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Berlin 2018, Day 4: Australia kicks out Croatia from the semis

Water Polo Berlin

Hungary kicks off strong against Japan

World silver medallist in 2017 at home, Hungary entered the semi-finals by defeating the US Team 10:8 (5:2, 1:1, 3:3, 1:2). After a strong first quarter, the Hungarian team had to fight during the remaining time of the game. After two quarters fighting head to head, the American team could win the last quarter, however could not turn the game around. Best scorer was Bence Batori (HUN) with three goals.



HUN vs USA - Photo credit: Sportphoto.shop

Seventh at the World Championships last year, Australia caught many by surprise on Friday by defeating World champion Croatia in a stunning match resulting in a final score of 9:8 (1:1, 4:4, 2:2, 2:1). Until the middle of the third quarter, none of the teams seemed to be stronger. They kept fighting head to head taking turns in the lead.

It was after 2.27 minutes of the third quarter that Croatia managed to take the lead with two goals, in turn breaking the spell of Australia. The Australian team fought back and retightened (7:7) with goals by Lachlan Edwards und Aaron Younger.

The last attack, which was decisive for the outcome of the match, was scored by Joe Kayes 59 seconds before the end of the game.



AUS vs CRO - Photo credit: Sportphoto.shop

Serbia still going strong

The Olympic champion Serbia is still going strong and also emerged as the winner of the quarter-final. The team around coach Dejan Savic won 12:7 (2:3, 6:2, 3:1, 1:1) against the Japanese team, who ranked 10th in the World Championships.

Yet, Japan started-off strong and even finished the first quarter with a one-goal lead. The Olympic champion did not wait long to strike back and managed an 8:5 lead. A three-goal difference which they were able to keep until the end of the match.

Best scorers were Keigo Okawa (JPN) and Dusan Mandic (SRB) with four goals each.



SRB vs JPN - Photo credit: Sportphoto.shop

Germany enters semi-finals and secures ticket to World Championships

With a 24:5 (7:3, 5:1, 7:0, 5:1) against South Africa, the German team makes their entry into the semi-finals quartet. They did not just win this match but also secured their ticket to the FINA World Championships 2019 in Gwangju (KOR).

“It is important that we made it this far. We are back, this is important.”, explains national coach Hagen Stamm. “We are happy that we have the chance to attend such a great tournament on my home turf here in Berlin and successfully qualify for the World Championships”.

Only 2.54 minutes into the game, Germany was already in the lead with five goals. Therefore, Hagen Stamm was very pleased as his team never showed any signs of not being able to decide this game in their favour. Best scorers were Maurice Jüngling (five goals) as well as Mateo Cuk and Marin Restovic with four goals each.



GER vs RSA - Photo credit: Sportphoto.shop

On Saturday, USA vs. Japan (14:00 hrs) and Croatia vs. South Africa (15:30 hrs) will be fighting for the places five to eight. At 17:00 hrs, in the semi-finals, Hungary will be facing the Olympic champion Serbia, followed by the match between Australia and Germany at 18:30 hrs.
