

Saturday 29 July

20:00

Australia 3

Germany 4

72' Man of the Match is Troy ELDER.

**** Goal: Christopher ZELLER ****

70' ZELLER's flick goes into the top left corner of the goal, taking Germany into the final while Australia have let their opportunity at that slip away.

70' GER have a free hit from just outside the circle. There are only 5 seconds on the clock, and they rush to get the ball. The free hit is taken literally as the hooter sounds - and hits Bevan GEORGE's foot in the circle. PC for GER.

69' The GER are now attacking desperately, trying to get that elusive goal that would give them a berth in the final. They struggle with themselves and the umpires though and spend too much time protesting rather than playing.

68' McCANN has a good opportunity, the ball coming from behind for him virtually alone in the circle but he slips and cannot get to it.

66' On the other side, AUS have a few chances too but the GER defense holds.

64' An excellent opportunity for GER to take the lead in this match as a free hit is turned over for AUS taking too much time near their circle. C. ZELLER hits the ball across for WEISSENBORN in the circle, but WEISSENBORN steps on it.

62' Green card for Bjoern EMMERLING.

60' McCANN gets the ball on the left of the circle and has a shot on the goal as SCHULTE comes running out. The ball goes wide.

59' Time is briefly stopped for SCHUBERT who is down in the GER circle after a clash during an attack. He gets back up though and play resumes.

**** Goal: Moritz FUERSTE ****

55' WEISSENBORN makes his way into the circle and tries a reverse stick shot from the top of the circle. MOWLAM saves but the ball falls to FUERSTE on the left who lobs the ball in high behind MOWLAM.

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

54' ELDER puts the ball into the left bottom corner of the goal.

53' The ball isn't stopped. ELDER wins another PC for AUS however.

52' PC for AUS.

52' Great run down the middle from EGLINGTON, outplaying WEISSENBORN and NEVADO several times. He passes the ball out for DWYER who takes a shot on goal but SCHULTE saves.

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

49' Very poor penalty corner defending from the GER today. Another unspectacular shot from ELDER, another PC goal.

48' PC for AUS.

**** Goal: Christopher ZELLER ****

- 45' Spectacular goal from Christopher ZELLER!! A good ball from the back is deflected excellently by B. EMMERLING and finds ZELLER on the far right of the circle. He makes his way along the back line weaving through the AUS defenders expecting a pass back, then flicks the ball up into the roof of the goal from an impossibly narrow angle.
- 38' WITTHAUS and GEORGE topple over each other and both fall. Umpire SANTI stops time to caution them, but both players immediately insist it was an accident, no foul occurred.
- 37' The first promising attack of the second half comes from GER. C. ZELLER's shot on goal is saved by MOWLAM, followed by another excellent save to ward off NEVADO's shot on the rebound.
- 35' The match seems rather sedate after the exciting previous one, but is still quite entertaining. Both teams certainly want that berth in the final, and a hard-fought second half seems guaranteed. AUS have the slight advantage of being able to content themselves with a draw though.
- 34' ELDER's low ball is stopped by SCHULTE and eventually cleared out to his right by CRONE.
- 33' PC for AUS.
- 31' Good attack from AUS that gives them a 5 on 3 situation. ELDER's pass for SCHUBERT on the right however is poor, coming in behind SCHUBERT who therefore has trouble getting it under control. When he takes the hit, CRONE is already there and denies him.
- 26' B. EMMERLING intercepts a ball in midfield and makes a run for the circle. He is faced with 5 AUS defenders however, and GEORGE takes the ball off him with a well executed, clean tackle.
- 25' Green card for Bjoern EMMERLING after protesting, claiming a foul.
- 17' Play moves up and down the field as both teams are roughly equal now. Scoring opportunities on both sides are scarce though, mostly due to good defending from both team's defensive lines.

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

- 12' ELDER's flick goes into the left bottom corner.
- 12' The ball hits a GER foot in the circle, PC for AUS.

**** Goal: Matthias WITTHAUS ****

- 8' A great goal from WITTHAUS - he gets into the circle from the right and launches a low reverse stick shot from a narrow angle. The ball passes behind MOWLAM and crashes into the boards in the far corner.
- 6' GER have been the slightly more aggressive team so far, AUS hardly having penetrated the GER half.
- 1' AUS are leaving Mark KNOWLES (who is out with an injury) and Stephen LAMBERT in the stands, while GER do the same with Justus SCHAROWSKY and Tim JESSULAT.
- 0' GER need to win this match to get through to the final, while AUS only needs a draw to go through. With their defeat in the previous match, ESP are definitely in the bronze medal match, while either AUS or GER will join NED in the final of the Sahara Champions Trophy 2006.
- 0' The umpires for this match are Xavi ADELL (ESP) and Daniel SANTI (ARG).