

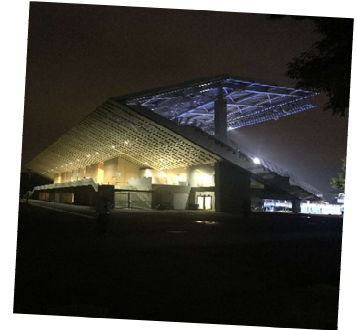
Postcards from Tokyo – a little later...

Been having a great time preparing for the Test Event here – so many wonderful facilities to explore! One thing I have noticed is that not all places accept credit cards. Most of the small eating places prefer cash, so make sure you either bring enough cash to see you through for a few days until you can withdraw cash (the larger 7-11 stores will often have an ATM in them – so take out enough for 2-3 days at a time). ATM's aren't readily available close to the stadium – and given that there are a lot of vending machines there, a supply of cash is very handy! Also be aware that some restaurants only serve locals – there will be some "Japanese only" places, so don't be offended if you're asked to leave.



The north stadium can hold around 2500 people and has great views of the pitch. When the Olympics come, there will be grandstand seating arranged around the pitch and will take the capacity up to around 10000. There are dedicated coaches' boxes and

video analysis areas as well as a spectacular VIP suite. The dugouts are at the foot of the stand and face a large electronic scoreboard. The stand itself is pretty spectacular when lit up at night too!



The south pitch grandstand is smaller and has the team dugouts on the far side of the pitch. This allows teams to really soak up the atmosphere as they can see the grandstand packed! It holds around 500 people and has its own video and VIP areas in place as well. There is excellent access to the stands for spectators via stairs or an elevator at both pitches. The LED lighting at night is excellent on both pitches, so no danger of the light being a problem during those late games! While there may be a few changes between the Olympics and the World Cup, it is still a wonderful venue which will be incredible to play in.

There is limited on-site parking for team buses, and it's a short walk from the parking area to the pitches. Thankfully for goalies, there is plenty of on-site storage for goalie gear in large garages beneath each grandstand, and some limited on-site storage is also available for balls/team equipment, etc. This is REALLY important as Japanese hotels are very small and there will be very limited space at your accommodation to store all your gear.

And remember, there are vending machines everywhere! Always easy to grab a quick drink or snack, but there are a lot of small convenience stores around the place if you need something a little extra.... Time to explore the city a little more...

