



Fina
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**WATER. WONDER.
WELCOME.**



Montenegro, Croatia, Italy and Serbia in the semifinal

2016.08.16. 16:35 CET

Montenegro won the big derby of the quarter-final in the men's Olympic water polo tournament. (Image: waterpolo.hu)

Montenegro won the big derby of the quarter-final in the men's Olympic water polo tournament. The team of Vladimir Gojkovic beat Hungary in the penalty shootout. Goalkeeper Milos Scepanovic was the hero of the Montenegrins with saving two penalties.

„We have had a very good game, we managed to prepare for it as we wanted. We don't want to stop here, though, it's time to finally win a medal for Montenegro” - Antonio Petrovic said.

„We showed our best when it was really important. We were good in attack and defense as well, we deserved the win” - said Predrag Jokic.

„Congratulations to my players. We could have decided the match earlier, but this is not so easy, because our opponent was the great Hungarian team. Thanks God we have a world class goalkeeper, Scepanovic, who has been fantastic throughout the tournament and in this match, too” - Montenegrin head coach Vladimir Gojkovic stressed.

„I feel sorry about this game, our dreams have fallen to the ground. We have always been preparing for the penalty shootouts, but this was the first time we had to take part in it, in the most important match of the tournament. The next games will be difficult, too, we will have strong rivals in the fight for 5th place” - Hungarian head coach Tibor Benedek said to M4.

The other group winner, Spain has also been defeated in the quarter-final. The team of Gabi Hernandez was beaten by Serbia 10-7.

„Finally we played really well. Our defense worked magnificently, the Spaniards had no response for it” - Serbian Slobodan Nikic said.

Defending champion Croatia has also qualified for the semifinal after beating host Brazil 10-6.

Italy outplayed Greece. The team of Alessandro Campagna won 9-5.

„Finally we managed to win against our bogeys. Our attack and defense were both good, but we will need more against the Serbs” - Italian centre Matteo Aicardi said.

The pairings in the semi final on Thursday: Montenegro-Croatia, Italy-Serbia.

(Sources: www.wpolo.me, www.rio2016.com, www.waterpoloserbia.org, www.federnuoto.it)