

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

FIH (worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY Game 14 - ESP v NED

05 March 2004

Start Time: 16:00

**2 ESP**

Santiago Freixa (PC)	35:00
Santiago Freixa (FG)	51:35

**2 NED**

Rob Reckers (FG)	07:16
Nick Meijer (FG)	24:08

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**Full Time - ESP 2 NED 2**

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>70:00</b>	Full time: A very high standard of hockey with both teams feeling as though they could have won the match. ESP missed a stroke and looked very dangerous for the 10 minute period that NED had 10 players. A great game from both keepers, Vogels (NED) and Herrera (ESP). PC count: ESP 6 NED 2.
<b>69:05</b>	Herrera makes a game saving save after a first time shot from de Nooijer. Great hockey.
<b>67:55</b>	ESP almost score at the other end with a shot from Tubau just wide of the net and past the sliding Vogels. The pace of the game has lifted significantly in the last 3 mins.
<b>66:08</b>	Reckers (NED) hits the right post of an open net although on a tight angle. ESP very fortunate there not to be 3-2 down after Herrera was eliminated in some skillful play.
<b>64:35</b>	NED with significantly more possession in the last 10 mins although no shots at goal. ESP defence is playing well.
<b>63:06</b>	NED looking more comfortable now as they slowly build their attacks. ESP relying on fast counterattacks to try and score. Vogels making a great save on the latest of these after a shot from the top of the circle.
<b>58:33</b>	The pace of the game has dropped in the last 4 mins with ESP not able to find the space they enjoyed earlier, and NED slowing the game down. A midfield battle at present.
<b>56:55</b>	Taekema returns to the field for NED. They are back to 11.
<b>55:13</b>	NED starting to fight back into the game with more midfield possession. They attack in their half for the first time in 8 mins.
<b>51:35</b>	<b>Goal</b> Friexa scores his 2nd for the game with a tap in on the left post after a right wing pass from the backline.
<b>51:00</b>	ESP still on the attack and NED trying to slow the game down wherever possible. NED defending their circle now for 5 mins straight.
<b>49:51</b>	Emotions coming to the fore with NED starting to be frustrated with the ESP players. NED struggling to clear the ball out of their defence as the overhead is being closed down by the ESP forwards.
<b>48:26</b>	NED under pressure since their last corner. Taekema`s send off has unsettled the NED defence and ESP are attacking the circle with regularity.
<b>47:10</b>	Vogels makes another great stick save from the ESP flick. Vogels certainly playing well and is in form.
<b>46:24</b>	Penalty corner to ESP. Their 6th.
<b>45:34</b>	<b>Incident</b> Yellow card to NED. Taekema sent off for a tough tackle in defence. Time stopped for an injury from the tackle.
<b>45:14</b>	The NED trap is missed and ESP regain the ball.
<b>44:01</b>	NED attack down the right and earn a corner (their 2nd) from a ESP foot.
<b>42:10</b>	The Ribas flick is comfortably saved by Vogels. NED win a free hit and they regain the ball.
<b>41:20</b>	ESP earn their 1st corner for the half and 5th for the game.
<b>38:51</b>	Its NED who almost score as Ronald Brouwer runs along the backline and tries to find de Nooijer with the pass. End to end hockey now.
<b>37:29</b>	Dangerous striker Pol Amat (ESP) shoots from the top of the circle but hits wide. ESP starting to look dangerous again as was the case at the end of the first half.
<b>36:15</b>	NED on the attack early after the restart as bright sunshine hits the pitch for the first time today.
<b>35:01</b>	Half time: Very entertaining game of hockey with NED playing steady hockey and making the most of

their opportunities in attack. ESP starting to find their strikers later in the half which brought them back into the game with confidence. OC count: ESP 4 NED 1.

**35:00 Goal**

Friexa scores a rocket penalty corner flick into the top of the net after the half time siren.

**34:54** ESP earn their 4th corner on the siren. They almost scored with the ball going under Vogels before the corner was awarded.

**33:59** End to end hockey with both teams attacking with speed. ESP certainly with more chances in the last 10 mins.

**32:53** ESP with another chance to score as their fast strikers penetrate the circle. Their final pass cannot find its mark and NED are able to clear.

**30:41** Rodrigo Garza`s low flick to the right misses the goal. Bad miss for ESP.

**30:40 Incident**

Penalty stroke to ESP. ESP striker`s stick was impeded as he was about to shoot at Vogels.

**30:03** Great save by Vogels who deflected the Riobas flick at full stretch to the right. ESP long corner.

**29:24** ESP miss a great chance to score as the ball travels accross the circle near of 3 ESP forwards. They win their 3rd corner soon after.

**26:40** An open game since the 2nd NED goal. The midfield is clear and both teams able to run freely with the ball.

**24:08 Goal**

Loose ESP marking lets Meijer trap the ball on top of the circle and then beat the defender to slip the ball past Herrera. This goal was essentially against the run of play which will frustrate ESP.

**23:25** ESP still in attack. ESP forwards starting to have an impact on the game and they are turning the NED defence.

**21:51** The Ribas flick hits a NED player and NED win the free hit. NED under significant pressure now as the large crowd find their voice.

**21:07** The Ribas flick is saved by Vogels although ESP earn another corner.

**20:14** Almost disaster for NED affter Taekema was dispossessed in the defence and ESP had 3 on 1 on Vogels (NED GK). ESP earn a corner instead of a goal.

**18:28** A great chance for ESP to score as they break down the middle of the field and Tubau just misses a deflection in front of the net.

**16:14** NED back in possession, passing the ball patiently around their defence until an opening presents itself. ESP not able to mount any solid attack yet in this game.

**13:54** ESP push into attack with numbers for the first time for the match. They have a hit outside the circle.

**12:31** Great save by Herrera (ESP GK) from the Lomans flick. ESP clear the ball although NED back in possession.

**11:32** NED earn their first corner for the game. ESP captain F Fabregas not happy and is talking to the umpire for 30 seconds.

**11:15** NED is closing down the space available to the ESP forwards. NED also looking very dangerous when they go into attack.

**07:16 Goal**

Reckers scores for NED with a close in reverse stick shot after a drive into the circle from the left.

**06:22** The game being played in the middle of the field with bboth teams using a fall-away defensive press.

**04:19** ESP with the first chance of the game with a good F Fabregas pass and attempted shot by Amat. NED able to block the shot.

**01:46** An even start to the game with both ESP and NED having equal possession of the ball.

**01:04** A large crowd is in attendance for this match of the day between NED and ESP. NED ranked 2 in the world, and ESP 9 although recent form would have them much closer.