

Saturday 29 July

18:00

Spain 3

Netherlands 4

**\*\* Goal: Rob RECKERS \*\***

70' While the ESP players are still protesting an umpire's decision at the NED end of the field, DE NOOIJER, R. BROUWER, and RECKERS make a quick counter attack down the field, and three on one, they have little difficulty putting another one away. RECKERS gets the ball near the penalty stroke spot, and hesitates a moment to find a way to get the ball past HERRERA, then slots the ball into the right side of the goal as HERRERA takes a step forward.

**\*\* Goal: Taeke TAEKEMA \*\***

69' TAEKEMA's half high flick is deflected by HERRERA only to go straight up into the roof of the goal.

68' PC for NED.

67' The match has turned a bit uncoordinated and erratic now, both teams at the end of their strength.

63' NED are pushing forward hard now, trying to recapture the place in the final that was almost theirs. The ESP defense is playing well though, for the most part avoiding shots on goal.

**\*\* Goal: Pol AMAT \*\***

58' And another overcrowded circle, several attempts from ESP warded off by the NED until AMAT finds the space to get the ball into the net.

**\*\* Goal: Santi FREIXA \*\***

55' Once more, the circle is overcrowded but FREIXA manages to slot the ball through the NED defense into the right side of the goal.

54' Magnificent opportunity for S. FREIXA as a long ball somehow makes it into the circle. FREIXA tries to hit the moving ball directly at the goal but it is wide.

52' A good flick from QUEMADA is excellently saved by the NED defense.

51' Green card for Sander VAN DER WEIDE for bumping into umpire PULLMAN.

51' PC for ESP.

50' HOYNG makes a long run into the circle but his shot is saved easily by HERRERA.

**\*\* Goal: Albert SALA \*\***

49' SALA gets the ball on the right in the circle and takes three more steps in before lobbing the ball over VOGELS.

47' Great opportunity for RECKERS to take it up to three goals. He hits a ball from the far left from a narrow angle but it is wide.

**\*\* Goal: Roderick WEUSTHOF \*\***

44' WEUSTHOF receives the ball at the top of the circle, shows good control, then smashes a reverse stick into the opposite corner.

42' Green card for Timme HOYNG. A pass back from WEUSTHOF on the far right for HOYNG at the top of the circle is missed by HOYNG as several players clash. HOYNG goes down on the ground, holding his knee, but umpire JAMSON deems him to be pretending and warns him.

40' Time is stopped for Robert VAN DER HORST who is on the ground in midfield. He is taken off the field by the NED team's physio.

38' After the teams' return, NED are still the slightly stronger team. ESP are struggling with the situation and themselves, and it shows in the number of clashes and push and shove incidents increasing steadily.

35' The first half between Spain and the Netherlands ends 0:1. NED have had slight advantages but have not been able to establish a comfortable lead. ESP are definitely able to turn around a one goal disadvantage, and the fight for the berths in this event's final is still completely open.

32' Green card for Jeroen DELMEE after a tackle on D. ALEGRE.

**\*\* Goal: Rob RECKERS \*\***

29' NED get into an overcrowded circle from the right. After a bit of back and forth, RECKERS suddenly has a bit of room to move and gets the ball, putting it high into the net.

28' Santi FREIXA is back for ESP.

26' NED are definitely the slightly stronger team now, getting into the circle more often and creating more danger than ESP manage.

22' NED launch a furious counter attack, EVERS making a fast run down the right side of the field. He is stopped by S. FREIXA, who is yellowcarded for the tackle.

21' S. FREIXA's flick is saved by VOGELS and cleared by VAN DER WEIDE.

21' D. ALEGRE wins a PC for ESP.

20' Green card for Floris EVERS.

18' ESP are now getting stronger again, after a brief period in which NED had most of the offensive action.

14' And yet another opportunity for WEUSTHOF already. The ball has come down the right side, then diagonally across for WEUSTHOF near the top of the circle. His hit is deflected wide by R. ALEGRE.

13' Green card for D. ALEGRE.

10' And there's WEUSTHOF again, getting into the circle from the left and going for a great reverse stick shot diagonally across. The ball narrowly misses the goal, not quite reached by R. BROUWER at the far post.

8' Great play from NED as WEUSTHOF makes a solo run for the circle, outplaying two ESP defenders. His shot is saved by HERRERA though, as is DE NOOIJER's follow-up on the rebound.

3' ESP get into the circle and the ball across from S. FREIXA is deflected and goes out unreachable for AMAT in front of the goal. ESP - players as well as spectators - protest vigorously, requesting a PC, but umpires PULLMAN and JAMSON agree on no PC.

0' With today's match, Dutch captain Jeroen makes himself the most capped NED player ever, this being his 338th cap.

0' ESP are leaving Hector GONZALEZ and Quico CORTES in the stands, the NED Klaas VERRING and Nick MEIJER.

- 0' Welcome to the second match of the last day of pool matches at the Sahara Champions Trophy 2006. Spain and the Netherlands, current joint table leaders, are fighting for a place in the final, subject to the third match of today of course - if the current match does not end in a draw however, the winner is through to the final for sure.
- 0' The umpires for this match are Tim PULLMAN (AUS) and Hamish JAMSON (ENG).