



Action from the sixth day of men's Olympic competition: Netherlands vs. Germany, Spain vs. Australia, Belgium vs. Canada and New Zealand v. Pakistan

Spain Conquer Olympic Champions!

Germany and Spain will meet in the men's final of the 2008 Olympic hockey tournament following two marvellous semi-final matches yesterday evening.

In the first semi-final, World Champions Germany defeated The Netherlands on penalty strokes, with tournament top scorer Taeke Taekema missing the vital effort. The match was full of tension, drama and hockey of the highest quality. The Netherlands looked as though they had won it when Timme Hoyng gave his side a 1:0 lead four minutes from time, but two minutes later Philipp Zeller grabbed an equaliser. Extra time finished goal-less, and Taekema's sudden death penalty miss proved decisive.

The second semi started with a bang. Australia's Des Abbott netted after 30 seconds before his side scored arguably the finest goal of the tournament. A seven pass move ripped open the Spain defence and eliminated the keeper only for Eddie Ockenden to tap into an open goal. It looked all over for Spain, but two quick goals set the match alight, with a brace from Edi Tubau levelling the scores. With two minutes left to play, Santi Freixa completed the comeback when he slammed home a penalty corner to defeat the reigning Olympic champions. Spain now have the chance to avenge their pool match defeat to Germany in the best way possible – winning Olympic Gold.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand took seventh place with a 4:2 win over Pakistan, while Canada were beaten 3:0 by Belgium in the 9th/10th play-off match.

Program of the Day (Women) --- 22 August 2008

08:30 11/12 Place: S.Africa v N.Zealand 18:00 Semifinal: Germany v Argentina
11:00 5/6 Place: Australia v Great Britain 20:30 Semifinal: China v Netherlands

Player to Watch: Maartje Paumen (NED)



Having scored in every game that The Netherlands have played in Beijing, Maartje Paumen has been the star of the tournament.

She has netted 11 times en-route to the final – an Olympic record – and could inspire her team to their first Olympic title since Los Angeles 1984.

Hockey Celebrates 100 Years at the Olympic Games

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

Athens 2004 – Women: The semi final line-up saw three familiar teams and one less so. The Netherlands, Argentina and Germany had all reached the last four along with China – the tournament's surprise package. Argentina's match against The Netherlands went to penalties, but the Dutch triumphed as Cecilia Rognoni and Ayelen Stepnik failed to convert. The other semi-final saw Germany triumph over China in a match that also went penalty strokes.

The Netherlands were huge favourites for the final, but Germany had grown in confidence throughout the tournament. Germany went into a stunning 2:0 lead with first half goals from Anke Kuhn and Franziska Gude, but Maartje Scheepstra pulled one back for The Netherlands just after half time. The Dutch rallied but could not get the equaliser, giving Germany women their first ever Olympic Hockey Gold medal.

The Netherlands are again favourites for today's final against China, but the result in Athens shows that anything can happen!

Tomorrow: Athens 2004 (Men)



The German women show their Gold medals. © IOC

Disclaimer

The FIH Olympic Daily is a publication of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). International Hockey Federation (FIH), Rue du Valentin 61, CH-1004 Lausanne, Switzerland. FIH Olympic Media Team: Gordon Morrison (photos), Aaron Sher, Arjen Meijer, Elisabeth Fuerst, Richard Stainthorpe, Yan Huckendubler, Jeroen van Bergen (photos). All content © FIH.

ABN AMRO welcomes guests in Hockey House

FIH's WorldHockey Partner ABN AMRO invited many different guests to the Olympic Games in Beijing.

To welcome them, Jan Peter Schmittmann (right of picture), President of ABN AMRO Netherlands, held a welcome reception in the "Hockey House" – the hockey-themed social venue specially created by the FIH for the Olympics – on Thursday.



400th cap for Jeroen Delmee

Netherlands captain Jeroen Delmee reached an incredible landmark yesterday evening. The 33-year-old made his 400th international appearance for his country. Sadly, his staggering achievement will be remembered for all the wrong reasons, as his side were unexpectedly defeated in the Olympic semi-finals by world champions Germany.

Delmee has won scores of titles in a national team career spanning 14 years, including 2 Olympic titles in 1996 and 2000, and was the flag bearer for his country in Beijing two weeks ago.

Football legend Maradona watches Las Leonas

Argentina football legend Diego Maradona visited the Olympic Green Hockey Stadium on Wednesday to cheer on his countrywomen in their unsuccessful bid to reach the Olympic final. Maradona has spoken in the past about his admiration for Las Leonas, and his support meant a great deal to the girls despite their defeat at the hands of The Netherlands.

It was a particularly nice moment for Argentina's Luciana Aymar, a player who has named Maradona as one of her sporting idols in past interviews. Aymar, current FIH World Player of the Year, is often described as the "Maradona of hockey" thanks to her amazing dribbling skills, and did her best to show exactly why that comparison exists with a couple of breathtaking solo efforts in the match.



Women's Final Preview: China ready to bring down favourites

The waiting is almost over. The first of the Beijing 2008 Olympic finals takes place today at 20:30, with host nation China aiming to produce a massive upset by defeating The Netherlands. The Bronze Medal match will be played at 18:00 between 2004 Olympic champions Germany and Argentina.

Gold Medal Match: China v The Netherlands: For the Netherlands, this is a chance to put right 24 years of pain. Los Angeles 1984 was the last time the Dutch women won Olympic Gold, and suffered heartbreak four years ago when Germany stole the title from under their noses. However, few can argue that this current Netherlands side is extremely special, and it will take a monumental effort from China to defeat Maartje Paumen and company. The Netherlands have the best penalty corner goal conversion rate in the entire tournament, while China have the worst. However, China have proven to be worthy finalists here and the amazing support offered by the home crowd could have a huge influence on the outcome of this game. China's Fu Baorong was the key player for her side in the semi-final win over Germany, and is the player capable of driving her side to a glorious Gold medal.

Bronze Medal Match: Germany v Argentina: Both sides will have to pick themselves up after the disappointment of missing out on the Gold and Silver medals if they are to take anything away from this tournament. Argentina already have the psychological advantage over their opponents having defeated Germany 4:0. However, Germany certainly performed better in the semi-finals than today's opponents and could take the victory over demoralised Argentina.

Also taking place are the classification matches for 11th/12th place, with South Africa taking on New Zealand at 08:30. Then, at 11:00, Australia will play Great Britain with the winner claiming a 5th place finish at Beijing 2008.



Fu Baorong is the star of the China front line and is feared by defenders the world over.

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 5:3 (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 20 Aug	
08:30 9th/10th KOR v JPN 2:1 (1:0)	
11:00 7th/8th ESP v USA 2:2 (1:1) 3:2 GG	
18:00 Semifinal GER v CHN 2:3 (1:1)	
20:30 Semifinal NED v ARG 5:2 (3:0)	

Women Classification 22 Aug	
08:30 11th/12th RSA v NZL	
11:00 5th/6th AUS v GBR	
18:00 Bronze Medal GER v ARG	
20:30 Gold Medal CHN v NED	
22:30 Medal Ceremony	

Goalscorers Women	
1. Maartje PAUMEN (NED) 11 goals	
2. FU Baorong (CHN) 5 goals	
Alejandra GULLA (ARG) 5 goals	
Seon Ok LEE (KOR) 5 goals	

For more info, visit www.worldhockey.org.

Men Classification 21 Aug	
08:30 9th/10th BEL v CAN 3:0 (2:0)	
11:00 7th/8th NZL v PAK 4:2 (1:0)	
18:00 Semifinal NED v GER 2:2 (1:1) 4:5 APS	
20:30 Semifinal ESP v AUS 3:2 (0:1)	

Men Classification 23 Aug	
08:30 11th/12th CHN v RSA	
11:00 5th/6th KOR v GBR	
18:00 Bronze Medal NED v AUS	
20:30 Gold Medal GER v ESP	
22:30 Medal Ceremony	

Goalscorers Men	
1. Taeke TAEKEMA (NED) 10 goals	
2. Hayden SHAW (NZL) 6 goals	
3. Desmond ABBOTT (AUS) 5 goals	
Jong Hyun JANG (KOR) 5 goals	

For more info, visit www.worldhockey.org.