

## **GB v USA Select Match 2 – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

### **GB 3 – 1 USA Select (30-28, 21-25, 25-16, 33-31)**

GB faced this young, USA select team for the second time in two days and only had victory in their thoughts.

Set one began with the American side being fearless in every serve and attack; their confidence extremely high following the previous days victory. GB responded through attacks from Michel and Beattie. The GB team knew this was going to be a tough game and had to handle their younger challengers and beat them in all departments of the court. Both teams continued to trade with Cash for USA scoring freely as well as the young libero defending at will. GB was passing superbly through Beattie, Bertelli and Taylor but the offence was not flowing allowing the game to remain tight. At 20-20, Coach Cooper introduced Newton who served two aces opening up an invaluable lead. The teams traded again until Wicks and Michel ended the set in favour of GB through a kill block and fast attack. GB won 30-28.

Set two was also a close affair, this time going to USA. GB failed to find their serving pressure and allowed the Americans to use powerful middle Ajanaku and clever outside hitters Walch and Shaw to their advantage. Despite good work from Taylor and more excellent passing from the GB unit it was USA who took the set 25-21.

GB knew they had to cut the errors out and this was the key to winning. Set three saw a big improvement and was a true indication of this team raising their level when it is required. GB started with intent, Michel scored with two fast attacks and followed them up with two service aces. Wicks also applied immense pressure from the serving line forging GB into a 10-2 lead. GB played some stunning volleyball and the USA team could not handle the speed and power in the GB offence. The mid section allowed GB to continue playing their style of flowing offence and included some excellent serving from Taylor. Despite a small comeback from the opposition GB pushed ahead to win 25-16.

GB now needed to repeat the third set to take the match and started positively with Osborne and Michel dominating the middle of the net. At 8-6 up GB were looking to gain momentum and take the match. However after the first technical the game changed, with Cash and Shaw scoring for USA. At 18-13 up (USA) another 5 setter was now on the cards. Viggars was introduced by GB and made an immediate impact, finding Beattie and Bragg in attack. Taylor then served two aces to draw level at 22-22. The momentum was now with GB and they were not about to let it go. Bragg and Newton scored for GB before the returning setter Wicks, served an ace to clinch victory 33-31.

#### **Key Stats:**

Serve Receive:	Team: 2.53 (Bertelli 2.62 from 45, Taylor 2.55 from 22, Beattie 2.48 from 21)
Kills/Efficiency:	Team: 45 / 13.48% (Bragg 10 / 38.9%, Michel 9 / 13%, Osborne 4 / 44.4%)
Blocks:	Team: 7 (Michel 2, Osborne 2)
MVP:	Maria Bertelli

#### **Squad:**

**2. Lucy Wicks, 3. Nicola Osborne, 4. Rachel Laybourne, 5. Rachel Newton, 6. Jenn Taylor, 7. Maria Bertelli (Libero), 8. Rachel Bragg, 10. Lynne Beattie (Captain), 12. Lizzie Reid, 16. Meg Viggars, 18. Grace Carter, 19. Ciara Michel**