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Europa-Cup Final, Turin, Day 2: Russia and the Netherlands advance to the final

Semi-Final 1 - 15.00 Russia - Hungary 15-14 

Results & Teams 

15-14 (4-3, 4-4; 5-5, 2-2)

Russia: 1 Golovina Evgeniia, 2 Bersneva Maria (1), 3 Prokofyeva Ekaterina (2), 4 Karimova Elvina (5), 5

Gerzanich Daria, 6 Gorbunova Olga (2), 7 Serzhantova Alena, 8 Simanovich Anastasia, 9 Timofeeva Anna, 10 Soboleva Evgeniia (1), 11 Tolkunova Tatiana (3), 12 Ryzhkova Daria (1), 13 Karnaukh Anna. Coach Gaidukov Alexander.

Hungary: 1 Gangl Edina, 2 Szilagyi Dorottya (1) , 3 Parkes Rebecca (3) , 4 Gurisatti Greta (2), 5 Szucs Gabriella
(), 6 Horvath Brigitta (), 7 Illes Anna (), 8 Keszthelyi Rita (C) (5), 9 Valyi Vanda, 10 Gyongyossy Aniko, 11
Toth-Csabai Dora (1), 12 Rybanska Natasha (1), 13 Toth Eszter. Coach Attila Biro.

Referees: Mr Maro Savinovic (CRO), Mr Juan Carlos Colominas Ezponda (ESP).

FINA Delegates: Mr Milivoj Bebic (CRO), Mr Dejan Perisic (SRB).

Notes –Goals on extra players: RUS 5/9, HUN 5/12. Penalties: RUS 1/1. Yellow card to Biro (Hungary’s coach)
in the 3rd period. Goalkeepers: Karnaukh (R) played throughout the game while Toth (H) replaced Gangl at 3'50
of the 4th period.

Report



Two strong teams gave life to an exciting show, trading goals from the start to the end of the match which ended on a high final score, rare at such level. Both teams would have deserved victory but eventually Russia claimed success, although by the least margin of one goal, 15 -14, thanks to the advantage acquired in the first quarter, which they won 4-3 scoring 3 extra player goals and a penalty. But, actually the Russians have been in the lead throughout the match.

The other three periods all ended on a tie. The second and the third periods were fast and furious and their score was respectively 4-4 and 5-5. The last quarter, instead, was relatively quieter (2-2).

Elvina Karimova for Russia and Rita Keszthely, Hungary's captain, top scored the game with 5 goals each. In addition Karimova was judged the MVP of the game. Hungary could also count on the outstanding performance of their number 3, Rebecca Grace Parkes, a powerful centre forward who netted 3 spectacular goals.

Quotes

Alexander Gaidukov, coach of Russia:

"For us it was a very important game to <avenge> the defeat suffered at the European Championships in Barcelona. Hungary is a strong and fast team, we defended very well with one man down and although we were less efficient on extra player situations, we are satisfied with the result and we want to repeat ourselves in tomorrow's final".

Attila Biro, coach of Hungary:

"Today we felt a bit tired for yesterday's difficult game, while Russia was more rested and this made the difference. We were not able to defend at our best, precisely because of the fatigue of the game on Friday."

Semi-Final 2 - 16.30 Italy –Netherlands 11-17

Results & Teams

11-17 (3-4, 1-4; 3-5, 4-4)

Italy: 1 Gorlero Giulia, 2 Tabani Chiara, 3 Garibotti Arianna (2), 4 Avegno Silvia (1) , 5 Queirolo Elisa (2) , 6

Aiello Rosaria (1), 7 Picozzi Domitilla , 8 Bianconi Roberta (3), 9 Emmolo Giulia ,10 Palmieri, 11 Chiappini Izabella (1) , 12 Giustini Sofia (1), 13 Lavi Federica Eugenia. Coach Fabio Conti.

Netherlands: 1 Aarts Laura, 2 Megens Maud (4), 3 Genee Dagmar (C), 4 Van Der Sloot Sabrina (2), 5 Wolves

Iris, 6 Stomphorst Nomi Lisa (2), 7 Bente Rogge (1), 8 Sevenich Vivian, 9 Keuning Maartje (4), 10 Koolhaas Ilse, 11 Van De Kraats Simone (4), 12 Sleeking Brigitte, 13 Buis Sarah. Coach Arno Avenga.

Referees: Mr. Adrian Alexandrescu (ROU), Mr. Michail Kouretas (GRE).

FINA Delegates: Mr. Milorad Krivokapic (SRB), Mr. Angel Moliner (ESP).

Notes – Excluded for foul limit Genee (N) at 3'36 of the 2nd period, Tabani (I) at 0'51, Sevenich (N) at 4'29 and

Koolhaas (N) at 6'20 of the 4th period. Yellow card to Havenga (coach Netherlands) in the 2nd period. At the start of the 4th period Lavi replaced Gorlero as goalkeeper. Goals on extra players: ITA 4/12; NED 3/6. Penalties: ITA 0/1 (Aarts saved on Chiappini).

Report

A strong Dutch side outclassed the home team Italy dominating the first three quarters and tying the last one. Also this semifinal ended on a high score, 17-11 for the Dutch, with a 6-goal difference which tells it all about the superiority shown by the team coached by Arno Avenga. For the Netherlands Megens, Keuning and Van de Kraats scored 4 goals each; Van der Sloot and Stomphorst 2 goals each and Rogge one goal. Italy's top scorer was Bianconi with 3 goals, while Garibotti and Queirolo scored 2 goals each. Van de Kraats was selected as MVP of the match.

The Netherlands will play Russia in tomorrow's final while Italy will face Hungary for the third place.

Quotes

Italy's coach Fabio Conti admitted:

"We need to adapt ourselves to the new rules. Today we have taken too many goals and we through away the game. My players knew what to do but they lacked the rhythm required by the new rules. Of course, we are not satisfied, but tomorrow we want to go back to a more concrete style of play".

Roberta Bianconi, three goals in the game, on her 300th international cap, added:

"It's a pity to have played like this in front of our public. Unfortunately today we suffered for the whole game: we were static in defense while in attack we dared little."

Final for 5th / 6th place - 18.00 Greece – Spain 14-17

Results & Teams

14-17 (3-6, 5-4; 2-5, 4-2)

Greece: 1 Stamatopoulou Ioanna, 2 Tsoukala Christina, 3 Diamantopoulou Vasilik, 4 Eleftheriadou Nikoleta, 5

Plevritou Margarita, 6 Avramidou Alkisti, 7 Asimaki Alexandra (C) , 8 Chydirioti Ioanna, 9 Ninou Eirini, 10 Benekou Alkistis Christina, 11 Plevritou Eleftheria, 12 Xenaki Eleni, 13 Kotsioni Marina. Coach Georgios Morfesi.

Spain: 1 Ester Laura, 2 Bach Marta, 3 Espar Anna , 4 Ortiz Munoz Beatriz , 5 Ortiz Reyes Matilde, 6 Lloret

Gomez Helena, 7 Espar LLacquet Clara, 8 Pena Carrasco Maria Del Pilar ©, 9 Forca Ariza Judith ,10 Dalmases Zurita Helena, 11 Garcia Godoy Maica , 12 Leiton Arrones Paula, 13 Sanchez Gonzales Maria Elena. Coach Miguel Angel Oca Gaia.

Referees: Mrs. Diana Duthil-Dumas (NED), Mr. ZsoltMarjai (HUN).

FINA Delegates: Mr. Dejan Perisic (SRB), Mr. Milivoj Bebic (CRO).

Report

Greece and Spain alternatively took command of the game. The Hellenics' rule was enforced in the second and the fourth quarters while the Iberians' supremacy characterized the first and the third periods, overall scoring more goals than their opponents which allowed them to win the game by a comfortable 3-goal gap, 17-14 and claimed the fifth place in the tournament. Spain's n. 4, Beatriz Ortiz Munoz, was the authentic match winner with an unprecedented tally of 8 goals, a real "matadora". Greece n. 4, Nikoleta Eleftheriadou was the best scorer for

the Greek side.

Camillo Cametti, FINA Press Correspondent

The losers, Hungary and Italy, will play for the third place.

Three matches were played this afternoon at the Palanuoto in Turin on the second day of the FINA/LEN Water Polo World League Europa Cup Final Women 2019, all characterized by a high final score. A consequence of the new rules?

The outcome was favourable to Russia and the Netherlands who won their match, respectively against Hungary and Italy and are the finalists of the 2019 edition.

Alexander Gaidukov's team defeated Biro's team 15-14 and made the final for the second consecutive year. For Russia, which topped Group A in the preliminary round of the tournament, this was their seventh win in as many matches played. The Netherlands, champion of Europe, managed a clear win, 17-11, over Italy, Olympic silver medallist at Rio 2016. Arno Avenga team vindicated the defeats suffered from the Italian side of coach Fabio Conti in the preliminary round.

In the third match of the day valid for the fifth place, Spain inflicted Greece a clear defeat, 17-14.

Europe Cup Final Six Schedule and Results

Quarter Finals - Friday, March 29

15.30 Hungary-Greece 13-9
17.00 Spain-Netherlands 6-9

Semifinals - Saturday 30 March

15.00 (1) Russia-Hungary 15-14
16.30 (2) Italy- Netherlands 11-17

Final for 5th-6th place

18.00 Greece – Spain 14-17
