

Day 3, Junior Men's World Champs: Greece tames USA 7-6

18. ARGENTINA 9 NEW ZEALAND 5

Results & Teams

Match 18. 09:00, Group C, ARGENTINA 9 NEW ZEALAND 5

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

Referees: Tamas Kovacs-Csatlos (HUN), Ammar Saleh (EGY).

Penalties: NZL: 1/1.

Extra Man: ARG: 6/12. NZL: 1/10.

Teams:

ARGENTINA: Facundo Camps, Facundo Gonzalez, Tomas Pannitto, Tomas Alfonso Polo, Felipe Alfonso, Franco Chinellato, Guido Martino (4), Guido Poggi (2), Carlos Camnasio (3), Nicolas Provenzano, Augusto Antunes Balbi, Tadeo Petrocelli, Octavio Salas. Head Coach: Gabriel Ramirez.

NEW ZEALAND: Joshua De Reeper, Billy Simpson, Matija Jancic. Daniel Cameron, Hamish Booker (2), Liam Paterson, James Caitlin (1), Rowan Brown, Adam Milne, Mark Morris (2), Brandon Matthews, Michael Slessor-White, Eric Munro. Head Coach: Goran Sablic.

Report

The extra-man statistic is everything in water polo and Argentina showed how well they convert. For New Zealand, defence on this statistic was not good. While Argentina was the better team, New Zealand did not help itself with many poor options in clear positions. In one segment of play in the third period, the Kiwis went on counter, only to shoot into the goalkeeper twice and once wide. In all respects these teams were well matched, making the same number of errors and having equal opportunity to score. New Zealand will need to sharpen up attack while both teams looked a little tired in the latter stages. Guido Martino was the best for Argentina, scoring four and doubling his tally for Belgrade.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

19. CANADA 15 SOUTH AFRICA 7
Results & Teams

Match 19, 10:20, Group D, CANADA 15 SOUTH AFRICA 7

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

Referees: Ivan Rakovic (SRB), Kazuzo Moribayashi (JPN).

Penalties: RSA: 1/1.

Extra Man: CAN: 4/9. RSA: 4/9.

Teams:

CANADA: Samuel Reiher, Gareth Jones, Alexis Reiher (2), Felix Polisen (1), Aleksa Gardijan (2), Benjamin Lemay-Lavoie (1), Bogdan Djerkovic (1), Mark Spooner (2), Jeremie Blanchard, Aria Soleimanipak (3), Jeremie Cote (1), Reuel D'Souza (3), Aleksa Stanic. Head Coach: Nikola Maric.

SOUTH AFRICA: Keegan Clark, Michael Stewart (1), Miguel Morais (1), Cameron Laurenson, David Rom (2), Sven Van Zyl (1), Jason Evazard (2), Mika'eel Essa, Ethan Coryndon, Michael Brakspear, Liam Neil, Isma'eel Essa, Themba Mthembu. Head Coach: Jason Selino.

Report

Canada pulled away from South Africa in the second half in what was an interesting match in the first half. With three players from Budapest 2017, Canada had the better connections and used them to the full with Aria Soleimanipak and Reuel D'Souza scoring six of their team's goals. Canada went to a 2-0 lead and South Africa levelled early in the second quarter. It was the first of three unanswered goals, going to 4-2 and 5-3 ahead. Inside the last two minutes, Canada had the match on even terms at five and went 6-5 up before South Africa struck back on extra by Miguel Morais, six seconds from halftime. It seemed the effort proved

too much for South Africa as Canada shifted a gear and bolted away to 11-6 with South Africa nabbing a late extra-man goal by the final break. Canada closed ranks, denied South Africa any access to the goal and scored well at the other end to win the match. Canada had better chances with 35 shots compared to South Africa's 25.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

20. EGYPT 2 ITALY 18

Results & Teams

Match 20, 11:40, Group D, EGYPT 2 ITALY 18

Quarters: 0-5, 1-2, 0-4, 1-7.

Referees: Sinisa Matijasevic (MNE), Erwin Schapers (NED).

Penalties: Nil.

Extra Man: EGY: 2/8. ITA: 3/8.

Teams:

EGYPT: Marwan Reda Hafez, Abdallah Abdelgawad, Marwan Hafez Yehia, Ahmed Elsapagh, Ezzeldin Sayed Sheweta, Karim Nabil (1), Seifeldeen Hesham, Mohamed Abubakr Eliwa (1), Ayman Badr, Youssef Saadeldin, Moustafa Essmat, Mohamed Hosny, Marwan Yehia. Head Coach: Ashraf Mahmoud.

ITALY: Gianmarco Nicosia, Mario Del Basso (2), Giacomo Cannella (3), Michele Mezzarobba (3), Mario Guidi, Duilio Puccio, Stefano Guerrato, Edoardo Campopiano (4), Antonia Maccioni (1), Eduardo Manzi (2), Federico Piombo (1), Ettore Novara (2), Francesco De Michelis. Head Coach Ferdinando Pesci.

Report

Italy had too many guns for Egypt, kept two clean sheets and then plundered seven goals in the final quarter as Egypt had no answer for Italy's precision attack. Italy stunned Egypt with three counter-attack goals in

the opening quarter and as Egypt tired, three more in the last. Italy is on a mission here and after the third day has just the one win, losing to Hungary on day two after having the bye on opening day. The win goes some way to preparing for Tuesday's first-up clash with Canada for what could be second spot in the group. Egypt kept its cool and gained similar exclusions to Italy, finding the net a difficult thing to breach.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

21. PUERTO RICO 7 IRAN 8 Results & Teams

Match 21. 13:00, Group A, PUERTO RICO 7 IRAN 8

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

Referees: German Moller (ARG), John Waldow (NZL).

Penalties: PUR: 1/1. IRI: 1/3.

Extra Man: PUR: 3/8. IRI: 1/11

Teams:

PUERTO RICO: Jorge Torres, Alec Martir (1), Angel Andino (1), Guillermo Ocasio, Misael Andino, Raymond Rodriguez, Diego Zayas (3), Gabriel Robles, Angel Rosado, Fabio Mujica, Jose Loubriel (2), Jafet Hernandez, Roberto Gordills. Head Coach: Jean Pierre Mujica.

IRAN: Shayan Ghasemi, Amir Parhoon, Alireza Pourang (1), Arshia Almasi, Mehdi Yazdankhan (5), Hosein Khaledi, Amir Rahbar (1), Sajad Saviz, Amir Heidari, Amin Ghavidel (1), Bardia Peiravani, Mehdi Barzegari, Arash Pourzargar. Head Coach: Vahid Rezaei.

Report

This was about as close a match could get with ties coming at every number to seven. Iran made all the go-ahead goals until 5-4 before halftime. Puerto Rico went to 6-5 and 7-6, both on extra, with Iran having to

play catch-up. Iran's sixth goal came on a drive, then a pass to deep left for the acute-angled shot. Iran had the better of the fourth period, overtaking Puerto Rico with a shot from inside for the equaliser and then an extra-man goal for 8-7 at 5:47. Both teams had chances in the final minute with Iran's effort intercepted and Puerto Rico's effort hitting the goalkeeper. One of the best goals of an exciting match came from Mehdi Yazdankhan with the ball being fed into centre where he turned, flipping the ball from his left to right and beating the goalkeeper. He scored five goals in a standout performance. Iran could have been better placed if it had converted penalty attempts in the first and second quarters and done better on extra-man attack.



A rarity of a picture. The penalty was called on quarter time. One player refused to leave the pool and tried to distract the shooter from behind the goal.

Picture: Russell McKinnon

22. GREECE 7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 6

Results & Teams

Match 22, 16:40, Group A, GREECE 7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 6

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

Referees: Josko Pranic (CRO), Daniel Bartels (AUS).

Penalties: Nil.

Extra Man: GRE: 3/11. USA: 4/11.

Teams:

GREECE: Emmanouil Zerdevas, Dimitrios Skoumpakis, Nikolaos Gardikas, Konstantinos Gkiouvetsis, Dimitrios Nikolaidis (2), Alexandros Papanastasiou (1), Grigorios Giannopoulos (1), Pavlos Mouratidis, Nikolaos Delagrammatikas, Charalampos Troulos (3), Iordais Masmanidis, Grigorios Kapetanakis, Polymeris Siordilis. Head Coach: Theodoros Lorantos.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Alexander Wolf, Hannes Daube (1), Tyler Abramson, Ethan Wojciechowski, Quinten Osborne, Dylan Woodhead (1), Nicholas Bisconti, Jacob Ehrhardt, Jacob Cavano, Ashworth Molthen, Beck Jurasius (1), Johnathan Hooper (3), Samuel Murphy. Head Coach: Gavin Arroyo.

Report

A two-goal advantage in the first quarter meant that Greece stayed ahead of the United States of America and withstood a last-quarter surge. The key was shutting down scoring sensation Johnathan Hooper, who scored six goals against Russia on Sunday. This Greece did effectively, giving him one on extra-man attack in the second quarter and then allowing him free rein in the final period. In that period he had one big shot saved by incredible goalkeeping from Emmanouil Zerdevas before slamming in a counter-attack finish to bring the score to 6-4. Alexandros Papanastasiou accepted a cross pass at two metres a minute later and again Greece was in charge. Hooper sucked in a foul outside five and wound up with a helicopter-like shot that beat the goalkeeper for 7-5 at 1:57. USA was in with a sniff of a chance. It took until the inside the final minute for Hannes Daube to score from the top on extra for 7-6. Greece went to a timeout at 0.27 and played for the exclusion, which it got and then controlled the ball for the final 18 seconds. It was a fine match by Greece who had all-round systems working. USA tried various moves on extra man, but failed to take the options quickly and obviously could not get the ball to where it wanted for the optimum shot. With Greece's focus on Hooper working a treat, the rest of the team did not look like the side that mesmerised Russia and the crowd the previous night. Charalampos Troulos was explosive in the first half, scoring Greece's first three goals.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

17. SERBIA 27 CHINA 4
Results & Teams

Match 17. 18:00, Group C, SERBIA 27 CHINA 4

Quarters: 7-2, 6-1, 7-1, 7-0

Referees: Scott Voltz (USA), Martin Murray (CAN).

Penalties: SRB: 1/1.

Extra Man: SRB: 4/9. CHN: 3/6.

Teams:

SERBIA: Radoslav Filipovic, Velji Tanksovic (2), Petar Tomic (2), Nikola Lukic (2), Dorde Vucinic, Ivan Gvozdanic (5), Radomir Drasovic (2), Nebojsa Toholj (4), Marko Jankovic (1), Filip Radojevic (4), Nikola Radonjic (3), Petar Velkic (1), Milutin Belopavlovic. Head Coach: Vladimir Vujasinovic.

CHINA: JunJing Wang, BeiYu Wang (2), JinPeng Zhang, YuTian Wang, XingMeng He, RongKun Lie (1), Yi Lu, YingYi Gao (1), XuLiang Zhang, SingSong Shen, Chi Liao, Boren Shi, LinFeng Li. Head Coach: Jie Shen.

Report

Serbia held all the cards against China. One would have expected more counter-attack goals. However, China is fast and only allowed Serbia four in the first half as the perfect storm of goals gave the host a 10-goal advantage. China's three goals all came from extra-man plays. RongKun Lie scored from the field for 16-4 and from then on, Serbia kept on the pressure and piled in the goals. Serbia has New Zealand tomorrow and Australia to come before hopefully claiming group superiority. For China, it was a second loss from three matches. Serbian coach Vladimir Vujasinovic was impassive throughout, knowing that a big win was inevitable.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

23. JAPAN 10 CROATIA 14
Results & Teams

Match 23. 19:20, Group B, JAPAN 10 CROATIA 14

Quarters: 2-2, 3-3, 2-4, 3-5

Referees: Mihail Balanescu (ROU), Viktor Salnichenko (KAZ)

Penalties: JPN: 1/1. CRO: 1/1.

Extra Man: JPN: 2/9. CRO: 3/6.

Teams:

JAPAN: Yusuke Ogura, Kenta Kobayashi, Tomoya Ichimura, Haruki Koppu (2), Kiyomu Date (2), Toi Suzuki (3), Ryosuke Aizawa, Shogo Kageta (1), Koki Maita, Takanori Maeno (1), Takeru Ogawa, Yusuke Inaba (1), Towa Mishimura. Head Coach: Makihiro Motomiya.

CROATIA: Fran Cubranic, Antonio Duzevic (1), Ivan Domagoj Zovic (1), Jacob Mercep, Zvonimir Butic (2), Marin Dasic (1), Duje Pejkovic, Nikola Pavlicevic, Franko Lazic (1), Rino Buric (5), Matias Biljaka (1), Lovro Paporic (2), Luka Podrug. Head Coach: Nikica Gulin.

Report

In a mis-match of size versus speed, Croatia triumphed after a mighty fight with Japan. Croatia had strength and size while the Japanese had speed, guile and huge hearts despite the odds. With tied first periods and a two-goal advantage in the third, Croatia seemed ready for a narrow win. However, the goals increased while Japan was working hard to make something on attack; it was mistakes more than anything, such as the pressure. There was nothing in the first half as scores were tied at each number. Japan led twice and Croatia three times. Zvonimir Butic gave Croatia a boost with a classic lob of Japanese goalkeeper Yusuke Ogura from 10 metres out and within two metres of the side rope to go one up so close to halftime. Japan called a timeout and took the play deep right for Yusuke Inaba to score through the tiniest of gaps. Croatia tried to regain the lead from a timeout, firing the long ball into centre forward only for Ogura to steal. It was 5-5 at the long break. Croatia gained a cheap goal when Matias Biljaka sent one in from four metres when lightly guarded for a 9-7 advantage at the final break. Lovro Paporic showed at 8-6 why this was such a mis-match. He took the ball, turned and fired in a missile from close range. No Japanese could have stopped him being as he is so much bigger than all the team. Japan was working hard, especially on extra-man attack with slick passing. Several times goalkeeper Fran Cubranic was the stopper. The fourth favoured Croatia 5-3, going 14-8 ahead with Japan gaining one on counter and the last on action to close an engrossing encounter.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

24. SPAIN 13 NETHERLANDS 5

Results & Teams

Match 24. 20:40, Group B, SPAIN 13 NETHERLANDS 5

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

Referees: Michael Baty (RSA), Axel Bender (GER).

Penalties: Nil.

Extra Man: ESP: 3/11. NED: 2/8.

Teams:

SPAIN: Miguel Linares, Pablo Gomez (1), Alvaro Granados (1), Nikolas Paul (1), David Carrasco (1), Fran Valera (3), Borja Fenoy (2), Oriol Rodriguez, Roger Tahull (1), Alejandro Bustos, Guillem Garcia (1), Alex De La Fuente (1), Alfonso Lopez-Saez. Head Coach: Svilen Piraklov.

NETHERLANDS: Frank Aarts, Bilal Gbadamassi (1), Mika Smelt, Sam van den Burg, Tarik Scherrenburg, Niels Hofmeijer (1), Tim De Mey, Tom Geestman, Bram van den Berselaar, Tom de Weerd, Guus Wolswinkel (3), Stan van Ruiten, Thijs Stroomberg. Head Coach: Jacob Spijker.

Report

Spain bounced back from its second-day 6-5 loss to Croatia for a second victory, setting itself up for Tuesday's crucial clash with Montenegro. Spain then has a rest day before thinking about the next stage. Tonight's final match was a solid performance where it ironed out the kinks and allowed seven players to score in the first half alone. The Dutch applied plenty of pressure in the third where Spain's Roger Tahull finally scored from his favoured centre-forward position, taking a high catch, turning and making the shot for 10-3. Guus Wolswinkel gained Netherlands a fourth goal, then Tahull and Mika Smelt went on a double foul with red cards after becoming entangled in front of the Dutch goal. Spain went 11-4 up into the final quarter where little changed in an even contest.



Picture: Russell McKinnon

Russell McKinnon, FINA Media Committee

Belgrade, Serbia, August 7.— Greece held off United States of America 7-6 in a feature match of day-three action from the FINA Junior Men's Water Polo World Championships at the Sports Centre Milan Gale Muskatirovic here today.

USA performed amazingly against Russia on Sunday night and was expected to give Greece a big nudge, which it did. However, Greece led 3-1, 4-2 and 6-3 at the breaks and defied a Johnathan Hooper barrage in the final quarter for a third straight win and probable group victory. Hooper scored two of his three in the final quarter while Greece's hero was Charalampos Troulos who scored all three opening-quarter goals.

In Group C, Argentina opened the day's proceedings with a 9-5 victory over New Zealand. Both teams squandered opportunities with New Zealand suffering under Argentina's withering extra-man attack. Serbia dumped China 27-4 after leading 13-3 at halftime. Leading the waterfall of goals was Ivan Gvozdanovic with five goals.

In Group D, Canada dispensed with South Africa 15-7 after a fairly even first half. The experience of Budapest 2017 players Reul D'Souza and Aria Soleimanipak — three goals each — proved critical to Canada's success. Italy came up with a first win from two outings, downing Egypt 18-2 with Edoardo Decampiano netting four goals.

In Group A, Iran regained the lead to defeat Puerto Rico 8-7 in a match where the scores were level at every number until seven. Mehdi Yazdankhan top-scored with five goals for Iran.

Group B closed the night's proceedings and Croatia gained a third consecutive win with a 14-10 result against Japan. The match was tied at halftime, Croatia gained a two-goal advantage in the third and again in the fourth with Rino Buric netting five goals against the much smaller, but speedier, Japanese. Spain went second in the group in downing Netherlands 13-5 with star Spanish centre forward Roger Tahull being sent on a red card, along with Netherlands' Mika Smelt.

Progress points:

Group A: Greece 6, USA 2, Russia 2, Iran 2, Puerto Rico 0.

Group B: Croatia 6, Spain 4, Montenegro 2, Japan 0, Netherlands 0.

Group C: Serbia 4, Australia 4, China 2, Argentina 2, New Zealand 0.

Group D: Hungary 4, Canada 4, Italy 2, Egypt 2, South Africa 0.

Match schedule:

Match 18. 09:00, Group C, ARGENTINA 9 NEW ZEALAND 5

Match 19, 10:20, Group D, CANADA 15 SOUTH AFRICA 7

Match 20, 11:40, Group D, EGYPT 2 ITALY 18

Match 21. 13:00, Group A, PUERTO RICO 7 IRAN 8

Match 22, 16:40, Group A, GREECE 7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 6

Match 17. 18:00, Group C, SERBIA 27 CHINA 4

Match 23. 19:20, Group B, JAPAN 10 CROATIA 14

Match 24. 20:40, Group B, SPAIN 13 NETHERLANDS 5
