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Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 7
Saturday 20 March 2004

Ireland 1 - 5 New Zealand

Jenny McDonough	PC 37m	Lizzy Igasan	PC 17m
		Kayla Sharland	FG 29m
		Jamiee Provan	FG 37m
			PC 51m
		Niniwa Roberts	PC 47m

Match Summary

New Zealand learned from their mistakes yesterday, when a slow and nervous start nearly derailed their opening match against Great Britain, to control all aspects of the clash against Ireland. They were more enterprising in attack, composed in defence and kept Ireland pinned deep inside their territory for significant portions of the match.

After yesterday's win, Ireland found it difficult to adjust to the elevated level of New Zealand's play. They lacked the creativity up front to worry the New Zealand defence and their inability hold the ball in attack for extended periods served increased the workload of those behind them. If New Zealand's penalty corner battery can maintain their high conversion rate - three from seven attempts - today, they stand a great chance of guaranteeing their ticket to Athens as one of Pool A's top two teams.

Quotes

"Very well played by NZL, but I was a quite disappointed with our won performance today. I thought we could trouble them more than we did. I thought our preparation was good enough. This was the first time we have played NZL for a very long time. Maybe 20 years? So their style was new to us."

On GER (next game): "We have played GER many times and we know them well. I didn't see their game today against UKR, but we'll study the game tonight and work on our strategy."

Riet Kuper (IRL Coach)

"It was a very good performance. We closed the game down and controlled most aspects. It was a good continuation of yesterday's performance. We went into the match with the aim of focusing better."

On the NZL PC battery: "We have full faith in our battery and are lucky have a good hitter who we base most of our variations around."

On UKR (next game): "They can cause problems on the counter attack and have two skillful players (Dudko and Kobzenko) who can eliminate with ease. We need to make sure that we keep an eye on them."

Ian Rutledge, NZL Coach

Stats

1 from 3	Penalty corners	3 from 7
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 2	Field goal shots	2 from 9

Penalty cards

Jill Orbinson	Green 43m	Jamiee Provan	Green 34m
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Next match

v GER
Tuesday 23 March – 5pm

v UKR
Monday 22 March – 4.30pm

