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Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 15
Tuesday 23 March 2004

Ireland 1 - 1 Germany

Eimar Cregan

PC 30m

Marion Rodewald

PC 35m

Match Summary

Ireland produced their most energetic display of the tournament to cloud the automatic qualifying spots in Pool A after an unexpected draw with Germany. Ireland's forward movement was as fluid as it had been all tournament, with Germany's open midfield and loose marking defence allowing them to sweep upfield. However without the necessary goal-scoring instinct inside their attacking zone, Ireland wasn't able to take maximum advantage of the space afforded them.

Germany needed a victory to confirm their place in Athens but without a shot at goal all match, they couldn't produce the form that warranted a spot in the Olympic field just yet. They have another chance tomorrow night against New Zealand, where a draw will be enough for them and the home team to advance to Athens without having to go through the playoff matches on Friday and Saturday. In an illustration of the closeness of the tournament, the top two spots in Pool A won't be known until the final preliminary round match tomorrow night.

Quotes

"I am definitely not happy with the result, I think we could have won. But I am not disappointed with the players. Every person did their job. We created chances and put pressure on the backline. Our midfield was superb and we didn't give too much away defensively. We had to restore our confidence after the NZ game and I think we did that today."

Riet Kuper, IRE Coach

"After the New Zealand game we really needed to focus mentally and tactically going into this game. We benefited from our work up front today."

Lynsey McVicker, IRE Captain

"It was hard to control the match, from the beginning, I don't know why exactly. We did not underestimate Ireland, but I think everyone on the pitch was not fully there. Everyone was 80 percent, not 100 percent. We suffered from that in our build-up, our set pieces, we created chances but...."

Markus Weise, GER Coach

Stats

1 from 4	Penalty corners	1 from 7
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 4	Field goal shots	0 from 0

Penalty cards

Nil Nil

Next match

v GBR
Wednesday 24 March – 5pm

v NZL
Wednesday 24 March – 7pm