

Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 4

Friday 19 March 2004

New Zealand 2 - 2 Great Britain

Niniwa Roberts
Suzie Muirhead

PC 53m
PC 55m

Mel Clewlow
Helen Grant

PC 8m
FG 10m

Match Summary

New Zealand's match against Great Britain illustrated the benefits and pitfalls of playing in a major tournament at home. A nervous start by the home team had them two goals down before they could settle into any rhythm as Great Britain threatened to end the match as a contest as early as the 10-minute mark. However as the crowd sensed the momentum shift in the second half, their increased support in turn lifted the Black Sticks who began to exert an increasing level of pressure on Great Britain's defence. New Zealand were able to pin Great Britain inside their own half and block the avenues to the midfield that had been used effectively by the tournament's top seeds in the first half. Conceding goals in quick succession – as both teams did in the match – is something they will have to limit, because the tournament will be extremely tight until the fifth and final playoff spot is decided on Saturday afternoon.

Quotes

"What a cliché. It really was 'a game of two halves'. I thought we had a very nervous start - very tentative and very cautious. After half time, we regained composure and held possession. This got us back into the game."

On IRL (next game): "Ireland is a very desperate and passionate team. We will have to play good hockey to counter this."

Ian Rutledge, NZL Coach

"Disappointed with this game is too light a word. I am very annoyed. That was a very poor performance by us. We should have led by more at half time, and then to reduce our work rate in the second half and allow them too much space was not good enough. The feature of our first half was that we were ferocious in attack and gave them no space in the midfield. We dropped all this in the second half and allowed New Zealand back into the game." On GER (next game): "I expect a very tough match. Totally different in style to New Zealand - not as attacking. We'll adjust our style of play, although we trust our abilities to not change too much."

Tricia Heberle, GBR Coach

Stats

2 from 7	Penalty corners	1 from 4
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 1	Field goal shots	0 from 7

Penalty cards

Nil Nil

Next match

v IRE
Saturday 20 March – 3pm

v GER
Sunday 21 March – 12.30pm