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# Water polo, men's 3rd round, flash quotes

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## M17 Group C

### [Spain - South Africa 16-4 \(3-2, 1-0, 6-1, 6-1\)](#)

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

*„South Africa is the last one in the group, so this match was important for the classification, and this way we are third in the group. Now it depends on who we are going to play against, Russia, Japan or the US, either way though, it will be a complicated rival, but we will come with confidence.“*

**Jose Maria Gutierrez Santiago**, (ESP):

*„We finished as the third in the group, we came to play strong and fast. Now we wait to know who is going to be our opponent in the next one and then play as well as we can.“*

**Alvaro Granados (ESP):**

*„It was fine but I can't say that it was easy. I'm happy to be here, it is my first World Championships, I am very surprised. The organistaion is great, Budapest is very nice, and the swimming pool is amazing.“*

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

*„For us the first half of the game was a big victory, we played as a team. It was a glad experience for us but we showed our immature status in the second half by playing as individuals and losing the team aspect of the game.“*

**Devon Card (RSA):**

*„It was a big challenge for us as the whole tournament also because we are obviously amateur side of this sport. I am very proud of the first half, we kept Spain in 4 to 2. Ont he second half our condition was not so good we got tired, Spain is a really good team. Next*

*game probably will against USA, it is a big surprise we expected to play against Japan. Unfortunately we have another tough game, but I hope we can do the best."*

## **M18 Group C**

### **Serbia-Greece 11-6 (2-1, 4-3, 3-0, 2-2)**

**Dusan Mandic** (SRB):

*"I'm really happy with the result, we repeated our good play just like against Spain. Our defense worked perfectly, even in man-out we played well, so we have every reason to be satisfied. But we go on step by step, we made it to the quarter finals, and this was our primary goal."*

**Nemanja Ubovic** (SRB):

*"I'm happy that we are at the first in the group which was our goal from the start. We have now one day more for some rest before the quarter finals, so now we're waiting for our opponent. We are going game by game till the end. I'm really happy how we played and I hope that we will keep this rhythm till the end."*

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

*"Of course, when you lose you don't feel very good but we tried and that's what matters. We did our best in the first half of the game, but now Serbia is one of the best teams in the world. In the second half we had a lot of mistakes. The next game is knock-out, and very important. We are playing against Japan who plays waterpolo in a strange way. The team is in a very good condition, and I think we can make it to the quarter finals."*

**Ioannis Fountoulis** (GRE):

*"It was a really tough game. In the beginning, we made it hard for Serbia, but then the score difference was really high. Serbia is one of the best teams but we did all we could. We will continue with all our strength. We can always improve our techniques to become better."*

## **M19 Group D**

### **USA-Russia 14-11 (6-1, 3-5, 3-1, 2-4)**

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

*"In the past few days we've showed different aspects of the way we approach the game. Our goal was to win in all our matches in the Preliminary. We are aware of the fact that we came here unexperinced, our team is composed of, mainly, very young players. It was a big risk playing against Russia, but we made it, and I'm proud of the boys."*

**Jonathan Masashi Hooper** (USA):

*„It was definitely tough, we came out with all our heart, everybody in the team had each others' back. I'm sorry what happened, but a win is a win, now we just want to have the best possible place we can get. I'm pretty good as guessing shots, and our coach wanted me to take it and it worked out well, because some don't work out well and some do, so I'm just glad that it worked out well.“*

**Luca Cupido** (USA):

*„We lost the first two games, so we knew that we would have to take the win for ourselves, and I'm pretty proud of the guys, we put our heart in the pool, we played our best. Unfortunately it was not too much, we had exclusions, but some things are out of our control. But this is how it is, we are a young group, we're going to come back next year and try to be better. In the end it was mentally good for us, just to see that even though our goalie wasn't there, they couldn't score it.“*

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

*„We didn't play on our level today, but anyway, we are in the next round. Our expectations are now bigger that we pass group stage, next opponent is probably Spain. They play good so we will see. We will give our best. I want to congratulate to my guys, great job.“*

**Sergey Lisunov** (RUS):

*„We didn't play well today, we fell down with rhythm but we are in the next round which was our goal in this championship so we are now waiting for our next opponent.“*

## **M20 Group D**

### **[Japan-Croatia 6-16 \(1-5, 3-5, 1-3, 1-2\)](#)**

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

*„Croatia is a very strong team, therefore we were not able to try our play as much as we planned and wanted. They have an excellent conversion of our shots, so they really outplayed us, we couldn't compete with them in that respect. Our key success factor is to keep going in a rally, back and forth, so that we could do a counterattack, but they didn't let us do that.*

**Shimizu Yusuke**: (JPN)

*„We feel really sorry for this result. Even though our strength is on the counterattack, but we couldn't use it, because we let them score some of the easy goals. Also on our extra-man offense, we had a very poor performance so we have to improve on that.“*

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

*„We took the first place, we did everything that was in our plan, great game, so for now everything is ok. Our first goal in this championship was to be first in group stage and to finish in quarterfinals. Now our second goal is to pass quarterfinals. So we are going step by*

*step. Potential opponents in the quarterfinals are Italy and Hungary, but we are not focused on them, we are focused on us and how we play, so we will see."*

**Loren Fatovic (CRO):**

*„Everything was ok from the start till the end, we were prepared for them, we didn't want to give them a chance to put their rhythm, we saw how much it cost USA when they gave them chance. So we played our game and at the end the result says a lot."*

**M21 Group A**

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

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

*"I'm really happy now, because we qualified to the next stage on the second place of the group. In the last 16 we will have a difficult match. In my opinion, Serbia, Hungary and Italy are the favourites of the tournament."*

**Pedro Stellet (BRA):**

*„ I feel great. We have a very young team, Canada as well. We didn't know what to expect before the championship but incredibly we made history going through the group stage. The weather is not like here, as in Brazil it's winter, so we enjoy ourself outside here in Budapest, it's beautiful."*

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

*"We had chance to win the match but we were unlucky. I'm very sad for that, we are out from the competition but at the same time I trust in this team because they are very young, they are improving a lot match after match and hopefully for Canada we will have more chance to get a proof of our skill and value."*

**Matt Halajian (CAN):**

*We were missing some chances, Brazil was pressing out all the way. It was the small things that, in the end, decided the outcome."*

**M21 Group A**

**Montenegro-Kazakhstan 13-5 (2-0, 4-0, 3-2, 4-3)**

**Nemanja Knezevie, head coach (KAZ):**

*"I am very happy because in the history of Kazakh water polo we qualified first time from the group. In the next stage we will play against a tough opponent, but no matter who gets it. The Hungarians and the Italians are very strong, but not as much as the Serbs. They are the obvious chances of the tournament."*

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

*“The result was pretty much expected. Now, we will prepare for the next matches that we will be playing, those are going to be tough, but we are ready to give our very best, and show the quality of Montenegrin water polo.”*

**Aleksa Ukropina (MNE):**

*“We lived up to the expectations, our goal was to be the best in our group, and we have achieved that. We were doing excellent from the start of the game until the end, and the result shows that, indeed. We are now preparing for the next game, against Greece, which is going to be tough. But we know what we are capable of- we are always playing on the highest level and we surely will give our best.”*

**M23 B csoport**

**[Franciaország-Magyarország 7-13 \(1-6, 3-2, 1-3, 2-2\)](#)**

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

*„We had a really bad start and it was very hard to come back. Of course, Hungary is a better team. Maybe our players were impressed by the audience and the atmosphere. It was better from the second quarter. We managed to control a bit in our way.”*

**Tamás Márcz, head coach (HUN):**

*„It is not easy to get the energy, the rhythm for a game like this, but my team made an excellent performance. The concentration was in a high level during the whole game. Our plan was to give a rest to Balazs Harai, our centre forward and this goal was successful because all my players did their best in the pool. We are waiting for the result of the other game on this group.”*

**Béla Török (Hungary):**

*„We started pretty well and kept our advantage till the end of the game. We did what we need and now we are waiting for the Aussies’ success.”*

**M24 Group B**

**[Australia-Italy 5-13 \(2-5, 0-3, 2-2, 1-3\)](#)**

**Niccolò Gitto (ITA):**

*“Before the match we knew that we have to win by eleven goals. We tried to do it but Australia played with fair play until the end of the match. Now we must be concentrated, because we will face the hardest group. I think we will play for the victory with Croatia in the quarter final where nobody is the favourite.”*

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

*„I am very happy with my players. We won by 8 goals. It wasn't enough but Australia played very strong until the end of the match and they didn't do the same performance as they did against Hungary.“*

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

*„I feel bad because we didn't start well. Our difference didn't exist and we were badly punished at the beginning. In the second half we made mistakes I don't have words for. We were motivated because we wanted to learn something and I think we have to still improve. It was the best cheering for my team from Hungarian fans in the history of Margaret Island. It was good.“*