Day 5, World Women's Junior Water Polo Championship: Italy, Netherlands, Russia and Greece into semifinals

Match 31, 09:00, KAZAKHSTAN 13 PORTUGAL 6

Results & Teams

Quarters: 2-3, 2-1, 3-0, 6-2

Referees: Asumi Nishihara (JPN) and Ernesto Inesta Peralta (ESP)

Teams

**KAZAKHSTAN**: Azhar Alibayeva, Yelizaveta Rudneva, Dana Kydyrbekova, Viktoriya Khritankova (3), Anastassiya Yeremina (1), Anastassiya Kolomatskaya, Anna Novikova (3), Madina Rakhmanova (1), Shakhzoda Mansurova, Nadezhdas Shapovalova (1), Anastassiya Murataliyeva (4). Head Coach: Marat Naurazbekov

**PORTUGAL**: Maria Sampaio, Alice Rodrigues, Carolina Fernandes, Fabiana Duarte, Jessica Teixeira (2), Ana

Report

Portugal leaves this World Championship with no victory to celebrate. The host team lost against Kazakhstan in its last game of the tournament and could not get the 15th position in the ranking. Portugal competed really well during the first quarter (2-3), but Kazakhstan tied before half time. "We lost the control of the game in the third period and our physical capacity wasn't enough to resist until the end", Portugal coach Miguel Pires said after the match.

Match 32, 10:20, JAPAN 13 NEW ZEALAND 10

Results & Teams

Quarters: 3-2, 5-3, 2-3, 3-2

Referees: Lee-Anne Keet (RSA) and Eurico Moreira da Silva (POR)

Teams


Report

Japan ended up its participation in this FINA World Women's Junior Water Polo Championship as the 13th best team after its win 13-10 against New Zealand. Japan competed in Group A and could not go into the second round of the tournament. Finally, Japan occupied the 13th place. Nishiyama Fuka was with four goals the top scorer of the final game against New Zealand.
Match 33, 11:40, BRAZIL 7 CANADA 9

Results & Teams

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

Referees: Daniel Federico Daners Chao (URG) and Josko Prancic (CRO)

Teams


Report

Out of the fight for 1st to 8th position, Canada is still fighting for the ninth place in Funchal, the capital city of Portugal's island Madeira. Canada beat Brazil by a margin of two goals (7-9) and will compete against Australia in its last game in this FINA World Women's Junior Water Polo Championship.

Match 34, 13:00, AUSTRALIA 16 SOUTH AFRICA 5

Results & Teams

Quarters: 4-1, 5-2, 1-1, 6-1

Referees: Giovanni Ungaretti Gallotti (BRA) and Damir Temyrkhanov (KAZ)
**Teams**

**AUSTRALIA:** Claire Durston, Jamie Oberman (2), Glenda Morgan, Ruby Swadling (6), Sophie Milliken, Abby Andrews (3), Carla Traplin, Nioka Thomas (1), Kasey Dalziel (2), Tenealle Fasala, Jessica Emerson (2), Charlize Andrews, Isobelle Pamp. Head Coach: Georgina Kovacs

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Daniella Passoni, Paige Tancrel (1), Jennifer Everett, Boati Motau, Astrid Faustmann, Hanna Muller, Shakira January, Kate Hinrichs (1), Hanna Weppelman, Jordan Wedderburn (2), Chloe Meecham, Lucy Miszewski (1), Zanne Smit. Head Coach: Delaine Mentoor

**Report**

When Australia lost against Spain in their cross over finals, Tenealle Fasala said it was important that they battled all of the frustrations they had that they weren't in the top eight, and put that into their next games. The Australian national team appeared back at the swimming pool this Friday morning prepared to face South Africa in the semifinals for ninth to 12th place. Australia won this game 16-5.

**Match 35, 16:00, UNITED STATES 8 ITALY 9**

**Results & Teams**

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

Referees: Spyridon Achladiotis (GRE) and Ursulla Wengenroth (SUI)

**Teams**

**UNITED STATES:** Georgia Phillips, Noelle Wijnbelt, Sarah Klass, Abrielle Hill (1), Honnie Vandeweghe, Bayley Weber, Jewel Roemer (4), Rozanne Wheaton, Jenna Flynn (1), Ryann Neushul (2), Valeria Ayala, Ava
ITALY: Caterina Banchelli, Nicole Zanetta (1), Anna Repetto, Giorgia Amedeo (1), Elena Borg, Lucrezia Cergol (1), Sofia Giustini, Isabella Riccioli (1), Francesca Colletta, Carlotta Meggiato, Agnese Cocchiere (3), Dafne Bettini (2), Marzia Imperatrice. Head Coach: Paolo Zizza

Report

Italy earned a place into semifinals following a 8-9 win over United States during the opening game of the evening session in the Olympic Swimming Complex in Funchal. Dafne Bettini scored a heroic goal with 1:33 to play in the fourth quarter. She delivered the game-winner with time winding down and Italy secured the win. USA will now play for 5th-8th place.

Quotes

Natalie Benson (USA) - Head Coach

I think that both teams played very hard and had many chances to be successful both in offense and defense. We left some goals on the table, missed some shots and allowed some shots to go in. We should have stopped some of them. Both teams were hard. You are playing this tournament and you are playing this game to see your team in the semifinals and in the finals. My team is hungry to do well. We are disappointed with this result but we still have two more matches and hopefully we will finish as high as we can.

Paolo Zizza (ITA) - Head Coach

We are working really hard in this tournament and it is a special moment for us. The game was very difficult for us. We played against USA, the country where the best school of water polo in the world is. My team played in a very strong defense, all the players were together, fighting for every ball and stopping their shots aggressively.
Dafne Bettini (ITA) - Player of the match

I am very happy and in this moment I am very proud of being an Italian player because my team-mates are very good and I love them. Reaching the final is our dream. We want to win against Netherlands and to win the title, but saying this it is too simple because the other teams are good. We were sixth last year in the European u19 Championship, and it is very important for us to win the title or at least one medal this time in Funchal.

Match 36, 17:20, NETHERLANDS 8 CHINA 6

Results & Teams

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

Referees: Sergey Krizhanovskiy (RUS) and Marjay Zsolt (HUN)

Teams

**NETHERLANDS**: Sarah Buis, Lieke Rogge, Rozanne Voorvelt (2), Marit van der Weijden, Isis Keijzer, Simone van de Kraats (2), Nina Ten Broek, Maxine Schaap (4), Lot Stertefeld, Laura Schinkel, Sam Jutte, Storm Willemsen, Janieke Oosting. Head Coach: Evangelos Doudesis.

**CHINA**: Wenxin Dong, Shiyun Wang, Yizhen Zhu, Xiao Chen (2), Bozhou Lu (1), Qingwei Wang, Wen Su, Rui Xu (2), Xinyan Meng (1), Yujia Bai, Ziyan Xiao, Siya Yan, Yuting Xie. Head Coach: Jun Lin.

Report

Netherlands claimed bronze in 2017 and two years later will have the chance to compete for medals again after beating China 8-6. It wasn't its most brilliant win, but Netherlands is in the semifinals of the FINA World Women's Junior Water Polo Championship. In fact, head coach Evangelos Doudesis showed his disappointment...
after the game. “We need to refocus if we want to achieve something better in the tournament”, he said. Netherlands will face Italy. The winner will achieve the final round of the event.

Quotes

**Evangelos Doudesis (NED) - Head Coach**

We achieved the semifinals and we are very happy but our performance today was awful. Our performance was awful and we need to refocus if we want to achieve something better in the tournament. We are happy to qualify but our performance was awful. China did a very good game.

**Zhiyu Wu (CHN) - Assistant Coach**

The girls played very good. Netherlands is a good team, but today my team was solid in defense. We only scored six goals. We scored no goals in the second quarter. It was a pity.

**Maxine Schaap (NED) - Player of the match**

We did a really good job with the girls as a team. We played really well. Now into the next game I hope we will make a big game too. It is going to be tough but I think we have a pretty good chance. If we play well and if the trust each other it will be fine.

Match 37, 18:40, RUSSIA 18 HUNGARY 11

Results & Teams

Quarters: 6-2, 6-3, 4-2, 2-4
Referees: Darren Brown Spirito Santo (USA) and Alessia Ferrari (ITA)

Teams


Report

The Russian junior team won the previous edition of the World Women’s Junior Water Polo Championships in Volos (GRE) in 2017. Two years later, in Funchal (POR), Russia is still on the fight for gold medal. This Friday the Russian team achieved the semifinals thanks to the greatest victory of the day. Russia beat Hungary 18-11. The difference between both squads was big in every period (6-2, 6-3, 4-2, 2-4).

Quotes

Sergey Markoch (RUS) - Head Coach

It was a good game, with maximum concentration. Against Italy we played at 70 per cent of our maximum. Against Hungary, at 90 per cent. It was perfect. Every game we are playing better and it is what I want.
Margarita Pystina (RUS) - Player

We are happy, of course. It was a very difficult game but we won. We want to win again tomorrow.

Natasa Rybanska (HUN) - Player

I believe we could win and we didn't do what we could. We could play much more better. I think we should win. I am very disappointed in our game.

Match 38, 20:00, GREECE 10 SPAIN 8

Results & Teams

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

Referees: Sander Paul Gransjean (NED) and Anna Goncharenko (UKR)

Teams


SPAIN: Sandra Domene, Paula Camus (1), Paula Leiton (3), Ruth Ariño, Silvia Morell (1), Alba Bonamusa,
Report

The screen showed a final margin of two goals, 10-8. But the game was amazing. Greece had the match in its hands from the first quarter, when leading 6-1 against an apathetic Spanish team. However, as the great squad that it is, the Spanish national team reacted in the second (3-4) and in the third period (0-3) giving the fans some reasons to believe in its comeback. With 9-8, a 5m shot failed by Alejandra Aznar and a counterattack missed by Helena Dalmases helped Greece to resist and to win the game.

Quotes

Marina Kotsioni (GRE) - Player of the match

I am gonna cry... You cannot imagine what this victory means for us. This is the first time for myself that I go into the final 4 of a World Championship. The girls did it very well; very good defense, very good offense. We were waiting for this moment a long time.

Paula Leiton (ESP) - Player

It was a very big difference, 6-1 in the first quarter. Maybe we lacked attention and we lacked tension, I don't know ... Then in the third quarter it is true that we were able to overcome. You see the possibility to win, but you see it far. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. In life it is only a quarterfinal match.

Lucia Santiago, FINA Press Correspondent from Portugal

Greece will face world champion Russia and Italy will front against Netherlands in the semifinals of the FINA World Women's Junior Water Polo Championship on Saturday at the Olympic Swimming Complex in Funchal.

Italy will take on Netherlands in the first semifinal. Italy beat United States and Netherlands won China in the fifth day of competition in the capital city of Portugal's island Madeira.

Russia will face Greece in the second semifinal. They played the final of the tournament two years ago, when the Russian junior team earned gold and the Greek junior squad took silver.

Greece closed the evening's matches with a win against Spain (10-8). Previously, Russia had surpassed Hungary 18-11.

United States, China, Hungary and Spain will battle for 5th-8th place.
In the round 9-12 semifinals, Australia came good against South Africa with a big 16-5 margin to advance to the play-off for ninth against Canada, who had some difficulties in sending off Brazil 9-7.

In classification matches, Japan left with 13th place thanks to a victory over New Zealnd. Kazakhstan won Portugal 13-6 for 15th place.

Friday schedule

**Finals - 15th place**

Match 31, 09:00, KAZAKHSTAN 13 PORTUGAL 6

**Finals - 13th place**

Match 32, 10:20, JAPAN 13 NEW ZEALAND 10

**Round 9-12 Semifinals**

Match 33, 11:40, BRAZIL 7 CANADA 9

Match 34, 13:00, AUSTRALIA 16 SOUTH AFRICA 5
Quarterfinals

Match 35, 16:00, UNITED STATES 8 ITALY 9
Match 36, 17:20, NETHERLANDS 8 CHINA 6
Match 37, 18:40, RUSSIA 18 HUNGARY 11
Match 38, 20:00, GREECE 10 SPAIN 8

Saturday schedule

Classification 11-12

Match 39, 10:00, BRAZIL v SOUTH AFRICA

Classification 9-10

Match 40, 11:20, CANADA v AUSTRALIA
Classification 5-8 semifinals

Match 41, 12:40, UNITED STATES v CHINA

Match 42, 17:20, HUNGARY v SPAIN

Semifinals

Match 43, 18:40, ITALY v NETHERLANDS

Match 44, 20:00, RUSSIA v GREECE

Photo credit: Duarte Paulini