

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 1: JPN v RUS

19 March 2004

Start Time: 10:00

6 JPN

Tomomi Komori (FG)	07:32
Sakae Morimoto (FG)	29:05
Kaori Chiba (JPN)	33:45
Rika Komazawa (FG)	47:02
Sakae Morimoto (FG)	51:08
Naoko Saito (FG)	52:47

1 RUS

Marina Chegurdaeva (PC)	37:49
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Final Score - JPN 6 RUS 1

Time	Commentary
70:00	Incident <i>SG (FIH)</i> Full time. A convincing win by JPN scoring 3 goals in each half. They look a very polished team and will trouble some higher ranked teams this tournament. RUS next play ESP. JPN have USA. PC count: JPN 3 RUS 5. Field shots: JPN 14 RUS 3.
68:55	<i>SG (FIH)</i> Komazawa almost scores her 2nd goal with a deflection after a right wing cross from very close range goes over the goal.
67:10	<i>SG (FIH)</i> The corner is not well executed by JPN and RUS easily clear the ball. JPN regain the ball and stay in attack.
66:37	<i>SG (FIH)</i> JPN counterattack down the right and they earn their 3rd corner for the game from a RUS foot.
66:10	<i>SG (FIH)</i> RUS have pushed into attack and JPN having to defend for the first time in 15 mins. The game pace has slowed as we move into the last 5 mins. Both teams look tired.
62:05	<i>SG (FIH)</i> JPN well and truly in control of the game. RUS not able to move into deep attack for some time, and JPN forwards are still working hard to look for their 7th goal.
58:50	<i>SG (FIH)</i> The first attempt at a deflection goal is saved by RUS and then cleared. JPN long corner.
58:15	<i>SG (FIH)</i> JPN earn their 1st corner for the half and 2nd for the game after RUS did not move 5 yards on the free hit.
55:48	<i>SG (FIH)</i> RUS midfield defensive work has slipped away with JPN players free to make traps and passes in attack.
52:47	Goal <i>SG (FIH)</i> Saito turns the game well and truly back into JPN favour with a quick field goal after the restart. Any hopes of a RUS recovery are now gone.
51:08	Goal <i>SG (FIH)</i> Morimoto scores a composed individual goal after JPN had a fast break down the left. Morimoto cleverly beat the sliding RUS keeper from the left sideline.
50:38	<i>SG (FIH)</i> A much more even game in terms of field position with RUS having time deep in attack. JPN finding control of the midfield much harder than the first half and are having to chase for the first time in the game. Basic skills errors are hurting both teams this half.
47:02	Goal <i>SG (FIH)</i> JPN have pushed back the RUS attack and they score after another RUS turnover in deep defence. Komazawa deflected a goal from the penalty spot after a left wing pass.
43:44	<i>SG (FIH)</i> RUS have pushed into attack for the last 3 mins and have the ball now very deep in attack after a slow buildup. A goal here would really change the game.
40:05	<i>SG (FIH)</i> JPN into attack after the RUS goal and they have 2 shots at goal. Both easily saved.
37:49	Goal <i>SG (FIH)</i> M Chegurdaeva hits in RUS first goal from the left variation over Terazono (JPN GK).
36:56	<i>SG (FIH)</i> The variation left hits a JPN foot. Another corner. The variation right hits a JPN foot. RUS 5th corner.
36:37	<i>SG (FIH)</i> RUS earn their 3rd corner from the game and 1st for the half from a JPN foot.
36:14	<i>SG (FIH)</i> RUS into attack after the opening whistle. JPN defending with 10 players, leaving 1 player high in attack.

- 35:00 Incident**
SG (FIH)
 Half time. A dominant performance by JPN who controlled the vast majority of the game. RUS towards the end started to find some structure in attack. PC count: JPN 1 RUS 2. Field shots: JPN 7 RUS 1.
- 33:45 Goal**
SG (FIH)
 Chiba scores the regulation tap in for JPN after a right wing cross eliminates the RUS keeper. 3-0 a fair scoreline for JPN who have dominated this half.
- 31:27**
SG (FIH)
 The Chegurdaeva hit is saved by JPN. RUS earn their second corner and again the hit is saved by Terazono (JPN GK).
- 30:32**
SG (FIH)
 RUS earn their first corner for the game immediately after the restart.
- 29:05 Goal**
SG (FIH)
 Morimoto first times a hit past Radomskaya (RUS GK) after Chegurdaeva was caught with the ball and JPN were able to pass to the open player in the circle.
- 26:03**
SG (FIH)
 The hit by Miura is saved by Radomskaya and RUS clear to the sideline.
- 25:10**
SG (FIH)
 JPN earn their first corner for the game from a RUS foot.
- 23:37**
SG (FIH)
 The game has evened now with the play in the middle of the pitch rather than in JPN attacking half. RUS midfield starting to hold onto the ball and also receive shorter passes from their defence.
- 19:11**
SG (FIH)
 JPN still deep in their attacking half. RUS into their attacking circle once this half. Its all JPN at present.
- 17:10**
SG (FIH)
 Komori almost scores her 2nd after a high first time shot from a right wing cross just misses the goal.
- 15:49**
SG (FIH)
 Only inspiring and desperate defence from RUS veteran Nadeza Chegurdaeva is stopping JPN from scoring their 2nd goal. She has made 4 or 5 last minute tackles to save an open shot.
- 14:45**
SG (FIH)
 RUS struggling to mount attacking moves with long passes missing their target or intercepted by JPN midfielders.
- 13:57**
SG (FIH)
 Great save by RUS GK Radomskaya after Morimoto trapped the ball in space and smashed the ball high at the net from the top of the circle.
- 10:24**
SG (FIH)
 RUS with their first chance of the game although JPN defence scramble to stop the shot.
- 09:47**
SG (FIH)
 JPN looking very dangerous after the restart with well constructed attacks with numbers. RUS hitting long through the midfield to individual battles.
- 07:32 Goal**
SG (FIH)
 JPN score on the counterattack with Komori scoring the field goal after an Iwao cross from the right.
- 07:07**
SG (FIH)
 RUS into attack for the first time in the game although it is short lived with JPN tackling and counterattacking.
- 05:59**
SG (FIH)
 RUS still pinned in their defensive half. JPN have not entered their circle yet however, with RUS deep defence playing very strongly across the 25 yard line.
- 04:05**
SG (FIH)
 JPN off to a good start with the ball in their attacking half for the first 3 mins. RUS making their intentions clear with tough tackles in the middle of the field in the opening minutes.
- 00:10**
SG (FIH)
 First game of the Women`s Qualifier being played in bright sunshine here in Auckland. Both teams would see this as a must win match, being closely ranked.