

Australia

Mark Schwarzer

Ever-present between the posts for Australia throughout their run to the final of the AFC Asian Cup, Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has conceded just one goal during the tournament. The 38-year-old will become the Socceroos' most-capped player in the final of the AFC Asian Cup as he makes his 88th appearance for Australia.

Luke Wilkshire

Right full back Luke Wilkshire has featured in all but one of Australia's appearances at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011, the 29-year-old Dynamo Moscow defender missing the 1-0 win over Bahrain. His forays forward and his crossing add a significant element to Australia's attack.

Lucas Neill

Socceroos captain Lucas Neill has forged a solid defensive partnership alongside Sasa Ognjenovski throughout the tournament with only Korea Republic's Koo Ja Cheol managing to breach Australia's backline during the AFC Asian Cup. Neill's experience will be of vital importance in

MEET THE FINALISTS

AUSTRALIA vs JAPAN

JANUARY 29, 2011

KHALIFA STADIUM

DOHA, QATAR

18:00



Japan

Eiji Kawashima

Eiji Kawashima was one of the heroes of Japan's semi-final win over Korea Republic, saving two of the three penalties missed in the shootout as the Blue Samurai progressed to the final. Kawashima was sent off in the win over Syria in the group stages, missing the 5-0 victory over Saudi Arabia, only to return for the quarterfinal against Qatar.

Atsuto Uchida

Right-sided full back Atsuto Uchida brings an attacking thrust from defence and he adds a similar threat to that offered by Yuto Nagatomo on the left side. The 22-year-old missed the quarterfinal clash with Qatar due to suspension after picking up bookings against Syria and Saudi Arabia before returning for the semi-final win over Korea Republic.

Maya Yoshida

Central defender Maya Yoshida has had an eventful AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 so far, scoring his side's late equalizer against Jordan in their opening game before being sent off in the 3-2 victory over Qatar in the

Australia's first AFC Asian Cup final.

Sasa Ognjenovski

Reigning AFC Player of the Year Sasa Ognjenovski is seeking to continue a run of success that has already seen him win the AFC Champions League with Seongnam Ilhwa. The 31-year-old only made his debut for the Socceroos in November in a 3-0 loss against Egypt and he scored his first goal for his country in the 6-0 win over Uzbekistan in the semi-finals.

David Carney

David Carney suffered a shoulder injury in his side's 1-1 draw with Korea Republic but has continued to battle through the discomfort to feature in all but one of Australia's matches so far at the AFC Asian Cup. The Blackpool left back missed the win over Bahrain but returned for the quarterfinal victory over Iraq.

Brett Holman

One of the stars of the FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa for the Socceroos, Brett Holman has continued to shine for the Australians at the AFC Asian Cup, playing on the right side of midfield and also in the middle. Scored in Australia's opening 4-0 win over India.

Carl Valeri

Carl Valeri took over in the centre of midfield following the loss to injury of Jason Culina for the final group match against Bahrain and the 26-year-old has gelled perfectly with Mile Jedinak in the centre of the Socceroos midfield. Valeri put his name on the score sheet in the 6-0 win over Uzbekistan and he has played every game since the 1-0 win over the Bahrainis.

Mile Jedinak

Mile Jedinak claimed his first-ever goal for the Socceroos in the 1-1 draw with Korea Republic and he followed up with his second just one game later when he claimed the only goal of the game against Bahrain in Australia's final group match. Jedinak has been an ever-present for Australia throughout the AFC Asian Cup.

Matt McKay

Matt McKay was introduced to the starting line-up following the suspension of Brett Emerton for the quarterfinal meeting with Iraq and the Brisbane Roar winger has excelled, prompting Holger Osieck to retain the 26-year-old for the win over Uzbekistan in the semi-final, in which he set up Harry Kewell for the opening goal of the game.

Tim Cahill

Everton midfielder Tim Cahill struck twice in Australia's opening 4-0 win over India but has not managed to find the back of the net since as he has struggled throughout the knockout phase with an ankle injury. However, the 31-year-old remains one of Australia's most potent attacking threats.

Harry Kewell

With three goals in five games – including the extra-time winner against Iraq and the opening goal against Uzbekistan – Galatasary's Harry Kewell has been in fine form throughout the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011. The veteran forward has experience of playing in major finals, having represented Liverpool in the 2005 UEFA Champions League final.

* Probable starting XI

quarterfinals. Commanding in the air in defence, Yoshida presents an aerial threat at the other end of the pitch as well.

Yasuyuki Konno

Yasuyuki Konno celebrated his 28th birthday in style by scoring the winning penalty against Korea Republic that took Japan into the final of the AFC Asian Cup. The semi-final against the Koreans was eventful for Konno, who also conceded the penalty that saw Cho Kwang Rae's team take the lead. The FC Tokyo star has featured for Japan in all five games in the tournament to date.

Yuto Nagatomo

Another ever-present throughout the tournament for Japan so far, Yuto Nagatomo was the only Japanese player to miss from the penalty spot in the shootout against Korea Republic in the semi-finals. Nagatomo's forays forward add width to Japan's attack and he set up his side's opening goal against the Koreans for Ryoichi Maeda.

Makoto Hasebe

Captain Makoto Hasebe has been at the heart of Japan's run to the final of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011, anchoring the midfield from his position just in front of the defence and pulling the strings alongside Yasuhiro Endo. Scored with a well-struck long-range effort to give Japan the lead in the 2-1 win over Syria.

Yasuhiro Endo

Former AFC Player of the Year Yasuhiro Endo finally makes his debut appearance in the final of the AFC Asian Cup after missing the 2004 edition due to suspension. The central midfielder has been in fine form throughout the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 as he continues to forge a fine alliance in the middle with Makoto Hasebe.

Keisuke Honda

Although Keisuke Honda struggled to hit his usual heights at the beginning of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011, the CSKA Moscow star has steadily improved and was named the Most Valuable Player in Japan's win over Korea Republic in the semi-finals. He found the back of the net from the penalty spot in the 2-1 win over Syria in the group stages.

Jungo Fujimoto

With Shinji Kagawa out of the final with a broken metatarsal, Jungo Fujimoto is the Borussia Dortmund star's most likely direct replacement as a naturally left-sided attacking midfielder. Fujimoto made a brief appearance off the bench in the draw with Jordan.

Ryoichi Maeda

Ryoichi Maeda finished last year as the top scorer in the J.League but the Jubilo Iwata striker has been prolific for the Blue Samurai, scoring three goals including the first in the semi-final win over Korea Republic. Maeda has acted as the central fulcrum in attack for Japan throughout the AFC Asian Cup.

Shinji Okazaki

Shinji Okazaki only made his first start of the tournament against Saudi Arabia in Japan's final group match but he took full advantage of the opportunity, scoring a hat-trick against the three-time champions as he replaced the injured Daisuke Matsui. He has retained his place in the starting line-up since, featuring on the right side of Japan's attack.

* Probable starting XI

