

GB v NETHERLANDS

Match 4 – 19th July 2011

GB 0 – 3 Netherlands (15-25, 19-25, 19-25)

The GB squad was looking forward to another challenging high level match against the hard hitting Dutch opponents and had once again two hours to recover following their encounter with Japan, to prepare for another grueling encounter of volleyball.

GB began set one with excellent intentions of taking sets against this opposition, however kills from Blom and Wensink early on showed they too were up for this match. GB made several serving errors allowing the opposition to lead 8-4 at the first technical. The Dutch gained momentum from this point; Flier with her testing jump float serve and Wensink firing in offence, showed why they are classed as two of the best players on the world stage. The Netherlands took the first set 25-15.

Set two began on a similar note with the Dutch servers applying immense pressure making it difficult for the GB passing unit. The teams traded early on but after the first technical of 8-6 to the Netherlands they once again pushed ahead through a combination of tough serving and service errors from GB. Carter continued to score for GB but the away side continued to side out consistently and went on to win the second set 25-19.

The third set began with the GB team on top and the introduction of new, fresh players helped raise the spirits. Beattie and O'Connor both scored twice and GB recorded two kill blocks to lead 8-6 at the first technical time out. The mid section also proved to be a close affair and both teams upped their serving pressure allowing the block defence to do their jobs with Bertelli outstanding in defence and Reid gaining two more kill blocks. GB continued to be aggressive and with the score at 17-17, Flier and Huurman opened up a two point lead for the Dutch. Despite GB's superb effort in this set it was evident the players had given all that was left in the tank after playing 4 games in 2 days. The Netherlands went on to win the set and match 3-0.

The GB team had once again shown that they can compete with these big teams and the contrasting styles of the Japanese and Dutch. This series of matches has been invaluable for the preparation for the Olympics 2012.

Key Stats:

Serve Receive:	Team: 1.96 (Bertelli 2.12 from 17)
Kills/Efficiency:	Team: 20 / 2.44% (Beattie 7 / 11%,)
Blocks:	Team: 7 (Wicks 2, Reid 2, Beattie 2)
MVP:	Grace Carter

Squad:

2. Lucy Wicks, 4. Rachel Laybourne, 5. Rachel Newton, 6. Jenn Taylor, 7. Maria Bertelli (Libero), 9. Jo Morgan, 10. Lynne Beattie (Captain), 12. Lizzie Reid, 14. Vicky Palmer, 15. Stacey O'Connor 18. Grace Carter, 19. Ciara Michel