WHY PHAN FOR IRAQ?

I PHAN FOR IRAQ

Iraq returns to the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1986, ending years of near misses in qualifying.

Known as the “Lions of Mesopotamia,” Iraq brings a determined, hard-working style of play and a team that embraces the underdog role. Led by head coach Graham Arnold, this group is focused, disciplined, and ready to compete on the global stage.

After a long road back, this is a team with something to prove.

Player to Watch

Ali Al-Hamadi: A striker built for big moments

Al-Hamadi became the first Iraqi player in the Premier League when he debuted for Ipswich Town against Liverpool. Before this, he dominated at AFC Wimbledon, scoring 17 goals in 29 appearances. For Iraq, he symbolizes the program's progress and future direction.

Show the World How You Phan

Bring your Iraqi pride to life!

Tag **@FWC26Philly** and use **#HowDoYouPhan** for a chance to be featured on our social channels. Whether it’s your jersey, your chant, or your pre-match dance, we want to see it!

DOWNLOAD SOCIAL MEDIA KIT

Phan Gear: Print, Color, Create

Make your own Iraq-inspired fan flair! Perfect for watch parties, classrooms, or pre-match hype.

DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE

How Iraq Phans Get Hype

With constant chanting and drumming, rhythm sits at the heart of the electric atmosphere at Iraq matches.

Fans wave flags bearing the iconic Lion of Mesopotamia, while fireworks and roaring bring the stadium to life. To avoid the intense daytime heat, the passion for football often continues with pickup games and celebrations late into the night.

Extra Time | Bonus Phan Content

Why “Lions of Mesopotamia”? The nickname draws from ancient Mesopotamia, the historic region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, often called the cradle of civilization. The lion symbolizes strength, pride, and resilience, qualities that define this team and its supporters.

PHAN WITH US AT THE FIFA FAN FESTIVAL™

The Beautiful Game is better together! Join the ultimate global watch party at Philadelphia's official FIFA Fan Festival™ at Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park. Here's what you can expect at this free, high-energy celebration of football, culture, and connection:

- Live broadcasts of matches on massive screens
- Cultural performances and entertainment
- Interactive fan experiences and photo moments
- Family-friendly activities and sponsor activations
- A sea of jerseys from every corner of the globe

Don't miss the chance to feel the roar, learn new chants, and celebrate the game together. No matter how you Phan, this is your home base!

STAY IN THE PHAN LOOP

Don't miss a moment. Sign up for the Philadelphia Soccer 2026 newsletter for updates, events, and exclusive fan content:

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