

Netball Europe Day 2

In a physical and tough encounter to start day 2 of the Netball Europe Championships in Cardiff, Wales recorded their 2nd victory in as many days with a 41-38 victory against Scotland. Northern Ireland bounced back from their narrow defeat to Scotland yesterday with a comprehensive 84 -25 victory over Ireland.

Match 3

Wales v Scotland

Before the start of the game you could feel the pressure and the importance of the match, with both sets of supporters being whipped up into a frenzy. As the teams take the court, it was Scotland who settled first and forced Wales into numerous errors in the attacking third and taking a 4 - 0 lead. It was not until the 4th minute did Wales score their first goal. From this point on Wales took their opportunities. The intensity of the play was relentless and every pass was being highly contested, the quarter finished with Wales leading by two goals 10 - 8.

At the start of the 2nd quarter the coaches decided not to shuffle their pack and kept the same players out on court. Again the pressure was telling as there was no easy passage to goal with every player working hard for space with countless turnovers. The umpires were kept on their toes with the amount of physical contact on court. Wales GA Becky James was sandwiched in the air by the 2 Scottish defence but was able to deliver a fantastic pass whilst off balance to a free GS Chelsea Lewis in the circle who calmly scored the shot. An injury time out was called Scotland GS which result in a switch with the GA and this seemed to give Scotland some stability, with Lesley Gallagher using her dodge in the circle to get close to the post. Wales ended the quarter ahead 23 - 17.

The 2nd half was going to be a real tussle as the teams fought to come out on top, with a partisan Scottish and Welsh crowd cheering on their team, the quarter began. Noticeably both coaches Laura Williams (Wales) and Gail Parata (Scotland) changed their defending ends of the court, hoping this would have an effect by closing down both shooting circles. The mid court players were working tirelessly as every space on court was closed down and 3 second calls were starting to be heard. The teams were matching themselves evenly going goal for goal. With 30 seconds to go Wales were hoping to end the quarter 5 goals ahead, when the ball rebounded off the Wales GS and hit the post and ended in the hands of the Scottish GK, who calmly passed out to her team mates and dynamically got the ball down court to the shooters, who scored the shot, which meant it was 33 - 29 to Wales.

The 4th quarter was going to be a titanic physical battle between these two nations, who was going to take the victory. With Scotland GA Lynsey Gallagher using all her skills to get ever closer to the post for that easier shot and with 8 minutes to go 4 goals still separated the teams. The crowd witnessed endless errors and turnovers due to the teams pressure on court. Scotland took the quarter by 1 goal but was not enough as Wales held on to a 41 - 38 victory.

Becky James - $7/9 = 78\%$

Chelsea Lewis - $29/39 = 74\%$

Cara Lea Moseley - $5/6 = 83\%$

Wales - $41/54 = 76\%$

Scotland

Lesley Macdonald - $22/28 = 79\%$

Lynsey Gallagher - $16/19 = 84\%$

Scotland - $38/47 = 81\%$

Match 4 - Northern Ireland v Ireland

Northern Ireland have made considerable changes in the team that took the court yesterday. Again their strength was evident as the new shooter Lisa Sommerville was easily putting away her opportunities and was being ably assisted via quick accurate feeds from the Northern Ireland centre Caroline O'Hanlon. Ireland has made a much improved start on yesterday performance and finish the quarter 9 - 21.

Start of the 2nd quarter and Northern Ireland make a change at GD and she has a positive impact quickly taking two interceptions which Northern Ireland convert with ease. Northern Ireland are moving the ball quickly around the circle to gain a better shooting position particularly as the

outcome of the WCQ could come down to goal difference. Again Ireland are showing some patches of free flowing netball and the quarter ends 16 - 43 in favour of Northern Ireland.

The 3rd quarter again saw both coaches make changes, Northern Ireland opts to leave GS Lisa Sommerville on court and utilise versatile player Noleen Lennon at GK. This decision impacts instantly on Ireland as they struggle to get the ball into their shooters. This results in Northern Ireland finishing the quarter ahead at 63 - 19.

There was clear intent from Northern Ireland to keep the intensity high in the final quarter as they obviously push for a good score. The attacking end for Northern Ireland was being controlled by GA Oonagh McCullough with accurate feeding and shooting and this allowed them to end the match 84 - 25. Credit must be given to Ireland who worked tirelessly throughout the match and improved their performance from yesterday.

Northern Ireland

Lisa Sommerville – $67/81 = 82.7\%$

Oonagh McCullough – $9/12 = 75\%$

Maire Toner – $8/10 = 80$

Northern Ireland – $84/103 = 81.6\%$

Ireland

Jan Hynes – $8/10 = 80\%$

Charlotte Lynch – $\frac{1}{2} = 50\%$

Fiona Morrissey – $16/23 = 69.9\%$

Ireland - $25/35 = 71.4\%$