

**Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid**

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY Game 13 - JPN v GBR

05 March 2004

Start Time: 14:00

**0 JPN****1 GBR**

Tom Bertram (PC)

34:26

**Full Time - JPN 0 GBR 1**

Time	Commentary
<b>70:00</b>	Full time: An odd game with JPN clearly with greater field and ball possession for the game, although GBR more potent with their opportunities in attack earning 8 corners. JPN paying for their lack of corners, and also for some loose defence to allow GBR to earn 8 from limited chances. PC count: JPN 2 GBR 8.
<b>68:19</b>	The flick is deflected by the JPN runner. GBR long corner. GBR with the ball in attack for the last 2 mins.
<b>67:37</b>	Takahashi makes 2 great saves off GBR hits. JPN clear but GBR work it back into the circle and earn their 8th corner from a JPN foot.
<b>66:39</b>	GBR hold the ball in their attacking left corner and then work it into the circle for their 7th corner.
<b>64:34</b>	GBR with a fall-away defence allowing JPN to pass the ball around the back. The tactic is working with JPN not finding the through pass when they try to penetrate.
<b>62:50</b>	The variation wide left is well saved by Takahashi. JPN win the ball and they counterattack.
<b>62:01</b>	GBR counter and earn yet another `soft` corner from a JPN foot. This is GBR`s 6th corner for the game.
<b>61:16</b>	JPN with a great chance to score after a right side attack. The hard flick flies over the net.
<b>60:13</b>	GBR starting to attack with greater regularity as JPN midfielders appear to tire a little. JPN do not look as sharp as the first 55 mins of the game.
<b>57:33</b>	The ball in JPN attacking half although GBR going forward on the counterattack every 2 or 3 mins. GBR just had a 2 on 1 with keeper Takahashi but Hall pushed it into the sliding keeper instead of passing. JPN loose at the back to give GBR this space.
<b>54:27</b>	The GBR flick is easily saved by Takahashi. JPN regain the ball and push into attack.
<b>53:47</b>	GBR manage another corner from a soft JPN foot in the circle. GBR able to win these corners very easily which will worry JPN coaches.
<b>51:25</b>	JPN still holding possession of the ball in their attacking half with GBR having the occasional run down left wing. JPN not making the most of their possession.
<b>47:05</b>	A let off for GBR as an open goal is missed by JPN with the ball hitting their foot.
<b>46:04</b>	JPN corner although JPN players claiming a goal. Some confusion but the corner stands. JPN 2nd corner for the game.
<b>45:39</b>	JPN unlucky not to earn a corner as they increase the pressure on the GBR defence. The ball in JPN half for the last 3 mins.
<b>43:40</b>	End to end hockey now as JPN have opportunities to create a goal shot. GBR defenders up to the task.
<b>42:14</b>	The GBR deflection variation is well saved by Takahashi although GBR earn a long corner.
<b>41:35</b>	GBR earn their 4th corner after a JPN foot. GBR playing well early in the half with JPN on the back foot.
<b>39:53</b>	GBR almost make it 2-0 after a clever run into the circle down the right from Jones. Well defended by JPN and they clear.
<b>37:31</b>	Both teams attacking in the opening 2 mins.
<b>35:00</b>	Half time: GBR somewhat fortunate to be ahead after JPN possession and field dominance for the majority of the half. JPN wasteful in attack which has let GBR off the hook. PC count: JPN 0 GBR 3.
<b>34:26</b>	<b>Goal</b> Bertram smashes a goal into the right post to give GBR the lead.
<b>34:20</b>	GBR again have a breakaway down the left and they earn their 3rd corner from a JPN foot.
<b>32:41</b>	The JPN low flick is deflected by the GBR runner. JPN long corner.
<b>32:02</b>	JPN earn their 1st corner from a GBR raised ball.
<b>31:13</b>	<b>Incident</b>

- Yellow card to GBR. Middleton sent off for not retreating 5 yards off the JPN free hit.
- 30:57** The GBR flick is easily saved by JPN and cleared.
- 30:01** GBR break down the left and earn a fortunate 2nd corner after a JPN foot after the JPN defender slipped.
- 27:38** GBR still pinned in their defensive half. JPN looking like scoring if this continues with numerous circle penetrations occurring down both sides.
- 25:25** JPN with 3 free hits on the top of the circle that amount to nothing. Danger period again for GBR as JPN dominate possession.
- 23:08** The low Hawes flick hits the left post. Attempts by GBR to shoot on the rebound are stopped by JPN and they regain the ball.
- 21:34** GBR break down the right and earn the first corner for the match from a JPN foot.
- 20:19** GBR have wrestled back possession of the ball, but they are still essentially pinned in their defensive half with a JPN fall-away press working to good effect. GBR strikers have not touched the ball for some time.
- 17:46** JPN with almost constant possession in the last 5 mins with GBR pinned in their defensive half. GBR playing 2 strikers high in an attempt to open the midfield when they get the ball.
- 15:37** Umpiring has been excellent in this tournament so far with the deliberate blocking of the ball with the carrier`s stick being well penalised. GBR being called for this twice in the last 5 mins.
- 14:52** JPN on the attack now with GBR opening up at the back allowing JPN strikers some space.
- 11:34** JPN has finally pushed GBR back and have the ball in their midfield although their final pass to their strikers is letting them down. GBR having to defend for the first time in the match.
- 09:42** GBR looking very dangerous now with numerous entries into their circle. JPN defence working hard to push forward, although GBR midfield playing a zone defence to good effect.
- 07:05** JPN under pressure in defence now as a GBR push is well under way. GBR managing to hold the ball in their attacking half for the last 4 mins.
- 05:54** Great chance for GBR as Middleton flicks the ball at Takahashi (JPN GK) who makes a diving save. Almsot 1-0 to GBR.
- 04:25** GBR with the first half chance of the game through a right side shot by Wallis. The ball misses the goal. GBR noticeably noisy on the field with much calling of lines from the defence.
- 02:36** Both teams with equal possession as both teams test each other early. No circle penetrations for either team yet.
- 01:01** A critical game for both teams. The loser of this match will essentially kiss any Athens aspirations goodbye. About 10C and a vocal GBR supporter base at the sideline.