

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 16: GBR v UKR

23 March 2004

Start Time: 19:00

1 GBR

Anna Bennett (FG)

52:11

0 UKR

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Final Score - GBR 1 UKR 0

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time. An amazing game and incredibly entertaining. UKR out of the Athens race now which is very disappointing for them and the crowd. Their attacking and unpredictable brand of hockey is fantastic to watch and is now being fully appreciated by the crowd as they applaud their efforts. GBR live to fight on and actually can still finish top 2 with a big win against IRL. PC count: GBR 4 UKR 2. Field shots: GBR 5 UKR 2.
69:55	The hit goes in and UKR stick check the GBR trap. The game is over.
69:16	UKR win a free hit on top of the circle!
68:55	GBR trying to hit long and clear the ball into their attack. UKR picking up intercepts as they double team the GBR midfield.
66:42	UKR are back on the offensive as the time ticks away. UKR with 3 good chances to get the ball into their circle are foiled by the last pass being off the mark. The crowd are cheering UKR on as they seem to mount their last charge for the game.
63:21	King almost scores for GBR with a lightening fast trap and hit at full pace on the right. Fisyun makes a great save and UKR clear. Great hockey there from both teams.
61:45	UKR have been pushed out of attack and GBR are holding the ball in their attacking half.
59:10	GBR with a great chance to score as they attack down their right. Fisyun (UKR GK) has to scramble the ball away after GBR try to shoot at close range.
58:12	Kobzenko is dazzling all here at the ground with some stunning stick skills. The vocal crowd are applauding her every move now as she creates havoc with the GBR defence.
57:15	The variation left is not well executed by UKR and GBR pick up the wayward shot and then clear to the sideline.
56:34	More magic from Kobzenko as she beats 2 GBR defenders and earns their 2nd corner from a GBR foot.
55:39	UKR still on the attack and the GBR goal seems not have disheartened them. GBR cannot clear into attack since their goal.
54:21	The Kobzenko hit is deflected by the GBR runner. UKR long corner.
53:49	UKR break into attack after the restart and they earn their first corner for the game from a GBR foot.
52:11	Goal Bennett finishes a messy peice of play where the ball fell to her on the rebound after a soft shot from the top.
51:35	A tough, physical game continues for both teams. GBR frustrated by their inability to penetrate the UKR defence.
48:28	The game pace has picked up now as each team attacks the other in an open midfield. GBR looking the stronger team as they move forward with numbers, and UKR looking forever dangerous with their unpredictable counterattacks.
46:16	The GBR hit is well saved by Fisyun (UKR GK) and the ball goes over the backline. Great full stretch save from a very hard shot.
45:14	The hit is deflected out by the UKR runner. GBR earn another corner after the long corner hits a UKR foot in the circle.
44:19	GBR settling into the game and have the ball under control for the last 3 mins. They earn their 3rd corner and 1st for the half from a UKR foot.
40:17	Its been an even game since the initial UKR drive. UKR appearing to be frustrated with their belief that they are getting hard time from the umpires in attack.
36:21	The 2nd half is underway and UKR are launching into attack. GBR trying to break down the UKR runs before they gather speed.
35:00	Half time. An entertaining half of hockey despite the 0-0 scoreline. GBR with more ball possession and field advantage, although UKR having 2 periods of thrilling hockey where they could have scored. PC count: GBR 2 UKR 0. Field shots: GBR 2 UKR 2.
33:24	UKR have found some confidence in the last 2 mins and they are attacking the GBR defence again down both sides of the pitch.
32:15	UKR counterattack and they attack their circle. Againa dangerous move, but no goal shot after a sloppy last pass.
30:57	The variation to the left is deflected over the goal by UKR. GBR long corner.
30:22	GBR flick the ball at the net and the ball is played over the backline. GBR earn another corner much to the horror of the UKR defence. They have no idea what for.
29:30	GBR work the ball into the circle and they earn their 2nd corner after a raised ball by UKR.
29:03	UKR attack their circle for the first time in 5 mins although no shot is generated. Its a tough game out there for both teams. GBR playing a tough midfield possession strategy, and UKR trying to defend before the counterpunch.
26:34	King (GBR) with the first shot for some time after she trapped the ball onthe top of the circle. Fisyun (UKR GK) makes the save. GBR long corner.
24:07	The game has shifted to GBR`s field advantage now although they have not been able to break past the 11 man UKR defence. UKR working very hard to cover the lines which is currently successful.
19:30	An even game now after the GBR pressure. The ball being held in the midfield by both teams although UKR looking more dangerous on the breakaway.

- 17:00** Kobzenko shows incredible skills as she eliminates 3 GBR defenders down the left at top speed and crosses the ball into the sliding Reid (GBR GK). Amazing skills.
- 15:38** GBR holding the ball in their attacking half. UKR waiting for the opportunity to counterattack. We have seen them do this twice already this game and they look very dangerous.
- 11:06** The variation right is hit accross the goal face by Smith.
- 10:05** GBR rebound into attack and they earn the first corner for the game. UKR unhappy with the decision.
- 08:58** UKR push into attack and Kobzenko dazzles with a great run down the left, accross the top of the circle and then shoots on her reverse. The ball sails over the net.
- 06:54** GBR still on the attack. UKR struggling to clear the ball out, although they have 11 players in deep defence which doesn` t help.
- 04:10** GBR on the attack now as the game settles. GBR with the ball in their attacking half for the last 2 mins. Walker looking very dangerous on the left.
- 02:12** An eventful start for both teams with a shot from UKR and then GBR, one after the other.
- 01:02** A big game for both teams. The loser very likely to be eliminated from the Athens race. GBR the favourites, being the highest ranked team here at the tournament. The unpredictable UKR may cause an upset...