

Japan 0 Argentina 2

- 70' A good match despite the adverse conditions. ARG have looked much better than on Sunday, in the first half, clearly dominating the proceedings, and they have done well to establish a favorable scoreline in the first half. In the second half, JPN got increasingly stronger and was unlucky not to score.
- 70' JPN have one more circle penetration but the ARG defense stands firm.
- 68' JPN have a free hit a short distance inside the ARG half of the field. ARG captain ALMADA voices his discontent and is given a yellow card by Spanish umpire GARCIA LIZANA.
- 68' ARG avoid the goal again but cannot clear, JPN has several tries on goal but fails.
- 67' YAMABORI's flick hits L. ARGENTO's leg and goes wide. Another PC for JPN as Lucas ARGENTO limps towards the center line, replaced by his brother Tomas in the PC defense.
- 66' VIVALDI saves but ARG cannot clear, a third PC for JPN follows.
- 65' A complicated variation ends in a tangle, another PC for JPN.
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- 64' Great run inot the circle from L. VILA, he lays off to the left for ALMADA whose shot is saved well by NAGAOKA. ROSSI tries to get to the ball on the rebound but cannot reach it.
- 62' Long aerial ball from the ARG defense for ALMADA on the far left of the field, he makes a solo run down the line and into the circle, but his pass back for CORRADINI goes high off CORRADINI's stick, and umpire LIZANA awards the ball to JPN.
- 59' Chance for JPN at the other end, a long hit into the circle deflected by ANAI but the ball is wide.
- 59' CHAKI slips to give the ball to R. VILA in a very advantageous situation for ARG. ARG attack but VILA cannot get past the JPN defense.
- 54' ARG coach Sergio VIGIL is no longer happy with his team that did so well in the first half. VIGIL can now be heard shouting loudly and practically without pause, amongst other things telling his team to make the game wider.
- 50' ARG seem to be losing their confidence now, their passing no longer as accurate and and play no longer self-confident. On a free hit from near their circle, they take too much time and the ball is awarded to JPN for time wasting but JPN cannot seize the opportunity.
- 47' Play is still lodged firmly in the ARG half of the field, JPN have another shot on goal but the ball hits the post.
- 46' A powerful flick to the top right corner of the goal. Post man ZYLBERBERG makes a spectacular stick save above his head, ARG are awarded the ball.
- 46' Free hit into the circle for JPN. VIVALDI kicks it high into the air, PC for JPN. Green card for VIVALDI.
- 44' JPN have found a steady rhythm now and for the first time in this match manage to create and sustain pressure on the ARG defense.
- 42' Great attacking from JPN here, as a long ball into the circle finds FURUSATO. He launches a shot from a narrow angle from the right. Excellent save from VIVALDI.
- 39' R. VILA weaves his way through four JPN players, eventually laying off for L.

ARGENTO on the right but NAGAOKA makes another great save and YOSHIDA clears.

37' NAGAOKA saves IBARRA's flick as well as R. VILA's shot on the rebound. Great reaction from NAGAOKA on this PC.

36' ARG come out blazing and immediately win a PC as ALMADA's places a ball onto BITO's foot.

36' The teams are back on the pitch, with a 5 or 6 minute burst of rain during the break having served as a natural half time watering.

35' ARG have clearly dominated this first half, even though JPN got into the game better as time wore on. It will be interesting to see if JPN can maintain the upward trend to challenge ARG in the second half.

35' Ineffective back and forth sees the two teams through the dying minutes of the first half, CORRADINI picking up a green card for physical play. The horn signals for the break and the two teams retreat to their tents.

33' ARG push to extend their lead before the half but JPN is starting to cope better with the pressure and their opponents' play.

30' Godo attack over the length of the field by ARG. T. ARGENTO misses the lay-off into the circle and the ball goes out the back.

29' GILARDI's low ball to the left goes wide. ARG want a long corner, claiming it was deflected by a JPN player but umpire CHEN is unimpressed, the ball is JPN's.

28' After a brief intermezzo of JPN offense activity, ARG have taken over again. PC for ARG.

25' Nice hit to the right corner of the goal but IBARRA at the post reacts well and stops and clears.

24' JPN have only just had their second circle penetration in this match after a third minute attack but manage to lodge themselves deep in the ARG half. PC for JPN.

21' ARG have definitely found the way to deal with Sunday's disappointing defeat, they are a different team from two days ago. They play with lots of energy and forward drive, with markedly improved individual performances and also good team work. ARG control the match easily, JPN currently have nothing to counter ARG attacks.

19' Good low flick from LOMBI but NAGAOKA deflects it wide.

18' Another aerial ball into the circle that BITO fails to control. LOMBI wins the ball but loses it over the back line. Long corner for ARG, from which they eventually win a PC.

17' Once more, ROSSI cannot stop the ball and it bounces onto an ARG foot. LOMBI is given a green card for knocking the ball away.

16' PC for ARG as BITO tries to take an aerial ball into the circle but it goes high of his stick and is dangerous.

**** Goal: Rodri VILA (PC) ****

14' The ball is misstopped at first and IBARRA has difficulty controlling it. His shot is weak and easily saved by NAGAOKA but the ball bounces out to his left where VILA is waiting to slap it in.

13' PC for ARG.

**** Goal: Pedro IBARRA (PC) ****

10' IBARRA's low shot to the right side of the goal is deflected by a JPN defender which leaves goalkeeper NAGAOKA without a chance and lands the ball in the left corner for the lead for ARG.

9' PC for ARG.

8' Ball into the circle for ROSSI who is near the top of the circle. He launches a powerful shot but it is deflected high and wide off a JPN stick.

7' Free hit for ARG about 6m from the circle. ROSSI plays the ball in for Rodri VILA who tries to force a PC but ANAI cleverly avoids the foot.

- 4' ARG get into the circle and Tomas ARGENTO tries to play across for ALMADA from the right but BITO intercepts the pass and clears. Good defending from BITO on this one.
- 3' ARG start the match but it is JPN who get into the circle first. The JPN cannot get a shot on goal though, and ARG are back in attack.
- 1' Welcome to the first match of day 3 of the BDO Champions Challenge. Despite more rain earlier today, the sun has now come through and it is dry but very windy.
- 0' The umpires in this match are Dekang CHEN (CHN) and Eduardo LIZANA (ESP).