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Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 20
Wednesday 24 March 2004

Germany 1 - 1 New Zealand

Heike Latzsch

FG 34m

Lisa Walton

FG 55m

Match Summary

The eighth and ninth pieces of the Olympic puzzle weren't decided until the final match of the round matches with both teams qualifying for Athens after a draw gave each other the vital point needed. After Great Britain's 2-0 victory over Ireland in the preceding match, Germany needed a win or a draw to keep their European rivals at bay. The home team's assignment was simpler but just a stressful. A win or a loss by three goals or less booked their ticket to Athens. The result also means that Germany and New Zealand are the only teams that were unbeaten in their pool matches. After Germany scored the opening goal in the first half, the tension in the crowd and on the pitch rose significantly. New Zealand never looked like conceding goal at the rate was require for them to be dropped from one of the top two spots and secured their Olympic ticket thanks to Lisa Walton's perfectly guided goal midway through the second half. The match was witnessed by more then 3000 spectators, the largest crowd in New Zealand hockey history.

Quotes

"We played a really good game against Great Britain and New Zealand and two rubbish games against Ukraine and Ireland. I'm happy with the win absolutely. When the New Zealanders played half court I tried to communicate to hold the ball, but sometimes communication but they didn't really listen. It was a pretty close match we missed chances to extend the lead."

Markus Weise, GER Coach

"We've made great progress in this tournament. Our confidence is up and we now have belief in ourselves. Our limited opportunities are not a great concern perhaps were a little upright in the circle. We also need to play advantage better and be aggressive in the circle."

On the upcoming matches: "We definitely want to practice our semi final and finals hockey. We are going to the Olympics to win a medal. So these matches will be important experience for us."

Ian Rutledge, NZL Coach

Stats

0 from	Penalty corners	0 from 0
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
1 from 3	Field goal shots	1 from 2

Penalty cards

Anke Kuhn	Green 15m	Lisa Walton	Green 26m
Tina Bachmann	Green 23m		

Next match

v JAP	v ESP
Friday 26 March – 7pm	Friday 26 March – 4pm

