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# Men's water polo, 1st day, flash quotes

2017.07.17. 11:10 CET

## M1 Group A:

**Brazil-Kazakhstan 6-2 (1-1, 0-1, 3-0, 2-0)**

**Angelo Coelho**, head coach (BRA):

*„I have the best goalkeeper and defender. I'm very happy, it was the first game of the tournament and a victory for us, so we are motivated.“*

**Luis Ricardo Silva** (BRA):

*„I feel happy, I was a little bit nervous as it was my first championship, but now I'm satisfied.“*

**Stanislav Shevedov** (KAZ):

*„We played quite well, but we were not able to score in extramene-situations, and generally, we were quite weak in attack, though we could have had a chance to play a more equal game against Brazil. The next step is the match against Canada, and we have to win against North Americans to stay alive and to qualify for the knockout-stage of the World Championship.“*

## M2 Group A

**Montenegro-Canada 8-8 (3-1, 2-2, 1-1, 2-4)**

**Giuseppe Porzio**, head coach (CAN):

*„Montenegro is one of the best teams in the world with a great goalkeeper and brilliant players. Still we were fighting hard, we did good defense and we put big pressure on them. What matters is that we have 1 point against such a powerhouse team. We are a young team but our heads were clear in the last minute. It was a nice experience for the guys, it was our first step.“*

**Aria Soleimanipak** (CAN):

*„It's a great thing that we played against one of the best teams in the world, we fought hard and achieved a draw. We learned from our mistakes, and it was very useful. I think we can play even better next time.“*

**Jeremie Blanchard (CAN):**

*„It's a big game for us and we are excited. It was important to have that extra point, and to do well at the rest of the tournament.“*

**Drasko Brguljan (MNE):**

*„We led throughout three quarters, we had a four-goal advantage. More experienced players, like me, made a mistake, we thought we were done and let ourselves go. Canada received three man-ups at the end, while we did not get any. From now on, we will concentrate only on upcoming games since the tournament has just started.*

**Vladimir Gojkovic, head coach (MNE):**

*„We are not satisfied, we wanted to win, especially as we were leading by four goals five minutes before the end of the match. It is acceptable against a stronger team, but not against Canada, we cannot afford it. The result is only our fault, we have to analyse our weaknesses, learn the lessons and focus on our second match.*

**M3 Group B:**

**France-Italy 9-18 (2-5, 3-3, 1-7, 2-3)**

**Hrvoje Hrestak, head coach (FRA):**

*„It's hard to loose like this. It was not a tough game phisically, but we made mistakes and let he Italians to make counter-attacks and we could not control it. We played better in the first and second quarter, then Italy dominated, mostly in the third quarter. We play our next match against Australia, the team which is much more on our level, we would like to win to continue the championship in the knock-out phase.“*

**Alessandro Campagna, head coach (ITA):**

*„There were good moments during the match on our side and moments which we should work on with our players to be able to play better against the Hungarians.“*

**Matteo Aicardi (ITA):**

*„We feel good here in the World Championship, but at the middle of the day the water can be really hot, so we hope that in the evening match match against Hungary it will be colder and we can play better.“*

**M4 Group C:**

**Spain-Greece 7-8 (1-3, 2-2, 1-1 , 3-2)**

**David Martin, head coach (ESP):**

*"I think it was a well-played match, we got close to be able to win the game. Now we have to keep going on, firstly must focus on the current world champion, Serbia, perhaps the strongest team in the tournament. There are many young players in our team, who are still improving and growing, but I expect we can maintain the level."*

**Blai Mallarach Guell (ESP):**

*"We played good, at the end we were even close to win the game. Against Serbia we shouldn't feel any pressure, we just have to play as a team together to continue."*

**Thoedorus Vlachos, head coach (GRE):**

*„We came here to win every game. We have a different team with new players. We need more time to see in which level would be my team. For now we fight every game, for every victory. To arrive at the top would be successful for us. Against our next rival, the team of South Africa we have to be careful, because they are big fighters."*

**Ioannis Fountoulis (GRE):**

*„It was difficult but both team is talented, it was a little bit stressed. Now with this victory we will fight against Serbia to win our group. It will be extremely difficult, but today we had a good start."*

**M6 Group C:**

**Serbia-Republic of South Africa 21-5 (6-1, 7-1, 5-1, 3-2)**

**Dejan Savic, head coach (SRB):**

*„I wouldn't say that it was an easy training for us, because we had had a strong and tiring preparation phase before the tournament, but it is a fact that we were the favourites this time. We are fighting to win this group, at the beginning of the new Olympic cycle. Our goal is to go back home from Budapest with a medal."*

**Viktor Rasovic (SRB):**

*„This was my first match and my first goal in the national team in a major tournament, so I am still under the spell of it. Although the goal was the merit of the team, not me. I feel fantastic here and I hope that we continue our winning series. We succeed to get our rhythm in the first quarter and we maintained it until the end. I recommend my goal to my mother and to my brother, I feel very sorry that he can not be here now, because it would have been fabulous to debut together in the team of Serbia in the world championship."*

**Paul Martin, head coach (RSA)**

*„It's always a privilege to play against Serbia, they are one of the best teams in the world. We came to this tournament as self-funded amateurs, so to play on this level is obviously*

*very difficult. But, at times, when we played to our game plan and we played composed, relaxed water polo, we actually looked quite good out there. We did in fact have our little victories, and I would celebrate them rather than focusing on the bad aspects of the game."*

**Etienne le Roux (RSA)**

*"It was a really difficult game for us, but we tried our best. It is an honor to play versus the world champions. We will try to improve againsts Greece and Spain and try to concede less goals and work on our tactics to be more dangerous and score a few more goals."*

**M7 Group D**

**United States-Croatia 7-12 (1-3, 2-4, 1-3, 3-2)**

**Dejan Udovicic, head coach (USA):**

*"Croatia definitely deserved the win. We made a lot of silly mistakes that they, as an experienced team, used against us. Playing against a team like Croatia is never an easy task. We give our best in every match that we play and every time it is a 'to be or not to be' situation."*

**Alex Bowen (USA):**

*"We made some mistakes during the match. They scored way too many goals by turnovers that was the difference. In the next match we need win. I love Budapest, I've played in Miskolc last year I love the country."*

**Ivica Tucak, head coach (CRO):**

*"We played very well, we deserved the win. We could press on our pace on the American team. We were in a fright of the American team, because USA is not an easy match up. But I'm satisfied with our start here at the World Championship. We are looking further."*

**Sandro Sukno (CRO):**

*"Our start was good, which was not an easy thing, because the USA is a strong team. They couldn't show it today, but I'm sure that they will play much better than now. We didn't give our best, but I hope we reach it for the quarterfinals and we will play for medal."*

**M4 Group B:**

**Australia-Hungary 3-13 (1-1, 1-4, 1-2, 0-6)**

**Tamás Márcz, head coach (Hungary):**

*"I think this game started well, we had the opportunities, the chances but we needed some time to had the rhythm. There was no mess in heads and this is a very positive thing, everyone stayed calm. My expectation was what happened, I knew that the difference of qualities could brighten up. This victory is a beautiful birthday gift for me."*

**Viktor Nagy (Hungary):**

*„Playing in this pool was fantastic and very emotinal as always. I think we should concentrate in every game 100 percent, and if we make it, we would reach great results at the end of the World Championships. If our defense is ok, everything is ok. Today’s performace was good.”*

**Elvis Fatovic, head coach (AUS):**

*„It’s a pleasure to play in this pool, in front of this crowd. It’s an absolutely privilege for everyone to play here. In the first quarter we played smart but we didn’t make enough counter attacks but in the second quarter we offered too many counter attacks. The next match is probably the most important game against France in our group, and hopefully we can fix the mistakes what we had today.”*

**Lachlan Edwards (AUS):**

*„I think we learned that we have to take care of the ball, because they capitalized from our mistakes towards the end of the game. But it was an amazing experience playing in front of this home crowd, and they really got behind them. It made the game so much better. But credits to Hungary. They’re extremely dangerous, I think they put a lot more pressure on us. They obviously turned up the intensity and we didn’t adjust to it and the scoreboard showed that.”*

**M8 Group D**

**Japan-Russia 8-15 (1-5, 2-3, 2-3, 3-4)**

**Sergey Evstigneev, head coach (RUS):**

*„This was out first game in this championship and we started really good, we based our game on counter attacks, which was really successful. Congrats to my boys, they did a really good job tonight. I will not change anything for the next game, we will play our own game. Our main goal is to pass group stage and after the quarterfinals, every win is a gift.”*

**Ivan Nagaev (RUS):**

*„It was a good game, we were able to play what coach asked us to do. We had to play disciplined againts Japan, because they are a fast team, who build on counter attacks. Next time we play againts the former champion Croatia, they are a really good team. We will do what we can, play our best and try to achieve a good result.”*

**Shiga Mitsuaki (JPN):**

*„We played againts Russia in the Super Final and we knew they were a good team and the small things will matter in this game. A score was our fault, we weren’t able to stay close to them. We expect a simlarly tough game againts USA next time.”*

**Yoji Omoto, head coach (JPN):**

*„We played poorly in the first quarter and the Russians capitalized on this. We beat them in the Super Final and that was our goal today as well, but we failed. We expect an even tougher game next time againsts USA, because they are better phisically and are faster than the Russian team.“*