

GB Women – Tour of Argentina Match 3 – Tandil City – 2nd June

Argentina 3-1 GB (26-24, 26-24, 20-25, 28-26)

GB moved on to their third venue, Tandil City, on their tour of Argentina where the home side were seeking revenge from the previous encounter.

The first set began with both teams fighting to take the lead in this five match series. Carter scored twice for GB before Argentina scored five quick successive points. Fresco recorded her third kill for Argentina to lead at the first technical 8-5. GB showed great spirit to slowly claw back into this set and lead at the second technical 16-15. Carter and Bragg scoring twice each for GB. The standard of volleyball was excellent and both teams continued to trade points with the Argentine middle scoring five quick points with Bragg replying three more times for GB. At 23-23 Carlotto scored twice for Argentina either side of a Bragg kill block before Pinedo won the set for the hosts. Argentina won 26-24

GB started set two on the front foot with Beattie continuing her good form. GB led 8-7 at the first technical. Argentina captain Pinedo quickly replied with three kills and the teams traded during the mid section. Argentina led 16-14 at the second technical. GB continued to pressurise the hosts and the speed of play from GB was causing them major problems. Beattie then produced three quick points to level the score at 24-24. With the set in the balance a kill block from Argentine setter Curtola won the set 26-24.

The third set again showed the excellent GB spirit and the superb volleyball this team has continued to play this summer. GB came out fighting again and refused to let the previous sets hinder their goal of winning this game. GB led 8-6 at the first technical. The two teams continued to play sensational volleyball and traded again in the mid-section with GB taking a 16-15 lead at the second technical. With an increase in GB serve pressure, allowing the block/defence to function, the away team won the set 25-20.

The fourth set was a pure spectacle with some awesome volleyball. Both teams were very aggressive and going all out for the victory. Sandell scored four quick points for GB who led 8-5 at the first technical. Argentina immediately responded reducing the deficit, but GB led 16-15 at the second technical. The teams continued to side out with some superb and intelligent net play. Michel scored three times for GB but two kill blocks from Argentina opened up a lead of 22-20. GB once again came out fighting and showed their determination to succeed as Wicks scored with two service aces levelling at 24-24. Both teams continued their aggressive nature but it was Sosa for Argentina who clinched the set and match 28-26 with two quick kills.

Another great performance from GB, however they were kicking themselves after the match for the number of errors they made which without question the reason they lost this match. More discipline and composure in broken play, along with continued serve pressure and offence variation will be required tomorrow.

Key Stats:

Serve Receive:	Team: 2.4 (Beattie: 2.56 from 34, Bertelli 2.48 from 29)
Kills/Efficiency:	Team: 53 / 19.71% (Carter 8 / 41.2%, Beattie 11 / 29.6%, Sandell 14 / 21.2%)
Blocks:	Team: 13 (Michel 6)
MVP:	Lynne Beattie

Squad:

2. Lucy Wicks, 3. Nicola Osborne, 4. Rachel Laybourne 6. Jenn Taylor, 7. Maria Bertelli (Liberi), 8. Rachel Bragg, 9. Jo Morgan, 10. Lynne Beattie (Captain), 12. Lizzie Reid, 17. Janine Sandell, 18. Grace Carter, 19. Ciara Michel