

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 19: IRL v GBR

24 March 2004

Start Time: 17:00

0 IRL**2 GBR**

Anna Bennett (FG)

18:31

Jane Smith (PC)

64:41

Final Score - IRL 0 GBR 2**Time** Commentary

- 70:00** Full time. A dominant game from GBR although not converted to goals which will annoy coach Trish Heberle. IRL GK Platt played very well and was a significant reason for this. PC count: IRL 1 GBR 8. Field shots: IRL 1 GBR 18.
- 69:22** Its all GBR now as IRL struggle to move into their attack. GBR making some poor passing errors which is stopping them scoring another. Given the state of the Pool A table, they needed more goals in this match.
- 68:28** Platt subbed off for King. A great game for Platt as King gets her first run of the tournament.
- 66:46** The Clewlow hit is easily saved and cleared by IRL. Not a good corner from GBR.
- 66:19** Platt makes another great save as GBR shoot quickly after the restart. Her clearance is trapped by GBR and they earn their 8th corner from an IRL foot.
- 64:41** **Goal**
Smith scores off a nice variation to the right. One senses now that GBR wil score again before the game ends as IRL have given their all.
- 64:17** Another GBR corner as the first shot is saved but then hits and IRL foot.
- 63:46** The IRL hit is saved by the GBR runner (Smith). GBR counterattack immediately and they earn their 6th corner at the other end from a IRL foot. A very fast attack by GBR...
- 62:31** IRL counterattack and IRL earn a corner after a strong Cullen tackle outside the circle. GBR players are furious with the decision. IRL first corner. The crowd are very loud now.
- 60:57** The variation left is trapped by IRL and they win a free hit. They finally clear the ball into attack and the crowd come alive!
- 60:18** Corner number 5 for GBR now as another IRL foot from a hit outside the circle.
- 59:48** A great save by Platt after a fantastic trap and hit by Smith in the middle of the circle. Platt playing very well and keeping IRL in the game.
- 58:41** The attempted pass to the left post for a deflection is missed by Grant. IRL ball.
- 58:12** GBR earn their 4th corner and the first corner for either team this half as she finds an IRL foot.
- 55:32** The game has swung GBR`s way suddnely with IRL unable top clear from defence. Grant creates a chance and then hits the side of the net as Platt slides at her after an attack down the left.
- 51:55** A more open game at present with both teams attacking each other. The game balance has definitely shifted to a more even keel now with GBR`s dominance of the game over for the moment.
- 46:38** IRL have been mounting some promising moves into attack although again Cullen and Walsh are stopping the final pass. GBR midfield also have lost some of their intensity and are making some passing errors, allowing IRL to counterattack.
- 42:17** Walsh, Cullen and Rochlin are providing a formidable defensive line for IRL to get past. They are not only playing well but also physically imposing.
- 40:38** GBR attack down the right and Wright makes 15 metres before a hard shot goes wide left.
- 39:37** IRL counterattack down their left. Some encouraging signs for IRL although GBR are looking a very focussed team.
- 37:18** The 2nd half is underway, GBR into attack and they have IRL back under pressure. Platt makes 2 easy but well made saves in the opening minutes.
- 35:00** Half time. A half dominated by GBR with IRL lacking their usual spark. IRL picked up late in the half although will have much to do in the second half when GBR come out firing. PC count: IRL 0 GBR 3. Field shots: IRL 1 GBR 8.
- 33:29** Clewlow passes to the right post and again a goal goes begging. Bennett misses the deflection with an open net in front of her. IRL will need to look at their corner defence at half time.
- 32:35** GBR back on the attack after IRL had their 3 mins in their half. GBR earn their 3rd corner after an IRL foot from a right side cross.
- 31:21** GBR counterattack and then Simpson attempts a deflection that goes into the side of the net. A close miss for GBR.
- 29:39** IRL are into solid attack for the first time in 20 mins. They have GBR pinned in their defensive half for the last 2 mins.
- 27:25** Its Grant this time to miss an open net. The first Clewlow shot is saved by Platt and Clewlow`s rebound finds Grant alone on the right post. The ball hits her foot. Another bad miss for GBR.
- 26:11** IRL making tackle after tackle around their circle. GBR unable to break past despite numbers in attack. They earn their 2nd corner from an IRL raised ball.
- 23:17** The game now almost solidly in IRL defensive half for the last 15 mins. GBR applying considerable pressure with and without the ball.
- 20:32** Walker playing very well for GBR as she finds space in the midfield and is able to attack with speed. IRL are not looking the same team that drew with GER 2 days ago, due mainly to the GBR press and marking at the back.
- 18:31** **Goal**
Bennett scores a deflection goal for GBR to break the deadlock after a right side shot at goal from Smith.

- 17:27** IRL have managed to push GBR out although not into their attacking half.
- 13:56** Walker again with a hard shot although this time its Maybin for IRL who deflects the ball wide. GBR looking very dangerous now and IRL need to clear the ball out of deep defence.
- 12:10** The GBR hit goes under Platt and Bennett misses an open goal on the right post! Her push hits the post and IRL manage to get there to clear. An amazingly bad miss from almost point blank range.
- 11:10** Walker with the first shot of the game. Platt (IRL GK) easily saves the hard shot, but plays the ball onto an IRL foot for GBR`s first corner.
- 10:31** GBR starting to look dangerous now as they gather momentum going into attack. IRL defence having to work very hard and are making tackles on top of the circle.
- 08:06** IRL have worked their way into attack and they have the first foray into attack. GBR defend well and they counter all the way into their circle. After 6 mins of midfield hockey, both teams finally have a chance to score.
- 03:11** A fairly timid start to the match by both teams. Midfield passing errors have meant neither team has made it into their attacking 25.
- 01:36** A big game for both teams and the crowd sense it. A large IRL contingent here and they will certainly influence their team. A draw is not enough for these teams to guarantee an Athens place. They both need to win, and then hope GER and NZL don`t draw.