

Men`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVII Olympic Games, Madrid

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 20: RSA v JPN

07 March 2004

Start Time: 14:00

2 RSA

Greg Nicol (FG) 42:09

Greg Nicol (PC) 65:03

1 JPN

Takahiko Yamabori (PC) 13:56

Full Time - RSA 2 JPN 1

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time: A tough game of hockey dominated by both defences. PC count: RSA 3 JPN 3.
68:22	The corner is well defended by RSA who clear the ball before a shot can be taken. JPN deep in attack now and RSA under pressure.
67:18	JPN hit an RSA foot to earn their 3rd corner.
65:03	Goal Nicol flicks the ball into the net for his 2nd goal.
64:51	The trap is missed although RSA recover and earn their 3rd corner.
64:18	RSA break into the circle from the left and they earn a corner. Their 2nd.
60:40	End to end hockey now although still no shots at goal. It really is a battle of the defences...
51:13	The JPN shot is saved by the RSA runner.
50:16	JPN earn a penalty corner (their 2nd) from an RSA tackle outside the circle. RSA defenders not happy.
49:10	Apart from the JPN shot, the game has been played between the 2 circles for the last 6 mins. Circle penetrations for both teams not coming easily which is a credit to the defences.
47:35	JPN almost take the lead with a reverse stick shot from the top of the circle well saved at full stretch by Hibbert (RSA GK).
42:09	Goal Individual goal from Nicol who ran into the circle from the right and hit the ball past Takahashi.
39:35	Incident Yellow card to JPN. Tobita sent off for JPN for poor tackle.
37:37	The 2nd half has been all in the midfield so far. No circle penetrations for either team.
34:51	The RSA hit is saved and JPN are able to clear. The half time siren will beat any 2nd RSA opportunity.
34:05	RSA earn a corner for a poor JPN tackle outside the circle. Their 1st for the game and 1st corner for 20 mins.
32:15	A tough match is developing for both teams with their strikers working hard and defenders making strong tackles. This is becoming a war of attrition for either team, although JPN with the advantage of having scored already. Shots look hard to come by for both teams.
27:51	RSA not able to penetrate their circle with a strong JPN presence at the back and midfield. RSA have regained the ball control in the last 3 mins and are starting to work themselves back in the game.
21:38	JPN on the attack now with solid possession deep in attack for the last 3 mins.
18:03	The game being played in the midfield for the last 5 mins. Neither team able to break past the deep defences of the opposite team.
13:56	Goal Yamabori flicks hard into the right side of the net.
13:28	JPN earn the first corner of the match from a RSA stick check on the right backline. RSA defenders unhappy with the decision.
09:27	RSA starting to look dangerous in deep attack, JPN also creating opportunities up front but as mentioned earlier, opting for deflections.
04:49	Both teams with attacking moves in the first 4 mins. JPN looking for deflections from hits outside the circle.
01:50	A must win game for JPN to keep their Athens hopes alive. RSA can seal a berth in the top 4 of Pool A with a win.