



2008 Olympic Games – Women – Beijing, China

Thursday 14 August

18:30



Japan 1



Argentina 2

70' The relief of the Argentines is tangible, while the Japanese, despite the huge disappointment painted on their faces, make a round to bow to the stands, thanking the crowd for their support.

70' Here's the final whistle, ARG have won the game - finally, their first three points. An all-important win for the Champions Trophy holders, which puts them in a better position to reach the semi-finals than opponents JPN.

70' The last few seconds tick down with ARG on the attack.

69' Free hit for JPN. **Keiko MIURA** hits a wide ball into the circle for **Tomomi KOMORI** but it hits her foot, the ball is ARG's.

68' JPN are pushing hard for the elusive equalizer now. ARG are struggling, and being one player down won't help.

68'  for **Alejandra GULLA** for a stick tackle.

67' Execution is slow and there is no shot on goal.

67' **Noel BARRIONUEVO** flicks the ball into **Rika KOMAZAWA**. The ball stays in play and the teams fight to retrieve it. Another PC is awarded.

66' PC for ARG.

** Goal: Keiko MIURA **


65' **Keiko MIURA**'s hit aims towards the left bottom corner of the goal and streaks past **Paola VUKOJICIC**.

64' **Keiko MIURA** hits it towards the center of the goal. The ball is stopped by **Paola VUKOJICIC** and lost in the scramble. Another Pc is awarded.

63' PC for JPN.

60' Free hit for JPN near the circle but it is superbly intercepted and cleared by **Soledad GARCIA**.

59' ARG still dominate the biggest part of open play, but they are getting a bit sloppy now, turning over the ball too easily.

57'  for Rosario LUCCHETTI after a rough tackle in midfield.

54' JPN put up a valiant fight but the ARG defense is just too strong, and they cannot get through.

52' ARG wildly celebrate their second goal which provides them with a bit of a safety margin and puts them back on the patch to a semifinal, at least for the time being.

** Goal: Claudia BURKART **

51' **Noel BARRIONUEVO** lays off to the left again, this time for **Claudia BURKART**. She hits the ball diagonally across and it is in!

51' **Noel BARRIONUEVO** lays off for **Luciana AYMAR**, she pushes the ball toward the

goal and it is saved but has hit a foot. PC for ARG.

49' Long solo run from **Luciana AYMAR**, her specialty. She wins a PC for ARG.

43' They just cannot find the net however!

42' ARG are on the attack again and constantly test the JPN defense with shot after shot and attack after attack.

39' **Keiko MIURA** hits it to the right for **Rika KOMAZAWA** to deflect but she cannot get to it.

39' PC for JPN.

37' The ARG players and staff are visibly relieved, the gola has come at a crucial time to put the Leonas on the path to victory.

**** Goal: Alejandra GULLA ****

37' Free hit for ARG, and here is the goal: a long hit into the circle is deflected by **Alejandra GULLA**, out of reach for **Ikuko OKAMURA**.

36' The second half of the match has started.

35' As the last minute ticks down, **Kaori CHIBA** makes a run down the right side and passes forward for **Tomomi KOMORI**. Great work from **Tomomi KOMORI** but JPN cannot get a good opportunity.

34' Great ball across from **Marine RUSSO** but the JPN defense gets to it first. Long corner, and the ball is played far back to build from scratch.

33' JPN get into the circle but the hit into it is undecided between a shot on goal and a pass across... For a pass, it is to imprecise, and for a shot on goal, it is far wide.

31' Free hit for ARG just outside the circle. **Claudia BURKART** pushes in for **Soledad GARCIA** who tries to get a shot, then win a PC but all to no avail. The ball is awarded to JPN.

28' Long ball into and through the ARG circle but **Kaori CHIBA** is a fraction of a second too late.

28' Pass from **Magdalena AICEGA** for **Luciana AYMAR** in the circle. She tries to find an opening for a shot but pummelled by 4 JPN defenders, she cannot.

27' Free hit for ARG from the far right. Execution is hesitant, and in charges **Sachimi IWAO**, great defensive work, she takes the ball off the Argentines and clears with a reverse stick hit far out into the field.

26' The ball crashes into the backboard, but no goal, as **Soledad GARCIA** had stopped it with her body rather than the stick.

24' ARG are not happy with the way things are going. After their Champions Trophy triumph in June, they were dubbed one of the favorites, but so far none of the brilliance they showed in Mönchengladbach has come through.

21' **Keiko MIURA**'s hit is warded off by **Paola VUKOJICIC** and cleared by **Mercedes MARGALOT**. JPN appeal for a PC but to no avail.

20' PC for ARG.


19' They reach the circle but their aspirations are soon stalled by the ARG defense.

19' JPN intercept a ball from **Carla REBECCHI** and go on a counter-attack.

17' Make that 0 for 9, as **Noel BARRIONUEVO** puts a low flick straight into **Ikuko OKAMURA**'s leg guards.

17' Argentina have converted 3 of 17 penalty corner attempts. Ace marksman Noel Barrionuevo is mired in an 0-for-8 rut so far in Beijing.

16' PC for ARG.

- 15' Free hit for ARG just outside the circle. **Claudia BURKART** pushes it in for **Soledad GARCIA** who tries to launch a shot in turning but she fails to connect properly and ends up falling over the JPN defender who has moved in on her.
- 14' Free hit for ARG just outside the circle.
- 12'  for **Luciana AYMAR** for a tackle in midfield.
- 12' Great dribbling from **Luciana AYMAR**, her trademark, and a fabulous long pass into the circle for **Soledad GARCIA** but it is deflected off a JPN stick and she misses it.
- 10' Free hit near the circle, **Luciana AYMAR** drills it in, **Alejandra GULLA** has a shot but saved again.
- 10' So far, ARG are clearly the better team.
- 9' Free hit for ARG far in the JPN half. **Alejandra GULLA** cannot control the ball and a 19's shot from the edge of the circle is warded off.
- 9' Free hit for ARG far in the JPN half.
- 8' Now ARG are at the circle again but the JPN defense holds up. The Leonas seem a little too selfish, going for the shot rather than the pass.
- 7' Great pass from **Sachimi IWAO** for **Sakae MORIMOTO** in the circle but she is too far gone and the angle is too narrow. **Paola VUKOJICIC** saves easily.
- 6' The game is played at a rather leisurely pace so far, compared to some of the other matches we've seen here in Beijing in the past few days.
- 5' Here is the first attack from JPN but it is cut short long before getting dangerous.
- 2' **Alejandra GULLA** has the first shot on goal, picking up a long ball into the circle to the right of the goal to backtrack three steps and launch a shot. **Ikuko OKAMURA** saves.
- 1' The match has started.
- 0' The umpires in this match are **MIAO Lin** (CHN) and **Gina SPITALERI** (ITA).
- 0' JPN midfielder **Mayumi ONO** celebrates her 21st birthday today.
- 0' These nations have met once before in the Olympic Games. In 2004 in Athens, Argentina defeated Japan 3-1. Inés Arrondo, Agustina Soledad Garcia and Marina Di Giacomo netted for 'Las Leonas'. Rika Komazawa salvaged a consolation goal for Japan. Japan's only competitive victory over Argentina came in their first ever competitive encounter in the 1981 World Cup when Japan emerged victorious 3-2.
- 0' For ARG, it's do or die after they have had to settle for draws in both their first two matches USA and GBR. Anything but a win will put an end to their hopes for a semifinal.
- 0' With 4 points from 2 encounters after a win over NZL and a draw with USA, JPN are second in the pool behind GER and will be hoping to solidify their position as second in the pool.
- 0' Welcome to the fourth match today, which is a match in pool B that sees Japan take on Argentina.