

Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 19 - GBR v ESP

07 March 2004

Start Time: 12:00

1 GBR

Danny Hall (FG) 37:06

2 ESP

Xavier Ribas (PC) 40:47

Xavier Ribas (PC) 54:43

Full Time - GBR 1 ESP 2

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time: A hard earned win by ESP who dominated large periods of the game and were unable to score. They had 6 corners before scoring off the 7th and 8th. GBR defence was excellent. ESP now guaranteed an Athens berth. PC count: GBR 2 ESP 8.
69:21	The pace of the game has increased significantly with GBR trying to throw all they can at ESP to try and break into their circle. End to end hockey as a result. Both teams could score on the breakaway.
66:04	The variation left to Parnham is well saved by Herrera, diving to his right. ESP back into attack after winning a free hit.
65:03	GBR earn another corner after the Hall hit comes off a ESP foot.
64:30	GBR push into attack down the right and they earn their first corner for the game from an ESP foot.
62:55	ENG GK Mason in some trouble. He has had 3 time stoppages for his knee this half. He decides to continue and play on.
62:50	Freixa with the first shot in some time, and then Estaban straight after. Mason (GBR GK) able to save both.
60:19	ESP back into attack although GBR defence still looking strong and halting ESP across the 25 yard line.
57:46	GBR uses the restart to good effect with a rare push into attack. They have held the ball in their attacking half since the goal.
54:43	Goal Ribas flicks low and Mason deflects into the net.
54:09	ESP earn a corner from a GBR foot. Their 8th.
51:33	Its been almost solid ESP attack for the last 10 mins. GBR unable to move out of defence, but also making it hard for the ESP strikers to have shots at goal.
44:17	ESP offensive press is working well with GBR unable to move into attack. ESP forwards are blocking the GBR ability to transfer the ball around the back, and forcing them to overhead long to a ESP defender.
40:47	Goal Ribas flicks the ball to the right and Mason almost saves. The ball rolls into the goal.
39:58	ESP attack down the right and they earn their 7th corner from a raised GBR ball.
39:02	The ESP flick is stopped by the GBR runner and GBR regain the ball.
38:40	ESP attack straight after the restart and they earn their 6th corner.
37:06	Goal After a bad passing error in deep defence, GBR intercept, rebound and Hall scores from wide left.
35:00	Half time: A dominant performance by ESP although not reflected on the scoreboard. GBR working hard in defence to good effect. PC count: GBR 0 ESP 5.
33:51	The ESP flick is stopped by the GBR runner. GBR regain the ball and push into their midfield.
33:10	ESP earn the 5th corner from a GBR foot. More thorough play from ESP strikers on that occasion.
31:25	On their first circle penetration for some time, Middleton misses the chance to put GBR ahead with a mis-hit shot from the penalty spot in space. Herrera able to glove the ball away. Bad miss for GBR and perhaps a wakeup call for ESP who have been wasteful in attack.
28:55	ESP maintaining their strong possession deep in their attacking zone. GBR with the occasional breakaway into attack, although unable to make the circle.
23:45	Its all ESP for the last 5 mins. GBR defending effectively although one senses it is just a matter of time before ESP score.
17:44	The Freixa low flick is easily saved by Mason. ESP regain the ball and remain in attack.

- 16:54** | ESP strikers once again causing havoc for the GBR defence. They earn their 4th corner. Danger here for GBR.
- 15:24** | The attempted variation to thye left post is missed by ESP and GBR regain the ball.
- 15:00** | The high Ribas flick is spectacularly saved by Mason although ESP earn another corner.
- 14:26** | ESP corner (their 2nd). THis was just as GBR started to push the game out of their deep defence into the midfield.
- 10:50** | The game being played in ESP attacking half. GBR defence working very hard with the pace of the game significant.
- 08:03** | ESP putting GBR defence under pressure with their fast strikers breaking into the circle on both sides.
- 07:04** | The Friexa flick is well saved by Mason (ENG GK).
- 06:23** | ESP earn their 1st corner for the game after a right side attack.
- 05:16** | GBR push into attack with a great move and Danny Hall smashes a hard right side shot at Herrera (ESP GK) who makes a a great reflex save. Great shot, great save.
- 02:23** | ESP off to a good start, holding possession of the ball for the opening minutes. GBR not yet over their half line with the ball.
- 01:04** | In warmer weather (13C) and a large pro-ESP corwd, ESP has a chance to secure a berth in Athens with a win. GBR searching for a point to put them into the mid-pool playoffs.