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## Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 7  
Saturday 20 March 2004

### United States 1 - 3 Japan

Tracey Fuchs PC 34m

Rika Komazawa  
Sakae Morimoto  
Sachimi Iwao

PC 17m  
PC 47m  
PC 55m

### Match Summary

Set piece conversions lifted Japan to an important victory over USA. If world rankings are any guide, USA (10) and Japan (11) are expected to battle it out for the third spot in Pool A, which made today's match extremely important. While Japan used field goal conversion to overwhelm Russia yesterday, they utilised a well-drilled penalty corner battery to defeat USA.

The first half was evenly contested, with both teams having penalty corner opportunities before Japan took the lead after the opening quarter of the match. USA enjoyed their best period either side of half time, but after they scored their second goal, Japan exerted significant pressure, continued to close off the midfield and converted their third penalty corner – to wrap up the match – 15 minutes before full time. The win puts Japan in a good position heading into their crucial match against Spain on Tuesday.

### Quotes

"I think Japan is a great team and all credit to them. I think they took the game from us in the second half. It's a long tournament. We need to pick our heads up and focus on the next game. In the second half we needed to keep the ball for much longer. We also didn't read some situations that we had prepared for until it was too late. Japan really lifted which made it hard."

On KOR (next game): "Korea are a very fast team, technically very good. They'll be very keen after their last match so we'll have to be very competitive and step up."

**Beth Anders, USA Coach**

"We are happy, but will be much happier after we qualify for the Olympics. Our attacking players were a little tired today after yesterday's game, which worried me. We got through which was very pleasing. We have come a long way since 2002. Our attack is much better, and our younger players are much more experienced."

On ESP (next game): "Spain is very tight in defence. We will have to work very, very hard and have a very tight midfield press."  
**Zenjiro Yasuda, JPN Manager**

### Stats

1 from 3	Penalty corners	3 from 9
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 1	Field goal shots	0 from 9

### Penalty cards

Nil Nil

### Next match

v KOR  
Sunday 21 March – 3pm

v ESP  
Tuesday 23 March – 12pm