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## USA-Russia, Canada-Netherlands in Water Polo Super Final semifinals

Match 13, 15:00, SPAIN 11 RUSSIA 12 in penalty shootout (FT: 8-8. Pens 3-4). +

Results & Teams +

**Match 13, 15:00, SPAIN 11 RUSSIA 12 in penalty shootout (FT: 8-8. Pens 3-4).**

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

Referees: Ursula Wengenroth (SUI), Diana Dutilh-Dumas (NED)

Extra Man: ESP: 1/10. RUS: 2/13

Penalties: Nil.

**Teams:**

**SPAIN:** Laura Esta, Marta Bach, Anna Espar (2), Beatriz Ortiz, Matilde Ortiz (1), Helena Lloret (3 +1), Clara

Espar, Pilar Pena, Judith Forca, Anna Gual (+1), Maica Garcia (2 +1), Paula Leiton, Elena Sanchez. Head Coach: Miguel Oca.

**RUSSIA:** Anastasia Verkhoglyadova, Veronika Vakhitova, Ekaterina Prokofyeva (+1), Elvina Karimova (+1),

Maria Borisova (1), Olga Gorbunova (+1), Alena Serzhantova, Anastasia Simanovich (2), Anna Timofeeva (1), Nataliya Churzina (1), Evgeniya Ivanova (1), Daria Ryzhkova (2 +1), Anna Karnaukh. Head Coach: Alexander Gaydukov.

## Report



To give up a three-goal lead in the final quarter is unforgiveable. To then fail to win the penalty shootout, unlucky, such is the inexact science of the event. Spain controlled much of the match and but for a two-minute period could now be readying for Friday's semifinals. Not so. Russia will be wondering how it managed to let the match slip so far and then regain it enough to survive the shootout. Russia had the better of the opening quarter, while Spain looked the more determined and stronger team in the second, although levelling the eight minutes. That positive atmosphere in the Spanish camp went well into the third period. Spain took the first lead and tied the match 3-3 with three minutes left in the half and again at 1:02. Spain regained parity early in the third and went ahead at 3:38. Spain's offence revolved around Helena Lloret converting extra man, Anna Espar from the outside and Maica Garcia at centre forward. Russia relied on a tightly structured extra-man attack,

which has served well all week. Daria Ryzhkova struck twice from deep right with her second goal slipping through the usually reliable hands of Laura Ester. Spain is particularly dangerous close in and Matilde Ortiz received a heavily defended ball across the cage to score a metre from the line, a minute short of time, for a handsome 7-5 advantage. Lloret scored her third at 4:54 in the fourth as Spain calmly kept passing after the exclusion period had expired to go to 8-5. Then Russia struck — three goals, to level at 8-8, with Simanovich, Evgeniya Ivanova and Maria Borisova striking within two minutes. Each side had an opportunity in the final minute with Spain's shot hitting the stomach of the Russian goalkeeper and Ekaterina Prokofyeva's pressured last attempt also being snapped up by the goalkeeper. This meant a penalty shootout. Spain's first two attempts met with a Russian hand, as did the second Russian attempt. The next six were converted and Russia moved into the semifinals and Spain the play-offs for fifth to eighth. The extra-man count was more a tribute to the defence than poor shooting, although pressure made some shots go wide.







**Andrey Belofastov (RUS) — Assistant Coach**

“The most important thing is that we did a big comeback in the last quarter — three goals to level the match was really good. But today we had two probably extra-man goals not go in because of bad passing and we missed two goals at centre forward for Spain. We must be lucky because we won the penalties 5-4. We are happy to be in the finals but not happy with our totality. It is very hard to win a game like this.”

Match 15, 16:30, NETHERLANDS 18 JAPAN 7



## Results &amp; Teams

**Match 15, 16:30, NETHERLANDS 18 JAPAN 7**

Quarters: 2-1, 6-1, 4-3, 6-2

Referees: William MacKay (CAN), Nicola Johnson (AUS)

Extra Man: NED: 6/8. JPN: 0/8.

Penalties: NED: 0/1. JPN: 0/1.

**Teams:**

**NETHERLANDS:** Laura Aarts, Roseanne Voorvelt (1), Dagmar Genee (1), Catharina van der Sloot (1), Kitty-

Lynn Joustra (2), Iris Wolves (1), Bente Rogge (2), Vivian Sevenich (1), Maud Megens (5), Ilse Koolhaas (1), Simone van de Kraats (3), Brigitte Sleeking, Debby Willemrz. Head Coach: Arno Havenga.

**JAPAN:** Minami Shioya, Yumi Arima, Akari Inaba (1), Shino Magariyama, Chiaki Sakanoue (1), Minori

Yamamoto (1), Maiko Hashida (1), Yuki Niizawa (1), Kana Hosoya, Misaki Noro (1), Marina Tokumoto, Kotori Suzuki (1), Miyuu Aoki. Head Coach: Makihiko Motomiya.

## Report



Despite the opening quarter, Netherlands was always going to win this encounter, with the Japanese struggling to match it with the bigger athletes. Determination was never in question, but the second quarter was a telling factor in how the rest of the match would flow. Maud Megens was her usual forceful self when scoring, having four by the last break and fired in a fifth on counter with a minute remaining and Simone van de Kraats enjoyed scoring on extra-man attack. For the Dutch it was a chance to try tactics ahead of the semifinals and to get every player in the pool, tasting top-class action. For Japan, it is another step to Tokyo 2020. Six players scored as the Japanese printed, drove, fought on defence and tried everything to stop the juggernaut Netherlands.



