

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 22: USA v IRL

26 March 2004

Start Time: 12:00

2 USA

Kristen McCann (FG) 36:55

Tracey Fuchs (PC) 81:03

1 IRL

Eimear Cregan (PC) 44:20

Final Score - USA 2 IRL 1

Time	Commentary
81:04	A finish to the game with IRL and USA having chances to win the match for the last 40 mins. USA through to play KOR for the final Athens place. IRL bow out of the running although are far from disgraced with their effort and passion in their play. PC count: USA 6 IRL 3. Field shots: USA 8 IRL 2. Circle penetrations: USA 20 IRL 10.
81:03	Goal Fuchs hits the ball into the net for the win to USA.
80:45	USA push into attack and they earn their 6th corner from a poor tackle by IRL in the circle on the right.
80:05	IRL strikers now well into the game, trapping the ball on their 25 and heading for the circle. USA defenders playing very well however making clean tackles before they make the circle.
78:57	IRL into attack straight after the restart and they have a great chance for a corner down the left though Burke. USA defenders scramble to clear the ball after Burke dribbles along the backline.
77:30	End of Extra Time Period 1. The period ends with IRL deep in attack on their right. Second extra time to follow.
76:37	USA attacking down their left and twice enter the circle only to be well tackled by IRL. IRL trying to run the ball into attack which is not working as they are being tackled hard by the USA midfield.
74:00	IRL finally clear the ball into attack and they push forward. USA have the ball although are pinned in their left defence.
72:29	The variation to Beach on the left is well saved by Platt and IRL clear to the sideline. IRL under pressure at the moment.
71:44	USA earn their 5th corner from an IRL foot. USA entering the circle far too easily on that occasion.
71:05	The stress is showing on the faces of the players as they start the first period of extra time. USA almost score with Fronzoni sliding in on the left and just missing a cross from the right.
70:00	Full time. Extra time to follow (golden goal). Amazing second half with IRL back in the game. Storrar just saved the game for USA with seconds remaining after an amazing save from a hard and high McVicar shot. PC count: USA 4 IRL 3. Field shots: USA 7 IRL 2. Circle penetrations: USA 15 IRL 7.
69:32	IRL still in attack with the USA not able to run the ball out as had been the case earlier. IRL almost score with a hard shot from McVicar fantastically saved by Storrar. USA just get the clearance away as the IRL attackers swoop in for the rebound into an open net. What a save!
66:40	IRL counterattack and again face a wall of USA defenders. Long passes into the circle are easily being trapped by the USA all game, and IRL have not created as a result.
65:48	USA on the charge now as they have IRL struggling in defence. USA shoot through Barber although her reverse stick shot flies over the net.
63:41	Two poor passes in a row from IRL allow the USA to push into attack, only just saved again by some excellent tackling in deep defence and then by Platt with a clearance.
61:19	The variation to Fuchs on the left is easily saved by Platt and cleared. IRL rebound into attack.
60:47	USA earn a lucky corner after an IRL foot from a fortunate deflection at the top of the circle. Their 4th corner.
58:34	The game being played out in the middle of the field now. Both teams having time in attack, although unable to make it into their circle.
56:11	Caulfield has returned to the field now for IRL and her speed and skills are into immediate use as they attack down the right.
55:10	Time stopped again as Orbison (IRL) lies injured. It is not clear what she has done, but she seems unable to continue.
54:38	USA seem to have weathered the IRL offensive drive, and its their turn now to apply some pressure in

- attack. Again superb IRL deep defensive tackling is stopping the USA taking a shot although they seem to be entering their circle a little too easily.
- 53:09** Time stopped as Caulfield is given attention after being hit in the arm by a lifted USA ball. She leaves the field.
- 52:17** The Fuchs shot is wide. IRL clear the ball into attack.
- 51:33** USA counterattack down the right side after a nice transfer of play. They earn their 3rd corner and first for the half from an IRL foot.
- 50:17** IRL score through McVicar, but the umpire rules a stick check on the USA defender before the shot was made. No complaints from IRL as they run back to face the free hit.
- 49:29** Another corner after Orbison`s shot from the left is raised by USA. Their 3rd.
- 48:59** IRL push into attack and they earn their 2nd corner from a USA foot after a shot by Burke from the top of the circle.
- 46:23** What a difference a goal makes. IRL are all forward now and look a different team. They have USA pinned in their half as they attack, much to the delight of the IRL fans.
- 44:20** **Goal**
Cregan evens the game for IRL with a powerful shot from the variation left that flies under Storrar (USA GK). 1-1.
- 44:02** IRL into attack down their left and they earn their 1st corner for the game from a tough USA tackle outside the circle.
- 42:17** IRL save 2 soft shots from Rizzo (USA) on the line and they finally clear out to the sideline. Bad miss for USA there with 2 shots from close range not finding their mark.
- 40:25** IRL finally push into attack, although they are met by a wall of 11 USA players behind the ball. USA regain the ball after 2 mins and they counterattack.
- 38:53** USA have IRL pinned in their deep defence. IRL having to work very hard just to hold onto the ball as USA press aggressively in their attacking half. IRL not able to clear the ball long.
- 36:55** **Goal**
A great start for the USA with McCann deflecting a shot by Barber from the right side. Barber`s shot was just going wide and McCann was in perfect position to score on the reverse. USA 1-0.
- 35:00** Half time. A strong first half from the USA although with no return due to some excellent deep defence by IRL. IRL looking dangerous in the midfield, but not playing well in attack. PC count: USA 2 IRL 0. Field shots: USA 2 IRL 0. Circle penetrations: USA 7 IRL 0.
- 34:05** IRL have pushed into attack now as we move into the last minute. They have the ball on their right deep in attack.
- 31:58** USA still on the attack, and IRL deep defence is really playing well. Clean tackle after tackle is being made by the last line of defence.
- 26:41** USA have resumed their field position advantage and they have the ball in their attacking half for the last 5 mins. No circle penetrations though with IRL deep defence very strong.
- 21:33** IRL have pushed into attack and look potent when they can isolate the USA defenders. However some basic passing errors are letting USA off the hook when this happens.
- 18:50** Apart from an occasional IRL run into attack, USA have the ball in their attacking half and they look dangerous. Trouble here for IRL unless they can move the ball and hold down at their other end.
- 14:36** Fuchs hit is deflected by the IRL runner. USA long corner.
- 14:17** Another corner after the trap is missed although USA work the ball back in the circle and work it behind an IRL defender.
- 13:39** USA with a great run into the circle and they almost score after eliminating Platt (IRL GK) but IRL cover. They earn their 1st corner from an IRL foot.
- 10:58** USA have pushed into their attacking half although even possession for both teams. USA press is very tight and IRL not able to hit the ball out of their half.
- 07:20** A tough game being fought in the midfield now as the game pace settles and each team closely marks the other.
- 05:36** USA into attack for the first time down the left. IRL able to defend effectively and they clear into attack.
- 03:53** Its still IRL in attack as USA struggle to find their midfielders in space when they win back possession.
- 01:55** IRL in attack early. They have the ball in their attacking half for the first 2 mins of the game.
- 00:29** Both teams would have just seem the heartache of the GBR players as they have been knocked out of the Athens race. They are under no illusions as to what rides on this match. The mood is tense here with a large IRL crowd in attendance making plenty of noise. USA slight favourites in terms of their defensive strength, although IRL are not to be underestimated.