

Saturday 22 July
15:30

Australia 3

Pakistan 2

72' Troy ELDER has been elected Man of the Match.

70' A last minute good effort from PAK is warded off by MOWLAM. AUS have their last second opportunity seconds later but it cannot be converted either. The hooter sounds and AUS take three points from this first match of the Sahara Champions Trophy.

68' Michael McCANN fires two shots on goal after the ball has come into the circle from the left but AKBAR once more saves.

67' Green card for Sohail ABBAS.

67' Time is stopped for ELDER who apparently has been hit on the nose. He leaves the field, replaced by BROOKS.

64' A great effort from DWYER and ELDER already looks like the certain 4th goal for AUS but AKBAR intervenes and the ball is eventually lost.

63' ELDER has another chance as the game now moves up and down the field quickly but ELDER's shot is wide.

62' Aktar ALI has a good chance to salvage a point for his team with a flat shot from the middle of the circle but MOWLAM makes a good save.

61' The ball is not stopped properly and the opportunity is lost.

60' SCHUBERT makes a run into the circle but is fouled by ASHRAF. PC for AUS.

**** Goal: Troy ELDER ****

56' ELDER's flick to the right side of the goal beats the PAK defense to give AUS their lead back.

56' PC for AUS.

**** Goal: Sohail ABBAS ****

54' ABBAS goes for an unexpected flat ball into the left bottom corner of the goal. MOWLAM has his stick on the ball but doesn't manage to push the shot out and the ball is deflected but still in goal.

53' Time is stopped for Dilawar HUSSAIN who has apparently twisted his knee. Play resumes without him leaving the field though.

52' And another opportunity for PAK to level the game with a free hit from just outside the circle. The ball is deflected but goes wide.

51' The counter attack gets PAK into the circle but the shot goes high and wide.

51' A great half high flick from DOERNER hits the right post.

50' A brilliant flat reverse stick shot from DWYER is saved by AKBAR but goes out high. PC for AUS.

47' EGLINGTON deflects a hit from the right, another great save from AKBAR.

46' AUS manage to cut all PAK attacks short well clear of their circle. Their attacks mostly see them into the PAK circle, giving AKBAR quite a bit of work.

43' The PAK defense are really struggling now as the AUS attack ceaselessly.

**** Goal: Troy ELDER ****

41' A flat hit is deflected by ELDER over the goalkeeper lying on the ground.

40' PC for AUS.

38' AUS on the other hand are pushing hard, making life difficult for the PAK defense.

37' As the second half takes off, AUS are still the stronger team. PAK cannot find a way to put together an attack that will take them into the AUS circle.

35' PAK are lucky to go into halftime at 1-1, AUS having dominated much of the first half. PAK have had some nice opportunities too but still seem a bit unorganized and struggle to turn their isolated attacks into more continuous pressure on the Aussies.

35' With less than 30 seconds on the clock, AUS have an excellent opportunity to go into halftime one up, as an attack through the middle takes them into the circle and DWYER lays the ball off to the right for McCANN but AKBAR saves once more. A low rebound from DWYER hits is easily blocked by the PAK defenders on the goal line.

33' A ball not stopped properly by HOPKINS gives PAK a free hit from the right side far in the AUS half of the field. The ball goes into the circle but ABBASI misstops as well and the ball goes out over the back line.

**** Goal: Sohail ABBAS ****

32' ABBAS converts with a low flick to the left side of the goal. MOWLAM gets the side right but can't reach the well placed ball.

32' PS for PAK as another quick counter sees them into the circle and a low shot hits an AUS foot.

28' Another great attack by AUS down the left side of the field. SCHUBERT takes the ball into the circle but his shot from a narrow angle is easily saved by AKBAR.

23' AUS on the other had exerted continuous pressure, building slowly from the back and so far doing the bigger part of the work in this game.

22' PAK have gotten into the match a little better by now but are still struggling to mount convincing attacks, mostly waiting for an opportunity for a quick counter to arise.

19' The PAK defense intercepts the ball. An excellent quick counter attack down the left side of the field gets the Greenshirts into the circle but the shot on goal goes wide.

18' A flat ball to the right side of the goal from ELDER is saved by AKBAR but the rebound goes high. Another PC is awarded.

17' PC for AUS as the ball hits a foot.

15' ABBAS' flick to the left top corner of the goal is saved well by MOWLAM.

15' PC for PAK as an unlucky AUS defender wards off a shot on goal only for it to go high.

14' AUS has a firm grip on this match. PAK so far manage to keep them from scoring more goals but do not manage to put pressure on their opponents or create any danger. At the moment, it seems a question of time for AUS to extend their lead.

11' A great high ball from DE YOUNG across most of the field's length finds DWYER

near the circle and he goes in and attempts to flick the ball past AKBAR, but once again the PAK GK saves.

7' AUS are still the better team appearing better coordinated and more aggressive. So far, the PAK defense has prevented another goal though. Jamie DWYER has just had a shot on goal after a great pass from midfield found him alone at the top of the circle, but AKBAR saves.

4' Another opportunity for AUS but AKBAR saves.

3' PAK recover quickly to get their first circle penetration and attempt at goal but it goes wide.

**** Goal: Michael MCCANN ****

2' And there's the first goal already as McCANN taps in a shot into the circle, surprising everyone with the unexpected deflection.

2' AUS get off to a better start, pushing PAK far back into their half.

0' PC for PAK.

0' Welcome to the opening match of the men's Sahara Hockey Champions Trophy between AUS and PAK. Recent matches between these two countries have been tense and ill-tempered at times. PAK's Muhammad SAQLAIN is ineligible to play in this match as he starts a three-match suspension for striking an AUS player in a tournament last year. PAK PC marksman Sohail ABBAS is making his return to international hockey in this match

0' The umpires for this match are Erik KLEIN NAGELVOORT (NED) and Satinder KUMAR (IND)