FIH Olympic Daily Beijing 2008
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Action from the last pool day of men's Olympic competition: Australia vs. Great Britain, Korea vs. Spain, China vs. Belgium, Netherlands vs. Pakistan and Germany vs. New Zealand.

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Germany confirm semi-final appearance

The line-up for the men's semi-finals is complete after yet another dazzling day of action at the Olympic Green Hockey Stadium.

We can now confirm that Spain will meet Olympic Champions Australia with The Netherlands playing Germany. Both matches take place on Thursday evening – it should be an evening of great entertainment!

The evening matches yesterday saw Spain stay in the medal hunt by defeating Korea 2:1, with skilful forward Santi Freixa scoring a sparkling individual effort in the first half before sealing the deal with a second half penalty corner. The victory confirmed Spain as pool winners, leap-frogging Germany who also safely negotiated their way into the medal matches with a 3:1 triumph over New Zealand. Germany have had a slow start in this tournament but were firing on all cylinders in this one, as goals from captain Timo Wess, Matthias Witthaus and Florian Keller ensured the win.

The Netherlands came from a goal down to defeat Pakistan 4:2, which included Taeke Taekema's ninth and tenth goals at the Beijing 2008 Games. Australia claimed a 3:3 draw with Great Britain, with young midfield superstar Eddie Ockenden scoring an equaliser three minutes from time. Had Australia won the game they would have been playing Germany instead of Spain in the semi-finals.

In yesterday's other matches, Canada defeated South Africa while Belgium took all three points against home favourites China in front of a packed stadium.

Program of the Day (Women) --- 20 August 2008

08:30 9/10 Place: Korea v Japan
11:00 7/8 Place: Spain v USA
18:00 Semifinal: Germany v China
20:30 Semifinal: Netherlands v Argentina

Player to Watch: Natascha Keller (GER)

An immensely gifted attacker, Keller is blessed with breath-taking skills and an ability score from the tightest of angles. The 1999 World Player of the Year is still the most unpredictable member of the Germany team.

With Keller amongst their ranks, Germany has more than a chance of defending their Olympic title.

Hockey Celebrates 100 Years at the Olympic Games

Every day we travel back in time to celebrate a century of Olympic hockey.

Atlanta 1996: This was a big year for the Dutch men's team, who finally achieved Olympic Gold after years of just missing out.

The Netherlands – featuring youngsters Teun de Nooijer, Jeroen Delmee and Guus Vogels, all of whom are playing in Beijing 2008 – defeated surprise package Spain 3:1, thanks to strikes from Jan Floris Bovelander (2) and Bram Lomans.

The all-conquering Hockeyroos took Gold in the women's tournament, beating Korea 3:1 with strikes from Australia legends Alyson Annan (2) and Katrina Powell.

Tomorrow: Sydney 2000

Russell Garcia of Great Britain played his 3rd Olympic Games in 1996 after having become the youngest player ever to win a hockey Gold medal in 1988. © IOC

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Women's Pool Phase – Facts and Figures

Ahead of the women's semi finals, here are some interesting statistics from the pool phase of the competition.

Goals per match: 116 goals have been scored in 30 matches so far at Beijing 2008. The average of 3.87 goals per match is higher than at any other Olympics.

Match with most goals: 9 goals were scored in the Pool A match between Australia and Korea (5:4). Only one match in Olympic history counted more goals. At Seoul 1988, Australia drew 5 all with Korea in a 10-goal-match.

Biggest Win: The Netherlands' 6-0 victory over South Africa is the biggest win so far at Beijing 2008. This six-goal winning margin equals the record for biggest win at the Olympics, which was last equalled at Sydney 2000 when Argentina beat New Zealand 7-1.

Top scorer: Maartje Paumen (NED) is the leading goalscorer with eight goals. She needs just one more goal to break the record for most goals in a single edition, which she now shares with Alyson Annan (AUS, 1996), Chang Eun-Jung (KOR, 1996), Lisanne Lejeune (NED, 1988) and Beth Anders (USA, 1984).

Fastest Goal: Keli Smith scored the fastest goal at Beijing 2008, by giving the United States a 1-0 lead after only 35 seconds in the match against New Zealand.

Field Goals: Agustina Soledad Garcia (ARG) has scored eight field goals at the Olympics. Rechelle Hawkes (AUS) is he only female player to have scored more goals from open play (11) in Olympic history.

Penalty Corner Goals Player: Maartje Paumen (NED) has broken the all-time Olympic record for most penalty corner goals. Paumen has now converted eight penalty corners. The previous record of seven was jointly held by Lisanne Lejeune (NED) and Franziska Hentschel (GER).

Milestone: On 12 August, Emily Halliday (AUS) scored the 600th goal in the history of the women's tournament at the Olympic Games.

Milestone: Casey Eastham's (AUS) match winning goal against Korea (5-4) on 10 August marked the 100th goals for the Hockeyroos at the Olympics.

German supporters take over the Hockey House

The German Hockey Federation (DHB) invited the German hockey fans present in Beijing to the Hockey House in the Yanshan Hotel to thank them for their support at the Olympic Games. More than 80 guests were welcomed by DHB President Stephan Abel. (Photo: Uli Meyer)

Women's Semi-Finals Preview: Can anyone stop the Netherlands?

The semi-final stage of the Beijing 2008 hockey tournament is upon us, with two mouth-watering games at the Olympic Green Hockey Stadium. At 18:00, defending Olympic Champions Germany face host nation China in front of literally thousands of screaming fans. The following match will be equally high in quality, with tournament favourites and current world Champions The Netherlands coming up against 2008 Champions Trophy winners Argentina. These are two matches that you really do not want to miss!

Germany v China: These two sides last met competitively at the 2008 Champions Trophy in Germany, with the home team winning 2:0 on that day. However, China are now the team with the home advantage and it is clearly making a difference. Aside from a 4:1 loss to Argentina, Germany have been outstanding here in Beijing, but China look as though they are starting to believe that they are capable of winning this tournament.

The Netherlands v Argentina: The Netherlands are favourites for this match, but only a fool would under-estimate Argentina. If Las Leonas are to have any chance of winning they need to concede as few penalty corners as possible. Set piece expert Maartje Paumen is currently in lethal form, needing just one goal to break the record for number of goals scored in a single Olympic Games.

Four-time World Player of the Year Luciana Aymar will need to be at her imperious best to guide her side into the Olympic final.

Also taking place today is the classification match for 9th/10th place, with Korea taking on Japan at 08:30. Then, at 11:00, Spain will play the USA with the winner claiming a creditable seventh place finish at Beijing 2008.

Naomi van As (left) and Fatima Moreira de Melo will be trying to steer the Dutch women into the Olympic final.

Women Pool A

10 Aug 10:30 CHN v ESP 3:0 (2:0)
10 Aug 18:00 AUS v KOR 5:4 (1:4)
10 Aug 20:30 NED v RSA 6:0 (2:0)
12 Aug 10:30 AUS v ESP 6:1 (1:1)
12 Aug 18:30 CHN v RSA 3:0 (2:0)
12 Aug 20:30 NED v KOR 3:2 (2:1)
14 Aug 08:30 CHN v NED 0:1 (0:1)
14 Aug 18:00 ESP v KOR 2:1 (2:0)
14 Aug 20:30 RSA v AUS 0:3 (0:1)
16 Aug 10:30 AUS v NED 1:2 (1:1)
16 Aug 18:30 KOR v CHN 1:6 (0:2)
16 Aug 21:00 ESP v RSA 1:0 (1:0)
18 Aug 10:30 KOR v RSA 5:2 (4:0)
18 Aug 18:30 NED v ESP 2:0 (1:0)
18 Aug 21:00 CHN v AUS 2:2 (1:0)

Women Pool B

10 Aug 08:30 JPN v NZL 2:1 (2:1)
10 Aug 18:30 ARG v USA 2:2 (2:1)
10 Aug 21:00 GER v GBR 5:1 (2:1)
12 Aug 08:30 ARG v GBR 2:2 (2:0)
12 Aug 18:00 USA v JPN 1:1 (0:1)
12 Aug 21:00 GER v NZL 2:1 (0:1)
14 Aug 10:30 USA v GER 2:4 (1:1)
14 Aug 18:30 JPN v ARG 1:2 (0:0)
14 Aug 21:00 NZL v GBR 1:2 (1:1)
16 Aug 08:30 NZL v USA 1:4 (0:2)
16 Aug 18:00 GER v ARG 0:4 (0:0)
16 Aug 20:30 GBR v JPN 2:1 (1:0)
18 Aug 08:30 GER v JPN 1:0 (0:0)
18 Aug 18:00 GBR v USA 0:0 (0:0)
18 Aug 20:30 ARG v NZL 3:2 (1:1)

Women Pool A

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Netherlands	5	5	0	0	14:3	15
2. China	5	3	1	1	14:4	10
3. Australia	5	3	1	1	17:9	10
4. Spain	5	2	0	3	4:12	6
5. Korea	5	1	0	4	13:18	3
6. South Africa	5	0	0	5	2:18	0

Women Pool B

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Germany	5	4	0	1	12:8	12
2. Argentina	5	3	2	0	13:7	11
3. Great Britain	5	2	2	1	7:9	8
4. USA	5	1	3	1	9:8	6
5. Japan	5	1	1	3	5:7	4
6. New Zealand	5	0	0	5	6:13	0

Men Pool A

11 Aug 08:30 GER v CHN 4:1 (1:1)
11 Aug 18:00 KOR v NZL 1:3 (1:1)
11 Aug 20:30 ESP v BEL 4:2 (2:1)
13 Aug 10:30 CHN v KOR 2:5 (2:2)
13 Aug 18:30 BEL v GER 1:1 (1:1)
13 Aug 20:30 NZL v ESP 0:1 (0:0)
15 Aug 08:30 ESP v CHN 2:1 (1:1)
15 Aug 18:00 BEL v NZL 2:4 (0:3)
15 Aug 20:30 KOR v GER 3:3 (1:1)
17 Aug 10:30 KOR v BEL 3:1 (0:1)
17 Aug 18:30 NZL v CHN 2:2 (1:2)
17 Aug 21:00 GER v ESP 1:0 (1:0)
19 Aug 10:30 GER v NZL 3:1 (2:0)
19 Aug 18:30 KOR v ESP 1:2 (0:1)
19 Aug 21:00 CHN v BEL 1:3 (1:2)

Men Pool B

11 Aug 10:30 PAK v GBR 2:4 (0:3)
11 Aug 18:30 AUS v CAN 6:1 (3:0)
11 Aug 21:00 NED v RSA 5:0 (2:0)
13 Aug 08:30 RSA v AUS 0:10 (0:5)
13 Aug 18:00 CAN v PAK 1:3 (1:0)
13 Aug 21:00 NED v GBR 1:0 (0:0)
15 Aug 10:30 NED v CAN 4:2 (3:1)
15 Aug 18:30 PAK v AUS 1:3 (1:1)
15 Aug 21:00 RSA v GBR 0:2 (0:1)
17 Aug 08:30 GBR v CAN 1:1 (0:0)
17 Aug 18:00 PAK v RSA 3:1 (1:1)
17 Aug 20:30 AUS v NED 2:2 (0:0)
19 Aug 08:30 NED v PAK 4:2 (0:1)
19 Aug 18:00 CAN v RSA 5:2 (2:2)
19 Aug 20:30 AUS v GBR 3:3 (0:1)

Men Pool A

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Spain	5	4	0	1	9:5	12
2. Germany	5	3	2	0	12:6	11
3. Korea	5	2	1	2	13:11	7
4. New Zealand	5	2	1	2	10:9	7
5. Belgium	5	1	1	3	9:13	4
6. China	5	0	1	4	7:16	1

Men Pool B

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Netherlands	5	4	1	0	16:6	13
2. Australia	5	3	2	0	24:7	11
3. Great Britain	5	2	2	1	10:7	8
4. Pakistan	5	2	0	3	11:13	6
5. Canada	5	1	1	3	10:17	4
6. South Africa	5	0	0	5	4:25	0

Women Classification Day 1

20 Aug 08:30 9th/10th KOR v JPN
20 Aug 11:00 7th/8th ESP v USA
20 Aug 18:00 Semifinal GER v CHN
20 Aug 20:30 Semifinal NED v ARG

Women Classification Day 1

22 Aug 08:30 11th/12th RSA v NZL
22 Aug 11:00 5th/6th AUS v GBR
22 Aug 18:00 Bronze Medal Match
22 Aug 20:30 Gold Medal Match
22 Aug 22:30 Medal Ceremony

Goalscorers Women

1. Maartje PAUMEN (NED) 8 goals
2. FU Baorong (CHN) 5 goals
   Seon Ok LEE (KOR) 5 goals
3. Casey EASTHAM (AUS) 4 goals

For more info, visit www.worldhockey.org.

Men Classification Day 1

21 Aug 08:30 9th/10th BEL v CAN
21 Aug 11:00 7th/8th NZL v PAK
21 Aug 18:00 Semifinal NED v GER
21 Aug 20:30 Semifinal ESP v AUS

Men Classification Day 2

23 Aug 08:30 11th/12th CHN v RSA
23 Aug 11:00 5th/6th KOR v GBR
23 Aug 18:00 Bronze Medal Match
23 Aug 20:30 Gold Medal Match
23 Aug 22:30 Medal Ceremony

Goalscorers Men

1. Taeke TAEKEMA (NED) 10 goals
2. Jong Hyun JANG (KOR) 5 goals
3. Desmond ABBOTT (AUS) 4 goals
   Jamie DWYER (AUS) 4 goals

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