

France : Japan

Pool B

19 April 2006

Start Time: 16:00

3 FRANCE

Antoine GOUEDARD-COMTE FG 11:23
Nicolas GAILLARD FG 23:51
Nicolas GAILLARD FG 26:31

5 JAPAN

Kenichi KATAYAMA FG 07:21
Takahiko YAMABORI PC 20:13
Akira ITO FG 40:05
Kazuhiro TSUBOUCHI PC 52:17
Yutaka BITO PS 69:00

| Time | Commentary |
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| 70:00 | End of the match. JPN win 5-3 and are now suddenly in the middle of the race for the top two places in the group: if New Zealand drop points against Malaysia, they are going to Monchengladbach! |
| 69:00 | Goal JPN goal. With a flick to the right side of the goal, Yutaka BITO practically ends the aspirations of the French for direct qualification. |
| 68:50 | JPN put only three players up for their penalty corner, as the rest of them stays back to defend in case of a counterattack. The shot on goal is flat and weak, but catches Christophe Musgens on the wrong foot quite literally. Penalty stroke for JPN. |
| 68:17 | PC for JPN as umpire MURRAY deems a foot by Matthieu DURCHON far from the circle to be intentional. |
| 66:16 | With only four minutes to go and the seconds ticking down, FRA are getting increasingly desperate. JPN on the other hand seem quite relaxed and happy to wait for chances to pop up. |
| 63:26 | Two time goalscorer Nicolas GAILLARD is coming back on for FRA, replacing Arnoud JANSEN. |
| 61:33 | FRA are now attacking relentlessly but so far the JPN defense holds firm. |
| 60:49 | SOYEZ`s hit is deflected wide by MIYOSHI. |
| 60:12 | PC for FRA. |
| 59:57 | FRA are having increasing problems with individual mistakes, especially imprecise passing and flawed trapping. |
| 56:34 | Incident Mickaël KEMPF is yellow-carded for a tackle. |
| 55:14 | And JPN have the chance to extend their lead, as a ball across finds OZAWA |

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| | near the penalty stroke point but his hit is wide. |
| 52:17 | Goal JPN goal. Good variation from Japan. The ball is played to the left of the goal by YAMABORI, where TSUBOUCHI is waiting near the post to deflect the ball in behind THAMIN. |
| 51:38 | A shot on goal is saved by THAMIN but the ball hits a foot - PC for JPN. |
| 49:22 | Sloppy passing on both sides now leads to a number of turnovers in rapid succession. |
| 47:53 | Another shot on goal from JPN, but THAMIN makes a good save. |
| 47:09 | The ball is mistrapped and even though JPN try to salvage the corner, the ball is lost to FRA. |
| 46:02 | PC for JPN. |
| 44:07 | A pass from GOUEDARD-COMTE into the circle for Matthieu DURCHON is a little to fast. He dashes after it, but goalkeeper MIYOSHI gets in his way. DURCHON knocks him over, and the French request a short corner, but the umpires do not agree. |
| 43:24 | FRA are briefly able to penetrate the JPN half of the field, but play soon returns to their half. |
| 41:43 | It is JPN time now - for the past few minutes, play has been firmly lodged in the French half. |
| 40:05 | Goal JPN goal. Great goal for Japan through ITO deflecting a ball across from KATAYAMA past THAMIN. |
| 37:35 | GAILLARD makes a long run down the field, but his pass for JEAN-JEAN near the circle is too slow and intercepted by a JPN defender. |
| 35:01 | The second half of this thrilling match gets underway, FRA and JPN equal opponents in this encounter. |
| 35:00 | Halftime. FRA are up for the moment but nowhere near the safe side, the match is wide open. It should be an interesting second half. |
| 34:15 | FRA are now back on the attack but are having difficulty getting near or into the JPN circle. JPN have suffered from quick turnovers on the last few balls. |
| 31:58 | Great solo run from Juju BOYER, but he ends up amidst a group of four JPN players and eventually loses the ball. |
| 30:42 | A closely contested match. No team is able to acquire a notable advantage, everything can happen. It is impossible to guess who will score the next goal. |
| 26:31 | Goal FRA goal. Another goal from veteran Nicolas GAILLARD, again taking advantage of some great work by his team mates, finishing off the concerted effort from close range. 3-2. |
| 23:51 | Goal FRA goal. GAILLARD deflects a free hit into the circle into the net. 2-2. |
| 23:19 | Long corner for FRA. SOYEZ`s powerful hit goes straight to a JPN defender. |

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| 21:44 | Great chance for the equalizer for FRA, a first shot is saved, BRANQUART comes in for the rebound but misses the bouncing ball. |
| 20:13 | Goal JPN goal. YAMABORI beats the French with a high flick. 1-2. |
| 19:12 | PC for JPN. |
| 17:49 | A fiery reverse stick shot from SAKAMOTO but THAMIN saves well. |
| 16:01 | JPN's leading goalscorer Takahiko YAMABORI comes back in for JPN after a short rest on the bench. |
| 15:16 | FRA refresh their forward line with BOYER and JEAN-JEAN coming in for GOUEDARD-COMTE and Matthieu DURCHON. |
| 14:01 | And again - FRA really are on a roll now. Fred SOYEZ gets the ball near the goal, slightly off to the right, with his back to the goal and shoots in turning. The ball hits the outside of the goal. |
| 12:52 | And FRA already have another opportunity but Thomas RAISIN's reverse stick shot goes high and wide. |
| 11:23 | Goal FRA goal. But FRA are quick to equalize when Antoine GOUEDARD-COMTE scoring on the other side with a deft hit from the middle of the circle. 1-1. |
| 07:21 | Goal JPN goal. But it is JPN who get on the scoreboard as Kenichi Katayama pushes a ball past Julien THAMIN. 0-1. |
| 04:03 | The French have the first good opportunity of the match, with Juju Boyer high up in the circle, but he cannot reach the long ball. |
| 01:16 | The first match of pool B today gets underway as Japan take on FRA. FRA in all probability need points from this encounter if they want to make the top two, while JPN theoretically also have a chance of making the top two if they win this match. |
| 00:00 | France: 3. Mickael KEMPF, 6. Christophe MUSGENS, 7. Nicolas MUSGENS, 8. Florent DURCHON, 9. Julien BOYER, 10. Frederic SOYEZ (C), 14. Sebastien JEAN-JEAN, 15. Nicolas GAILLARD, 16. Arnaud JANSEN, 17. Gerome BRANQUART, 30. Julien THAMIN (GK), INT: 1. Matthieu DURCHON, 11. Stephane JAQUET, 12. Thomas RAISIN, 13. Arnaud BECUWE, 22. Antoine GOUEDARD-COMTE |
| 00:00 | Japan: 1. Hirofumi MIYOSHI (GK), 3. Kazuo YOSHIDA, 4. Mitsuru ITO, 5. Yutaka BITO, 8. Kenichi KATAYAMA, 9. Kazuyuki OZAWA (C), 10. Kazuhiro TSUBOUCHI, 12. Takahiko YAMABORI, 15. Akira ITO, 17. Yuji CHAKI, 23. Naohiko TOBITA, INT: 7. Kei KAWAKAMI, 16. Yasuaki NISHIMURA, 18. Keiji MAEDA, 21. Yoshihiro ANAI, 22. Hiroki SAKAMOTO |
| 00:00 | Umpires are Murray GRIME (AUS) and Nigel IGGO (NZL). |