



Action from the first day of women's Olympic competition (Japan vs. New Zealand, Germany vs. Great Britain and Australia vs. Korea). In the middle: FIH President Els van Breda Vriesman welcomes the guests at the FIH Welcome Lunch on Saturday.

Day 1 thrills the fans!

After all the build up, yesterday saw the start of the hockey tournament here in Beijing and what a day it proved to be! Japan looked impressive in their 2-1 win against New Zealand, although the Blacksticks can consider themselves unlucky not to have taken at least a point from that match.

Then, China produced a staggering performance against Spain, completely outclassing their opponents with 3 field goals. However, it was Australia who produced the result of the day against Korea. It was the most unbelievable of comebacks from the Green and Golds, fighting back from 4-1 down to win 5-4. Despite wet conditions, a good number of fans turned out to watch a nine goal classic, with the Hockeyroos showing the kind of fighting spirit which has seen

them win many tournaments in the past. It will be a match long remembered.

Luciana Aymar's Argentina looked excellent during the opening period against USA, but USA grew in confidence and were more than worth their 2-2 draw against the Champions Trophy holders. The Netherlands were next up, trouncing South Africa 6-0, with former South Africa player Marilyn Agliotti getting on the score-sheet for the Dutch. In the final match of the day, Germany crushed Great Britain 5-1, proving to the world that they may be hitting form just in time to defend their title. It was a great start for the women's competition, and if this is a sign of things to come, it really could go down as one of the best Olympic hockey tournaments in history.

Player to Watch: Rob Short (CAN)



The oldest male competitor in hockey at Beijing 2008, this outstanding athlete celebrates his 36th birthday today, and what better way to celebrate than playing the Olympic Champions? The midfield playmaker was recently described by Canadian head coach Louis Mendonca as "a remarkable human specimen... one of a kind".

Program of the Day (Men)	---	11 August 2008
08:30 Germany v China		18:30 Australia v Canada
10:30 Pakistan v Great Britain		20:30 Spain v Belgium
18:00 Korea v New Zealand		21:00 Netherlands v South Africa

Hockey Celebrates 100 Years at the Olympic Games

Every day we travel back in time to celebrate a century of Olympic hockey.

Amsterdam 1928: India emerged as the world's best, winning Gold thanks to 15 goals from 22-year-old army captain Dhyan Chand.

Los Angeles 1932: India's superiority continued when barefoot genius

Chand inspired a second Gold medal that included a record 24-1 defeat of USA.

Berlin 1936: Chand completed a hat-trick of Gold medals when India defeated Germany 8-1, with six goals courtesy of "The Wizard".

Tomorrow: London 1948, Helsinki 1952 & Melbourne 1956



Left: India score in the 1936 Olympic final against Germany

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Hockey House open for business!

The Hockey House at the Yanshan Hotel was officially opened on Friday, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all! "I think it is fantastic" said FIH President and IOC member Els van Breda Vriesman.

"The entire hockey family realises what a great place this is to relax and socialise."

Also at the opening, England Hockey were awarded the Pablo Negre Trophy for their efforts in organising the 2006 FIH Congress in London.



Two of Pablo's family members, his son and European Hockey Federation President Leandro Negre and his granddaughter Cristina, handed the trophy to England Hockey Executive Chairman Philip Kimberley.

FIH welcomes the hockey family

The FIH welcome lunch took place on Saturday at the Golden Jaguar International Cuisine Collection in Beijing. All of the guests enjoyed superb food and great company. With 100 years of Olympic Hockey the reason to celebrate, the welcome lunch was well attended by many members of the hockey family as well as several IOC members. FIH President Els van Breda Vriesman greeted all of the guests at the venue, who each received a gift to commemorate the occasion.

Women Pool A

10 Aug 10:30 CHN v ESP 3:0 (2:0)
 10 Aug 18:00 AUS v KOR 5:4 (1:4)
 10 Aug 20:30 NED v RSA 6:0 (2:0)
 12 Aug 10:30 AUS v ESP
 12 Aug 18:30 CHN v RSA
 12 Aug 20:30 NED v KOR
 14 Aug 08:30 CHN v NED
 14 Aug 18:00 ESP v KOR
 14 Aug 20:30 RSA v AUS
 16 Aug 10:30 AUS v NED
 16 Aug 18:30 KOR v CHN
 16 Aug 21:00 ESP v RSA
 18 Aug 10:30 KOR v RSA
 18 Aug 18:30 NED v ESP
 18 Aug 21:00 CHN v AUS

Women Classification Day 1

20 Aug 08:30 9th/10th Place
 20 Aug 11:00 7th/8th Place
 20 Aug 18:00 Semifinal 01
 20 Aug 20:30 Semifinal 02

Women Pool B

10 Aug 08:30 JPN v NZL 2:1 (2:1)
 10 Aug 18:30 ARG v USA 2:2 (2:1)
 10 Aug 21:00 GER v GBR 5:1 (2:1)
 12 Aug 08:30 ARG v GBR
 12 Aug 18:00 USA v JPN
 12 Aug 21:00 GER v NZL
 14 Aug 10:30 USA v GER
 14 Aug 18:30 JPN v ARG
 14 Aug 21:00 NZL v GBR
 16 Aug 08:30 NZL v USA
 16 Aug 18:00 GER v ARG
 16 Aug 20:30 GBR v JPN
 18 Aug 08:30 GER v JPN
 18 Aug 18:00 GBR v USA
 18 Aug 20:30 ARG v NZL

Women Classification Day 1

22 Aug 08:30 11th/12th Place
 22 Aug 11:00 5th/6th Place
 22 Aug 18:00 Bronze Medal Match
 22 Aug 20:30 Gold Medal Match
 22 Aug 22:30 Medal Ceremony

Women Pool A

1. Netherlands	1	1	0	0	6:0	3
2. China	1	1	0	0	3:0	3
3. Australia	1	1	0	0	5:4	3
4. Korea	1	0	0	1	4:5	0
5. Spain	1	0	0	1	0:3	0
6. South Africa	1	0	0	1	0:6	0

Women Pool B

1. Germany	1	1	0	0	5:1	3
2. Japan	1	1	0	0	2:1	3
3. Argentina	1	0	1	0	2:2	1
3. USA	1	0	1	0	2:2	1
5. New Zealand	1	0	0	1	1:2	0
6. Great Britain	1	0	0	1	1:5	0

Goalscorers Women

- Eileen HOFFMANN (GER) 2 goals
Shelly LIDDELOW (AUS) 2 goals
Maartje PAUMEN (NED) 2 goals
2 more players 2 goals
- 21 players 1 goal

The men's competition takes off

Just as the women's, the men's competition promises to provide plenty of action, close contests and great hockey in the 2008 edition of the Olympic Games here in Beijing. The big four - Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain - are favorites to reach the semifinals, but competition promises to be fierce with a number of teams waiting half a step behind, ready to jump at any opportunity.

For the Dutch, the fact that it will be the last shot at Olympic glory for a group of legendary players including long-time captain Jeroen Delmee, as well as three time World Hockey Player of the Year Teun de Nooijer, provides the extra edge.

Neighbours and World Champions Germany have recently welcomed über-striker Christopher Zeller back to the squad who had been out with injury since the German league finals, but their pool opponents Spain may well be a team to stand in their way, looking to pick up their first title in Olympic Games. With a generation of exceptional players hitting their prime, the opportunity is certainly there. According to Hendriks however, Australia is the team to watch. "Australia is the absolute favorite", Hendriks said in a recent interview.

But there is also Korea, always a force to be reckoned with, New Zealand with their towering penalty corner weapon Hayden Shaw, the Belgian dragonslayers who forced World Champions Germany into Olympic qualification, and the Brits who hope for a boost for the sport four years before they play the next Olympic Games on home soil. Exciting encounters are guaranteed!

Flying the flag

Two hockey players were given the honour of carrying the flag of their respective nations during Friday evening's awe-inspiring opening ceremony. Pakistan were lead out by hockey captain Zeeshan Ashraf, who will reach the milestone of 300 international appearances for his country during the Games. Jeroen Delmee was flying the flag for The Netherlands, in recognition of over 390 international appearances. Congratulations to them!

How They Qualified...

- Australia – 2007 Oceania Cup: Gold medallists
- Belgium – 2007 EuroHockey Nations: 3rd place
- Canada – Winners of the 2007 Pan American Games
- China – Host Nation and silver medallists in 2007 Asian Games
- Germany – Winners of the Olympic Qualifier in Japan
- Great Britain – Winners of the Olympic Qualifier in Chile
- Korea – 2007 Asian Games: Winners
- Netherlands – 2007 EuroHockey Nations: Silver medallists
- New Zealand – Winners of the Olympic Qualifier in New Zealand
- Pakistan – 2007 Asian Games: 3rd place
- South Africa – 2007 African Olympic Qualifier: Winners
- Spain – 2007 EuroHockey Nations: Silver medallists

Men Pool A

11 Aug 08:30 GER v CHN
 11 Aug 18:00 KOR v NZL
 11 Aug 20:30 ESP v BEL
 13 Aug 10:30 CHN v KOR
 13 Aug 18:30 BEL v GER
 13 Aug 20:30 NZL v ESP
 15 Aug 08:30 ESP v CHN
 15 Aug 18:00 BEL v NZL
 15 Aug 20:30 KOR v GER
 17 Aug 10:30 KOR v BEL
 17 Aug 18:30 NZL v CHN
 17 Aug 21:00 GER v ESP
 19 Aug 10:30 GER v NZL
 19 Aug 18:30 KOR v ESP
 19 Aug 21:00 CHN v BEL

Men Classification Day 1

21 Aug 08:30 9th/10th Place
 21 Aug 11:00 7th/8th Place
 21 Aug 18:00 Semifinal 01
 21 Aug 20:30 Semifinal 02

Men Pool B

11 Aug 10:30 PAK v GBR
 11 Aug 18:30 AUS v CAN
 11 Aug 21:00 NED v RSA
 13 Aug 08:30 RSA v AUS
 13 Aug 18:00 CAN v PAK
 13 Aug 21:00 NED v GBR
 15 Aug 10:30 NED v CAN
 15 Aug 18:30 PAK v AUS
 15 Aug 21:00 RSA v GBR
 17 Aug 08:30 GBR v CAN
 17 Aug 18:00 PAK v RSA
 17 Aug 20:30 AUS v NED
 19 Aug 08:30 NED v PAK
 19 Aug 18:00 CAN v RSA
 19 Aug 20:30 AUS v GBR

Men Classification Day 2

23 Aug 08:30 11th/12th Place
 23 Aug 11:00 5th/6th Place
 23 Aug 18:00 Bronze Medal Match
 23 Aug 20:30 Gold Medal Match
 23 Aug 22:30 Medal Ceremony

Men Pool A

Belgium
 China
 Germany
 Korea
 New Zealand
 Spain

Men Pool B

Australia
 Canada
 Great Britain
 Netherlands
 Pakistan
 South Africa

Current Men's World Rankings

(only participating teams are listed)

- Australia (1)
- Germany (2)
- Netherlands (3)
- Spain (4)
- Korea (5)
- Pakistan (7)
- Great Britain (8)
- New Zealand (11)
- Belgium (12)
- South Africa (13)
- Canada (15)
- China (17)