

《习近平德国看望中国足球少年》

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BERLIN, March 29 (Xinhua) -- Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday watched a football game between Chinese kids and their German peers, encouraging more Chinese young people to play the sport.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group

photo with Chinese kid footballers and their German peers from the Wolfsburg

club in Berlin, Germany, March 29, 2014. (Xinhua/Lan Hongguang)

"I have confidence in you, in your generation," Xi told the Chinese players at the halftime break of a friendship match with local kids from the Wolfsburg club.

"I hope you will become outstanding football players in the future," said Xi.

The Chinese president encouraged the Chinese players to, through their current training in Germany, set an example for other young players in China.

He added that he hoped more Chinese young people would devote themselves to football.

The Chinese team played a fierce game at the Olympic Stadium of Berlin while Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan, along with some high-ranking Chinese officials, sat on the bleachers.

The 20 Chinese kids, all of them from Zhidan county in China's northwestern province of Shaanxi, are being trained in Berlin by their German coaches.

Xi arrived in the German capital on Friday morning, kicking off his state visit to the European country, the third leg of his ongoing Europe tour, which had taken him to the Netherlands and France. After Germany, he will travel to Belgium.

