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Nakata C

¹ Japan has many talented young soccer players, and many of them have played in leagues outside of Japan. ² However, of all the Japanese soccer players who have played abroad, Nakata was clearly the best. ³ First of all, his passing ability was second to none. ⁴ Almost all of his passes were perfectly timed and well executed. ⁵ Many Japanese players can pass well, but none can pass like Nakata did. ⁶ Furthermore, no other Japanese player has ever had the kind of field vision to rival Nakata's. ⁷ It was this "vision"—the awareness of where the other players are at all times—that allowed Nakata to make the crucial passes that led his teams to victory on countless occasions. ⁸ Finally, Nakata's sheer physical strength set him apart from other Japanese star players. ⁹ For example, while aggressive defenders in European leagues have prevented skilled players such as Nakamura from displaying the full extent of their ability, Nakata has never been intimidated by the aggressiveness of play in Europe. ¹⁰ That is one reason why Nakata always stood out among his teammates in his World Cup performances, in spite of the fact that so many of his teammates also possessed a great deal of technical skill. ¹¹ There are now quite a number of famous Japanese soccer players who have had successful careers in foreign leagues, but Nakata still stands heads and shoulders above the rest.