

**Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland**

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 12: NZL v UKR

22 March 2004

Start Time: 16:30

**3 NZL**

Niniwa Roberts-Lang (PC)	39:06
Lisa Walton (FG)	47:04
Niniwa Roberts-Lang (FG)	56:35

**2 UKR**

Svintlana Kolomiyets (FG)	08:52
Zhanna Savenko (FG)	11:23

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**Final Score - NZL 3 UKR 2**

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**Time** | Commentary

**70:00** Full time. What a great game for the spectators. A very close match in the end and UKR taking it to their more fancied opponent. The crowd go wild and NZL are celebrating all over the field. PC count: NZL 8 UKR 4. Field shots: NZL 6 UKR 5.

**68:22** UKR still in attack. Their free hits are being lifted and they are not only losing possession, but they are missing the chance to break into the circle.

**67:04** The hit is saved by Clarke and NZL manage to clear to the sideline.

**66:37** UKR earn their 4th corner from a NZL foot after a great run from Salenko down the right. She has been very dangerous for UKR today.

**64:27** UKR still in the game despite NZL`s 3-0 lead this half. Their occasional forays into their attacking circle are dangerous. The middle of the field still very open for both teams.

**59:07** UKR almost equalise after Kobzenko shoots from the top. A mess occurs and the umpire picks out a free hit to NZL. UKR very unlucky.

**56:35** **Goal**  
A great goal from NZL after a fast attack by UKR was tackled. Provan passed a long ball up the left to Walton who dribbled 20 metres and then smashes the ball into the pads of the UKR GK for Roberts-Lang to rebound and score. The large crowd go wild.

**55:25** The first hit is saved and Kobzenko almost scores off the rebound. Great coverage by Clarke. Amazing hockey with the pro-NZL crowd on the edge of their seats!

**54:42** UKR earn another corner from a NZL foot from the first hit.

**54:01** UKR counterattack down the right with great speed and they earn their 1st corner for the half and 2nd for the game from a NZL foot.

**52:08** NZL players are sensing that UKR are cracking at the back, and they are double teaming wherever possible. NZL look like earning another corner.

**49:40** UKR under siege now as NZL find holes in their deep defence. UKR defenders are struggling to clear the ball and NZL counterattacking on the turnovers.

**47:04** **Goal**  
Walton scores the equaliser for NZL after a run into their circle from the right. UKR looking a little shakey at the back.

**45:09** An even game for the last 3 mins. UKR and NZL both having a chance to break into the circle.

**42:43** The Roberts-Lang hit goes wide left.

**42:24** NZL push into attack and they earn their 8th corner after a messy tackle by the UKR defender.

**41:51** UKR on the attack again after the goal with space in the midfield. They look very dangerous every time Dudko or Kobzenko get the ball in the middle of the field.

**39:06** **Goal**  
Roberts-Lang drags right and then smashes the ball under the UKR GK. 2-1 to UKR.

**38:52** NZL earn their 1st corner for the half and 7th for the game after UKR play the ball out deliberately over the backline.

**38:12** Muirhead almost scores for NZL with a high slap shot that sails over the net after a right wing cross.

**36:53** UKR into attack early with 2 fast runs into attack up the middle of the field.

**35:00** Half time. What a half of hockey. UKR counterattacking with ferocity and with success. NZL struggling to break past the UKR defensive blockade, although their corners have not been good. PC count: NZL 6 UKR 1. Field shots: NZL 1 UKR 3.

**34:49** The Roberts-Lang shot is deflected wide by the UKR runner.

**34:15** NZL win their 6th corner after hitting a UKR foot on the right backline.

**33:42** The Kobzenko shot is saved by Clarke, and then NZL struggle to clear the ball. They finally win a foot and then counterattack down the left.

**32:55** NZL miss the trap and UKR win the ball. They run to the other end and UKR win their first corner from a NZL foot.

**32:08** Fortunate corner for NZL after a free hit is lifted by UKR into Roberts-Lang. NZL 5th corner.

**28:01** The hit is saved by UKR GK and they clear to the sideline. The game being played at a frenetic pace in the last 5 mins.

**26:50** NZL counterattack and they earn a corner (their 4th) from a UKR foot.

**26:09** UKR rebound into attack. They work the ball into their circle and claim for a corner after it hits the NZL foot. UKR players furious at the umpire.

- 25:30** The variation for Provan to deflect hits her foot and then goes into the goal. UKR free hit.
- 24:42** NZL pouring on the pressure now with UKR defending their circle for the last 2 mins. NZL earn their 3rd corner after a free hit hits a UKR foot.
- 23:16** The straight hit is saved by Fisyun (UKR GK). NZL long corner.
- 22:46** Another corner to NZL from a UKR foot. Their 2nd.
- 22:11** The Provan deflection sails over the crossbar. NZL regain the ball after the UKR hit.
- 21:41** NZL corner after UKR block a player outside the circle. The first corner for the game.
- 20:27** UKR break up the middle of the field and Vorushylo almost scores UKR 3rd goal after a punishing run by Kobzenko. The shot is just inches wide of the left post. NZL very fortunate.
- 19:03** NZL working the ball in their attack and around the midfield. They are dominant in the possession stats but unable to break past the UKR defence.
- 13:14** UKR double teaming the NZL midfielders which is causing turnovers deep in their defensive half. UKR making the length of the pitch very quickly due to the space. NZL need to use the width.
- 11:23** **Goal**  
UKR break down the middle and win a free hit on top of the circle. Savenko deflects the hit into the net. UKR 2-0 and NZL are reeling.
- 10:43** NZL resume their field position dominance and they have the ball in their attacking half. UKR look very dangerous on the fast counterattack.
- 08:52** **Goal**  
UKR with one such open break after an intercept by the clever Kobzenko in the middle. She found Kolimiyets on the left who ran into the circle and flicked the ball past Clarke (NZL GK) for their first goal.
- 05:41** NZL with better field position in the opening 5 mins. UKR have had one chance in attack, although NZL working the ball slowly and methodically in attack.
- 00:42** A close game is expected with UKR very dangerous when they are given space, and NZL will allow this with their attacking style. NZL firepower in attack may just get them over the line.