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OLYMPIC DEFEAT AVENGED

BRITISH HOCKEY XI OVERCOME SPAIN

Great Britain 1, Spain 0

On a lovely spring evening at Norwich, a large crowd saw the Great Britain hockey XI beat Spain 1—0, after a fast, skilful and exciting game. The last meeting between the two countries was in the play-off for the bronze medal in the Rome Olympics when Spain just got home 2—1, and it took everything the British players had to reverse the result against the fit, determined visitors.

As expected, the home defence was more than equal to every thrust by Spain. Watt partnered Neill admirably at full back; Neill himself was masterful as ever and Cahill's faultless positioning, lightning reaction and firm clearances gave confidence to his side and enormous pleasure to the crowd. The halves all played well up to form, although Deegan had difficulty in holding Spain's lively right wing, Macaya, but the attack was slightly disappointing. Austen was below his best and Corby, possibly troubled by his injured knee, could produce only a few flashes. Hennessy, however, impressed by his intelligence, speed off the mark and shooting. Cadman cracked across some dangerous centres and Miller was, without question, the best forward on the field.

There were few weaknesses in the Spanish side. The brothers Ventalló, at wing half, gave the British wings too much room at times but covered and tackled hard all through. Del Coso kept goal bravely and effectively, and Colomer, well supported by Solaún, was in great form at right back. The forwards, with Calzado supporting tirelessly from centre half, combined well, but for all the quick thinking of Usoz and the thrust of the wings, Amat could seldom find a way through. But this was a fine side, which played in the best possible spirit, and one which will be warmly welcomed on subsequent visits to England.

ASTONISHING SHOT

Most of the effective attacks by both sides were coming from the wings but some fine back play and good goalkeeping kept out the eager forwards until, after 16 minutes, Deegan made a splendid stop and moved the ball at once to Miller. Miller passed to Corby, who drew the back and swerved before putting Hennessy through with a lovely pass which Hennessy banged in. After a run by Macaya, Miller was off again.

The second half began with some of Britain's best hockey. Davis, masking the direction of his passes, twice nearly put Austen clear and Hennessy got the ball in the net only to be off-side. Spain, however, weathered this storm and went very close from a short corner and Vidal nearly contrived a goal on the left. As the half wore on, with the game surging from end to end, both sides lost a little of their precision and there were some anxious moments in the British circle as the defence, for once, got in a tangle. At the other end Corby hit an astonishing shot which was last seen heading for Newmarket Heath, but both defences held on to the end of a fine game.

GREAT BRITAIN.—H. A. Cahill (Ireland); J. W. Neill (England), E. D. Watt (Scotland); C. I. M. Jones (England), F. H. V. Davis (England) (captain), J. F. A. Deegan (England); J. F. Cadman (England), P. B. Austen (England), D. Hennessy (Ireland), M. W. Corby (England), D. R. Miller (England).

SPAIN.—C. del Coso; J. Colomer, J. Solaún; S. Ventalló, J. A. Calzado, N. Ventalló; I. Macaya, L. M. Usoz (captain), F. Amat, J. J. Alvear, J. Vidal.

UMPIRES.—A. Pousseur and J. Manneback (Belgium).