, 1966 the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup finals was held at Wembley Stadium in London amidst the interest of the world football fans.

The football team of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Middlesbrough where Group D league matches were to be held. Middlesbrough is a seaside town in the northeastern part of England, 400 km away from London. Making good use of its harbour with deep water, the locality developed chemical and steel industries from long ago, so it retained a strong plebeian character, whose citizens were mostly workers. The DPRK football team checked in at a hotel some 20 km away from Middlesbrough Stadium.

The debut of the DPRK team in the World Cup finals produced different responses and feelings in the football world. FIFA thought it an enigmatic team of the East, and some people made light of the team for their short height and, worse still, some other people sneered at the Koreans attributing their debut to the leaky system of preliminaries.

The situation at the moment can be understood by a simple glance at the possibility of the winning lottery tickets bet on consequences of the matches during the football season. The winning rate of lottery tickets was 9:2 for England, 11:2 for West Germany, 6:1 for Argentina, 6:1 for Portugal, 7:1 for Brazil, 10:1 for Italy, 16:1 for Uruguay, 40:1 for Spain, 200:1 for Chile, 500:1 for France, 1 000:1 for the DPRK, 1 000:1 for

Bulgaria and 1 000:1 for Mexico. This meant the man who bought a lottery ticket at the cost of £ 2 with the prediction that the English team would win could get £ 18 when the English team won actually, and the man who bought a lottery ticket at the cost of £ 1 with the prediction that the DPRK team would win could get £ 1 000 when the DPRK team emerged victorious. In other words the possibility of the DPRK team's win was so much faint. Though the lottery-winning ratio was decided by the gambling organizer's prediction, it partly reflected the public appraisal and interest at the moment.

On July 13, 1966 the first match of Group D took place between the DPRK and the USSR in Middlesbrough Stadium. Most of the Soviet players were unknown except the keeper Yashin. At half past seven pm sharp, the referee blew the whistle to announce the beginning of the match. The match was often interrupted from the beginning by whistles of the referee because the Soviet players committed violations with the use of force, targeting the control of the mid-field.

Less than ten minutes after the beginning of the first half several forwards of the Korean team got seriously injured. But they could not be replaced as it was the rule at the time.

Senior Coach Myong Rye Hyon clasped his forehead with one hand, his head drooping. The Soviet team launched stronger, taller and more tenacious players rather than

those who were experienced and well-known. They were aware of the DPRK team's composition of players and tactics. Consequently the Korean team lost the match 0-3.

Thus it became a very serious problem for the DPRK team how to cope with the match with the Chilean team, the second one in the group. In the exercises for the match Myong Rye Hyon put emphasis on application of the Korean-style tactics based on teamwork. The Chilean team had been beaten by the Italians 0-2, so they were making thorough preparations for the match since they could move on to the next stage as the second winner in Group D only when they beat the Koreans.

The Koreans had a meeting to discuss tactics the day before the match. Myong stressed one problem after another in detail about tactics and players' arrangement to be introduced in the match with the Chileans.

At half past seven pm, July 15, 1966 the match between the DPRK and Chile took place in Middlesbrough Stadium.

From the beginning of the match the Koreans were in high spirit and every movement of theirs was swift and valiant. Overwhelmed by the Koreans' tactics, the Chileans were at a loss how to cope with the situation.

In the battle to take the mid-field command the Koreans were superior. They put their offensive area close to the goal area of the Chilean team, keeping a tight and well-organized collective connection, and conducted ever-changing fierce

attacks.

The audience shouted “Bravo, Korea!” incessantly. They praised the Koreans for their ability, saying they were far from a poor team, and that they were unfolding a new scene of the football world.

The match got fiercer with desperate offensive and defensive battles. With the passage of time the Koreans’ movement of snatching the ball became rough and they seemed to fall into violent mentality. At around 26<sup>th</sup> min of the first half the Koreans allowed an 11-m penalty kick since they failed to act properly according to circumstances while trying to check the opponents’ attack. Thus the Chileans scored the first goal of the match.

Continuing the match in such an unfavourable situation none of the Korean players looked disappointed. The number of Korean attacks grew and breath-taking scenes unfolded in succession in the goal area of the Chilean team. Impressed by the performance of the Koreans, the spectators clapped for them drubbing and shouting.

The first half ended with the Chilean team’s score. In the second half the Koreans showed the spectators the power of an all-out attack accelerating the attacking speed attractively. But they could not score a goal yet.

The Chileans changed their tactics. They put more efforts into defence than attack, stalling the game with the idea

that they were leading by a goal. Such a playing mode was a general trend in the European and South American football circles at the moment. After scoring a goal, they attempted to win the game by dint of stalling.

As time went second by second urgency began to prevail the Korean players' mind causing apprehension over the possible outcome of the match. Such a psychological change was reflected in the players' management of the match—they lost patience and made haste, even missing a golden opportunity to make a shot in a situation when they were faced with the opponent keeper man to man. Repeated shooting failures badly disappointed the spectators as well as other Korean players.

As the second half was coming to an end, the spectators even complained the Korean football was fresh but lacked the scoring ability. Some impatient people stood up and headed for the exits to leave the stadium before the exits were crowded.

At that moment Pak Sung Jin, a midfielder of the Korean team, caught the ball with the left leg. He managed to rush into the back side of the opponents in cooperation with a forward nearby and shot the ball at once when he took it from the attacker. He was 20 m far from the goal—the distance was more or less far but the shooting angle was opened. He carried out his shooting so instantly that the Chilean keeper never reacted but watched the flying ball. When the ball flew

into the left corner of the goal and kissed the net, the keeper collapsed.

Sounds of claps and shouts shook the stadium. It was the moment two minutes before the end of the second half. The Koreans conducted a fierce all-out attack for the two minutes. But that was too short a time comparing to ninety minutes.

The whistle sounded long to declare the end of the match. But the spectators would not move but shouted and sent enthusiastic cheers to the Korean team. The goal Pak Sung Jin scored was quite meaningful in that it was recorded in the FIFA history as the hundredth goal in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup finals, and that it was the first goal of the DPRK that was the first to participate in the World Cup finals in honour of Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The Korean football team was scheduled to compete with the Italian rival as the final of the group preliminaries.

The Italian team had participated in almost all the previous seven rounds of World Cup finals and won the trophy twice. After obtaining the qualification for the finals of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup Football Championship they travelled Bulgaria, Austria, Argentina, Denmark and other countries across Europe and South America to have friendly matches which they won by 3 to 0 or 5 to 0 without a single defeat. As such a world-class team it was expected to be the winner of the 8<sup>th</sup> championships by mass media. During the group

league matches, the team that belonged to Group D had beaten the Chilean team 2 to 0 and been beaten by the USSR team 0 to 1 before facing the Korean team in the last of the matches on which it depended whether they would proceed to the quarter-finals or not.

A British reporter in charge of football news went to the lodging place of the Italian team to see its senior coach before the match between the two countries. He said, "I want to know about how you understand the tactics of the Korean team." The senior coach replied, "Their tactics is fresh in the world football circle. The individual players' dribbling techniques and fast speed are menacing. Since they attack and defend on an all-out basis, I'm worried. It is an enigmatic team. We will build up our team with aces for the match. The Italian team is still in good condition and will dash forward towards the victory."

At half past seven pm, July 19, 1966 the DPRK team and the Italian team made their appearances in Middlesbrough Stadium. The Italian team was replenished with tall and strong players as its core. It seemed that they imitated the way whereby the USSR team had acquired a good result by building itself up with physically strong players. At last the match began at the whistle signal of the referee.

From the beginning the Korean team held the initiative and pressed hard upon the defence line of the Italian team by

dint of well-organized cooperation and passes between two or three based on fast speed and team spirit.

After undergoing dangerous moments several times owing to active roles of the Koreans, the Italians seemed confused and uneasy at such unexpected misfortune.

About 34 minutes after the start of the first half Pak Sung Jin, a midfielder of the Korean team, skilfully drove the ball toward the opponent's goal but he was interrupted by an Italian midfielder who thrust his leg deep between Pak's legs from behind. At the risky moment Pak managed to jump up, only to lose his balance due to the rough violation and fell down colliding with the Italian rival. The referee whistled to stop the game to declare the Italian player's behaviour a foul and allow the Korean team to do a direct free kick. The Italian violator got injured in the kneecap and was carried out of the field on a stretcher. Many spectators in the stadium clapped for the Korean player's free kick done at the signal of the referee.

The Italian team had a gap owing to the leaving of its midfielder but there was no change in its defence line. They maintained the five-latch defending and never allowed a chance.

About three minutes before the end of the first half Pak Tu Ik, who had rushed swiftly into the opponent's ultimate defence line, received the ball. His point at the moment was

16 metres away from the goal line in the right side. But his way was blocked by a “broom” defender and another defender ahead of the keeper. In front of him there were no other mates in better positions than him. He decided to cope with the situation alone, dodged the Italian defenders with feints and kicked the ball toward the left corner of the goal which was full in the shooting angle. The ball ran into the corner without giving any time for the rival defenders and keeper to react.

“Goal! Wow!” The stadium turned into a melting pot of pleasure in an instance. Shouts and claps of the spectators seemed unlikely to cease. Every face of the Middlesbrough citizens who cheered the Korean team looked full of joy and pleasure. They had never ceased cheering the Korean team from the first day of the championship. This day, in particular, tens of thousands of them wore T-shirts printed with the DPRK flag like uniforms—no one knows who was the first to do so—and cheered the Korean team in an organized manner.

The head of a voluntary cheering group among them visited the Korean team in its restroom immediately after the end of the first half, and frankly said, “The Korean football attracts us by its speed, technique, strength, intensity and collective power, and the players also attract us by their spirit, vigour, morale, fortitude, sense of justice and moral traits, and they are all impressive.”

The second half was fiercer. The Italian team that had lost

a score turned out in a counter-offensive unyieldingly. The Korean team, which had anticipated such a situation in the second half, never delayed attack even a moment. It was also the Korean team's tactic to put the opponent on the defensive through continuous attacks by holding the initiative and availing themselves of the favourable condition in which they had already scored a goal. With the standpoint that the strongest attack is reliable defending, they managed the game.

As the second half went on, the Italian team gradually broke the latch defending and turned out in an all-out attack to recover the lost score. The Italian team's tactic of putting tall strikers in the rear of the opponent's defence line and attacking from side to the middle by passing was threatening. It was not easy at all for the Korean defenders to keep the goal by dint of heading against their rivals 15 or 20 cm taller than them.

The captain of the Korean team and its defenders including O Yun Gyong and Rim Jung Son checked the opponent's attack by judging the track of the ball beforehand and reacting and jumping before the opponent moved.

About 40 minutes after the start of the second half the ball kicked strongly by an Italian striker flied toward the right corner of the opponent's goal like a bullet. The track of the ball just suggested a goal. Even the Korean players, whose eyes were following the ball flying toward the goalpost, thought it

just a goal.

Then keeper Ri Chan Myong who had stood in the middle of the goal jumped sideways stretching out to the corner of the goal and caught the ball with his right hand. The way the keeper jumped at an angle of  $45^\circ$  stretching his arms resembled that of an acrobat on a flying trapeze. He drew a parabola holding the ball and fell down on the goal line 5.5 metres far from the goalpost, which meant that he had jumped over a distance of more than 8 metres to catch the ball. The spectators showered the keeper with stadium-shaking claps.

A foreign football expert expressed his impression, saying, “Keeper Ri Chan Myong’s quick move, flawless aerial posture, ball catching technique, composed and correct ball dealing technique are good examples. He should be mounted on the top of the ten best keepers of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup Football Championship.” Ri Chan Myong then came to be well-known as *Asian cat* worldwide.

The match continued fiercely amid attack and defence without any hesitation or delay even a moment. Reaching the end of the match the atmosphere of the stadium became serious. Some of Italian spectators even threw stones toward the football field by dint of catapults. The police arrested the rioters and thus relieved the situation but the tension still prevailed in the stadium—nobody knew what would happen. The match between the two teams became fiercer nearing its

end and unfolded thrilling scenes successively.

At last the whistle of the referee sounded long to notice the end of the match, and shouts of tens of thousands of spectators shook the stadium. The spectators holding the DPRK flag rushed into the field. The Middlesbrough citizens joined Korean players in singing the immortal revolutionary paean *Song of General Kim Il Sung*, and dancing to the tune of the song.

The mass media of Britain did not spare compliments and admiration for the Korean team under such headlines as *Football Star of Korea Makes His Debut*, *Korean Football Shakes World*, *World Football Circle Attracted by Korean Football*, *Miraculous Chollima Football Team* and *Oriental Lion*. Many British people warmly congratulated the Korean football team for its victory in the stadium, streets and the hotel, saying, “Merely the scenes of your original tactics and dogged fighting spirit in the football match enabled us to know how Korea had defeated the US.”

On July 20, 1966 the DPRK football team left for Sunderland stadium 40 km away from their hotel. By defeating the Italian team the Korean team had a prospect of its advancing to the quarter-finals, but they did not yet obtain the qualification. The result of the match between the USSR and Chile that day would decide on teams of Group D that could proceed to the quarter-finals. The Soviet team had already won two matches, so they were qualified to advance to the quarter-fi-

nals, regardless of their win or defeat in the match with Chile. But if the Chileans defeated the Russians, they would take second place in the group. Only when the Soviet team won or tied with the Chileans, could the Korean team proceed to the quarter-finals.

At half past seven pm, the two teams showed up in the stadium. The Soviet team allowed its new players who had not participated in the previous matches to attend the match in order to enable them to have experience in international competitions while preparing its main players for the next-stage matches. The first half of the match ended in a draw 1:1, but in the second half the USSR team scored another goal, winning the match.

After the group league matches the organizing committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup finals announced the teams qualified for the quarter-finals and the relevant schedule as follows:

Group A: England, the first, and Uruguay, the second

Group B: West Germany, the first, and Argentina, the second

Group C: Portugal, the first, and Hungary, the second

Group D: USSR, the first, and DPRK, the second

Date: 3 pm, July 23, 1966

Stadiums: Wembley, England vs Argentina

Sheffield, West Germany vs Uruguay

Liverpool, DPRK vs Portugal

## Sunderland, USSR vs Hungary

### Mode of competition: Tournament

The DPRK team had to leave Middlesbrough as soon as possible to compete with its Portuguese rivals. The distance from Middlesbrough in east England to Liverpool in the west is 240 km, and such a long distance of travel by train gave physical and mental fatigue to the Korean players with the important match just ahead. Besides, they had to prepare for the quarter-finals while overcoming difficulties and obstacles such as unfavourable conditions of their accommodation.

At last, the day of competition came with a morning glow. The Korean players, who had tossed and turned sleepless in bed all night because of inconvenient lodging conditions, fell asleep only in the early morning. So, the time of getting up had to be put off lest they should have trouble in maintaining their conditions. Time passed, and when it was around the lunch time, they were woken up to have lunch. However, they lost their appetite. Some of them reluctantly ate boiled rice in kimchi juice, and some others took a few spoonfuls of boiled rice in cold water with peppered bean paste. As the stadium was ten kilometres away from the monastery where the Korean team stayed, they decided to leave at 2 pm so as to have a rest after lunch.

When it was a little past 1 pm, someone's urgent voice broke silence in the monastery.

“Now, it’s past 1 pm, and why on earth are your players still in bed? Don’t you know the match starts at three o’clock? Why don’t you leave for the stadium? If you fail to reach the stadium on time, they will declare your team’s lost the match.”

“Well, does it take two hours to travel 10 km by bus?”

“You don’t know well about Liverpool. The streets are narrow, with a large number of passersby. You can understand it on your way to the stadium. The streets are crowded with those who are going to see the match, and a long queue of cars, buses and lorries. You could get to the stadium only when the roads are opened.”

“You mean it takes much more time than walking?”

“Sure. It is hard to move even a step forward. You should hurry.”

When the Korean team’s large coach arrived at the entrance to the city, the streets were jammed with long processions of people and cars, so it was difficult for the coach to move forward. Fifty or sixty thousand people streamed ahead, and it was hardly possible to see the end of the procession of cars. Fortunately, they made way for the coach as they saw it was carrying foreign players, so the coach managed to move forward through the space. When the Korean players arrived at the stadium, they had only about 30 minutes for warming up. Their movements looked dull. Seeing them doing the exercises without having enough rest before the match, the senior

coach of the Korean team could not help but be worried.

Just at 3 pm, the match between the Korean team and the Portuguese started at the whistle signal of the Israeli referee. From the beginning the Korean players, according to their tactics, fought to get control of the ball in the midfield. So they soon had control over the ball. It passed through Pak Sung Jin, a midfielder, to Han Pong Jin, the right wing. Pong Jin grasped a golden opportunity to dribble the ball rapidly towards the goal line of the opponent. Then a Portuguese defender rushed to him, trying to block his way desperately. At that moment, Sung Jin quickly ran up to the spot. Pong Jin passed the ball to Sung Jin who was moving to a favourable position. By dint of this well-organized two-person play Sung Jin took control of the ball on an empty spot 30 metres away from the opponent's goal, and kicked the ball without aiming toward the goal which was full open for the shooting.

The ball flew in a fine arc into the right corner of the goal. The eyes of the Portuguese goalkeeper, who was uncertain whether it was a shot or a pass, just followed the ball flying. The ball hit the net to be caught in it for a second. The keeper wondered whether the ball was inside or outside the net. Only when the ball fell down inside did the referee whistle to announce a goal.

“Goal! It's a goal!” The spectators shouted, applauding loudly. It had happened less than a minute after the begin-

ning of the first half. The members of the Korean football delegation, who were anxious about the match on their seats, embraced each other, shedding hot tears. The goal scored just after the start of the match put the players of the opponent team to the disadvantage. Even when holding control of the ball, they got flurried, watching the Korean players lest the latter should tackle the ball, instead of trying to open a route of attack.

All the movements of the Korean players, such as tackling and interception of the ball, two- or three-person play, advancing towards the vacant position through the defence line, moving of backs to support attacks, rushing ahead, sideways, backward, near or far, looked vigorous and harmonious. The dynamic and rhythmic movements of the Korean players in white uniform were marvellous. Sometimes the Portuguese players took control of the ball, but their attacks were frustrated, as they always failed to penetrate the defence line of the Korean team. But whenever they had control over the ball, the Korean players soon turned out for an all-out strike, breaking through the opponents' defence line, regardless of side, half-side or centre, to drive the opponents near their goal line.

About 22 minutes after the start of the first half, Ri Tong Un, a centre forward as a new star and the tallest of the Korean players, rushed into the rear of the Portuguese defence

line and shot the ball toward the opponents' goal, with his upper body bended slightly. Taken aback by this, the Portuguese keeper could not even take any defence posture against the Korean rival's daring act. Now the Korean team scored the second goal. The Portuguese keeper dropped his head for a good while. By scoring the second goal the Korean team put to shame the Portuguese team which was drawing the attention of the world football circle as a favourite for the World Cup, fully displaying the mettle of Chollima Korea. But there was still much time left before the end of the match.

Having gone 2 to 0 ahead, the Korean team continued to threaten the Portuguese goal area without decreasing the speed of their attack. Fascinated by the Korean players' movements, the audience applauded in succession, stamping their feet and sending up rousing cheers. And gradually they intensified their cheering, forming organized waves.

The Portuguese tried to make up for their loss, encouraging and sometimes yelling to one another. But their attack was often frustrated without breaking through the defence line of the Korean players who held firm control of the midfield and took the initiative in the match. The Korean players would organize and launch an attack once in the right area and then in the left area as they wished. At the 25<sup>th</sup> minute of the first half they tried for a side attack in the left area. Through change of positions and fast thrust they made a breakthrough in the

centre of the opponent's goal area, and Yang Song Guk, a left wing of the Korean team, quickly moved to occupy a position favourable for an attack. When a back of the opponent checked his way, Yang left him about 3 metres behind by means of his forte of spinning his body anticlockwise, and confronted the rival keeper face to face. Then Yang pretended to try to kick the ball to the left side before kicking it towards the right corner of the goal with composure. The Portuguese keeper fell down with his legs spread wide, and the ball lightly hit the net of the goal. The Liverpoolian spectators, who had witnessed the scene of the Portuguese team's winning the final match of Group C, remained open-mouthed with astonishment.

The Portuguese players, grumbling to themselves, put the ball down on the central line and hurried a kick-off. With three scores lost, they launched a general attack in an attempt to break through the rival's defence line. Even fullbacks as well as midfielders joined the attack. At the 27<sup>th</sup> minute of the first half Eusebio, displaying his forte, rushed forward in cooperation with an adjoining player on the left side and took a non-stop at the goal to score a point. This marked a turning point in the Portuguese team's play. It was less than two minutes after the Korean team scored the third point. This badly affected all the Korean players.

The situation of the match gradually became favourable for the Portuguese team. And a minute before the end of the

first half the Israeli referee whistled to signal a penalty kick for the Portuguese. The Korean backs protested, but the referee obstinately refused to cancel the penalty kick.

Ri Chan Myong, the Korean keeper, had to confront Eusebio, a master scorer of the Portuguese team. Silence fell upon the stadium. After putting the ball down on the penalty spot, Eusebio walked backward far away from the spot and then ran forward kicking the ball. Ri Chan Myong soon grasped the direction of the ball's flight and jumped touching it, but failed to toss it over the crossbar. So, the first half ended in the Korean team's favour by 3 to 2.

During the second half the situation went unfavourable for the Korean team. At the 12<sup>th</sup> minute of the second half the Portuguese team scored another point, tying the score 3 to 3. Two minutes later the referee announced a penalty kick once again for the Portuguese team. As a result, the Korean team was one point behind its rival. The Israeli referee, who had become a moneygrubber in a society where money was everything, took no account of sportsmanship. So there came into being the word *Israeli referee* as a synonym for unfair refereeing in the history of the World Cup.

The demoralized Korean players were not able to move properly as they wished. Towards the end of the match the Korean team lost another one point. As a result, the score was 5 to 3 in favour of the Portuguese team....

Although the Korean team failed to win, the scenes of its fine play caused a great sensation. A British reporter, who was covering sports activities, fairly commented, “The Israeli referee was bribed by Portugal. The Koreans did not lose.” AP reported that north Korea showed that a new football force appeared in the Far East. The French newspaper *Tresse* reported, “The Koreans showed how loyal they are to sportsmanship. This time they set an example for the football championship to follow.” A British TV broadcast the scenes of the quarterfinal match between the Koreans and the Portuguese as an extra programme, reporting, “Attention should be paid to the new aspects of Korean football. There can be found no other team but the Korean that won sweeping popularity in the quarterfinal matches of the current football championship.” A British morning paper carried an article that fairly commented, “A small team from the Far East shocks the world football circle. Their play was really heroic.” The British newspaper *Sunday Times* reported that the match between the Korean team and the Portuguese team was the best among those of the current world football championship.

Comparing the might of Korean football with that of the strongest teams in the world, the global football circle tried to find the secret of Korean football’s rising up with original quality and new aspects.

In fact, the Korean team did not hesitate to attack afraid

of a counterattack or leave off defending to attack. Whenever holding control of the ball, they switched over to an all-round attack and when missing the ball they immediately launched all-round defence. And always on the basis of fastest attack, they kept combining attack and defence. They were quick in action and their motion was far and wide. Their method of playing always varied, giving full play to their creativity and vigour. The match was fierce all the time, and the Korean players turned the ground into a hardfought field. The Korean-style football's shocking charm and original aspects aroused worldwide admiration and high praise.

The call "Look at Korean football! Let's learn from Korean football" came out from among football fans in Europe and South America.

Unexpectedly a stream of foreigners began to visit the monastery, where the Korean football team was staying, just the day of the match between the team and that of Portugal. The delegation of the Korean team had nobody to receive and talk with foreign visitors and deal with business-like affairs. Then a Swedish football match broker came together with an interpreter and said, "You've created a worldwide sensation. Now many countries in South America are inviting you to have matches with their players. The football circle of Brazil formally requested me to negotiate with you for your visit to the country. If it is difficult for you to fix the date and time

right now, can you suggest that you will come later this year or the next year? Then I will deal with all other things. If you go to Brazil at its invitation Uruguay, Argentina and other neighbouring countries will send you letters of invitation for your visit to them in succession. Then you will be able to earn much money. In fact, Brazil which calls itself a football power never invites a country weak in the game.”

An ordinary worker of Middlesbrough, who had become a “football gambling prince” overnight, expressed his sincere sympathy for the Korean team, saying, “You showed a true image of Koreans, and set examples as models of sportsmanship and sportsmanlike morality through impressive scenes. People here really take great pride in having cheered you.”

World people came to see the new aspects of Korean football that reflects the peculiarities of the nation, and were fascinated by the future-oriented validity of the Korean-style football tactics....

At last the curtain fell for the fierce competitions of football teams of various countries to win the world cup.

The Korean team’s motherland warmly embraced them on their return after showing up like a comet to create a great sensation in the world football circle. Busy as he was continuing with his journey for on-the-spot guidance in a mountainous area far away from Pyongyang, President Kim Il Sung saw to it that the football players coming back after display-

ing the honour of Chollima Korea to world people in the land of England were welcomed properly.

The players expressed their thanks to the President who treated them like triumphant generals although they did not win successive victories but came only within the top eight at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Cup.

Decades have passed since then. But the story of the Korean football team shocking the world left an obvious trace in the history of the championship, and is still told like a legend among football experts and fans without being forgotten.

## **Legendary Tale About Chollima Football Team**

---

Written by Ri Tong Gyu, Pak Chong Il

Edited by An Su Yong

Translated by Son Kum Ryong

Published by the Foreign Languages Publishing  
House, DPRK

---

E-mail: [flph@star-co.net.kp](mailto:flph@star-co.net.kp)

<http://www.korean-books.com.kp>



ISSN 978-9944-0-1766-2



9 789946 017662 >