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Chinese players celebrate after scoring an equalizing goal against Namibia in the Universiade Group A match on Thursday.

# That'll do, for now

## CHINA PLAYS TO DRAW; COACH CALLS FOR BETTER DEVELOPMENT

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SHENZHEN — Not bad, given the circumstances.

The Chinese men's soccer team played to a 1-1 draw with Namibia in Group A on Friday, China's first Universiade match in six years.

Coach Jin Zhiyang said the result was acceptable, especially considering the team just assembled July 20. But he also hopes schools will focus more on soccer.

"I hope my team can prove themselves in the Universiade, which also proves that we should pay attention to soccer in campus," Jin said.

China fell behind quickly, as the African team launched continuous attacks leading to Louli Jerome's goal in the fifth minute.

Fan Zhiqiang scored the equalizer for China in the 20th minute.

Jin has led China at the Universiade twice before, ranking seventh in 2001 and 15th in 2005.

Most of China's players come from the Beijing Institute of Technology, while four come from Tianjin Normal University, Yanbian University and Taiyuan University of Technology.

The team assembled at Beijing Sports University on July 20, necessitating a flurry of preparation.

"We were a little bit nervous. We lost several scoring opportunities. In the second half, the tempo and power of the African players made some trouble for us," captain Lu Bin said.



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JIN ZHIYANG  
COACH OF UNIVERSIADE CHINESE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

The only student team in the China Football Association Professional League, the squad arrived in Shenzhen on Aug 5, went to Guangzhou for a league match versus Guangzhou Fuli FC on Aug 6 and then came back for the Universiade.

The team has struggled in the league, going 2-16 and ranking last.

"We always fought with strong wills and teamwork. But we wanted to insist that we can play while study," Jin said.

Jin says students must be given more opportunities to play if China's program is to reach the next level.

"Campus is the crucial way out. The Chinese juvenile team does not have children from Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin. Most children go to learn mathematics, English and other skills on the weekend but seldom go to play soccer," Jin said.

"The Football Association should cooperate with the education department to let the parents know that playing football can also happen at university. The more people who to play, the more chances there are to bring up talents," said Jin.

Jin has paid attention to the success of Japanese soccer. He compared the two teams and attributed Japan's success to its solid base on campus.

"The Japanese men's team has won gold three times in the Universiade. It is a huge gap. We fell behind them in every age group. They have soccer class from primary school. The wide base provides more talent to select," Jin said.

"The whole level of our team will not be higher than the national team's. (Our goal is to survive) in the group, which means ranking at least eighth. It is very difficult for us, but we will do our best to achieve it. We should train the university students and make a plan for the following 10 and 20 years for youth soccer in campus. They are our hope."