

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 2: UKR v IRL

19 March 2004

Start Time: 12:00

0 UKR**1 IRL**

Jenny Burke (FG)

20:22

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Final Score - UKR 0 IRL 1
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Time	Commentary
70:00	Incident
	Full time. A big win in a close match by IRL and they are jubilant. They have reversed their last result of 0-3 between these 2 teams in the EUR Cup (Sep 2003). UKR dominant in the first half. A much closer second half although neither team will be too happy with their basic skill execution. PC count: UKR 3 IRL 2. Field shots: UKR 7 IRL 4.
69:14	Its all UKR now as the seconds tick down. IRL into defensive mode as they hang onto the 1-0 lead. UKR throwing everything forward which is causing some issues in their skill execution.
66:29	Dudko shoots for UKR after a fast run into the circle. Platt saves and clears. The pace of the game clearly has lifted with 5 mins to go...
65:48	End to end hockey now with an open midfield leaving space for each team to run into attack.
64:28	The variation wide right is saved by UKR and a sideline hit for IRL.
63:56	IRL earn their 2nd corner for the game from a UKR foot. Danger here for UKR.
61:23	The game has suddenly swung into IRL favour with strong possession in attack. IRL still playing with 4 deep defenders so they are relying on the individual skills of the forwards.
59:47	The variation left is saved by UKR and they clear. IRL retain possession.
58:56	IRL earn their 1st corner for the game after a strong buildup down the right.
57:54	IRL with another missed chance to seal the game with an attempted deflection going jjust wide to the right after a breakaway.
56:21	UKR showing signs of moving on top of the game with more and more runs into the forwardline. No shots from either team since very early in the half, although UKR with more time in attack in the last 5 mins.
54:09	IRL playing an extra defender which is clogging the UKR forwardline. Whenever UKR get the ball, its 2 UKR forwards onto 5 IRL defenders. When IRL try to break into attack, its usually a 2 on 3.
50:42	Both teams struggling to string more than 4 or 5 passes together which is making for a very disjointed game. Unlike the first half which was much more free flowing.
44:03	The game has not yet settled with both teams still yet to show signs of scoring. A midfield battle continues.
41:13	IRL almost score after a Burke deflection is just saved by Fisyun (UKR GK). Almost a dream start to IRL.
39:46	A messy start to the half with both teams fighting hard in the midfield but not moving into attack due to skill errors.
35:00	Incident
	Half time. A close game with UKR the stronger team, although IRL in the lead. PC count: UKR 3 IRL 0. Field shots: UKR 5 IRL 2.
33:56	The hit is saved by IRL and they counter deep into attack. Danger here for UKR.
33:15	UKR corner, their 3rd after an IRL defender obstructs the UKR forward.
32:06	UKR starting to build momentum again and they have IRL pinned in their half. IRL defence desperate in their tackling as they try and not concede any corners.
28:05	The variation left almost goes in but is deflected wide enough by Platt (IRL GK). UKR long corner.
27:26	Kobzenko earns UKR their 2nd corner for the game from an IRL raised ball.
26:55	IRL have pushed UKR back into the midfield and amidst all the very loud noise from the IRL supporters, the game is being played in the midfield. UKR look dangerous whenever Kobzenko or Vasyukova have the ball, and IRL when they counterattack after a UKR turnover.
22:39	UKR back into attack after the IRL goal and continue to have IRL deep defence under pressure.
20:22	Goal
	Hard fought goal by Burke against the flow of play. IRL pushed into attack up the middle of the field before the ball fell to Burke who desperately pushed the ball into the net under significant UKR pressure.
19:45	Its all UKR for the last 7 mins with IRL under significant pressure in deep defence. Platt (IRL GK) makes a good save from a hard shot by Salenko (UKR) on the right.
17:00	Kobzenko shoots for UKR at the top of the circle. The call just misses to the left of the goal. A close miss there for UKR.
16:20	The clever and experienced UKR captain, Kobzenko is starting to become heaavily involved in the game. Her stick skills in attack are causing problems for IRL defence.
13:45	UKR starting to gain momentum in attack as their midfield starts to make passes out wide to overlapping strikers.
11:51	The straight hit is easily saved an cleared by IRL. They counterattack but UKR block in the midfield.
11:24	Some great skills and speed from Dudko earn UKR their 1st corner from an IRL foot.
07:28	An even start to the game with neither team creating anything too dangerous. Both teams with equal time deep in attack, although IRL looking a little stronger in the midfield.

- 03:06** | IRL with a very vocal supporter base which will no doubt inspire the IRL players. UKR expected to play a hard running game.
- 01:40** | Ranked 14 and 15 in the world, IRL and UKR could not be closer matches. A very important game for both teams in terms of any Olympic aspirations.