

Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid

Game 8 - RSA v ESP

03 March 2004

Start Time: 16:00

1 RSA

Steve Evans (FG) 05:29

2 ESP

Santiago Freixa (PC) 28:57

Xavier Ribas (PC) 70:10

Full Time - RSA 1 ESP 2**Time** Commentary**70:11** Full time: A well earned win for ESP and disappointment for RSA who held on for so long at 1-1. PC count: RSA 1 ESP 9.**70:10 Goal**

Ribas flicks the winner into the net after the final siren. RSA players devastated and lie on the ground in disappointment. ESP players celebrating in front of the large, vocal crowd.

69:25 ESP earn a corner from an RSA foot. RSA defenders furious. This is ESP 9th corner.**69:16** ESP deep in attack and RSA under huge pressure. RSA are hanging on and a draw now looks likely.**66:15** The PC shot goes wide and RSA manage to regain the ball. ESP intensity is mounting as they try and find the winning goal.**64:53** ESP earn another corner. Their 5th for the half and 8th for the game.**64:12** RSA have their first shot for some time from Nicol. Herrera makes an easy save and ESP bounce into attack.**62:12** The game fluctuating between the ESP attack the the RSA midfield. RSA not able to break past the deep ESP defence.**57:46** Ribas` flick sails over the crossbar. RSA breathe again.**57:12** ESP earn their 7th corner from an RSA foot.**55:49** RSA have pushed ESP back and are playing out the game in the middle of the field. ESP defence not as settled as the first part of this half.**50:00** ESP almost score after Alegre`s reverse stick push hits the post. RSA managed to get the rebound and clear. ESP starting to gather momentum and look dangerous. RSA not penetrating inside their 25 yard line for the last 10 mins.**45:49** The variation left is saved by RSA captain Jackson on the line. RSA regain the ball and push into attack.**45:06** End to end hockey now with both teams attacking each other with speed. ESP manage to earn another corner (their 6th) from an RSA foot.**42:59** Another good save from Hibbert from a low flick to the right.**42:29** The flick is well saved by Hibbert and the rebound shot by Tubau goes wide. ESP earn another corner from an RSA foot.**41:30** Corner to ESP. Their 4th and 1st for the half.**41:05** The game has evened with RSA able to attack in 2 or 3 moves down their right.**37:33** Its all ESP as the 2nd half gets underway. RSA struggling to clear the ball out of defence.**35:00** Half time: RSA somewhat fortunate to be 1-1, although all due credit to their defence. ESP will look for more space in attack in the second half. PC count: RSA 1 ESP 3.**28:57 Goal**

Freixa scores the equaliser with a low drag flick past Hibbert (RSA GK).

28:10 ESP earn their 3rd corner after Friexa is tackled hard outside the circle.**25:44** Its still all ESP although RSA defence looking calm and collected under significant pressure. Speed of ESP forwards is being limited by close marking by the RSA defence.**23:08** RSA save as the ESP pass/shot hits the post. ESP controlling the game for the last 10 mins for no result.**22:17** ESP earn their 2nd corner for the match from an RSA foot.**21:36** RSA fortunate as ESP miss a chance to score after a rocket reverse stick shot from Friexa goes just wide.

- 16:45** Hibbert (RSA GK) makes another great hand save from a shot by Friexa (ESP) after he dragged right.
- 15:42** Hibbert (RSA GK) makes the save off the low flick and RSA clear.
- 15:16** ESP earn their first corner.
- 14:39** ESP in attack for the last 4 mins. RSA defence looking firm although ESP strikers are very clever and fast. Danger here for RSA.
- 10:34** Their low flick is just saved by Herrera (ESP GK). ESP counter and have the ball deep in attack.
- 09:49** Penalty corner to RSA. Their first for the match.
- 08:29** The 100`s of school children (dressed in red and yellow) are providing a great atmosphere for the players with plenty of cheering for ESP. RSA currently in deep defence with ESP looking for avenues in which to attack.
- 05:29 Goal**
RSA shock ESP with an early goal to Evans with a powerful strike after a right side attack. RSA held possession for 2 mins to move forward and allow Evans to find space and shoot on the right.
- 03:06** ESP with the early possession although just in the midfield. RSA yet to hold the ball for any length of time.
- 00:56** Cooling weather greets these 2 teams as the wind picks up, lowering the temp. ESP the favourites to win the game, although RSA will be a tough opponent.