

Pasta de Imprensa

30 de Setembro de 2012

Portugal pulls off World League Round 1 shocker

#50 team in FIH World Ranking earns berth to Round 2

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September 30th, 2012

Portugal earned a place in the Hockey World League's Round 2 after a dramatic 3-3 draw and 2-0 shootout win. Portugal knew its spot in Round 2 was secured after getting the one point for the draw, but nevertheless, they put the icing on the cake with the shootout win to finish the tournament with eight points. The loss gave Gibraltar a third-place finish with six points.

The qualification of Portugal is one of the biggest surprises yet in all of the World League Round 1 tournaments. Portugal entered the event as the fourth-seeded team in the five-team group with a 50th ranking, well behind #23 Scotland, the other team to earn a berth to Round 2 from the tournament.



(Photo: Sérgio Afonso, TVS)

Portugal seemed to have things well in hand at the half, owning a 2-0 lead. But Gibraltar came out in the second half fired up and ready for action and slowly chipped into the lead. Gibraltar capped its comeback with a penalty stroke, taking a 3-2 lead late in the game. But a penalty corner goal from David Franco in the last two minutes of regulation saved the day for Portugal, giving them a 3-3 tie and the key point needed to make it to Round 2.


Scotland completed its clean sweep of the tournament with a 9-0 shutout against Italy. Scotland went 4-0 in the event and out-scored its opponents an incredible 30-0. The Italians finished well out of contention for a place in Round 2, coming in fourth in the five-team pool. Rounding out the tournament was Morocco, which went 0-4 in its outings.


Scotland and Portugal can now look ahead to the Hockey World League Round 2.

29 de Setembro de 2012

Scotland secures World League Round 2 spot

Portugal and Gibraltar to battle for last qualification place

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September 29th, 2012

Scotland secured its place in the Hockey World League Round Two after cruising to a 7-0 win against host Portugal today. With one day left in the tournament, Scotland has nine points, out of reach of the rest of the field.

What will be a battle on the last day of action is the game between Portugal and Gibraltar. Portugal sits in the standings with six points, while Gibraltar has five points. Essentially the winner of the game between the teams tomorrow will be qualified to the second round of the World League, while the loser will see their World League experience come to an end.

The early game tomorrow will feature Italy against Scotland. The Italians have had a disappointing outing in Lousada at the Round One event, getting just four points in their three games so far. The Italians have a very slim hope of jumping into second place, but they would need to beat Scotland – no small feat – and hope for a perfect outcome in the Portugal v. Gibraltar game to force all three teams to a tie on seven points.


Finishing at the bottom of the standings in the tournament is Morocco, which went winless in its four outings, but gained valuable experience at the event.




Gibraltar rocked by Super Scotland

Forsyth's men looking good for World League Round 2 berth

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September 28th, 2012

Scotland have moved to the top of the pool table at the men's FIH World League Round 1 competition in Lousada, Portugal by securing a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Gibraltar, the previous competition leaders. It was the second victory of the tournament for the team coached by Derek Forsyth, following their 9-0 thrashing of Morocco on Wednesday.

Gibraltar started the match in confident fashion, clearly intent on inflicting what would be a famous defeat over a team 20 places above them in the FIH world rankings. However, as the match progressed Scotland began to assert their dominance before taking the lead when the unfortunate Shane Rammage deflected an Ian Scholefield cross beyond the reach of Gibraltar goalkeeper Sebastian Rodriguez. Second half strikes from Alan Forsyth, Kenny Bain, Chris Grassick and Dan Coultas ensured that Scotland were comfortable winners of the contest.



Despite the 5-0 scoreline, Scotland manager Eugene Connolly was far from satisfied with the display. Speaking to scottish-hockey.co.uk, Connolly said: "The result was better than the performance, we really only played some relaxed hockey in the final ten minutes when we scored three goals."

Remarkably, Scotland are yet to concede a goal in this competition, a statistic that they will want to maintain when they face Portugal on Saturday. A win in that match would guarantee Scotland a top two finish in the competition, therefore securing a place in Round 2 of the Hockey World League.

Portugal were also big winners on competition day 3, storming to a 6-1 victory over Morocco. Carlos Silva scored a hat-trick of penalty corners in the win, with Luis Tavares (2) and Leandro Morais also contributing to the scoreline.

The host nation will be hoping to make it two wins in less than 24 hours when they face Italy on Friday morning. The two sides met on the opening day of the tournament but were forced to abandon the match at half time when heavy rain made conditions unplayable, forcing Tournament Director Harald Steckelbruck to schedule the remaining 35 minutes to take place on what was the competition rest day. The match will resume at 1100 (Western European Summer Time) with Portugal holding a 2-1 lead. The result and updated league table will be posted to the Lousada 2012 World League webpage as soon as it is available. To visit this section, please [click here](#).

The men's Hockey World League competition in Lousada is the fifth of nine Round 1 events, following tournaments in Czech Republic, Singapore, Wales and Ghana. Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Qatar and Fiji will host the four remaining competitions later in the year. The top two teams from this event will secure qualification for the Round 2 competitions which begin early in 2013.

For those not in the know, the Hockey World League has been developed by the FIH to present hockey at its best whilst also providing rapidly improving hockey nations with a stage to show what they are capable of. The tournament has four rounds which take place between August 2012 and February 2013, with each round acting as a qualifier for the next.

This process gives every team the potential reach the tournament final. The Hockey World League also acts as the qualification competition for the FIH World Cups which take place in 2014, with 12 qualification places up for grabs. To read more information about the aims and structure of the tournament, please [click here](#).

Official match reports from the competition will be posted to the Lousada 2012 World League webpage at the end of each tournament day. For real-time results, please follow the FIH World League Twitter feed www.twitter.com/World_League1 or use the hashtag search: [#World_League1](#)

Scotland looks strong in WL debut

Gibraltar still tops the standings with Scots nipping at their heels



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September 27th, 2012

The World League Round One men's tournament in Lousada, Portugal completed its first full day of action on Wednesday and Scotland came out looking like the team to beat after a 9-0 thrashing against Morocco. Scotland is the highest-ranked team at the event, holding the #23 spot in the FIH World Ranking.

Gibraltar, ranked 43rd in the World Ranking, currently tops the standings with five points in two games after earning a nail-biting victory against Italy in a penalty shootout. The game was tied at three after regulation, and Gibraltar powered to the win in the shootout with a 3-1 advantage.



World League Round One action from Lousada, Portugal
(Photo: Sérgio Afonso, TVS)

Gibraltar and Morocco are the only two teams with two games under their belt at the event. On the first day of action, the Italy vs. Portugal game had to be halted at halftime due to a torrential downpour. That game will be completed at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, meaning the standings picture will be more complete following Thursday's action and the completion of that game on Friday.

On Thursday, Gibraltar has its first major test of the event, when it takes on Scotland in the early game. That will be followed by Morocco vs. Portugal.

Two of the five participating teams from the Round One tournament in Portugal will qualify to take part in the World League Round Two.

To follow the event via Facebook, the Lousada hosts have a page that includes photos and video content:
www.facebook.com/worldleaguelousada


To follow games live via Twitter, please visit: #World_League1

Gibraltar triumph as rain lashes Lousada

Italy & Portugal match abandoned in latest HWL competition

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September 26th, 2012

It was a frustrating start for players, officials and spectators alike on Day 1 of the men's Hockey World League Round 1 competition in Lousada, Portugal, as poor weather resulted in only one of the two scheduled matches being completed.

In the first match of the day, a solitary strike from Ryan Casciaro gave Gibraltar a 1-0 win over Morocco. Casciaro made a dramatic impact on the game when he came onto the field as a substitute in the 13th minute before rattling in what proved to be the match winning goal from a penalty corner just three minutes later.

The second and final match of the day featured Italy and Portugal, but the deteriorating weather conditions resulted in the game being abandoned with the host nation holding a narrow 2-1 advantage.

Portugal established a 2-0 lead inside seven minutes thanks to an unfortunate own goal from Italy's Patricio Mongiano and a penalty corner strike from David Franco. However, Italy pulled themselves back into the match in the 15th minute when Mongiano atoned for his earlier misfortune with a well taken penalty corner. Despite the appalling weather conditions, the match continued until half time when the match officials decided that enough was enough and halted proceedings.

Tournament Director Harald Steckelbruck has confirmed that the second half of the contest between Italy and host nation Portugal will be completed on Friday morning at 11:00 (West European Summer Time).

The competition resumes on Wednesday when tournament favourites Scotland make their World League debut against Morocco at 14:30 before Gibraltar play Italy at 16.45.

The men's Hockey World League competition in Lousada is the fifth of nine Round 1 events, following tournaments in Czech Republic, Singapore, Wales and Ghana. Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Qatar and Fiji will host the four remaining competitions later in the year. The top two teams from this event will secure qualification for the Round 2 competitions which begin early in 2013.

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