

Day 5 Women's Water Polo: USA, Australia, Spain, Hungary into semifinals

Match 31, 08:00, KOREA 0 CUBA 30
Results & Teams

Match 31, 08:00, KOREA 30 CUBA 0

Classification 15-16

Quarters: 0-8, 0-9, 0-6, 0-7

Referees: Natacha Florestano (BRA), Viktor Salnichenko (KAZ).

Extra man: KOR: 0/1. CUB: 4/4.

Penalties: KOR: CUB: 1/1.

Shot conversion: KOR: 0/24. CUB: 30/37.

Teams:

KOREA: Heeji Oh, Chaeyoung Lim, Jungeun Lee, Yeseo Song, Daseul Kyung, Hanna Yoon Ryan, Gaeun Lee, Jimin Choi, Yearin Yun, Ye Jin Kim Nayoung Kwon, Yelim Cho, Minju Kim. Head Coach: Man Keun Jin.

CUBA: Mairelis Zunzunegui, Dalia Grau (5), Madonni Chavez (5), Thaimi Gonzalez (1), Daniuska Carrasco (3), Mayelin Bernal (1), Jennifer Plasencia (5), Arisel Gonzalez (5), Cecilia Diaz (1), Dianela Frias (2), Lisbeth Santana, Aliannis Ramirez (2), Arisney Ramos. Head Coach: Jorge del Valle.

Report

The fans deserted the Korean women for their last match with fewer than 300 turning out for the last-placed final. They have been flocking in to see their darlings but, as the weekend is behind us and people return to work, they decided to stay away. It was a big win for Cuba who join Hungary, Russia, Canada and South Africa who have enjoyed free-flowing water polo and scoring. The Koreans can keep up with any teams as they are fast swimmers, but their defensive skills and ability to throw a ball at any speed, are yet to be learnt. Let's hope they have inspired a new generation of children in Korea to play the sport. There was no fairytale ending from the team with six goals at this tournament, leaving with Daseul Kyung the leading scorer on three goals. The only real chance in the match was a last-gasp attempt hitting the crossbar. For Cuba, Dalia Grau, player of the match Madonni Chavez, Jennifer Plasencia and Arisel Gonzalez led the scoring with five goals each. Chavez was the highest scorer, heading home with 10 goals. Cuba now heads to Pan Am Games in Lima, Peru where it is hoping for a medal — its main target for 2019. This was Cuba's fourth visit to the FINA World Championships, finishing ninth in 2005, 15th in 2007 and 10th in 2011.

Quotes

Jorge del Valle (CUB) — Head Coach

“The tournament was an excellent experience for my team and a great buildup for the Pan American Games, which start in Lima Peru early next month. It is there that we think we can earn a medal. The best thing about playing here was attack (where it had 25 goals before today’s clash) where we worked hard. Two or three players stood up for the team and we had plenty of movement on attack and an organic defence, working with the goalkeeper. This is the beginning of greater things for Cuban women’s water polo.”

Heeji Oh (KOR) — Goalkeeper

“We all cried because we all have worked really hard, but this was our last game together. After today’s game, our team will be broken up, and we have to say goodbye to each other. We are proud of ourselves and greatly honoured that we played as the Korean national team. I’m one of the competitive swimmers for the 50 and 100 metres breaststroke and I have always taken an interest in water polo, so I applied for the team. I think I was selected as a goalkeeper because I think I am the best long passer among the team-mates.”

Daseul Kyung (KOR) — Highest goal-scorer

“Although our team was created just two months ago, and we are far behind the other teams in this tournament, we didn’t give up until the last moment. No one but us knows, but we’ve worked really hard from very early morning to late night to prepare for this championships. I’m greatly honoured that we’ve participated in this event held in our country. The Korean national water polo team might no longer exist, but it will last forever in my heart. I really hope that some day Korea will appreciate water polo.”

Match 32, 9.30, SOUTH AFRICA 2 JAPAN 21
Results & Teams

Match 32, 9.30, SOUTH AFRICA 2 JAPAN 21

Classification 13-14

Quarters: 0-4, 1-4, 1-6, 0-7

Referees: John Waldow (NZL), Shi Wei Ni (CHN).

Extra man: RSA: 1/3. JPN: 4/7

Penalties: RSA: 0/1.

Shot conversion: RSA: 2/22. JPN: 21/37.

Teams:

SOUTH AFRICA: Lauren Nixon, Yanah Gerber, Nthatsi Mota, Emma Joubert, Georgia Moir (1), Amica Hallendorff (1), Lucy Miszewski, Kate Hinrichs, Jordan Wedderburn, Nicola MacLeod, Chloe Meecham, Christine Abrahamse, Zanne Smit. Head Coach: Pierre Le Roux.

JAPAN: Rikako Miura, Yumi Arima (5), Akari Inaba (4), Shino Magariyama, Chiaki Sakanoue (1), Miku Koide (3), Maiko Hashida (2), Yuki Niizawa (1), Minori Yamamoto (2), Misaki Noro, Marina Tokumoto, Kotori Suzuki (3), Minami Shioya. Head Coach: Makihiko Motomiya.

Report

Japan would be disappointed to depart the tournament with a 2-3 record and all three losses were by just two goals. The result of this match proves just what a void there is from the top teams to the lower teams. In any

other group, Japan would have been playing inside the top 12. The sadness does not help when it is just one year out from the Olympic Games where it is a host team. Yumi Arima, one of the stars of the tournament, was the top scorer with 18 goals, finishing the last match with a five-goal haul. Captain Amica Hallendorff, a scorer today, was the team's highest scorer with seven goals. South Africa departs with the one win — 26-3 over Korea. It scored just twice today. While Japan leaves in a disappointing 13th position, its previous best at this level was 11th positions in 2001 and 2003 while it was 15th in 2015 and 14th in 2017. South Africa has gained its highest ranking in five visits with two 15th and two 16th places in the last four iterations.

Quotes

Makihito Motomiya (JPN) — Head Coach

“As we keep playing more and more we are getting better and better. In the beginning our experience was still building, so now we need even more experience. With the Olympics approaching, we need to improve our defence, I believe. We held Australia to under 10 goals, which was one of our goals. We still need to improve our tactics and shooting. We need to improve our skills and explore good players with good shooting skills. Defence is where we need to improve.”

Kotori Suzuki (JPN) — Captain and three goals

“The best part of the championship was holding China, Italy and Australia to two goals each and that we can score on counter-attack. Also, we were able to narrow the margin between the three (group) opponents (from previous encounters).”

Pierre Le Roux (RSA) — Head Coach

“The competition was extremely good. I think the eight top nations are extremely dominant at the moment, but it's good to see there're many developing countries being included in the competition. I think it's important for world water polo. The biggest lesson for us is to come here and see what the top 10 are doing, how they're training, how well conditioned they are and the maturity in the water. So a big positive thing from that is for us to play, and coaches learn from the top nations, engaging with coaches from other countries and learning from what they're doing and what's working. I think the big lesson is that we need to be able to come back stronger and show people what we learn over next two years.”

Amica Hallendorff (RSA) — Captain and the team's top scorer

“I think we've grown up as a team. It's been really tough, so we learnt so much along the way. Playing against the best players in the world, I think there's so much we can learn. I think we really can grasp the opportunities. I think that's the best things absolutely we can improve on, which is really positive. I think just to see how junior players grow, that's a big highlight for me. The second highlight is playing against USA. They're the world champs and the Olympic champs. I think having an opportunity of playing against them is amazing.”

Match 33, 11:00, CANADA 17 CHINA 16 Sudden death penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens: 7-6)
Results & Teams

Match 33, 11:00, CANADA 17 CHINA 16 in sudden-death penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens 7-6)

Classification 9-12 Semifinals

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

Referees: Frank Ohme (GER), Daniel Flahive (AUS).

Extra man: CAN: 5/13. CHN: 4/11.

Penalties: CAN: Nil.

Shot conversion: CAN: 10/34. CHN: 10/28.

Teams:

CANADA: Jessica Gaudreault, Krystina Alogbo, Axelle Crevier (1+1), Emma Wright (1+1), Monika Eggens (1), Kelly McKee, Joelle Bekhazi, Elyse Lemay-Lavoie, Hayley McKelvey (2+2), Kyra Christmas (3+2), Kindred Paul (1+1), Shae Fournier (1), Claire Wright. Head Coach: David Paradelo.

CHINA: Lin Peng, Xinyan Wang, Xiaohan Mei, Dunhan Xiong (2+1), Guannan Niu, Ning Guo, Huan Wang (2+2), Cong Zhang, Zihan Zhao (+1), Danyi Zhang (+1), Xiao Chen (2), Jing Zhang (4+1), Wenxin Dong. Head Coach: Dali Gong.

Report

Canada outlasted China in a penalty shootout to advance to the play-off for ninth. This was a thrilling match throughout. Beforehand it was hard to predict a winner as both teams were evenly matched. The gutsy first quarter with eight goals set the pace and it didn't stop. It was not just about the goals, but the intensity and pace of the match. The players were becoming tired in the fourth quarter, struggling to keep up the pace and energy was lacking in front of goal. Canada led 3-1 and China levelled at four by quarter time. China went 5-4 up and Canada turned the tables for a 6-5 advantage. China went 7-6 up and turned at the half as an 8-7 leader. This became 9-8 at the final break and 10-8 to start the fourth. Monika Eggens converted extra-man attack at 3:22 and Kyra Christmas, who gifted her team two goals at the start, converted extra at 0:47, which proved enough for the shootout. Canada used a press defence to perfection in the final quarter. All 10 goals in the shootout rotation were perfect. The first three shots in sudden death struck home until Danyi Zhang had her shot blocked by Claire Wright, who rotated with Jessica Gaudreault and faced four shots. Canada was through and China was down to the 11-12 play-off.

Quotes

David Paradelo (CAN) — Head Coach

“We started well, but our game plan was not as expected with no energy on press. We kept them in the game then they went over us. We were on a downer in the middle part, but then we shone through and came back. We struggled on man up.” On swapping goalkeepers several times in the shootout: “One goalkeeper was facing left-handers and the other for the right-handers who were generally taller Chinese players. They did a good job. The second goalkeeper stepped up in the second half.”

Kyra Christmas (CAN) — Three goals

“It was a really good game. I mean it was back and forth for the whole time, and being there and being able to come back was really important for our team. I was nervous, but I think we were prepared for anything. I mean we were just in the moment and really supportive of each other.”

Dunhan Xiong (CHN) — Two goals

“You know Canada is a very special defender. We shot very, very hard and scored many, many goals. Maybe with the last penalty we lost a very good opportunity to win the game. But we tried hard.”

Match 34, 12:30, NEW ZEALAND 12 KAZAKHSTAN 14 in penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens 2-4)
Results & Teams

Match 34, 12:30, NEW ZEALAND 12 KAZAKHSTAN 14 in penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens: 2-4)

Classification 9-12 Semifinals

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

Referees: Dion Willis (RSA), Georgios Stavridis (GRE).

Extra man: NZL: 4/10. KAZ: 6/8.

Penalties: NZL: 2/2.

Shot conversion: NZL: 10/34. KAZ: 10/27.

Teams:

NEW ZEALAND: Jessica Milicich, Emily Nicholson, Bernadette Doyle (4), Shinae Carrington, Elizabeth Alsemgeest, Morgan McDowall (3), Emmerson Houghton (2), Katie McKenty, Grace Tobin, Kaitlin Howarth (1), Amanda Lemon, Kate Enoka, Bridget Layburn. Head Coach: Angie Winstanley-Smith.

KAZAKHSTAN: Alexandra Zhazkimbaeva, Tomiris Kenenbayeva, Aizhan Akilbayeva, Anna Turova (2), Kamila Zakirova (1), Darya Roga, Anna Novikova (1), Darya Muzareva, Anastassiya Yeremina, Zamira Myrzabekova (2), Anastassiya Mirshina (4), Viktoriya Khritankova, Azhar Alibayeva. Head Coach: Marat Naurazbekov.

Report

This was the second successive penalty shootout to find who will go through to the 9-10 play-off, meaning those two matches on Wednesday will also be crackers. This was topsy-turvy play with the match even at three before Kazakhstan fired in three straight for a handsome quarter-time advantage. Then it went 8-4 and the Kiwis seemed out of it. New Zealand, however, took a timeout and it all changed. Six unanswered goals had the match firmly in the grip of the Kiwis at 10-8 nearly halfway through the final quarter. The 10th came from a penalty because of an errant re-entry by Aizhan Akilbayeva. Anastassiya Mirshina netted her fourth on extra and a minute later Anna Turova scored from deep left, much to the dismay of the Kiwis in and out of the water. This forced the shootout, which Kazakhstan made sure of four shots with the Kiwis missing the first and fourth to conclude the match. Converting extra-man attacks can be very helpful and Kazakhstan's six from eight was two better than New Zealand's. However, the Kiwis did convert two penalty fouls. Mirshina was busy attacking the goal, converting four of her nine attempts while Zamira Myrzabekova slotted two to lead her team with 10 goals at the tournament. Alexandra Zhazkimbaeva did her part in goal, making a fine 14 saves. Bernadette Doyle scored four from 10 attempts, including a pair either side of halfway. It lifted her to be the best of the Kiwis with 13 goals.

Quotes

Marat Naurazbekov (KAZ) — Head Coach

“The first period was good and also on attack. The second period as well so the first half was out best for 8-4. In the third period we did not concentrate and made mistakes. My team came back with a strong finish to

the game. In the shootout we had a good goalkeeper (Alexandra Zhazkimbaeva) and good shooters. To play for ninth is a very good result for Kazakhstan.”

Angie Winstanley-Smith (NZL) — Head Coach

“I’m gutted for the girls. It’s hard. I think the occasion got to us early on. Then we played three good quarters. I was proud of the fight from the girls. The penalty shootout was so brutal. Well done Kazakhstan.”

Bernadette Doyle (NZL) — Four goals

“I think probably it was just because of the extra pass. We were all tired and it was getting to the end of the game, so instead of taking a shot, just getting up doing that extra pass to finish the goals. Because we had a lot of opportunities to finish, but we just didn’t put it away. We came out today, had a slow start and kept pushing to the end. We had a pretty good tournament, and we’re just going to come in two days and hopefully just land on the 11 spot.”

Match 35, 14:00, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 15 GREECE 5

Results & Teams

Match 35, 14:00, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 15 GREECE 5

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

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

Referees: Gabriella Varkonyi (HUN), Jaume Teixido (ESP).

Extra man: USA: 5/8. GRE: 2/5.

Penalties: USA: Nil

Shot conversion: USA: 15/30. GRE: 5/18.

Teams:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Amanda Longan, Maddeline Musselman (4), Melissa Seidemann (1), Rachel Fattal (1), Paige Hauschild, Margaret Steffens (1), Stephania Haralabidis (1), Kiley Neushul (1), Aria Fischer (2), Kaleigh Gilchrist (1), Makenzie Fischer (2), Alys Williams (1), Ashleigh Johnson. Head Coach: Adam Krikorian.

GREECE: Ioanna Stamatopoulou, Christina Tsoukala, Alkistis Benekou, Nikoleta Eleftheridou (2), Maria Patra, Alkisti Avramidou (1), Alexandra Asimaki, Ioanna Chydirioti, Christina Kotsia, Eirini Ninou, Eleftheria Plevritou, Eleni Xenaki (2), Marina Kotsioni. Head Coach: Georgios Morfesis.

Report

Following two penalty shootouts it was a little refreshing to see a 10-goal margin. Not so for Greece in the oppressive humidity of 97 per cent and facing 4-0 down the barrel at the end of the first period. USA went 5-0 before Greece made the scoresheet with two quick goals. Then USA stretched it to 8-2 by halftime. Greece pulled two back before USA pushed on to 11-4 early in the fourth. Alkisti Avramidou gave some hope for 11-5, but Maddie Musselman, one of the stars of the World League Super Final, fired in three consecutive goals and Mel Seidemann, double Olympic champion, netted the last on extra for a comprehensive victory.

Quotes

Adam Krikorian (USA) — Head Coach

“It’s good if you look at the score, but we could have been a bit sharper in the last three quarters. We came alive in the fourth quarter and we showed how to play, pass and shoot. We have to start with a little more crispness. This is the fifth time we have played Greece in the past month, so there’s only so much you can change. We could do some things a little better than them.”

Makenzie Fischer (USA) — Two goals

“I think we came into the tournament feeling confident, but also knowing that there are a lot of good teams, we were just excited to play. I think there are still things that we can improve on, but we’re excited for the rest of tournament. The first quarter is always important because it sets a tone for the game. It’s fun to get up and get a big lead in the beginning and come out strong.”

Madeline Musselman (USA) — Four goals

“The first quarter is definitely very important. I think setting a tone early, just getting out there and being aggressive both offensively and defensively. I think we were a little slow to start today, but to be able to bounce back second, third and fourth. We kind of fired away some goals we needed in the beginning. I think just knowing your role, my role is offensively and defensively to be able to finish when you need to. I think personally I had a slow start today. I missed a couple early, but to bounce back from that, still be aggressive. I think I did a good job at the end.”

Georgios Morfesis (GRE) — Head Coach

“This is the difference between our teams at this moment. We played them four times in friendlies. We knew that. We came here to get the gold medal at the World Championships and we tried to fix one plan against them and it didn’t work. No so in extra-man (attack)

but on counter-attack. They also scored seven goals from outside. We will continue to get the best position possible at these championships.”

Eleni Xenaki (GRE) — Two goals

“Sad. We knew that we were going to play with one of the best teams in the world, so we tried our best, but you know... After the first quarter, there was no goals and we didn’t score. In the beginning I was feeling very confident, but after the second quarter we lost the game, we lost our concentration. We lost some easy goals.”

Match 36, 15:30, RUSSIA 7 AUSTRALIA 9
Results & Teams

Match 36, 15:30, RUSSIA 7 AUSTRALIA 9

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

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

Referees: Alessandro Severo (ITA), Adrian Alexandrescu (ROU).

Extra man: RUS: 5/14. AUS: 0/1.

Penalties: AUS: 2/2.

Shot conversion: RUS: 7/29. AUS: 9/25.

Teams:

RUSSIA: Evgeniia Golovina, Maria Bersneva, Ekaterina Prokofyeva (1), Elvina Karimova (2), Tatiana Tolkunova, Olga Gorbunova (1), Alena Serzhantova, Anastasiia Simanovich, Anna Timofeeva (1), Evgeniia Soboleva, Evgeniia Ivanova (1), Daria Ryzhkova (1), Anna Karnaukh. Head Coach: Alexander Gaidukov.

AUSTRALIA: Gabriella Palm, Keesja Gofers, Hannah Buckling (2), Bronte Halligan (2), Isobel Bishop, Bronwen Knox, Rowie Webster (3), Amy Ridge, Zoe Arancini (1), Lena Mihailovic, Elle Armit (1), Madeleine Steere, Lea Yanitsis. Head Coach: Predrag Mihailovic.

Report

Russia became the first group winner to bite the dust after Australia held firm for all the second half to secure a semifinal shot at USA. In Budapest two years ago, three group winners failed to make it to the semifinals, showing that an extra competition day off might not be the joy it seems. The Aussie Stingers struck hard and fast and continued to apply the pressure to Russia all match, something it had trouble negating. Australia was two up and Russia responded through Elvina Karimova. It was to be Russia's last goal for an incredible 18 minutes of play. When Anna Timofeeva sent in a centre-forward backhand it was 3:49 in the third period and it broke Australia's 4-1 grip helped by Hannah Buckling's pair. Bronte Halligan pushed it to 5-2. Then the Russia bear awoke from hibernation and scored four of the next five goals for 6-6. Buckling went on three majors and the Aussie Stingers were stung. There was still nearly five minutes remaining for either team to impress. It was Australia with captain Rowie Webster scoring on a lob for 7-6 and from the penalty line for 9-6 to give her three goals. Elle Armit was left free on two metres between Webster's pair of goals. There was still time for Russia at 2:31 and, in fact, one came back via a Karimova score on extra at 1:15, however, the Stingers held their ground and booked the semifinal spot. Russia defeated Australia in the World Cup last year by two goals, so this was some sort of retribution. Australia won the bronze from Spain and Russia had to settle for silver.

Quotes

Gabriella Palm (AUS) — Goalkeeper

“We went into the whole game to shut down their counter-attack and have strong defence. We held them to one goal in the first half. We held strong against their counter-attack and controlled the game. I'm so stoked to go to the semifinals.” On the synergy of goalkeeper and defence: “It's so important I give direction with the centre back. We weren't individuals, but worked as a team. The last time I played Russia was in the semifinal at the World Cup (2018) where we went down by two and I made two big saves. They (defence) make it easy for me to play.”

Rowie Webster (AUS) — Captain and three goals

“Absolutely cracking team. We went up and down the pool for four quarters and having Gabi (Palm) in goal was just amazing. The team goals and the way we were grinding it out, was just brilliant.”

Match 37, 17:00, SPAIN 12 NETHERLANDS 8

Results & Teams

Match 37, 17:00, SPAIN 12 NETHERLANDS 8

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

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

Referees: Marie-Claude Deslieres (CAN), Nenad Peris (CRO).

Extra man: ESP: 5/11. NED: 3/6.

Penalties: ESP: 1/1. NED: 1/1.

Shot conversion: ESP: 12/28. NED: 8/30.

Teams:

SPAIN: Laura Ester, Marta Bach, Anna Espar (4), Beatriz Ortiz (1), Roser Tarrago (1), Irene Gonzalez (1), Clara Espar, Pilar Pena, Judith Forca (1), Paula Crespi, Maica Garcia (4), Paula Leiton, Elena Sanchez. Head Coach: Miguel Oca.

NETHERLANDS: Joanne Koenders, Maud Megens, Dagmar Genee (1), Catharina Van Der Sloot (3), Iris Wolves (1), Nomi Stomphorst, Bente Rogge (1), Vivian Sevenich, Maartje Keuning, Ilse Koolhaas, Simone Van der Kraats (2), Brigitte Sleeking, Rozanne Voorvelt, Sarah Buis. Head Coach: Arno Havenga.

Report

Spain made sure it was not going the way of Russia by winning a group and not having the opportunity to win a medal, firing off a shocking six goals before Netherlands responded just before quarter time. A large Dutch crowd was stunned as was the team in the water. It was an incredible performance, especially coming in such a critical phase of the championship. Anna Espar drilled two from deep left to start the match and Maica Garcia, at centre forward, showed little respect to her defender with two big goals. A pair of Simone Van Der Kraats goals brought sanity to the match and Dagmar Genee and Iris Wolves lifted the Dutch to 8-4 at halftime. The sanity prevailed at the start of the third quarter via Bente Rogge for 8-5. Three and a half minutes later Anna Espar converted a penalty for a four-goal margin and Irene Gonzalez scored on extra from the right-catch position. Two more Spanish goals, from penalty and on extra-man attack thrust the margin to five at the final break. Netherlands — or Catherina (Sabrina) Van der Sloot — stepped up in the final quarter with three goals, two from the right and one from the penalty line. However, Spain was almost equal to the task with two goals for a final score of 12-8. With Anna Espar and Maica Garcia finished with four goals each, it made the work for Netherlands to come back a bridge too far. What did not help the Dutch cause was the restriction of Maud Megens any chance to add to her 14 goals in Gwangju.

Quotes

Miki Oca (ESP) — Head Coach

“We started very well, very well, perfect. We defended very well and were scoring easily. My shooters were inspired and made a hole in their wall. Then we played with more calm. We knew Holland was very strong and had big power in attack, strong counter-attack, shooters and centre forwards. We worked really well in attack and were very dynamic and our defence was helping each other.”

Anna Espar (ESP) — Four goals

“It’s very important to start well, and I’m very glad that we started that well and were able to give our best. Starting well and having an advantage make it always easier. Winning against such a good team is not easy, so we need to go game by game and see who is our next rival and try to come up with a good strategy.”

Arno Havenga (NED) — Head Coach

“We lost the game in the first quarter when they made a gap of five goals on us. One moment we got back to three goals. We had good opportunities, but we didn’t shoot too well or make the final pass.”

Dagmar Genee (NED) — Captain and goal scorer

“I’m really disappointed. Now we hope for something else. I think we fought really hard, but we were not really efficient and feel devastated because this game was really important if you are playing for the medals. We prepared for it pretty well and felt ready for it, but in the water we didn’t play defence as well as before.”

Match 38, 18:30, ITALY 6 HUNGARY 7

Results & Teams

Match 38, 18:30, ITALY 6 HUNGARY 7

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

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

Referees: Boris Margeta (SLO), Vojin Putnikovic (SRB).

Extra man: ITA: 3/9. HUN: 3/9.

Penalties: HUN: 1/1

Shot conversion: ITA: 6/26. HUN: 7/28.

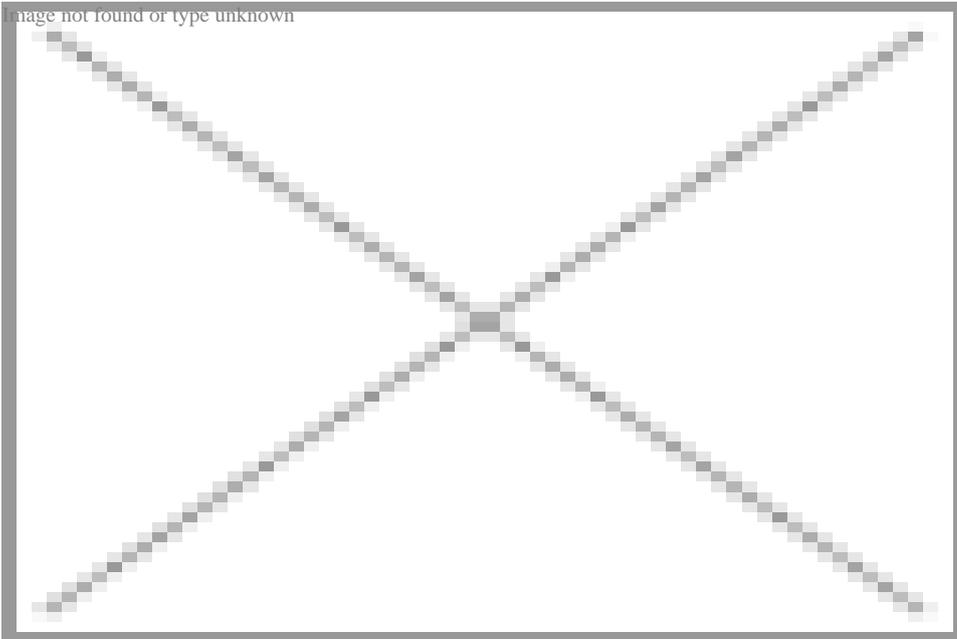
Teams:

ITALY: Giulia Gorlero, Chiara Tabani (1), Arianna Garibotti, Silvia Avegno (1), Elisa Queirolo (1), Rosaria Aiello, Domitilla Picozzi (1), Roberta Bianconi, Giulia Emmolo (1), Valeria Palmieri, Isabella Chiappini (1), Giulia Viacava, Frederica Lavi. Head Coach: Fabio Conti.

HUNGARY: Edina Gangl, Dorottya Szilagyi (1), Rebecca Parkes, Greta Gurisatti (2), Natasa Rybanska, Brigitta Horvath, Anna Illes (1), Rita Keszthelyi (1), Dora Leimeter (2), Aniko Gyongyossy, Dora Toth-Csbai, Vanda Valyi, Alda Magyari. Head Coach: Attila Biro.

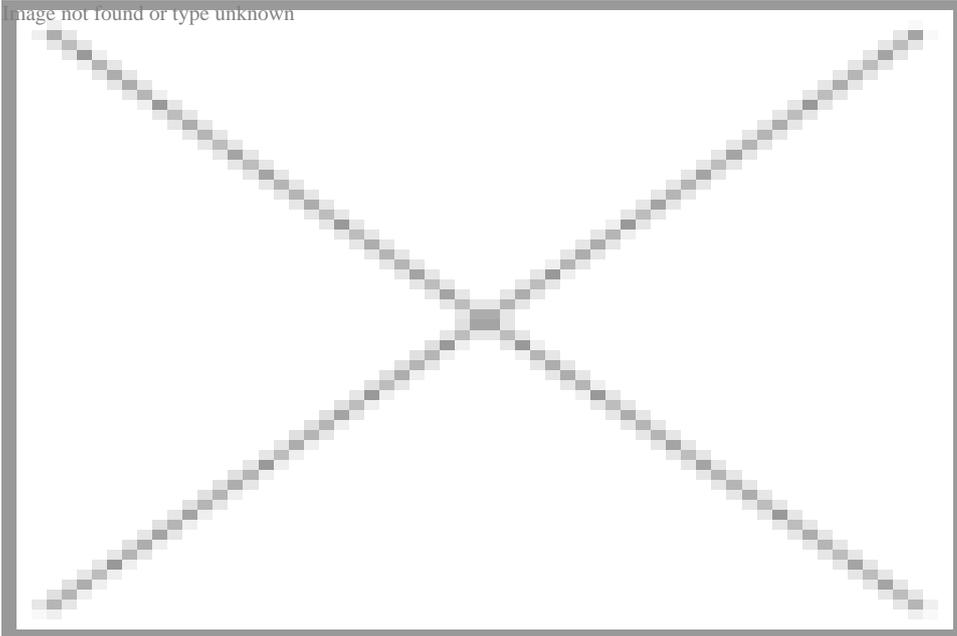
Report

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Hungary ousted group winner Italy from the semifinals, meaning two teams failed to make the medal round, which was one less than in Budapest two years ago. Hungary was the more controlled and a two-goal head start made all the difference. That became 4-2 at the first break and 5-4 at halftime. Chiara Tabani levelled on extra-man attack three minutes into the third period. However, two minutes later, Hungary was ahead. Elisa Queirolo levelled a minute into the final quarter and it was not until 4:50 that Dora Leimeter converted extra for what was to be the final score and victory. Both teams had plenty of chances and Italy could have been in worse condition if not for Giulia Gorlero who made 13 saves.

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Photos: Istvan Derencsenyi

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Quotes

Attila Biro (HUN) — Head Coach

“It was a big tactical game for both teams. We are the two most traditional water polo nations in Europe. It was a very tactical game. We didn’t play very well but we won with fight and luck. We did it with real teamwork.”

Natasa Rybanska (HUN)

“I’m very, very happy. We really showed our team spirit and it was as I imagined. It was true Hungarian spirit going on. I think we still have more to show, so I’m really excited for the next game. We are well prepared. We have really good individual team players, but we win by a team game.”

Fabio Conti (ITA) — Head Coach

“I’m sorry the game was very bad. Just in the first quarter we were two down. We came to play the last quarter, but there were mistakes in attack and it’s all right to lose. Congratulations to Hungary; they played a very controlled game.”

Elisa Queirolo (ITA) — Goal scorer

“I feel really bad because I think we wasted a very good occasion, and also we have qualities for arriving in the finals, but we wasted a lot of opportunities and good playing. It’s very hard to lose these matches because we want to qualify for the Olympics, so now it’s a really bad moment. There are other chances and we will work for these chances, but for now we have to think about the actions in the games.”

FINA Communication Department

Gwangju, South Korea.— Defending champion United States of America crushed Greece 15-5 to gain the first semifinal berth on the fifth day of the FINA World Championship women's water polo tournament at

the Nambu University Grounds in Gwangju.

Australia blocked Russia at every turn to shoot into the semifinals with a 9-7 victory after 4-4 at halftime in which Russia was never allowed to compete. Australia's success earns a shot at reigning champion USA.

Spain came out of the blocks faster than a 50m freestyle sprinter, shooting to 6-0 in the opening quarter — the fulcrum on which it steered the ship to 12-8 by full time.

The final qualifier was Hungary who dispensed with group winner Italy 7-6 after leading all the way and fending off a determined but mistake-ridden Italy. Hungary now plays Spain for the right to go to the gold-medal final.

In the 9-12 classification semifinals, Canada won a 14-shot, sudden-death penalty shootout win over China 17-16 after the match was tied 10-10 at full time. The second match finished with the same score, Kazakhstan coming back from two, forcing another shootout. Kazakhstan was perfect with four shots and New Zealand missed twice for the 14-12 Kazakhstan victory.

In lower classification matches, Japan defeated South Africa 21-2 for 13th position and Cuba left with 15th place after shutting out Korea 30-0.

Monday Women's Schedule:

Classification 15-16

Match 31, 08:00, KOREA 0 CUBA 30

Classification 13-14

Match 32, 9.30, SOUTH AFRICA 2 JAPAN 21

Classification 9-12 Semifinals

Match 33, 11:00, CANADA 17 CHINA 16 in sudden-death penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens 7-6)

Match 34, 12:30, NEW ZEALAND 12 KAZAKHSTAN 14 in penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. Pens 2-4)

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

Match 35, 14:00, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 15 GREECE 5

Match 36, 15:30, RUSSIA 7 AUSTRALIA 9

Match 37, 17:00, SPAIN 12 NETHERLANDS 8

Match 38, 18:30, ITALY 6 HUNGARY 7

Tuesday Men's Schedule

Classification 15-16

Match 31, 08:00, KOREA v NEW ZEALAND

Classification 13-14

Match 32, 09.30, BRAZIL v KAZAKHSTAN

Classification 9-12 Semifinals

Match 33, 11:00, MONTENEGRO v JAPAN

Match 34, 12:30, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v SOUTH AFRICA

Classification 1-8 Quarterfinals

Match 35, 14:00, SERBIA v SPAIN

Match 36, 15:30, CROATIA v GERMANY

Match 37, 17:00, HUNGARY v AUSTRALIA

Match 38, 18:30, ITALY v GREECE

Wednesday Women's Schedule

Classification 11-12

Match 39, 09:30, CHINA v NEW ZEALAND

Classification 9-10

Match 40, 11:00, CANADA v KAZAKHSTAN

Classification 5-8 Semifinals

Match 41, 14:00, GREECE v RUSSIA

Match 42, 15:30, NETHERLANDS v ITALY

Classification 1-4 Semifinals

Match 43, 17:00, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v AUSTRALIA

Match 44, 18:30, SPAIN v HUNGARY
