

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 13: ESP v JPN

23 March 2004

Start Time: 12:30

1 ESP

Lucia Lopez (PC)

43:17

0 JPN**Final Score - ESP 1 JPN 0**

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time. ESP become the 6th team to qualify for the Athens Olympics now that they are assured of a top 2 place in Pool B. ESP players and staff are celebrating all over the field as if they have won a gold medal, indicating just how important the ticket to Athens is for all teams here. After ESP scored early in the second half, it was essentially all JPN as ESP defended their lead to perfection. PC count: ESP 2 JPN 4. Field shots: ESP 3 JPN 4.
69:07	Again JPN enter their circle twice for no return. The large pro-JPN crowd are chanting and cheering their team onto a goal.
67:42	Time the enemy for JPN as they are frustrated by this steady ESP defence. ESP picking up intercepts and then clearing to the sideline.
66:20	JPN back in attack and are making circle penetration after circle penetration. Their final pass is letting them down and ESP defence is playing well.
64:18	ESP finally push into attack with a long ball down the right. This is the first time ESP are into attack for the last 10 mins.
62:49	Its all JPN now with ESP pinned in their defensive half. ESP unable to clear into attack with all their players behind the ball.
61:40	The straight hit from Miura is saved by ESP defender on the line and then ESP win the free hit. JPN players stand there not knowing what the decision was for.
60:23	ESP with 11 person defence now as they try and clog up the game. JPN earn their 4th corner for the game from a breach outside the circle by ESP.
58:32	JPN with the better field position in the last 5 mins although unable to convert into a corner. They almost score through a deflection goal but the ball just travels wide.
53:00	Iwao smashes the ball over the crossbar after some nice passing and trapping from the JPN offence. A good chance for JPN missed.
49:30	The attempted variation to the right post is deflected by ESP over the backline. The ball almost looped into the net.
48:56	JPN push into attack and manage to win their 3rd corner from a ESP foot on the right.
47:13	ESP are on the attack after the goal with JPN struggling to move out of defence. ESP midfield are starting to hold the ball for longer periods and work their way into attack with greater ease.
43:17	Goal
	Lopez puts ESP up 1-0 as she rebounds the ball into the net after the first shot is saved by Terazono (JPN GK).
43:03	ESP earn a corner for a breach outside the circle. The reason for which is not immediately apparent.
42:01	Almost a disaster for JPN with ESP attacking down the left and Camon reverse stick flicking the ball just wide. The ball had just been played by JPN into Camon`s foot and they were stunned when the umpire didn`t blow the whistle.
38:21	The second half is underway. JPN with the early running. They have ESP under significant pressure in defence and only some poor finishing by JPN has kept the score at 0-0.
35:00	Half time. A close first half with very open play for the first 30 mins although without much in terms of goal shots and corners. The last 5 mins was a much tighter affair. PC count: ESP 1 JPN 2. Field shots: ESP 2 JPN 0.
33:58	Neither team with a circle penetration for the last 6 mins. Passing errors by both teams is leading to turnovers.
32:24	The pace of the game has dropped away now and the game being played out the in middle of the field. The midfield has closed up for both teams with a tough defensive battle now in play.
27:28	End to end hockey in the last 2 mins as JPN attack, then ESP, then JPN and now ESP. The pace of the game has lifted.
24:02	The attempted deflection by JPN is well executed but equally well read by Rosa (ESP GK) who stands and makes the save. She also saves the rebound shot and ESP clear into attack.
23:17	JPN work the ball into their circle and they earn their 2nd corner.
22:49	Morimoto for JPN starting to look very dangerous at their attacking end. She has penetrated the circle numerous times in the last 10 mins and only just been stopped before shooting. A most unexpectedly open game from these 2 teams leading to attacking freedom. Great stuff.
20:30	Camon again turns a half chance into an opportunity with a skillful run into the circle and shot. Again her shot is mis-timed and JPN easily clear. JPN need to be careful of the space they are giving Camon in the middle of the ground.
19:06	JPN into attack down their right and manage to hold the ball in their attacking half for the last 2 mins. ESP defence around the circle is excellent and they are making clean dispossessing tackles.
16:26	Camon with ESP first good chance to score from a field goal. She picked the ball up in the middle of the field and ran at high speed into the circle. Her reverse stick shot was not well timed and JPN were able to scramble a clearance. ESP remain in attack.
15:02	JPN with the better field position in the last 3 mins. ESP defending solidly however although are releasing possession when they try to counterattack.
12:35	JPN also leaving 3 players high out of their defensive unit when ESP have the ball in attack. This is leaving the midfield more open than expected and thus both teams are moving into attack with speed.
11:18	JPN counterattack out of the ESP press down the right and now have the ball deep in their attack.

- 09:05** | ESP pressing very aggressively now with double teaming happening all around their forwardline. JPN struggling to clear the ball into attack.
- 08:08** | An even game. Both teams with time in attack. Camon starting to look very dangerous on the left for ESP in attack.
- 06:15** | JPN have rebounded into attack and they are against a wall of ESP players. ESP leaving 3 players high in attack which is an unexpected tactic.
- 05:00** | The variation to the left is mis-hit by ESP although they have a chance with the rebound with Termens just hitting the ball inches wide. A lucky break for JPN.
- 04:10** | ESP work the ball into attack. They earn their 1st corner after hitting a JPN foot on the left.
- 02:10** | The JPN hit flies into Fieto standing on the right post. She is injured and time is stopped. Fieto leaves the field and is being treated behind the goals.
- 01:32** | JPN into attack immediately and they earn an early corner after ESP obstructed.
- 00:59** | The winner of this game qualifies for Athens, although the loser still has a chance in their next game. A close game is expected, and perhaps one on the defensive side with conservative numbers in attack.