

Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 3
Friday 19 March 2004

Spain 1 - 0 Korea

Lucia Lopez PC 25m

Match Summary

Spain took an early advantage in Pool B with a tight defensive performance in the battle of the pool's top ranked teams. Despite a statistical dominance that included significantly more goal shots than their opponents, Korea couldn't successfully penetrate the tight-knit Spanish defence. Spain's win was as much a tribute to their ability to soak up pressure as it was Korea's inability to convert legitimate goal scoring chances.

Skill errors and poor passes at the vital time ruined Korea's endeavour and combined with the resolute Spanish defence to foiled 14 shots at goal. When the last line of Spain's defence was breached, goalkeeper Ma Jesus Rosa covered the danger with two fine saves in quick succession late in the match to preserve the lead. With the top two teams in each pool guaranteed a place in Athens without the pressure of next weekend's playoffs, Korea can't afford another sloppy performance in front of goal given Japan's clinical disposal of Russia in the first match of the tournament.

Quotes

"I thought we played well in the first half. The second half was not as good. We were nervous and our play was not good. This match was critical for us. Not just because it was the first game of the tournament, but also because Korea will be our toughest pool opponent."

On RUS (next game): "They are perhaps the weakest team in our pool, but it is still a match we must win in order to stay ahead after today's result."

Pablo Usoz, ESP Coach

"We had our chances. Our forwards did not play well today. Our corners were not good, and general play in attack was bad. Sometimes we didn't communicate or understand each other. It is a common problem that Korea creates chances but does not score. Sometimes we pass too many times instead of shoot. We still need experience."

On USA (next game): "They have improved in the last few months and look in good form. We will need to match their physical style of play. A must win match for us."

Kim Sang Ryul, KOR Coach

Stats

1 from 4	Penalty corners	0 from 5
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 1	Field goal shots	0 from 14

Penalty cards

Nil	Ko Woon Oh	Green 32m
	Seong Eun Kim	Yellow 34m
	Sung Mi Han	Yellow 49m

Next match

v RUS
Saturday 20 March – 5pm

v USA
Sunday 21 March – 3pm