

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 7: IRL v NZL

20 March 2004

Start Time: 15:15

1 IRL

Jenny McDonough (PC) 36:14

5 NZL

Lizzy Igasan (PC) 16:40

Kayla Sharland (FG) 28:13

Jaimee Provan (FG) 36:52

Niniwa Roberts-Lang (PC) 46:28

Jaimee Provan (PC) 50:28

Final Score - IRL 1 NZL 5

Time	Commentary
70:00	Incident Full time. A big and important win by NZL who are now well placed in Pool A. IRL outgunned in defence and attack today, but their passion provides a challenge for most teams. PC count: IRL 3 NZL 7. Field shots: IRL 2 NZL 9.
68:37	Its all NZL as the game draws to a close. IRL not into attack for some time, and NZL peppering their attacking circle with passes and crosses.
65:57	The attempted variation to the right post is deflected out by IRL. NZL long corner.
65:25	Muirhead dribbles into the circle down the left and earns NZL their 7th corner from an IRL foot.
63:56	The sting has now gone from the game with both teams making longer passes and losing possession. The game being played in the middle of the field as a result.
61:50	They miss the trap and the recovery pass is wide. NZL ball.
61:31	IRL attack with space down the right and they hit a NZL foot with the cross. IRL corner, their 3rd.
59:51	The trap is missed and Roberts-Lang`s hit from outside the circle deflects off Platt for a NZL long corner.
59:06	NZL enter their circle and earn their 6th corner from an IRL raised ball. NZL have scored 3 from 5 corners this match.
58:07	The hard shot is ruled too high and NZL regain the ball.
57:20	IRL break into attack down the right and they earn their 2nd corner from a NZL foot.
56:56	NZL still playing very confident hockey and starting to string some attractive passages of play in attack.
50:28	Goal Provan scores a deflection goal from in front of the keeper to put NZL ahead 5-1. Nicely worked corner goal.
50:12	After a brief foray into attack, IRL concede their 5th corner after Provan (NZL) attacked down the right and found an IRL foot.
46:28	Goal Roberts-Lang scores NZL 4th goal with a hard shot on the corner. The IRL runner deflected the ball over Platt.
46:11	NZL earns their 4th corner from a IRL stick check.
45:33	NZL with the ball in attack although IRL playing a more aggressive game now. A tough press combined with 2 high strikers is causing NZL a few headaches on the turnover.
42:34	IRL with a rare push into deep attack down the left with McVicar smashing a hard shot at Clarke (NZL GK) that almost gets through at chest height. NZL save and clear.
39:55	After the initial frenetic start, the game has settled down to be more like the first, with NZL holding the ball in the midfield and IRL working hard in defence.
36:52	Goal Provan scores straight after the restart with a deflection goal on the right post after a right wing cross from Roberts-Lang. Great reply from NZL.
36:14	Goal McDonough scores for IRL from the rebound off the first shot.
35:48	IRL off to a good start in the half, earning an early corner, their first for the game, after a break down the right.
35:00	Incident Half time. 0-2. A dominant performance from NZL who perhaps should have made more from their opportunities. IRL need a major revival in the 2nd half if they are to get back into the game. PC count: IRL 0 NZL 3. Field goals: IRL 1 NZL 5.
32:42	NZL well in control of the match with IRL unable to make 2 or 3 consecutive passes. NZL with the ball deep in attack now and look like scoring.
28:13	Goal Sharland scores a deflection goal after an Igasan cross from the right side. NZL 2-0.
25:12	NZL playing with considerable confidence, unlike their first half against GBR yesterday. IRL as yet unable to break into rhythm although they are always dangerous on the counterattack.
22:17	Carr has a hard shot from the right for NZL that is well saved by Platt after a great trap and pass by NZL captain, Muirhead.
20:49	NZL back into attack for the last 2 mins. Once again IRL under great pressure in their defensive circle.
18:48	IRL push into attack after the restart and pressure the NZL deep defence for the first time. IRL passing is letting them down

- with numerous passes in their midfield and attack missing the mark.
- 16:40 Goal**
Igasan smashes in the corner hit from the left variation into the right post. NZL up 1-0.
- 16:22** NZL dribbling is exceptional today. Drysdale cleverly works into the circle and earns NZL their 3rd corner.
- 15:12** The high flick by Igasan is well saved by Platt and the ball hits a NZL foot. IRL ball.
- 14:44** Some clever skills by Orr earns NZL their 2nd corner from an IRL foot.
- 13:48** NZL remaining in control of the game, but finding it harder no to penetrate the IRL defence. NZL playing the ball around their backline for long periods.
- 12:03** The NZL hit is raised very high and IRL with the free hit. They push quickly into attack down the right, their favoured side.
- 11:34** NZL earn the first corner of the match from a IRL foot.
- 09:48** NZL still with strong possession, although now in the middle of the field with IRL pushing back the NZL attack.
- 05:56** Provan (NZL) with the first chance of the day with a reverse stick deflection on the left. Platt (IRL GK) makes the save and a NZL long corner.
- 04:57** NZL starting to build momentum and have the ball deep in attack down their right side. All 11 IRL players in defence.
- 02:57** NZL off to a good start and they have the ball in their attacking half. An even game although IRL slower to gain constant possession.
- 00:58** A large crowd is in attendance in bright sunshine in Auckland. NZL the higher ranked team and will expect to win this match, although IRL are no pushover.