

Hosts, Germany to fight it out



LAHORE, Mar 22: Olympic champions Germany dropped a point in a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands today but still qualified for the Champions' Trophy men's hockey final against Pakistan on Friday, reports Reuter.

Britain held Spain 1-1 in the other round-robin match to secure their first point in the sixth day of the six-nation event. The Dutch broke the stalemate in a colourless encounter after 52 minutes through Taco van Den Honert, who deflected a place hit from Remco van Wijk after being left unmarked inside the German circle.

Germany grabbed the equaliser three minutes later through Frederick Ness, who smartly converted a penalty stroke after Dutch goalkeeper Bart Looijer was penalised when Floris Jan Bovender took his side's third short corner.

The result was Germany's first draw of the tournament after three wins but it still left the Netherlands without a victory from four matches.

German coach Paul Lissek was disappointed at the outcome. "We should have come out clear winners by at least two goals but lost numerous scoring chances."

Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said: "The competition

has shown us our shortcomings but we would be definitely a different side in Sydney's World Cup (in November)."

The first match of the day between two bottom-placed teams saw a barren first half before Spain went ahead in the 41st minute through Javier Arnau, who scooped home his fifth goal of the event on a pass from David Freiza.

Britain levelled in the 47th minute when Don Williams scored from a Russel Garcia pass.

British goalkeeper Simon Mason saved his side by blocking a penalty stroke by Arnau in the 61st minute after he had been checked at a short corner.

Mason palmed the ball over the crossbar — one of many saves he made in the game.

Britain were at one stage reduced to eight players after Williams, Robert Thompson and Chris Mayer were temporarily suspended for dangerous play.

"We wanted to win very much," British coach David Whittaker said. "The game stalled midway through because of the respect of each other. British players defended very well even when they were reduced to eight."

On Monday Pakistan beat holders Australia 2-0 to make sure of a place in the final. Pakistan's victory in front of nearly 50,000 spectators was

Jansher takes home another one

ZURICH, Mar 22: World champion Jansher Khan wrote another sidebar to his illustrious squash record when he won the Grasshopper Cup on Monday night — the first tournament to be played under the tennis scoring system, reports Reuter.

But despite his 5-1, 5-1 success over British champion Peter Marshall, the Pakistani has serious doubts about whether the experimental scoring should be adopted for squash.

"I thought we were going to play for ever," said Jansher after his 85-minute victory. "You play that long and he only wins two games. If we had gone into a third set it could easily have been three hours or even more."

One game in the first set lasted 35 minutes and included 10 deuces. Marshall finally won it — but in winning that battle he lost the war.

He had to stay on court for another two games after that before getting a rest and in that time Jansher's superior strength was the deciding factor.

As the Englishman tired, Jansher turned the screw and increased the pace to complete his victory.

STANDINGS

Standings (table under played, won, lost, drawn, goals for, against, points):

Pakistan	4	4	0	0	11	3	8
Germany	4	3	0	1	7	4	7
Australia	4	2	2	0	9	10	4
Netherlands	4	0	2	2	8	10	2
Spain	4	0	2	2	8	11	2
Britain	4	0	3	1	6	11	1

On one occasion Jay Stacy had the ball in but Dutch umpire Peter von Reith disallowed the goal as the ball landed above the board.

Australian coach Frank Murray said: "We had plenty of opportunities to score but were up all. I guess the boys were a bit tired from yesterday's game against Britain."

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Kirui misses the bus

NAIROBI, Mar 22: World 5,000 metres champion Ismael Kirui of Kenya has been barred from the World Cross Country Championships in Budapest on Saturday after his entry missed the deadline, reports Reuter.

Kenyan athletics chief Isaih Kiplagat said on Tuesday the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) had rejected the late individual entry for Kirui, saying it was submitted after the March 16 deadline.

"Kirui is definitely out now," said Kiplagat, chairman of the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA).

The Kenyan contingent, defending all four titles at the World Championships, will fly out of Nairobi later on Tuesday.

Athletics' coaches dropped Kirui from the Kenyan team and track chiefs asked the IAAF to enter him in the Budapest event after he apologised to the KAAA for arriving home a week earlier than scheduled after running in San Vito, Italy.

Kiplagat said Tecla Lorupe, fourth in the 10,000 metres at last year's Stuttgart World Championships and earlier dropped for leaving camp without permission, was also dropped.

Kirui, Lorupe and world cross country champion William Sigei were given permission by the KAAA to go to the San Vito meeting. Only Sigei, leader of the IAAF cross challenge with 98 points, returned home in the allotted time.

In his apology letter to the KAAA, Kirui accused his British agent, John Bicourt, of misleading him so he competed in the 5,000 metres at an indoor meet in Stockholm after San Vito and could not return to high altitude training camp in San Vito.

Davis touched down on one triple lutz and turned another into a single.

But he wasn't the only top skater having problems. Urmanov botched his landing on one triple Axel and fell on another.

Candeloro also fell on a triple Axel, but was showered with bouquets by shrieking women fans after his performance.

The top 12 men in each of two groups qualified for the main competition. Aren Nielsen of Kansas City, Mo., made it as the ninth qualifier in Stojko's group.

On Monday, the women qualify. Nicole Bobek, 16, of Chicago, the replacement for Tonya Harding, is in the first group, along with Chen Lu of China, the Olympic bronze medalist.

Olympic silver medalist Eric Stojko of Canada won the other qualifying group, with fan favourite Philippe Candeloro, the Olympic bronze medalist, second and fellow Frenchman Eric Millot third.

Davis said he came away from the Olympics with the lesson that "you just have to go out there and enjoy it — whether it's the Olympics, worlds or nationals."

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The men's battle also is the only one in these dropout-plagued championships with



Australian player Lachlan Elmer (R) and Pakistani forward Rahim Khan (C) are caught in a tangle while two other Aussie players look on during their Champions Trophy hockey tournament match in Lahore on Monday. Pakistan won 2-0. — AFP photo

all the Olympic medalists present.

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