

Tuesday 25 July

18:00

Spain 5

Australia 3

72' The Man of the Match is - not surprisingly - Santi FREIXA.

70' A stunning win for Spain!! In a complete and completely unexpected turnaround of the match in the second half, Spain have snatched the seemingly certain win away from AUS. What a match!

70' The seconds winding down, both coaches are out at the sideline.

66' The spectators keep requesting the substitution of Uri FREIXA now, brother of Santi FREIXA and player for the host club, who has been on the bench in this match but has not entered yet.

65' The match is about to slip away from AUS for good now, the minutes ticking down, AUS two goals down and unable to find a way to get past the ESP, hyper-motivated and riding on adrenaline.

62' And they keep on pushing. TUBAU wants to get one in too, but has to lay off for SOJO who deflects it, but it goes wide.

**** Goal: Pol AMAT ****

61' Absolutely amazing goal from AMAT. A dash down the left and into the circle, a fine reverse stick shot, and ESP is 2 goals up.

61' In the counter attack, AUS get into the ESP circle, and the ESP defenders struggle but eventually clear.

60' Pau QUEMADA makes a great run from the middle into the circle, but with a clean tackle, GEORGE takes the ball off him.

56' What a curious reversal of fate in this match! ESP really are on fire now. Another great opportunity for ESP already, TUBAU hitting an excellent pass across from the right for S. FREIXA right in front of the goal. FREIXA dives in but misses.

**** Goal: Santi FREIXA ****

55' And Santi FREIXA does it again, putting the ball in the bottom left corner of the goal.

54' AMAT wins a PC for ESP.

**** Goal: Edi TUBAU ****

53' The second curious goal of the day comes when TUBAU hits a ball across that is about to miss the goal by a meter - it is unluckily deflected by DOERNER however, and goes in.

50' QUEMADA wins a free hit for ESP on the left side of the field. RIBAS takes it, but it goes straight onto an AUS stick.

47' ESP seem to suddenly have woken up now, finally managing to create some opportunities.

**** Goal: Santi FREIXA ****

44' FREIXA's flick, at hip height and to the right of the center of the goal, is

deflected slightly but still finds the mark.

44' D. ALEGRE wins a PC for ESP.

43' ESP are really struggling in defense now, making quite a few mistakes and fighting to liberate themselves from the relentless AUS attacks.

39' ESP are pushing a little harder than they did before halftime but AUS are still firmly in control.

35' ESP will have to improve their game considerably if they want to salvage points out of this match, AUS so far has been the decidedly better team. Playing conditions are getting better, as a breeze has picked up and temperatures have gone down to a bearable level.

35' The first half ends with an ugly clash between S. FREIXA and DOERNER as FREIXA turns to make his way back up into the AUS half. FREIXA seems to have bumped into DOERNER quite hard deliberately, and DOERNER isn't about to put up with this behavior.

34' The ESP midfield loses a ball to LIVERMORE who makes a good run towards the circle, then lays the ball off to the left for NAYLOR. It looks like this might be another one for AUS, but RIBAS takes the ball off NAYLOR with an excellent tackle.

32' Free hit for AUS from just outside the circle. Execution takes a while as ESP defenders disagree how far from the ball they have to be. When it does happen, LIVERMORE's hit goes straight through and the ball is out.

**** Goal: Santi FREIXA ****

29' Another PC is awarded, and S. FREIXA this time decides on a ball into the bottom left corner of the goal. It fits perfectly, out of reach for LAMBERT.

29' S. FREIXA's flick goes high over the crossbar, deflected off LAMBERT's glove.

28' PC for ESP.

27' ESP seem to be recovering slowly now but need to improve fast to stay in this match.

24' Green card for Travis BROOKS.

24' A good ESP attack sees S. FREIXA on the right side, passing the ball across for AMAT and TUBAU but neither of them can get to it.

22' The Spanish cannot get a grip on the game at all, AUS is clearly dominating the match at this point. ESP attacks are few and far between, while AUS seems to be constantly on the attack.

**** Goal: Grant SCHUBERT ****

22' After an attack over the left side, HAMMOND passes the ball across and back for SCHUBERT who deflects it in.

17' Tempers are flaring already as several ESP and AUS players rush together in the circle, having a rather animated discussion. Umpire LEIPER clears the situation, and play resumes.

**** Goal: Michael McCANN ****

17' An attack down the left gives McCANN the ball near the circle and a flat shot from a narrow angle does the trick, giving the Aussies a two goal lead.

16' Sloppy passing from GARZA gives the ball to LIVERMORE who passes it into the circle for DWYER. He is getting ready to shoot but a good tackle wins the ESP the ball back.

14' A high flick is deflected wide by HERRERA.

13' PC for AUS.

**** Goal: Nathan EGLINGTON ****

8' In the crowded circle, it is EGLINGTON who deflects the ball into the goal, leaving HERRERA without a chance.

6' A great long pass down the right line by GARZA. The ball is picked up by FREIXA who outplays GEORGE but his reverse stick shot is too weak and saved easily by LAMBERT.

4' A first opportunity for AUS with HAMMOND passing the ball into the circle for DWYER, but it bounces past him.

1' For the first time in this tournament, there are clouds in the sky and the sun is not visible. With the rising humidity, it feels like the temperature have gone up though.

1' The only new twist in the lineups of the two teams is AUS playing Stephen LAMBERT in goal. LAMBERT has been in the stands for both of AUS's first two matches.

0' The second match of the day is between hosts Spain and title holders Australia. AUS are on four points after defeating PAK and drawing with NED, while ESP had a disappointing start and is at two points only after draws with both GER and ARG.

0' The umpires for this match are Satinder KUMAR (IND) and David LEIPER (SCO)