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Action from the seventh and last day of women's Olympic competition in Beijing: South Africa vs. new Zealand, Australia vs. Great Britain, Argentina vs. Germany and the final between China and The Netherlands.

Netherlands win Gold over China!

The Netherlands were yesterday crowned Olympic champions after defeating host nation China 2:0 in a wonderful final. The match was watched by a capacity crowd, with both sets of supporters cheering loudly to create an atmosphere that will long be remembered by everyone present. The result gave The Netherlands their first Olympic title for 24 years, helping to ease the pain of the final defeat by Germany four years ago.

China frustrated their opponents in the first half, with goalkeeper Yimeng Zhang making a string of stunning saves. Their defence seemed as solid as the Great Wall, but Naomi van As sent the Dutch supporters crazy when she tapped in a penalty corner before Maartje Goderie sealed the victory with a second. It was heartbreak for China, but The Netherlands were clearly the best team at Beijing 2008 and fully deserved their Gold medal.

The Bronze medal was won by Argentina, who defeated Germany 3:1 with goals from Rosario Luchetti, Carla Rebecchi and Noel Barrionuevo. The Germany girls were devastated, but nothing could dampen the spirits of Las Leonas, with football legend Diego Maradona joining in with the on-pitch celebrations shortly after the end of the game.

Earlier in the day, Australia defeated Great Britain 2:0 to secure 5th place, with New Zealand losing 4:1 to South Africa in the 11th/12th place play-off match. However, it was The Netherlands' day, one that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Program of the Day (Men) --- 23 August 2008	
08:30 11/12 Place: China v South Africa	18:00 Bronze: Netherlands v Australia
11:00 5/6 Place: Korea v Great Britain	20:30 Gold: Germany v Spain

Player to Watch: Tibor Weissenborn (GER)



A real class act. At just 27, Weissenborn has over 320 caps to his name - a figure that shows just how important he is to his side.

This terrific midfielder has a big influence on every game that he plays for Germany, and the Olympic final will be no different.

Hockey Celebrates 100 Years at the Olympic Games

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

Athens 2004 – Men: The Netherlands got the better of Germany in the first semi-final, with Teun de Nooijer's 53rd minute strike proving to be the decisive factor. The second semi saw Spain defeated 6:3 by Australia, with Michael McCann and Grant Schubert scoring two goals apiece.

The final was all set to be a classic, and proved to be exactly that. The Netherlands took the lead thanks to Ronald Brouwer's sensational individual effort in the first period, before Jamie



The Kookaburras won their first ever Olympic Gold in Athens. © IOC

Dwyer released Travis Brooks to smash home a second half equaliser.

Dwyer was the tournament's star, and it was only fitting that he secured a first ever Olympic Gold medal for the Kookaburras, powering home a penalty corner in golden goal extra time.

This time around the losing semi-finalists both defeated their 2004 conquerors, setting up the most unpredictable of Olympic finals.

Disclaimer

The FIH Olympic Daily is a publication of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). International Hockey Federation (FIH), Rue du Valentin 61, CH-1004 Lausanne, Switzerland. FIH Olympic Media Team: Gordon Morrison (photos), Aaron Sher, Arjen Meijer, Elisabeth Fuerst, Richard Stainthorpe, Yan Huckendubler, Jeroen van Bergen (photos). All content © FIH.



Agreement signed for Men's World Cup 2010

Yesterday saw the signing of The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the organization of the Men's Hockey World Cup in India. The agreement was signed by FIH President Mrs. Els van Breda Vriesman and Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

It is a vital step in making sure that the 2010 World Cup, which takes place in New Delhi from 7 to 20 March 2010, will be a major success.

Golden Whistle for Julie Ashton-Lucy

To celebrate umpiring her 100th senior international match, Australian umpire Julie Ashton-Lucy received a Golden Whistle from FIH President Els van Breda Vriesman at the Olympic Games in Beijing following the 3rd/4th play-off game between Germany and Argentina. Congratulations!



Final Standings Women

1. Netherlands
2. China
3. Argentina
4. Germany
5. Australia
6. Great Britain
7. Spain
8. USA
9. Korea
10. Japan
11. South Africa
12. New Zealand

Men's Final Preview: Spanish Flair versus German efficiency

World champions Germany will be aiming to add the Olympic title to their collection when they face super Spain at 20:30. The Bronze medal match takes place at 18:00, with The Netherlands playing Australia.

Gold Medal Match: Germany v Spain: The world's media is wondering if Spanish flair can triumph over Germany efficiency. Spain produced a monumental fight-back against Australia, recovering from 2:0 down to win in dramatic fashion. The Spanish front three of Pol Amat, Edi Tubau and Santi Freixa have struggled to find their form this tournament, but all of the pieces fell into place beautifully on Thursday evening. Tubau scored twice, Freixa bagged a 68th minute winner and Amat was simply magnificent.

Germany beat Spain in the pool match, but they now face a team with no doubts about their own ability and a fighting quality that makes champions. Being champions is something that Germany know all about, having won the World Cup in 2006. They never know when they are beaten, and can always produce a goal from even the most unlikely sources. Defender Phillip Zeller netted a 68th minute equaliser for his side after falling behind to The Netherlands with just four minutes left to play. It is difficult to predict which way it will go.

Bronze Medal Match: The Netherlands v Australia: Both sides will be hurting after losing their semi-final matches, but a Bronze medal is still up for grabs. Dutchmen Teun de Nooijer, Jeroen Delmee and Guus Vogels will all be hoping to add a fourth Olympic medal to their collection.

Also taking place is the classification match for 11th/12th place, with South Africa versus China at 08:30. Then, at 11:00, Korea play Great Britain for fifth place.



Edi Tubau delivered an outstanding performance in Spain's semi-final, contributing two goals to a 3-2 win.

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

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 2:2 (2:0)
 12 Aug 18:00 USA v JPN 1:1 (0:1)
 12 Aug 21:00 GER v NZL 2:1 (0:1)
 14 Aug 10:30 USA v GER 2:4 (1:1)
 14 Aug 18:30 JPN v ARG 1:2 (0:0)
 14 Aug 21:00 NZL v GBR 1:2 (1:1)
 16 Aug 08:30 NZL v USA 1:4 (0:2)
 16 Aug 18:00 GER v ARG 0:4 (0:0)
 16 Aug 20:30 GBR v JPN 2:1 (1:0)
 18 Aug 08:30 GER v JPN 1:0 (0:0)
 18 Aug 18:00 GBR v USA 0:0 (0:0)
 18 Aug 20:30 ARG v NZL 3:2 (1:1)

Women Pool A

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Netherlands	5	5	0	0	14:3	15
2. China	5	3	1	1	14:4	10
3. Australia	5	3	1	1	17:9	10
4. Spain	5	2	0	3	4:12	6
5. Korea	5	1	0	4	13:18	3
6. South Africa	5	0	0	5	2:18	0

Women Pool B

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Germany	5	4	0	1	12:8	12
2. Argentina	5	3	2	0	13:7	11
3. Great Britain	5	2	2	1	7:9	8
4. USA	5	1	3	1	9:8	6
5. Japan	5	1	1	3	5:7	4
6. New Zealand	5	0	0	5	6:13	0

Goalscorers Women

1. Maartje PAUMEN (NED) 11 goals
 2. FU Baorong (CHN) 5 goals
 - Alejandra GULLA (ARG) 5 goals
 - Seon Ok LEE (KOR) 5 goals
- For more info, visit www.worldhockey.org.

Men Pool A

11 Aug 08:30 GER v CHN 4:1 (1:1)
 11 Aug 18:00 KOR v NZL 1:3 (1:1)
 11 Aug 20:30 ESP v BEL 4:2 (2:1)
 13 Aug 10:30 CHN v KOR 2:5 (2:2)
 13 Aug 18:30 BEL v GER 1:1 (1:1)
 13 Aug 20:30 NZL v ESP 0:1 (0:0)
 15 Aug 08:30 ESP v CHN 2:1 (1:1)
 15 Aug 18:00 BEL v NZL 2:4 (0:3)
 15 Aug 20:30 KOR v GER 3:3 (1:1)
 17 Aug 10:30 KOR v BEL 3:1 (0:1)
 17 Aug 18:30 NZL v CHN 2:2 (1:2)
 17 Aug 21:00 GER v ESP 1:0 (1:0)
 19 Aug 10:30 GER v NZL 3:1 (2:0)
 19 Aug 18:30 KOR v ESP 1:2 (0:1)
 19 Aug 21:00 CHN v BEL 1:3 (1:2)

Men Pool B

11 Aug 10:30 PAK v GBR 2:4 (0:3)
 11 Aug 18:30 AUS v CAN 6:1 (3:0)
 11 Aug 21:00 NED v RSA 5:0 (2:0)
 13 Aug 08:30 RSA v AUS 0:10 (0:5)
 13 Aug 18:00 CAN v PAK 1:3 (1:0)
 13 Aug 21:00 NED v GBR 1:0 (0:0)
 15 Aug 10:30 NED v CAN 4:2 (3:1)
 15 Aug 18:30 PAK v AUS 1:3 (1:1)
 15 Aug 21:00 RSA v GBR 0:2 (0:1)
 17 Aug 08:30 GBR v CAN 1:1 (0:0)
 17 Aug 18:00 PAK v RSA 3:1 (1:1)
 17 Aug 20:30 AUS v NED 2:2 (0:0)
 19 Aug 08:30 NED v PAK 4:2 (0:1)
 19 Aug 18:00 CAN v RSA 5:3 (2:2)
 19 Aug 20:30 AUS v GBR 3:3 (0:1)

Men Pool A

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Spain	5	4	0	1	9:5	12
2. Germany	5	3	2	0	12:6	11
3. Korea	5	2	1	2	13:11	7
4. New Zealand	5	2	1	2	10:9	7
5. Belgium	5	1	1	3	9:13	4
6. China	5	0	1	4	7:16	1

Men Pool B

	M	W	D	L	Goals	P
1. Netherlands	5	4	1	0	16:6	13
2. Australia	5	3	2	0	24:7	11
3. Great Britain	5	2	2	1	10:7	8
4. Pakistan	5	2	0	3	11:13	6
5. Canada	5	1	1	3	10:17	4
6. South Africa	5	0	0	5	4:25	0

Women Classification 20 Aug

08:30 9th/10th KOR v JPN 2:1 (1:0)
 11:00 7th/8th ESP v USA 2:2 (1:1)
 3:2 GG
 18:00 Semifinal GER v CHN 2:3 (1:1)
 20:30 Semifinal NED v ARG 5:2 (3:0)

Women Classification 22 Aug

08:30 11th/12th RSA v NZL 4:1 (2:1)
 11:00 5th/6th AUS v GBR 2:0 (1:0)
 18:00 Bronze GER v ARG 1:3 (0:2)
 20:30 Gold CHN v NED 0:2 (0:0)

Men Classification 21 Aug

08:30 9th/10th BEL v CAN 3:0 (2:0)
 11:00 7th/8th NZL v PAK 4:2 (1:0)
 18:00 Semifinal NED v GER 2:2 (1:1)
 4:5 APS
 20:30 Semifinal ESP v AUS 3:2 (0:1)

Men Classification 23 Aug

08:30 11th/12th CHN v RSA
 11:00 5th/6th KOR v GBR
 18:00 Bronze Medal NED v AUS
 20:30 Gold Medal GER v ESP
 22:30 Medal Ceremony

Goalscorers Men

1. Taeke TAEKEMA (NED) 10 goals
 2. Hayden SHAW (NZL) 6 goals
 3. Desmond ABBOTT (AUS) 5 goals
 - Jong Hyun JANG (KOR) 5 goals
- For more info, visit www.worldhockey.org.