

Italy, Netherlands reach QF, Australia bounces back

GROUP C: SLOVAKIA 8 SERBIA 11

Results & Teams

Game 11, 9.00 ? Group C: Slovakia v Serbia 8-11

Quarters: 1-2, 2-2, 3-4, 2-3

Referees: Maria Daskolopoulou (GRE), Svetlana Dreval (RUS)

SLOVAKIA

STEHLIKOVA Kristina, KOVACIKOVA Beata, KURUCOVA Janka 1, BARANOVICOVA Barbora 1, JUNASOVA Ema, PAZICKA Simona 1, KACKOVA Karolina 1, KOLAROVA Tamara 1, STANKOVIANSKA Miroslava 1, HALOCKA Anastasija, RUSZNAKOVA Barbora 2, BASAROVA Viktoria, BRUZENAKOVA Janka. Head coach: RAGUSA Cinzia Nuncia

SERBIA

PETROVIC Andjela, SVEC Anja 1, AVDIC Lolita, RUDIC Teodora 1, MILISVIC Ana, MANDIC Nada 4, LUKA Lara 2, NOVAKOVIC Natza 2, KAPLAREVIC Janja, DAMNJANOVIC Isidora, MILADINOVIC Kristina 1, GASIC Andrea, TRAVAR Nikolina. Head coach: BAIKOVIC Vladimir

Extramen: 3/11 and 2/5

Penalties: nil

Report

Serbia was dominant team in the game but it needed three periods to build a safe gap and win the game. The Slovaks kept coming back, after 3-6 they netted two in a span of 46 seconds and a quick exchange of goals they trailed only by 6-7 with three minutes to go in the third. A fine action goal from Kristina Mladinovic gave more comfort for the Serbs before the last break and in the fourth a great spell decided the outcome. They scored three straight goals in 1:49 minutes to jump 6-11 up, Nadia Mandic netted her fourth here, while the Slovaks struggled in 6 on 5, in this phase they missed two, let eight go altogether. Though they pulled two back later but that was only consolation, not more.

GROUP B: CHINA 8 AUSTRALIA 9

Results & Teams

Game 10, 10.20 ? Group B: China v Australia 8-9

Quarters: 2-3, 1-2, 2-4, 3-0

Referees: Danielle Dabbaghian (USA), Megan Perry (NZL)

CHINA

XIAOCUI Yang, YANAN Bi, JIAWEN Lu, XIAO Chen, XIAOQIAN Wu, WEN Su, SANFENG Nong 3, YAXIAN Chen, XINYAN Meng, ZEWEN Deng 4, CHEN He 1, HUAN Wang, YUTING Xie. Head coach: WEN HUA Li

AUSTRALIA

PALM Gabriella, WILLOWS Mia, HOLDEN Kiara 1, MORRISSEY Danielle 4, LEESON SMITH Bridget, O'LEARY Dayna, KEARNS Matilda 2, ROBERTS Ashleigh, WILLIAMS Mollie 1, WILLIAMS Alice, CORBETT Alexandra, PONTRE Sofie 1, HOSKING Tess. Head coach: OSADCHUK Alekdandr

Extramen: 4/8 and 3/8

Penalties: 2/2 and none

Report

The Aussies didn't have too much time to recover from their bad, six-goal defeat against Greece: that match ended at 21.00hrs on Sunday and the following day saw them lining up for the swim-off at 10.20hrs. However, they started the week as if nothing had happened 13 hours earlier ? at least for three periods they were really dominating China. This time their defence worked well, the Chinese also helped them a bit by committing a lot of unforced errors in front.

After a close opening period, the girls from Down Under killed a Chinese man-up then scored twice in succession to jump to a 2-5 lead. From that point it was a chasing game but the Asians couldn't come closer than two goals, and whenever they managed to score, the reply came immediately from the next possession. In 7 seconds after 4-6, in 26 after 5-7. What's more, with 0:00.5 remaining on the clock, the Aussies went 5-9 up, Danielle Morrissey's 10m shot found its way to the net (it was her 4th hit in the morning).

What seemed a fine psychological boost at first glance turned out to be a way too effective cooler ? the Aussies slowed down their play in the fourth (perhaps having two matches in 13 hours also took its toll) which didn't look too dangerous for a while. For three and a half minutes the game just rolled, then China scored from a man-up. Another one and a half minutes gone, they earned a penalty and converted it, 7-9, 3:01 to go. The Aussies missed the first match ball, a 6 on 5, Deng Zewen netted her fourth for 8-9, and still 2:09 remained on the clock. But the comeback ended here, no real chances were created, while Australia's comeback after their bad defeat proved to be successful at the end.

GROUP C: ITALY 8 CANADA 5

Results & Teams

Game 12, 11.40 ? Group C: Italy v Canada 8-5

Quarters: 4-3, 0-1, 2-1, 2-0

Referees: Nicola Johnson (AUS), Gyorgy Kun (HUN)

ITALY

BANCHELLI Caterina, CITINO Giusy 1, PRESTA Claudia, AVEGNO Silvia 1, RANALLI Chiara 1, MILLO Giulia, PICOZZI Domitilla 2, DI CLAUDIO Luna 2, COCCHIERE Agnese, FORESTA Chiara, ALTAMURA Elena 1, CUZZUPE Giulia, MALARA Carlotta. Head coach: Paolo Zizza

CANADA

VULPISI Clara, ALLIN Peggy Jean, CREVIER Axelle 1, LIZOTTE Myriam, CEKLIC Nina, AIKEMA Emily, MIMIDES Maria 1, CHRISTMAS Kyra, MCDOWELL Blaire, FRASER Emma, NACOUZI Joelle 1, UTAS Brianna 2, JAFFE Rachel. Head coach: ROBINSON Andrew

Extramen: 1/6 and 0/4

Penalties: nil

Report

To be honest, the opening minutes will not be remembered as celebrations of the goalkeepers' skills: seven goals were scored in 4:24 minutes and both netminders struggled to stop even the easier shots. Defences tightened then, however, and the young ladies in the red caps also regrouped themselves ? thus the remaining 23:36 minutes saw only six goals.

It transformed into a great battle where both sides had ups and downs, Italy couldn't score in the second period, letting Canada equalise for 4-4. The decisive moments came in the third where Italy drew first blood with a great action goal from Elena Altamura. Then came a turning point ? in fact, it was scenario which well could be regarded a killer for a coach. Canada earned a 6 on 5, called for a time-out... The last thing a coach wishes to see in this situation the opponent launching a counter 26 seconds later. It happened, Italy killed the man-up and Silvia Avegno finished off a 2 on 1 for 4-6. The Canadians responded well, scored a touch-down like goal soon for 5-6 and the match seemed still wide open heading towards the final period. However, the Canadians faded in offense for the remaining time and didn't score any more (in the last 11:40 minutes). Of course, this also a praise for Italy's defence which held the North Americans on two goals in the last three periods. They netted two more, both from action in the fourth, settling a fine win and securing the top spot in the group and a direct berth in the quarter-finals.

GROUP D: UNITED STATES 11 NEW ZEALAND 4

Results & Teams

Game 13, 13.00 ? Group D: United States v New Zealand 11-4

Quarters: 0-0, 5-2, 1-1, 5-1

Referees: Michael Jukes (GBR), Michiel Zwart (NED)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LONGAN Amanda, LIEBOWITZ Alexis, KLASS Sarah 2, HILL Abbi 2, HAUSCHILD Page 2, WEBER Bayley, HARBILAS Chloe, WHITELEGGE Rachel, MAMMOLITO Denise 2, NEUSHUL Ryann 2, AYALA Val 1, JONSHON Ava, KAPANA Carlee. Head coach: SIMMONS Coralia

NEW ZEALAND

CONROY Chantelle, MCDOWAL Morgan, BERNADETTE Doyle, HOUGHTON Brogan, DAWSON Kaitlyn, PARKER-ALLEN Caitlin Mary 1, GAULT Elizabeth, NICHOLSON Emily 1, SNELGAR Kelsey, MACDONALD Gabriella 1, HOUGHTON Emmerson 1, CARRINGTON Shinae, HARFORD Ella. Head coach: CHAMBERS Timothy

Extramen: 2/4 and 0/4

Penalties: 1/1 and 1/1

Report

For players of a country, where level 13 doesn't exist in high-rise buildings, neither row 13 on aircrafts, starting Game 13 at 13.00 should be menacing. Other explanation is not yet available why the mighty US team was not able to score a single goal against New Zealand in the opening period. Especially if you make comparisons with their first match versus Croatia where they netted 24. The Americans started slowly, the first eight minutes didn't even bring an exclusion, somewhat illustrating how low gears they travelled on.

Soon they showed their real character of course, after the first break (and passing 13:13 on the clock...) they speeded up, scored three goals in as many possessions and in a span of 75 seconds they led 3-0. Well, it wasn't top gear either, what's more, Mary Parker-Allen's fantastic goal even brought New Zealand as close as 5-3 in the third, though no one smelled any big upset as the overall picture showed a visible difference between the sides. This was underlined in the last period, by producing another five-goal haul the US team ticked another compulsory field and now they face a crucial encounter with Spain to clinch the top spot in Group D.

GROUP D: SPAIN 18 CROATIA 2

Results & Teams

Game 14, 16.00 ? Group D: Spain v Croatia 18-2

Quarters: 3-0, 6-1, 3-0, 6-1

Referees: Adil Aimbetov (KAZ), Garen Gaisford (RSA)

SPAIN

DOMENE Sandra, CRESPI Paula, LEITON Paula 1, GUIRAL Mireia 1, CIUDAO Miriam 2, GOSET Blanca 3, BONAMUSA Alba 2, BARINGO Carmen, CORBOBES Marina 3, MONTOYA Elia 1, DIAZ Sofia, AZNAR Alejandra 2, BELLO Inmaculada. Head coach: XAVIER Perez

CROATIA

RATKOVIC Alexandra, GEGIC Lea, CRNICKI Lidija, VINCEK Magdalena, BARISIC Bruna, SKELIN Matea 1, BADZIM Gloria, BUTIC Domina 1, BUKIC Petra, GALIC Matea, PAVIC Leondarda, TOPIC Mia, ERAK Franka. Head coach: SIMUNIC Mia

Extramen: 8/12 and 0/4

Penalties: 0/1 and none

Report

A rather symmetric win for Spain with four nicely shaped quarters ? and another big beating for the Croats. Though they changed their approach from the US game where they simply watched the Americans? march from close range. This time they fought like their male players usually do, played hard even it brought a lot of exclusions. Well, their man-down defence didn?t quite remind us of the world champion men team?s efforts as they conceded eight goals from these situations but at least they tried something else.

In the meantime, the Spanish team came up with another fine demonstration of their knowledge which will set up a fine clash against the US team on Tuesday.

GROUP A: NETHERLANDS 14 HUNGARY 4

Results & Teams

Game 14, 17.20 ? Group A: Netherlands v Hungary 14-4

Quarters: 5-2, 4-1, 3-1, 2-0

Referees: Joan Colominas (ESP), Martina Kunikova (SVK)

NETHERLANDS

KOENDERS Joanne, VOORVELT Rozanne 1, SLEEKING Brigitte 2, BOSVELD Fleurien, KEUNING Maartje, ROZEBOOM Lizette 1, MULDER Brigit 2, KOOPMAN Maud 1, JOUSTRA Kitty Lynn 2, KOOLHAAS Ilse 2, TEN BROEK Nina, ROGGE Bente 3, BUIS Sarah. Head coach: DOUDESIS Evangelos

HUNGARY

LEKRINSZKI Gina Petra, BREZOVSZKI Gerda, VALYI Vanda, HERTZKA Orsolya , KONCZ Laura, HUSZTI Dora, FARKAS Tamara 2, TOTH Csenge, KUNA Szonja, KISS Eszter, VARGA Viktoria 1, HLENGIWE Mchunu 1, MACZKO Lilla. Head coach: PETROVICS Matyas

Extramen: 3/4 and 2/4

Penalties: nil

Report

Unlike at senior level, the two sides here were not in the same weight category. By all means. The Dutch had much stronger players ? they are the reigning European champions in this age-group ? which was mirrored in every part of the game and of the field. Their powerful shots destroyed the Hungarian defense in two periods, though the Magyars broke under the pressure much earlier than expected. The Dutch were on target seven times on their first eight shots which led to the change of the Hungarian goalie ? but that only slowed down the process for a while.

Bente Rogge and Brigit Mulder led the charge of the ?Oranje? and the margin grew period by period. The Hungarians switched to a much tighter defence for the second half which resulted four less goals in the back but marking stronger rivals also burnt too much energy and they could score only once which led to a heavy, 10-goal defeat.

With this win, the Dutch girls already booked their place in the quarters as winner of Group A and also earned an off day, a rather valuable asset in a seven-day tournament.

GROUP A: JAPAN 8 RUSSIA 20

Results & Teams

Game 16, 18.40 ? Group A: Japan v Russia 8-20

Quarters: 1-3, 3-4, 1-5, 3-8

Referees: Fernando Varela (PER), Fabio Brasiliano (ITA)

JAPAN

SHIOYA Minami , ARIMA Yumi 1, INOUE Ann Janet , WATADA Asuka , TERAKATA Chiaki 1, YAMAMOTO Minori 1, INABA Akari 2, NIIZAWA Yuki, YOSHIZATO Miyu, IWANO Kaho, HASHIDA Maiko, NONOMURA Haruna 3, KAWATASHIRO Yuka (GK). Head coach: OI Keiji

RUSSIA

GOLOVINA Evgeniia, GEZANICH Daria 2, ZAPLATINA Elizaveta 2, BEZSNEVA Maria 4, BORISOVA Maria 1, POPOVA Polina 1, KEMPF Polina, LAPTEVA Yulia 1, VAKHTOVA Vezonika 1, TOLKUNOVA Tatiana 2, KHAMZAEVA Bella 4, SERZHANTOVA Alena 2, STEPAKHINA Svetlana. Head coach: Sergey Markoch

Extramen: 3/9 and 2/9

Penalties: none and 1/2

Report

The Russians learnt a lot from Hungary's opening day's struggle and were well prepared for the Japanese's special defensive approach. They did what was the best against them: moving a lot and also trying to beat them one-on-one occasionally. Since their bodyshape is more robust, sometimes it was an easy task. In the meantime, the Japanese also played an open attacking game, turning the encounter into a scoring festival.

The Russians didn't leave anything for chance, began strongly and quickly earned a 1-3 lead. Later, deep into the second they were already five up at 2-7. Maria Bezsneva had some pretty nice goals, just like Bella Khamzaeva, both netted four in this match.

For the last period the Japanese were running out of gas and this resulted an extra flood of goals from the Russians who managed to set a single-period scoring record so far by netting eight in the closing eight minutes. Some of them were really spectacular but the very last one pleased the crowd the most as it came after a late Japan goal when only four seconds remained from the match. After the restart, Khamzaeva let the ball fly from her half and it surprised the goalie so the 14m shot marked the 20th goal for the Russians who earned their first win here.

GROUP B: GREECE 21 SOUTH AFRICA 5

Results & Teams

Game 9, 20.00 ? Group B: Greece v South Africa 21-5

Quarters: 6-3, 6-1, 5-1, 4-0

Referees: Boon Tan Hong (SGP), Daniel Terpenka (CAN)

GREECE

STAMATOPOULOU Ioanna, PLEVRIOTOU Eleftheria 5, CHYDIRIOTI Ioanna 4, ELEFTHERIADOU Nikoleta, PLEVRIOTOU Vasiliki 2, XENAKI Eleni 4, PROTOPAPA Elisavet 3, PATRA Maria, MICHALIDOU Ekaterini, MYRIOKEFALITAKI Maria 3, SELETOPOULOU Maria Eleni, MAVROTA Ifigenia, DOUREKA Stavroula. Head coach: LEANDROS Stefanos

SOUTH AFRICA

NIXON Lauren, PENNEY Amber 1, MEECHAM Chloe 1, VAUGHAN Ashleigh 1, MULLER Hanna, ABRAHAMSE Christine, CALVERT Hannah, MCLEAVY Casey, SMIT Zandre 1, MACLEOD Nicola, MOIR Gerogia 1, THOMPSON Megan, MAARTENS Meghan. Head coach: MANSON Bevan

Extramen: 9/9 and 3/9

Penalties: none and 1/1

Report

The level of the Greeks' focus wasn't quite the same compared to the previous evening when they had produced an outstanding game against Australia. While they had managed to hold the Aussies on four goals for three and a half periods, the South Africans scored those four goals in little more than nine minutes. The first lapse in the hosts' concentration came after 3-0 when their low-ranked opponents climbed back to 4-3

and they were still in 'visible' distance at the beginning of the second period at 7-4.

There another match began as the Greeks raised their game at both ends: the remaining part went to them with 14-1 (note their 9 for 9 in extraman ? it's a feat in any game). Though it wasn't a contest, the home crowd enjoyed the show and cheered loudly after each goal as some of them were spectacular.

This win keeps the Greeks on the top of Group B and only a 4+ goals defeat against China can remove them from there.

Gergely Csurka, FINA Media Committee

The second day's morning session already saw two outstanding matches. First, Australia overcame China and its disappointment after the previous evening's bad defeat against Greece. What seemed to be an easy game after three periods when the Aussies were 9-5 up, turned into a nailbiter as China came back to 9-8 and had two minutes to equalise but couldn't score any more.

The Aussies were on the rise against China - Credit: Apostolos Zacharakis

Italy held the Canadians on two goals in the last three periods, so after the first period's scoring festival the Italians earned a fine 8-5 win. That sent them directly to the quarter-finals as they already booked the top spot in Group C.

In the other two matches Serbia beat Slovakia 11-8 to secure its berth in the crossover matches, while the USA downed New Zealand 11-4 and faces a last and crucial group clash against Spain.

The afternoon session began with a big-margin win for Spain, over Croatia (18-2) and it continued the same way despite the second game featured the Netherlands and Hungary. However, what's usually a great match-up in women's tourneys, sometimes can be different in age-group level. Currently the Dutch field a much better team than the Magyars and they didn't give any chance for their rivals as they won quite comfortably (14-4). This was also enough to earn the first place in Group A and a berth in the quarters.

Launching another rocket... A scene from the game from the Netherlands and Hungary

During sunset Japan also went down against the Russians in a spectacular high-scoring contest where the Russians set a single-period scoring record by netting 8 in the closing quarter, including a last-second 14m blast which marked their 20th hit in the afternoon. The last match of the day brought a similar scenario, Greece routed the South Africans 21-5 and also heads to the best eight, though they have some task against China in the last round of the prelims.

Standings after two rounds

Group A

1. Netherlands 4, 2. Russia 2, 3. Hungary 2, 4. Japan 0

Group B

1. Greece 4, 2. Australia 2, 3. China 2, 4. South Africa 0

Group C

1. Italy 4, 2. Canada 2, 3. Serbia 2, 4. Slovakia 0

Group D

1. USA 4, 2. Spain 4, 2. New Zealand 0, 4. Croatia 0
