

Water Polo Women, Day 6: GRE 12 CAN 8

FINA Communication Department

Shanghai world champion Greece defeated Canada 12-8 in the round of 5-8 semifinals, bettering the 8-8 draw in the rounds on day three and a draw in a pre-worlds tournament. Greece made its intentions known in the opening quarter when Canadian goalkeeper Michele Relton saw too many balls pass her head as her team's defence was poorly set.

Five different players gave Greece a 5-1 lead at the break.

Canada had the better of the second quarter with Monika Eggens scoring twice — the second disputed by Greece after a deflected shot from well out the top.

When Emma Wright scored on extra early in the third period for 6-5 behind, Greece took stock and decided to show some of the form that brought it gold in 2011.

Five consecutive goals — including three by Christina Tsoukala in less than three minutes — had the women in blue an 11-5 advantage at the final break.

Canada fought hard for goals by Joelle Bekhazi — her 10th of the championship — and Stephanie Valin on counter

Match 37: 15:30, Semifinal Round 5-8, CANADA 8 GREECE 12

Quarters: 1-5, 3-1, 1-5, 3-1

Referees: German Moller (ARG), Manol Taylan (TUR).

Extra Man: CAN: 5/9 (5/11). GRE: 4/8 (4/12).

Pens: GRE: 1/1.

Teams:

CANADA:

Michele Relton, Krystina Alogbo, Katrina Monton, Emma Wright (2), Monika Eggens (2), Sophie Baron La Salle, Joelle Bekhazi (1), Dominique Perrault, Carmen Eggens, Christine Robinson (1), Stephanie Valin (1), Marina Radu (1), Nicola Colterjohn. Head Coach: Guy Baker.

GREECE:

Eleni Kouvdou, Christina Tsoukala (4), Vasiliki Diamantopoulou (1), Ilektra Psouni, Margarita Plevritou, Alkisti Avramidou (2), Alexandra Asimaki (2), Antigoni Roumpesi (2), Christina Kotsia, Triantafyllia Manolioudaki (1), Eleftheria Plevritou, Alkistis Benekou, Chrysoula Diamantopoulou. Head Coach: Georgios Morfesis.

FLASH QUOTES:

Antigoni Roumpesi (GRE):

“We are satisfied. We wanted to win and we played better than Canada. Now we are already thinking about our next match because we want to end up in the fifth place, and if we play like today we will get it.”

Georgios Morfesis (GRE Head Coach):

“It’s always good to win a game like this, even though it’s not a (medal) semifinal. We always try to play our best. We still have some weak points but Canada too. Recently, Greece has won four medals but this is a completely new team and I’m confident that with patience we’ll be able to win medals again. Tsoukala won’t play the next game because she’s injured her right shoulder.”

Christine Robinson (CAN):

“I am pretty disappointed because we wanted to end the tournament with a couple of wins but we couldn’t do it. Now we have to finish with one strong victory.”

Guy Baker (CAN Head Coach):

“Greece is a very good team and they controlled the match. We did in some parts, but not throughout the whole game. Now we have to play for seventh place; this is our motivation.”
