

USA and Netherlands top FINA Women's Water Polo World League Super Final groups

Match 9, 15:00, Group B, RUSSIA 7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 10
Results & Teams

Match 9, 15:00, Group B, RUSSIA 7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 10

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

Referees: Ivanka Rakovic-Krstonosic (SRB), Jaume Teixido (ESP)

Extra Man: RUS: 3/9. USA: 6/8.

Penalties: USA: 2/2.

Teams:

RUSSIA: Anastasia Verkhoglyadova, Veronika Vakhitova, Ekaterina Prokofyeva (1), Elvina Karimova, Maria Borisova, Olga Gorbunova, Alena Serzhantova (1), Anastasia Simanovich (1), Anna Timofeeva, Nataliya Churzina, Evgeniya Ivanova (2), Daria Ryzhkova (2), Anna Karnaukh. Head Coach: Alexander Gaydukov.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Ashleigh Johnson, Brigitta Games (1), Melissa Seidemann (2), Rachel Fattal, Paige Hauschild (1), Margaret Steffens (1), Kaleigh Gilchrist, Kiley Neushul (2), Aria Fischer (1), Jamie Neushul (1), Stephanie Haralabidis (1), Alys Williams, Gabrielle Stone. Head Coach: Adam Krikorian.

Report

USA kept a clean sheet in the round matches with a strong win over Russia and built mainly on extra-man attack, two penalty strikes and forcing errors. Russia had the worse of the contra-foul situations and allowed USA to score six from eight on extra, a magnificent conversion in any level of the game. Russia worked well to match USA in the opening quarter, leading 2-1 thanks to the effervescent Evgenia Ivanova. Stephanie Haralabidis scored in action with two minutes remaining for the equaliser. Two more goals for USA in the third gave a small advantage. A three-goal burst in the third set the tone for USA, but Russia pulled it back to 6-5 before giving up two late scores from Melissa Seidemann and Kiley Neushul. Goals were traded in the fourth with Anastasia Simanovich bringing it to 9-7 at 4:08, close enough to force a shootout. However, two minutes later, Paige Hauschild converted the sixth extra for USA and the match was decided.



Pictures: Russell McKinnon

Quotes

Adam Krikorian (USA) — Head Coach

“Russia played tough and they do many different things. They have one of the best players in the world in Ekaterina (Prokofyeva) and a bunch of players are physical. Russia has an unorthodox style, like Japan, and it takes time adjusting. We handled it well, but we were not that sharp. It’s important learning from each game we play.”

Andrey Belofastov (RUS) — Assistant Coach

“It was a very good game. We started well and it was 2-2 in the first period. We had very good defence, but there were too many contra fouls on attack for one team — 14. It’s too much. We lost to a very good team.

We played much better than yesterday and against Canada (on Monday). We have to play Spain tomorrow, so we have to get better. Our man down (defence) was not so good today. They scored six from eight. However, it was a very good game experience against the US.”

Match 10, 16:30, Group A, SPAIN 10 AUSTRALIA 9
Results & Teams

Match 10, 16:30, Group A, SPAIN 10 AUSTRALIA 9

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

Referees: Adil Aimbetov (KAZ), Steven Rotsart (USA)

Extra Man: ESP: 3/10. AUS: 1/5.

Penalties: ESP: 1/1. AUS: 0/1.

Teams:

SPAIN: Laura Esta, Marta Bach (1), Anna Espar (2), Beatriz Ortiz (3), Matilde Ortiz (1), Helena Lloret (1), Clara Espar, Pilar Pena, Judith Forca, Anna Gual, Maica Garcia (1), Paula Leiton (1), Elena Sanchez. Head Coach: Miguel Oca.

AUSTRALIA: Lilian Hedges, Madeleine Steere (1), Hannah Buckling (2), Elle Armit, Isobel Bishop (2), Bronwen Knox (1), Pascalle Casey, Amy Ridge (3), Zoe Arancini, Jess Zimmerman, Morgan Baxter, Lena Mihailovic, Gabriella Palm. Head Coach: Athanasios Kechagias.

Report



A three-goal, third-quarter haul in 101 seconds proved a critical turning point in this close encounter. That, a missed penalty attempt by Australia and better extra-man statistics, gave Spain an excellent second victory. When three goals behind three minutes into the third period, Spain struck back with a vengeance through Anna Espar with a penalty strike, Beatriz Ortiz on counter and Espar again from the field for 8-8. Australia managed to take the lead once again through Amy Ridge with a lob for her third goal. It was Ridge who took the Aussie Stingers back into the lead at the end of the first quarter for 4-3. Australia went to 7-4 before Marta Bach pulled one back from a long cross pass on extra to close the third. Ridge did more damage on extra for 8-5, three minutes into the third period before Spain struck gold. Three minutes into the final period Spain levelled for the third time through Matilde Ortiz at centre

forward. There was desperate defence at both ends and it came down to a shot in the dying seconds from an unguarded player at the point that led to the winning goal. Palm tipped the ball left and Spain had another attack. It sped out the top to Beatriz Ortiz, who made no mistake with the winner less than four seconds from time. Australia's shot was smacked down and it remained winless after three matches. Both teams started with No 13 in goal with Gabriella Palm staying the course and Elena Sanchez being replaced early in the second quarter.



Pictures: Russell McKinnon

Quotes

Miguel Oca (ESP) — Head Coach

“This was a very difficult game and I am very happy with the victory with three seconds left. They (Australia) were good. We improved our defence in the third and fourth periods and this made us win the game in the end. Like yesterday (against Netherlands when 4-0 down) losing all the game and the girls still like to win. Maybe you never surrender.”

Athanasios Kechagias (AUS) — Head Coach

“We had our ups and downs, but it is how we manage all these situations that matter. Lessons we can learn and keep going through the good and bad. We controlled most of the game. There were some good moments but with that those three goals for them to level (8-8) we lost concentration. But all the games are lessons for us. It's good for us. Now we have a game plan and we want to stick to that plan. We are building the team and we have rules. I am satisfied with all the girls.”

Match 11, 18:00, Group B, CANADA 13 JAPAN 4
Results & Teams

Match 11, 18:00, Group B, CANADA 13 JAPAN 4

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

Referees: Ursula Wengenroth (SUI), Ziliang Chen (CHN)

Extra Man: CAN: 4/8. JPN: 1/5.

Penalties: CAN: 2/2. JPN: 1/1.

Teams:

CANADA:

Claire Wright, Krystina Alogbo (2), Axelle Crevier (1), Emma Wright, Monika Eggens (4), Kelly McKee, Joelle Bekhazi (1), Elyse Lemay-Lavoie (2), Hayley McKelvey (1), Gurdreet Sohi, Kindred Paul (1), Shae Fournier (1), Clara Vulpisi. Head Coach: Haris Pavlidis.

JAPAN: Minami Shioya, Yumi Arima (2), Akari Inaba, Shino Magariyama, Chiaki Sakanoue (1), Minori Yamamoto, Maiko Hashida, Yuki Niizawa, Kana Hosoya, Misaki Noro, Marina Tokumoto, Kotori Suzuki (1), Miyuu Aoki. Head Coach: Makihiro Motomiya.

Report



Match Report:

It was Canada all the way until the last minute of the first half when Yumi Arima burst the banks with Japan's first goal when already eight behind. It was a quick conversion of extra-man attack that caught Canada off guard. Previously, Canada enjoyed a solid flow of goals with Monika Eggens with three, captain Krystina Alogbo with the second and third from centre forward and fellow two-metre player Elyse Lemay-Lavoie netting twice, either side of Arima's effort. Japanese captain Kotori Suzuki (penalty) and Arima scored back-to-back goals to trim the difference to 9-3 in the third before Canada finished the period at 11-3 through Axelle Crevier on extra and Kindred Paul from the penalty line. For Japan to level the quarter after a torrid first half was some redemption. The tightness continued in the final quarter, although Canada did spray some open goals, which could have made the margin even bigger. To lose by only one goal in the second half is what Japan is capable of in the top echelon.



Pictures: Russell McKinnon

Quotes

Cora Campbell (CAN) — Assistant Coach

“It’s always exciting playing a team with a different style. It allows you to try new and different things. At 8-0 up the hardest thing is to try and keep up the pace. Once ahead we kept our motivation. We still have lots to work on. The best thing was the way we started. In the Intercontinental Cup (in April), Japan was 2-0 (at the start). Finally we’ve figured out how to start.”

Suguru Hamada (JPN) — Team Leader

“In the Intercontinental Cup the result was 13-15. Canada is much more powerful. Number 8 (Elyse Lemay-Lavoie) and Number 2 (Krystina Alogbo) are much stronger than our girls. Number 5 (Monika Eggens) is also very strong with her shooting and interceptions. The main problem was definitely the first quarter because Japan players are not very fast swimmers. At halftime our coach told the girls to be quicker on offence and not allow the Canadian passes. The third quarter was also very good.”

Match 12, 19:30, Group A, CHINA 7 NETHERLANDS 10
Results & Teams

Match 12, 19:30, Group A, CHINA 7 NETHERLANDS 10

Quarters: 2-2, 2-5, 2-2, 1-1.

Referees: Maro Savinovic (CRO), Svetlana Dreval (RUS)

Extra Man: CHN: 2/5. NED: 1/3.

Penalties: NED: 1/2.

Teams:

CHINA: Lin Peng, Xinyan Wang, Jiawen Lu, Ying Zhai, Guannan Niu (2), Ning Guo, SanFeng Nong, Cong Zhang, Huan Wang (1), DanYi Zhang (2), Xiao Chen, Jing Zhang (2), YiNeng Shen. Head Coach: Dali Gong.

NETHERLANDS: Laura Aarts, Roseanne Voorvelt, Dagmar Genee (1), Catharina van der Sloot (2), Kitty-Lynn Joustra, Iris Wolves (1), Bente Rogge, Vivian Sevenich (2), Maud Megens (3), Ilse Koolhaas, Simone van de Kraats (1), Brigitte Sleeking, Debby Willemrz. Head Coach: Arno Havenga.

Report



Match Report:

Netherlands secured group supremacy with a tough victory against a determined China. The 5-2 second

quarter set the team up to work through the final two quarters and claim the all-important top spot. China levelled twice in the opening quarter and the Maud Megens claimed her second from the top on extra to set the ball in motion. Catharina van der Sloot sent one in from the left-hand-catch position, hitting the wood and bouncing in off the goalkeeper's back. Iris Wolves netted three minutes later and Netherlands was 5-2 ahead. With a pair from Guannan Niu and Huan Wang — on extra and from the top — China was back in the game at 5-4. However, Vivian Sevenich increased the margin and the Dutch gained a three-goal buffer when coach Arno Havenga called a timeout with less than six seconds remaining and engineered a shot with van der Sloot netting in the last second. It went out to 8-4 at the start of the fourth, but Dan Yi Zhang scored twice in two minutes. Megens converted a penalty for her third at 2:10 for 9-6. Jing Zhang opened the fourth-period scoring and Genee responded. Van der Sloot could have made it a four-goal advantage except for hitting the crossbar on penalty at 5:47. China's expeditions into Dutch waters were fraught with errors and lost balls while at the other end Netherlands peppered the goal with Number 13, YiNeng Shen, stopping a handful and the defence chipping in with deflections in what was a low-fouling match. One of Netherlands' many attributes was snapping up loose ball quickly, creating many chances. China put a couple on target in the dying minutes, only to fall to the Dutch and not conquer and create a three-way tie at the top. Three quarters equalled and just that one blowout was the difference in the match. The quarterfinals should prove most interesting.



Pictures: Russell McKinnon

Quotes

Arno Havenga (NED) — Head Coach

“We played better this week than tonight. Tonight it was important to win and top the group. We want to go to the quarterfinals and compete for the championship. Every day is a new match, new opponent and new strategy. We knew how difficult China was and how much they have improved. They really made it tough for us. Our man-down (defence) did not work so well. We know that the championship starts tomorrow.”

Weiqing Ge (CHN) — Assistant Coach

“In the second quarter we lost concentration on defence. It was a good start with the young team thinking of offence (and not defence). Holland is very good. The game was very correct for us. We get more experience and for us we will be better (in the) next game. This is the best offence we have scored (against Netherlands) — seven goals. We included a lot of perfect scores and it will give us confidence, especially for our young players. We must keep the feeling until the next game.”

Russell McKinnon, FINA Media Committee Member

Kunshan, China, May 30.— United States of America topped Group B on the third day of the FINA Women’s Water Polo World League Super Final at the Kunshan Sports Centre on Wednesday.

After a slow start, USA kept ahead of Russia for the rest of the match and converted an incredible six from eight on extra-man attack.

In the final match of the group, Canada romped to 8-0 before beating Japan 13-4, thanks to four goals from Monika Eggens in the first 10 minutes. Canada secured second spot behind USA and Russia took third and Japan fourth.

In Group A, Spain scored inside the last four seconds to secure a come-from-behind 10-9 victory over Australia. Beatriz Ortiz netted her third goal with the winner, with the previous advantage back at 2-1.

In the final match, Netherlands took out top spot with a 10-7 defeat of China, the difference being a three-goal advantage in the second quarter and China had to settle for third.

Final Points:

Group A: Netherlands 9, Spain 6, China 3, Australia 0.

Group B: USA 9, Canada 6, Russia 3, Japan 0.

Thursday Schedule:

Crossovers (Quarterfinals) — *China match subject to possible change*

15:00, ESP v RUS

16:30, CHN v CAN

18:00, NED v JPN

19:30, AUS v USA
