Long wait over as Kingdom’s footballers kick off Tokyo 2020

The wait is almost over. For 33 Saudi athletes, and thousands from around the world, what is normally a tough, four-year road to the Olympics Games, turned into a five-year one for Tokyo 2020. And it is finally at an end.

For some, the delay disrupted a carefully planned schedule to peak at the right moment. For others, it proved an unexpected blessing in reaching a tournament they could not have expected to take part in a year earlier.

All have adapted to the devastating consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, and through the Olympic Games, take place without fans, Tokyo 2020 will be the pinnacle of their careers.

Saudi Arabia has by far its longest representation, with 11 judokas and the 22 man football squad taking part in nine sports, surpassing the record of six at Athens 2004.

On Thursday, a day before the official opening of the games, the Saudi U-23 football team kicked off the kingdom’s action by taking top spot at Tokyo 2020. The tournament will be hoping that even by then, the Karate 75 kilogram category. The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be the pinnacle of their careers.

Athletes, 100m YASMINE AL-DABBAGH

Already killed at several international competitions during her time at Columbia University in New York. On her return home, she was strongly backed by the Saudi Olympic Committee. She was inspired by British bodybuilder and mixed martial winner Luke Orchard in her first ever 100m category. She was the first Saudi female weightlifter to reach the Olympic qualifying for Tokyo 2020.

Athletes, 400m MAZEN AL-YASSIN

He continued his run to Tokyo 2020. In 2019, he won bronze at the Asian Indoor Rowing Championship in China, and broke the existing world record. He is the Saudi Women’s Champion in Tokyo, and one of the highest in the world.

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