

WP World Cup (W), Surgut, Day 3: USA, Russia and New Zealand win in style

Game 9. NZL vs. RSA 10-4 (2-2, 3-0, 2-1, 3-1)

Results & Teams

Game 9. NZL  vs. RSA  10-4 (2-2, 3-0, 2-1, 3-1)

Referees: Meng (CHN), Teixido (ESP)

Extra Man: NZL 5/11, RSA 1/7

Penalty: NZL 0/0, RSA 1/2

Best player of the match: Emmerson Joy Houghton (NZL)

NEW ZEALAND: Jessica Ann Milicich, Isabella Frances Lattey Morrison, Bernadette Gabrielle Doyle (2), Alexandra Rose Boyd, Emily Charlotte Nicholson (1), Emmerson Joy Houghton (3), Katie Mary McKenty, Grace Elizabeth Hume Tobin (1), Morgan Leigh McDowall (2), Kirsten Patricia Hudson, Kate Janelle Enoka (1).

SOUTH AFRICA: Daniela Maria Passoni, Bianca Ann Prinsloo, Kieren-Ashleigh Paley (1), Nicola Emma Macleod, Georgia Janice Moir, Hallendorff Amica, Christine Elizabeth Abrahamse, Hanna Gail Muller, Zandre Smit (2), Claire Ann Whyte, Kelsey White (1).

Report

South Africa handed New Zealand their first 2018 World Cup win in Surgut, and the head coach of the defeated squad knew right away why. Jason Sileno's side fought hard and created good chances, but could not make use of the moments earned. Eventual winners were certainly challenged in the first and partially in the second quarters, as they opened the score first (via a penalty shot, done by Kelsey White), and then trailed at 1-1 and 2-2.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

The crucial moment for the young rising team came at the height of the period. Once conceding 3 goals to go in a gloom, they grew stumbled. Determination called to save up their best for the second half, and got prepared to gain there a better control. The scheme was easier said than done though, and a large break talk of the master did not work as well. Zandre Smith, the only scoring gun against US team on Competition day 2, was again alone fruiting. She contributed 2 uneasy goals marking each quartet left in the game. New Zealand ladies scored 4 times more to finish on a comfortable lead at 10-4.

The best player of the match for the first time in Surgut belonged to “kiwis”. Emmerson Joy Houghton was also a top-scorer there, finishing on 3 goals.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Quotes

Angela Winstanely-Smith, team New Zealand head coach:

We are happy to win. This is a good result for us. South Africa fought really hard, especially in the first half, and on our side, we had a lot of problems defensively. Then the girls showed their character. Our plan for today's game was to be better disciplined in attack. We knew it will be a long game. We could expect that the game would be close and we would have to come it through. There were a number of important players, which we focused when getting ready for the game. Girls played with a lot of heart, and I congratulate them on the win.

Tomorrow, in the quarter-finals, we will play one of the best teams in the world. We have watched a lot of video of our possible quarterfinal opponents, and we have developed a strategy plan, which we are going to show on site tomorrow.

Jason Sileno, team South Africa head coach:

It was a very difficult game. New Zealand is a good team. We played very well in the first quarter, in the second quarter – not so much. There was a big difference in the third quarter. we had many exclusions, we were pressing New Zealand, we had a penalty shot, but we did not score the advantages. The problem was definitely in the third quarter. we had a lot of shots, and did not convert our chances. To recover in the game in the fourth quarter was too a difficult task. However, I am proud of my team. We tried very hard. We did some very good things. And unfortunately some of the execution was not perfect. There were a lot of minor faults, which made the big difference.

We shall meet Russia tomorrow in the quarter-finals. They are playing at home, and we are expecting a tough game. We will come back to the swimming pool tomorrow and we fight hard. We shall be strong to be competitive against such an opponent.

Game 10. AUS vs. ESP 8-8 (2-1, 4-3, 1-3, 1-1)
Results & Teams

Game 10. AUS  vs. ESP  8-8 (2-1, 4-3, 1-3, 1-1)

Referees: Severo (ITA), Willis (RSA)

Extra Man: AUS 4/9, ESP 5/8

Best player of the match: Beatrice Ortiz Munos (CAN)

AUSTRALIA: Lilian Hedges, Keesja Gofers, Hannah Buckling (2), Bronte Halligan, Isobel Bishop (2), Bronnen Knox, Rowie Webster (2), Amy Ridge (1), Zoe Arancini (1), Morgan Baxter, Gabriella Palm.

SPAIN: Laura Ester Ramos, Marta Bach Pascual, Anna Espar Llaquet (1), Beatriz Ortiz Munoz (4), Matilde Ortiz Reyes, Helena Lloret Gomez (2), Clara Espar Llaquet, Pilar Pena Carrasco (1), Anna Gual Roviroza, Paula Crespi Barriga, Paula Leiton Arrones (1).

Report

The first and the only tie of the FINA Women's Water Polo Cup 2018 registered the most engaging encounter between Australia and Spain. Defending silver holders of the 5th continent were pace-setting all the way through to the last quarter. European #3 and world #2 got energized once realizing they are on the

wrong way to have the more difficult quarterfinal's opponent, the team of Canada. Drilled by Chinese on Competition Day 2, Red Fury managed to reach "pari". They could have done more to win the game, provided more they did more care defensively.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Miguel Angel Oca's side showed their trum cards early in the beginning, and kicked off the glass in the man-up. Best player of the yesterday's game Beatrice Ortiz was en route to another prize, assisted by Clara Espar. Australian' response came 3 minutes later, it was a beautiful power shot in the upper right hole. The dish was served by Hannah Buckling and duly performed by Zoe Arancini, 1-1. Then teams were trailing till the midst of the next quarter, 2-2 and 4-3, which turned out to be the start point for Athanasios Kechagias coached side to dig out the margin. Australian power forwards prevailed in tight combats, played full court defense and did not let Spanish unfold their guns, which were not that efficient at the second line shooting, 6-3 at 0,40 seconds left in the first half. That was however the biggest difference in the match seen. Bea finally sorted out the way to combat her marker and converted her 2nd shooting line "goal to the gloom", 6-4.



The third quarter saw a "Spanish revival". They gradually improved on defensive play, and it was the turn for "Aussie stringers" to toll the alarm bell. Helena Gomez, Pilar Pena (both in extra) and again Beatrice Ortiz (in action), for the third time already, made it a tie, 7-7. They even turned one up in the last quarter, but

could not keep to the new role. The buzzer came right in the rush-minute for Australians, which did not fruited their last hope powerplay challenge, 8-8.

Quotes

Miguel Angel Oca, team Spain head coach:

We could not break their defense. They have very good defenders. They made brave personal efforts. Then we have improved our actions offensively, we have added to the movements, which gave us some advantage. In the end we had a chance to go one up, but did not. Well, it was a very good game. Provided we rank second in the group, we will play New Zealand, which will give us some benefits. It is much better to come across New Zealand than crossing Canada. We shall watch a lot of video tonight.

Palm Gabriella, team Australia #13, goalkeeper:

It was a difficult game against Spain. We know our opponent pretty well. It was pretty close either way, this is why teams were trailing and in the end we could not define the winner. We had been quite consistent all the way up to the final buzzer. There was a little too much swimming at the close, which took us much energy. We can expect, that the next game will also be a very difficult one as we are set to face Canada.

Game 11. USA vs. CAN 17-3 (2-0, 2-1, 9-2, 4-0)

Results & Teams

Game 11. USA  vs. CAN  17-3 (2-0, 2-1, 9-2, 4-0)

Referees: Naumov (RUS), Johnson (AUS)

Extra Man: USA 4/7, CAN 1/7

Penalty: USA 2/2, CAN 1/1

Best player of the match: Margaret Steffens (USA)

USA: Ashleigh Johnson, Jordan Raney (2), Stephanie Haralabidis (3), Rachel Fattal (1), Paige Hauschild (3), Margaret Steffens (3), Kiley Neushul (2), Aria Fischer (1), Makenzie Fischer (2), Alys Williams (1).

CANADA: Claire Dawn Wright, Krystina Alogbo (1), Axelle Crevier, Emma Louise Wright (2), Monika Catharina Eggens, Kelly Blair McKee, Joelle Bekhazi, Elyse Lemay Lavoie, Hayley Ann McKelvey, Kindred Ayre Paul, Shae Chantal Fournier.

Report

Reigning Olympic, World, World Cup and World League champions USA eased past Canadians 17-3 for their third straight victory at the FINA Women's Water Polo World Cup 2018. First spot in the group "B" was on the table when rookie Americans and their spiritual North American neighbors jumped into the pool to open the afternoon program. Following a series of one-sided clashes to warm-up, the teams had finally staged a clinch between themselves. But the denouement came as a rout, which none could have foreseen. It looked as it was too much for Canadians to concede and too easy for Americans to collect.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Opponents fought hard and went neck-to-neck in the first quarters, 2-0, 2-1, but then USA got a clear message they were ready for a take-off. In the third term, they shone bright with a great defensive performance, full court pressing and irreproachable Ashleigh Johnson always on guard at the goals, and won it by 9-2. It was not a coincidence though, and Canadians did not recover. The scoring storm went on to produce 4 more easy goals. Theoharis Pavlidis side did not invent any remedy against their mighty neighbour, suffering the largest loss they have recently got.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Defeat is never easy, though better had in prelims with some room for conclusions left. Canadians lost a lot and at the same time got off some scotfree. They just finished 2nd in the group B, handing out to the USA the right and honor be placed on top and face the easiest challenge in the 1/4 finals .

Quotes

Margaret Steffens, team USA #6, best player of the match, 3 goals:

It was definitely a very competitive game. We struggled a bit with our offense in the very beginning, finding holes. In the third quarter we came out really strong. Canada has a great defense, and a lot of our shots were blocked. We knew we were going to pick up our game in the second half. Canada is one of the toughest teams out here. We are always expecting a close game against them. No matter whatever tough it is we always try to be the best.

Emma Louise Wright, team Canada #4, 2 goals:

We know our opponents very well. We knew how they were going to play against us, there were no major surprises. We could expect they would be very strong and press us hard. This was on our side. We did not show our best. We obviously wanted a different outcome in this game. Americans showed a good game today. And we are going to draw conclusions and come back more stronger. Tomorrow we will play Australia, which are no easy opponent at all. It will be important for us to have a good mindset.

Theoharis Pavlidis, team Canada head coach:

In the first half we played a very good defense, and the score difference was low. In the third period we lost our concentration. USA scored 3 goals during one minute and thirty seconds, that means we could not control the rhythm and the flow of the game. It is a very bad result for us. I hope, this result will give us a new impetus for perfecting. We shall change our mentality, because with this mentality we can not be competitive.

Game 12. CHN vs. RUS 11-19 (3-5, 3-5, 2-6, 3-3)

Results & Teams

Game 12. CHN  vs. RUS  11-19 (3-5, 3-5, 2-6, 3-3)

Referees: Zwart (NED), Deslieres (CAN)

Extra Man: CHN 2/7 RUS 2/3

Penalty: CHN 1/1 RUS 0/0

Best player of the match: Maria Bersneva (RUS)

CHINA: Lin Peng, Ying Zhai (2), Xiaohan Mei (1), Dunhan Xiong, Xinyan Wang (1), Nong Guo (2), Sanfeng Nong, Wang Huan (1), Panyi Zhang, Xiao Chen (1), Jing Zhang (3).

RUSSIA: Anastasiia Verkhoglyadova, Maria Bersneva(5), Ekaterina Prokofyeva (3), Elvina Karimova (1), Tatiana Zubkova (2), Olga Gorbunova (3), Alena Serzhantova (1), Anastasia Simanovich (2), Evgeniia Soboleva, Evgeniia Ivanova(2), Daria Ryzhkova.

Report

Russia has done it! Once again led by their rising scorer Maria Bersneva, hosts won last encounter at the prelims. Playing China, always strong and unpredictable, Aleksandr Gaidukov and Andrey Belofastov coached side showed determination and strength, something that has brought them a 4 point lead by the end of the first half, 6-10. Although the Asian team managed to show itself for a few moments in the third part,

they couldn't deal with the steadily growing advance of the local hopes, 8-16. The fourth period turned out to be a fight as Dali Gong's team gave up never. They were pressing in defense and creating chances and counterattacking, but the only fruit they reached was finishing the quarter at 3-3 and the game 11-19 overall for the team Russia.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

The go-in lady of the day was definitely Maria Berseneva on 5 goals. Captain Ekaterina Prokofieva and Olga Gorbunova, which was named the best in the game against Australia on competition day 2, scored 3 goals apiece. The best of Chinese – Yinh Zhai and Ning Guo contributed 2 apiece, which was not much competitive. Prelims have placed them 4th and their luckier challenger topping the group A. Quarter-finals will now see them competing in two different clashes, testing American spirit for one, and South Africa for the other occasion respectively.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Quotes

Ge Weiqing, team China assistant coach:

It was a difficult game. To play Russia is always difficult. Like the day before, we took a good start, and then lost focus and concentration. We still have to analyze these two cases and see what exactly has happened. We tried to get the ball, we tried to play contra, we tried to be accurate defensively, but due to some reasons were not very much successful. At the same time, I think, that our players did better than in the previous games. We managed to score 10 goals, which is a big thing against Russia. We will draw the right conclusions from this defeat to be better competitive in the finals.

Maria Bersneva, team Russia #2, best player of the match, 5 goals:

I liked the way we played today. We had good mood for the match against China, owing to the previous two wins we managed to clinch in encounters with the major challengers. We know Chinese very well indeed. We had been training and playing friendly games all the summer long together, and it was a good advantage and the main shortcoming for either sides. We were mentally ready for what they offered, so did they about us. This was a good day in the office for me personally, I feel privileged to be named the best player of the match, but this would never be possible without teamwork. The same is about my 5 goals. We have a great team and we feel chemistry, which would love to showcase further on passing through the finals.

Olga Kamardina, FINA correspondent in Russia

Group phase of the 2018 FINA Women's Water Polo World Cup finished on Thursday. Host Russia and world No. 1 USA both pass to the quarter-finals with impeccable 3-0 win-loss record in Pools A and B. Routing uneasy China and Canada with their last group's encounters, they have already got prepared towards decisive games. On Friday, they will play South Africans and Chinese respectively, which ranked lowly fourth on 0 points earned. Mid-placement clashes must showcase two engaging match-ups, featuring defending medalists of 2014: runners-up Australia will meet Canada, and 2014 bronze holders Spain shall test New Zealand. There are no clear favorites in this stories, and agitation and excitement builds on as the competitions progress. Seats were already sold out ahead of schedule, registering over 1000 locals and city guests watching women water polo live, mapping its new location.



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

FINA Women's Water Polo World Cup 2018

Competition results

Day 3, 6 September, 2018

Match #9. 15:00 NZL 🇳🇿 vs. RSA 🇷🇦 10-4 (2-2, 3-0, 2-1, 3-1)

Match #10. 16:30 AUS 🇦🇺 vs. ESP 🇪🇸 8-8 (2-1, 4-3, 1-3, 1-1)

Match #11. 18:00 USA 🇺🇸 vs. CAN 🇨🇦 17-3 (2-0, 2-1, 9-2, 4-0)

Match #12. 19:30 CHN 🇨🇳 vs. RUS 🇷🇺 11-19 (3-5, 3-5, 2-6, 3-3)



Photo: Credit to UgraMegaSport

Progress points after Competition Day 3

Group A:

1. Russia – 6 pts, 2. Spain – 3 pts, 3. Australia – 3 pts, 4. China – 0 pts.

Group B:

1. USA – 6 pts, 2. Canada – 4 pts, 3. New Zealand – 2 pts, 4. RSA – 0 pts.

Competition schedule

Day 4, 7 September, 2018 / Quarter-finals

Match #13. 15:00 2A – 3B ESP  vs. NZL 

Match #14. 16:30 3A – 2B AUS  vs. CAN 

Match #16. 18:00 1A – 4B CHN  vs. USA 

Match #15. 19:30 4A – 1B RUS  vs. RSA 
