

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

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 23: IND v NZL

08 March 2004

Start Time: 14:00

**2 IND**

Arjun Halappa (FG)

01:41

Deepak Thakur (FG)

66:42

**0 NZL****Full Time - IND 2 NZL 0****Time** Commentary

**70:00** Full time: A shaky win by IND who were under pressure in defence for the majority of the game. NZL had their chances with 6 corners and 2 or 3 excellent field goal chances, although unable to score. PC count: IND 1 NZL 6.

**66:42 Goal**

Thakur scores the winning goal for IND after a Prabjot run down the left finds him alone in front of the goal. One of the easiest goals he`ll ever score. NZL are devastated.

**65:04** The pace of the game has lifted twofold. Both teams attacking each others circle and either looking like scoring.

**64:05** Patel (NZL) has a shot that is saved by Chauhan. Immediately after NZL are dismayed when a corner is not blown by the umpire for an IND foot.

**63:10** Thakur with a rare IND shot at goal goes just wide. Very fast counterattack found Thakur on the top of the circle.

**59:18** IND starting to look more potent in attack with more runs into their half of the field. NZL currently able to make the tackles, although one can`t help but think that NZL have missed their chance to get on top of this game.

**56:54** The variation left is stopped by IND although NZL miss a crucial trap to give them a shot at goal. IND push into attack.

**55:37** NZL earn their 6th corner from an IND raised ball. Shaw normally scores 1 in 4, so he is now well overdue for a goal.

**53:26** IND into attack for the first time in many minutes. They have a free hit on the top of their circle.

**51:53** Kosoof falls over just asd the ball was passed at him in front of an open net. Amazingly lucky break for IND who are now most fortunate to still be ahead.

**49:36** Another great move by NZL is stopped only as they miss the trap in front of the net. IND reeling under the NZL pressure in the midfield.

**48:12** The Shaw flick and then the rebound shot by Hopping is saved by Chauhan. NZL long corner. IND just hanging on at the moment.

**47:44** Another corner for NZL with the ball hitting the body of a IND defender. Their 5th corner.

**46:56** The Shaw flick is deflected by the IND runner. NZL long corner.

**46:24** NZL earn their 4th corner from a stick check. Danger here for IND.

**45:46** IND finally push into attack although NZL able to repel numerous attacks down IND left.

**44:27** NZL becoming frustrated their situation and they receive a green card from too much talk to the umpire. IND not deep into attack now for 4 mins.

**42:07** Shaw`s flick is well saved by Chauhan. NZL long corner.

**41:19** NZL push down the right and they earn a corner from an IND stick check. Their 3rd for the game.

**40:48** The game is being played in the middle of the pitch now with neither team able to move into their circle with the ball. IND looking for the breakaway attacks with speed, although NZL have been able to stop the runs before they gather speed.

**37:35** A good start by NZL, pushing into attack early. IND defence looking rock solid however and patient.

**35:00** The corner is taken after the siren, and the hard IND shot is saved by NZL but is also ruled too high. Half time at 1-0 to IND who will not be happy with their form in that half.

**34:54** IND starting to build momentum in attack. They earn an easy corner (their 1st) from a NZL foot.

**33:02** Ignace Tirkey misses a shot from close range on the left after a nice passing buildup down the right side. A let-off for NZL.

**30:10** IND into attack for the first time in 5 mins. NZL win the ball back and they resume their possession of the ball. IND not able to get into the game at present.

**27:45** The Shaw flick is low and wide to the left. Bad miss for NZL.

**27:08** NZL earn their 2nd corner for the game.

**26:46** Archibald almost levels for NZL but his shot is deflected just wide. NZL in constant attack since their corner.

**24:21** The NZL trap is missed although NZL win a free hit on top of the circle.

**23:38** The pace of the game is significantly slower than IND last outing against PAK. Nevertheless NZL putting pressure on IND, earning their 1st corner from an IND foot.

**20:39** NZL enjoying better field position in the last 2 mins, although IND always looking very dangerous on the counterattack.

**16:53** IND with strong periods in attack for the last 3 mins. Danger signs for NZL as they cannot break out of the fall-away IND press.

**14:10** A let-off for NZL at the other end with a positive move from IND down the right is lifted at the last pass. The sliding Thakur would have had an open shot at the goal.

**12:44** Kanwalpreet saves a certain goal on the IND goal-line after a Burrows reverse stick flick from close range. Chauhan (IND GK) was caught out of position from a right wing cross which allowed Burrows to have a clear shot at goal. Great defence from

- IND.
- 10:25** NZL with the ball deep in attack although unable to penetrate the circle. A promising start for NZL despite the early goal against them.
- 08:13** IND into attack now for the first time since the goal. Thakur almost makes it 2-0 with multiple hits into Woolford's (NZL GK) pads. His final shot rockets over the crossbar.
- 04:39** NZL have the ball in their attacking half. Apart from the one time resulting in a goal, IND has not ventured deep into attack.
- 01:41** **Goal**  
Great start for IND with Halappa finishing a fast attacking move down the right. NZL defenders stunned.
- 01:13** With the winner of this match essentially assuring themselves of a place in Athens, much is on the line. Will NZL be able to cope with the brilliance of the IND forwards? And will IND cope with NZL corner battery?