

Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY Game 15 - POL v RSA

05 March 2004

Start Time: 18:00

0 POL**6 RSA**

Greg Nicol (PC)	05:06
Greg Nicol (FG)	12:47
Wayne Denne (FG)	26:19
Greg Nicol (PC)	34:21
Reece Basson (FG)	51:23
Greg Nicol (FG)	69:07

Full Time - POL 0 RSA 6

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time: A convincing win for RSA who dominated the game from the opening whistle. A much needed large win for RSA who have now kept their Athens hopes well and truly alive. PC count: POL 3 RSA 3.
69:07	Goal Nicol scores his 4th with a reverse stick shot into an open net after a right wing pass from the right post.
64:28	RSA looking like scoring their 6th shortly with large gaps in the POL defence allowing the RSA forwards to enter the circle with regularity.
59:38	POL make the save from the RSA hit and manage to push out of defence.
58:33	RSA earn their 3rd corner from a POL foot. This is the first corner of the half.
57:51	The sting has well and truly gone from the game, with POL defence not as tight as they would like and thus RSA having space to run into attack, albeit at a lower tempo than before.
54:57	Symons almost makes it 6-0 with a sliding shot to a clear net goes just wide. Great pass from Nicol on the left backline to set up the shot.
51:23	Goal Basson finds space at the left wing and is able to run and and shoot past Matuszak. RSA well in control of the game.
48:40	Nicol misses the chance for his 4th as his attempt to push past Matuszak (POL GK) hits his pads. A let-off for POL with Nicol normally ruthless in those circumstances.
45:06	The flow of play has shifted back to RSA`s favour again with RSA holding possession of the ball and attacking their circle. RSA almost score with a sliding Smith just missing a tap-in on the left post.
39:59	POL have pushed into attack and have the ball in their possession for an extended period. RSA deep defence still in control however and they do not look hurried.
35:57	Almost the perfect start for RSA as they reach the circle straight after the restart and Clark`s shot goes over the crossbar. A fortunate let-off for POL.
35:00	Half time: A convincing performance from RSA who dominated the half in both defence and attack, as well as being clinical in their finishing. PC count: POL 3 RSA 2.
34:21	Goal Nicol scores his 3rd with a low flick to the right.
33:56	RSA earn their 2nd corner after a hard tackle outside the circle in the right corner.
33:51	RSA back in control after POL started to look more dangerous. They have the ball deep in attack.
31:38	The Marcinkowski hit is too high. RSA regain the ball.
31:03	POL earn their 3rd corner after a break down the left from the giant striker, Marcinkowski. RSA foot.
26:19	Goal Denne scores a reverse stick shot from the top of the circle after a nice buildup down the right side. Just as POL were starting to gain momentum in attack.
23:29	POL earn a lucky corner after a lifted ball from Hibbert from a POL sideline hit. POL 2nd corner.
22:02	POL with a rare shot after a midfield error by RSA allowed Rachwalski into the circle. Hibbert makes an easy save and RSA regain the ball.
20:51	POL defenders have settled in the last 5 mins as they are stopping the RSA entries into their circle. POL still unable to move past their attacking 25 however.

- 15:59** RSA continuing to play crisp hockey in attack which POL is finding hard to intercept. POL not into their attacking 25 for the last 5 mins.
- 12:47 Goal**
Nicol scores a spectacular reverse stick goal from the left side. RSA putting POL defence under great pressure and it was only a matter of time before RSA scored or earned another corner.
- 10:16** RSA with greater field advantage in the opening 10 mins. POL not able to break into the circle more than a few times.
- 08:18** A nice open game of hockey at present with both sets of strikers playing high in attack and thus leaving the midfield free.
- 07:00** Hibbert (RSA GK) makes a nice stretched save after the POL trap is missed and a shot taken from the left.
- 06:19** POL earn their first corner after the restart from an RSA foot.
- 05:06 Goal**
Nicol flicks in RSA`s first goal after a nice variation with Steve Evans.
- 04:32** The first shot is saved by POL although another RSA corner. Iain Evans leaves the field after being hit in the head with a stick.
- 03:47** RSA off to a good start with an early corner for a bad POL tackle outside the circle.
- 02:09** A close match is expected, although this is the last chance for RSA to try and make the top 4 in the pool. A cold night here in Madrid which will make the game fast paced...