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Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

Match 22 (3rd Pool B v 4th Pool A)
Friday 26 March 2004

United States 2 - 1 Ireland

Kristen McCann
Tracey Fuchs

FG 37m
PC 82m

(extra time) Eimar Cregan

PC 45m

Match Summary

Tracey Fuchs' penalty corner goal in the 12th minute of extra time kept the USA in Olympic contention after a dramatic victory over Ireland. By outlasting Ireland in their playoff, USA earned the right to clash with Korea tomorrow for the final remaining Olympic berth. USA had more numerical chances in both halves, but Ireland nearly stole the match with less than a minute to go. Only Peggy Storrar's magnificent save from Lynsey McVicker's shot kept the USA alive in the Olympic race. Ireland's played with their usual tenacious spirit but it wasn't enough to overcome the USA's methodical approach, despite having gilt-edged chances late in the match. USA was in charge of the match in the first half, but Ireland's tackling matched the skills of their opposing forwards.

Quotes

"We're very fortunate. No question about it. The Irish competed very hard. I think they played very well and forced us to do things. At the break I told them to calm down. We had to do simple things. There was a bit of panic which is not unusual when you want something this bad."
On KOR (next match): "Against Korea there are some things we'll have to do better. They are quick, strong and dangerous."

Beth Anders, USA Coach

"For whoever got beaten was going to be very, very hard. I don't think it was the best game between the teams. We were very aware of each other and knowing what the state of the game was. Some of the players were very nervous."

Riet Kuper, IRE Coach

On next match: "Matches between Great Britain and us are always tough. There's a great rivalry. We're not going to give up. It will be a tough game. Both teams are playing for pride."

Lynsey McVicker, IRE Captain

Stats

1 from 4	Penalty corners	1 from 3
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
1 from 7	Field goal shots	0 from 2

Penalty cards

Nil Nil

Next match

v Korea
Saturday 27 March - 3.15pm

v Great Britain
Saturday 27 March - 12pm