China misses out on FIBA World Cup second round after *Venezuela* defeat

Hosts China will not play in the round of 16 at the 2019 FIBA World Cup after losing 72-59 to Venezuela in its final Group A game here on Wednesday.

The result saw Venezuela progress into the competition's next stage, while China will drop into the classification round.

"We made a lot of preparation. We played tight in offense at the very beginning. We let Venezuela grab 20 offensive *rebounds*, which is very hard for us, " said China's head coach Li Nan.

Venezuela　委内瑞拉　　　　　　　　　　　rebound　反弹；篮板球

Before tip-off, the Chinese team knew only victory would do, but still they trailed 33-23 at the half-time *buzzer*. The hosts saw *a glimmer of* hope when Zhao Jiwei made two *consecutive* three-pointers during the last minute before the interval, but Venezuela soon answered with a pair from *downtown*.

buzzer　蜂鸣器　　　　　　　　　　　a glimmer of　一丝

consecutive　连贯的　　　　　　　　　downtown　三分线外

Fang Shuo stood out in the second half for China, but not enough. With a three and a jump shot, he led his team to trim the gap to five points with six minutes to go in the third quarter, the smallest *deficit* China had during the whole game.

deficit　赤字

China couldn't find ways to deal with its disadvantage in long-range shooting and rebounds, and the Venezuelan shooters seemed comparatively unstoppable.

"They grabbed 21 more rebounds than us. We didn't do well on execution. It feels bad to lose the game. We'll try all our best and focus on the next game, " Chinese guard Fang said, referring to the classification round of 17-32 to be played in Guangzhou.