

Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 18 - PAK v IND

06 March 2004

Start Time: 16:00

5 PAK

Sohail Abbas (PC)	01:19
Sohail Abbas (PC)	27:27
Rehan Butt (FG)	33:30
Sohail Abbas (PC)	40:16
Sohail Abbas (PC)	62:25

3 IND

Deepak Thakur (FG)	32:34
Gagan Ajit Singh (FG)	41:25
Gagan Ajit Singh (FG)	42:40

Full Time - PAK 5 IND 3

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time: The match lived to expectations with fast, skillful and open play from both teams. Abbas the destroyer though with 4 goals from 4 corners. PC count: PAK 4 IND 2.
69:50	The IND hit is saved by PAK. IND hit from the sideline. Time the enemy now for IND.
69:15	IND earn their 1st corner for the half and 2nd for the match from a PAK foot.
69:03	Its all IND on the attack now as PAK happy to defend with 11 players and then counter.
67:34	Prabjot tries and first time hot at the goal that goes just wide. IND with numbers in attack and PAK happy to go forward on the counter after they regain the ball.
65:23	IND under fire as PAK attack down the left and Saini makes a great diving tackle that stops another certain goal in front of an open net. Great hockey from both PAK to create these chances, and IND to save them.
64:16	Ignace Tirkey saves a 6th PAK goal with an on the line stretched save on his reverse after a quick PAK attack with space.
62:25	Goal Abbas rockets a low flick into the net. 4 from 4 attempts!
61:40	PAK work the ball into the circle on the left and earn their 4th corner from an IND foot. Can Abbas make it 4 from 4?
59:45	Chauhan (IND GK) makes a glove save from an Abbasi reverse stick shot from the left. Either team could score with immense pressure on each defence.
57:18	PAK unable to convert a loose ball in front of their attacking goal and well defended by IND. Both teams having entries into their attacking circles in the last 3 mins.
56:17	IND draw groans from the large crowd as a deflection from a free hit wide left just misses the goal. The pace of the game starting to lift again after a quiet 5 mins.
53:11	IND have pushed into PAK defensive half and they hold the ball in their right corner. PAK defending well however and IND unable to break into the circle.
50:45	PAK working the ball around the field. IND have lost some momentum with PAK able to make stopping tackles accross the half line. The pace of the game (as expected) has now slowed whilst both teams take care with taking too many risks.
48:40	PAK starting to find space in the midfield on the counterattack, mainly down the left.
45:49	The pace of the game is still significant and perhaps unsustainable for too much longer. PAK are reeling from 2 quick IND goals and they have lost control of the ball in the midfield for the last 2 mins.
42:40	Goal IND score again after a great run by Thakur and the his reverse stick pass beats Akbar and finds the sliding Gagan to score IND third goal.
41:25	Goal Gagan answers immediately for IND after he whacks in a free ball after a free hit outside the circle.
40:16	Goal Abbas flicks low left. 3 corners for the game, 3 goals.
39:30	PAK earn their 3rd corner and 1st for the half from a raised IND ball.

- 37:37** The end to end hockey recommences after the half time break. PAK with slightly more possession after 2 mins.
- 35:00** Half time: An amazing game of hockey played at a very high level. A slow start by IND gained momentum although PAK was able to weather significant pressure and leads 3-1. PC count: PAK 2 IND 1.
- 33:30 Goal**
Butt takes the wind from IND goal with an immediate answer after the restart. Butt broke past the IND defence before dragging around Chauhan (IND GK) and then pushing the ball into the goal. A stunning reply from PAK.
- 32:34 Goal**
Great goal by Thakur after he made a tough reverse stick trap and then flicked the ball into the net past Aktar at close range.
- 32:10** IND break down the middle of the field and Dhillon`s hard reverse stick shot is saved by Akbar.
- 28:37** IND push forward after the restart and have the ball deep in attack for the first time in 8 mins.
- 27:27 Goal**
Abbas rockets a flick high right. Abbas 2nd goal. 2 corners, 2 goals.
- 26:50** PAK earn their second corner. Danger here for IND with Abbas in good form.
- 26:21** The PAK forward press is forcing IND into passing errors and they are now struggling to move the ball our of defence. PAK have the ball in their attacking half for the last 2 mins.
- 25:25** Nadeem has a quick shot from the top of the circle for PAK. His shot goes wide right.
- 24:37** Some unusual trapping errors from both teams has forced the pace of the game to slow after the yellow card.
- 23:09 Incident**
Yellow card to IND. Kanwalpreet Singh is sent off for a body check in the middle of the field.
- 22:54** PAK with 2 or 3 opportunities to break into their circle. IND defence up to the task.
- 21:16** PAK have pushed out of defence now and have their first period of solid control for the last 10 mins. The ball is now in their attacking half.
- 20:17** This is a different IND playing out there today from their previous 2 games of the tournament. Their skills and workrate are significantly improved. PAK are being forced to weather the IND storm at present.
- 18:26** The shot from the right is saved by PAK and they also win a free hit. They immediately counterattack and make their attacking circle but IND manage to save before a shot is made. Amazing hockey.
- 17:17** IND earn their 1st corner for the match from a PAK foot from a free hit outside the circle.
- 16:41** IND with another promising move with Thakur and Gagan combining to give Gagan a shot at goal. Akbar easily saves and clears.
- 15:33** The pace of the game is extremely fast with both teams running at pace at each other. Shabbir (PAK) in particular is working hard for PAK on the left wing.
- 13:21** IND starting to build momentum now with more and more forays into their attacking 25. PAK finding it hard to build into attack past their 25 in the last 2 mins.
- 12:27** Great save by Akbar (PAK GK) after a Thakur reverse stick smash from about 3 yards away. PAK a little fortunate to still be ahead on the scoreboard.
- 10:42** End to end hockey with both teams attacking each other in quick succession. Fantastic spectacle for those at the ground here in Madrid.
- 09:33** IND almost score after a Thakur left wing (reverse stick) cross just misses the sliding Gagan.
- 07:17** IND deep into attack for the first time in the match.
- 05:42** IND trying to hold possession of the ball in defence, passing the ball around the back. PAK press falling away which is making it hard for IND to move forward.
- 04:04** A large and vocal crew of PAK supporters are making full use of their voices as the game is being played in the midfield. IND yet to cross their attacking 25.
- 01:19 Goal**
Abbas rockets the corner flick into the top of the net. Great start for PAK.
- 00:50** A game of very high expectations between these 2 traditional rivals and attractive attacking hockey nations. A good start for PAK as they move into attack off the first play of the day and earn a corner.