

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 20: GER v NZL

24 March 2004

Start Time: 19:00

1 GER

Heike Latzsch (FG)

33:18

1 NZL

Lisa Walton (FG)

54:32

Final Score - GER 1 NZL 1

Time	Commentary
70:00	Full time. Amazing scenes here as both teams celebrate on the field. Two camps have formed on the field as they dance in two huge huddles. Both GER and NZL off to Athens. PC count: GER 6 NZL 0. Field shots: GER 3 NZL 2.
69:20	GER still holding the ball in their defensive half, passing to each fullback. They finally (after 2 mins) hit long up the line to the right.
67:48	The free hit misses its mark and GER win back the ball. GER resume their passing to each other. Each pass bringing a cheer from the crowd. Very amusing.
66:43	NZL set all hearts racing with a sudden blitz on the GER fullbacks and they steal the ball! NZL win a free hit in their attack. All 11 GER players race back into defence.
65:31	The crowd getting rowdy as Haase and Rodewald (GER) continue to pass the ball to each other in their defensive half. NZL sitting back in their other half in defence as GER do this. Occasionally GER pass up the line but then pass back to their fullbacks.
63:14	With 1-1 with 7 mins to go, NZL are home and off to Athens. GER not able to score 4 goals in 7 mins. The only question remains is whether GER will lose the game and allow GBR through. GER passing the ball around their defence which is indicating that they intend the score to stay at 1-1.
61:33	GER still holding control of the ball, and they work the ball into attack down their right. No circle penetrations though.
59:04	The game pace has dropped now as NZL fall into a half court press, and GER pass the ball around their defence.
57:30	GER have upped the ante after the NZL goal and are pressuring the NZL defence once again. Bear in mind a draw is good enough for both teams to qualify for Athens, although GER are definitely playing for the win.
54:32	Goal Walton scores the equaliser which brings a deafening roar from the crowd. Muirhead hit a free hit into the circle and Walton deflects the ball into the goal. GER very unhappy with the decision although it clearly appeared touched by Walton.
54:16	NZL on the attack which is bringing the crowd to life.
50:56	The Rinne flick is again well saved by Clarke and NZL scramble a clearance wide.
50:32	Another soft corner for GER with a NZL foot after a hit outside the circle. NZL coach Ian Rutledge will not be happy with so many `easy` corners against.
49:10	End to end hockey as GER attack, then NZL, and then GER again. The midfield has opened up from this and thus the pace of the game has all of a sudden increased.
48:09	The Rinne low flick is well saved by Clarke diving to her right. GER long corner.
47:38	GER earn their 5th corner from a NZL lifted ball in the circle.
47:13	GER counterattack after a 2 min period of NZL attack through Latzsch up the middle of the field. Hoyer smashes a shot and is saved by Clarke.
43:41	GER moving the ball around well in their attack and they are finding gaps in the NZL defence. They work the ball into their circle although are foiled twice by strong NZL tackling.
42:26	The hit is saved by Clarke and NZL with a free hit. GER win the ball back and they stay in attack.
41:43	Another corner for GER as their first hit is played onto a NZL foot.
41:17	GER counter down the right through Latzsch and they earn their 3rd corner from a NZL foot.
39:07	NZL into attack early in the half and the very large crowd here are finding their voice. NZL still struggling to break into their circle. The only opportunity of the first half came from a hit well outside the circle which shows the quality of the GER deep defence.
36:39	The 2nd half is underway. GER expected to come out firing as they will want a second goal to secure their position on the table. NZL confidence would then then be put under great pressure as the thought of dropping to third may enter their minds.
35:00	Half time. A tight half of hockey with both teams defences playing particularly well. GER class came through at the end with a great finish to break the deadlock with just 2 mins on the clock. PC count: GER 2 NZL 0. Field shots: GER 2 NZL 1.
33:18	Goal Latzsch scores the opening goal for GER with a great first time hit into the net past Clarke. Credit the goal to Rinne who started their fast move forward with a fantastic pass out to von Livonius on the right.
32:39	Sharland almost scores a goal for NZL as Muirhead controls and runs with the ball into attack, hits into the circle for Sharland to deflect. Zwehl (GER GK) makes a great reflex save for a NZL long corner.
29:35	The inevitable has happened and GER are now controlling the ball in their attacking half, having cleared the ball long and then pressed forward.
28:22	NZL still with the better field position with GER unable to break a tight NZL press. NZL as yet not penetrating their circle with all this possession. The GER tackling has been too good.

- 24:28** NZL able to move into better field position in the last 3 mins due to some poor passing from GER. However GER tackling is superb and NZL cannot break through.
- 22:07** The game being played out between the two 25 yard lines now with NZL defence as equally ruthless as GER. The fancied GER strikers of Latzsch and Ersting-Krienke are being well tackled at present.
- 20:41** GER applying a very aggressive press in the midfield which is making life tough for the NZL offence. They are being tackled whenever they make a trap and are struggling to move past their 25 yard line.
- 19:01** GER variation to the left post is well read by NZL. They deflect the ball and GER long corner.
- 17:44** GER attack down the right and they earn their 2nd corner from a lifted NZL ball.
- 14:56** NZL press into attack and it is once again GER under pressure. They are holding the ball in their attacking right corner.
- 12:31** The Rinne flick hits the `suicide` runner (Igasan) who ran stright up the line of the flick. NZL free hit.
- 11:35** GER earn the first corner of the match from a raised NZL ball.
- 10:58** Finally GER work the ball up the field and they have the ball under control in attack. All 11 NZL players behind the ball.
- 09:15** NZL still with the ball in their attacking half. GER under pressure as NZL try and break into their circle. GER indoor skills in tackling coming to the fore.
- 05:38** GER yet to make an attack into their attacking 25. NZL have had far better field possession in the opening minutes.
- 04:30** NZL on the attack early in front of a large and vocal pro-NZL crowd. They work themselves into the circle early although GER manage to tackle and clear.
- 00:52** Athens is on the line for these teams. GER need to draw or win. NZL can win, draw or lose by up to 4 goals. A close game is expected, and it will depend on how well NZL can manage the tight GER defence.