

GB Women – Latina Cup
Match 4 – Lima – 30th May 2011

Chile 2-3 GB (20-25, 25-23, 25-13, 25-23, 15-13)

GB continued their progression for the Olympics, this time facing Chile for the 3rd and 4th place in the Latina cup

The first set began with Chile's outside hitter Vorphoral scoring four times with Chile leading 8-7 at the first technical. Chile were serving with pressure which disrupted GB offence, not allowing the dependable Wicks to run the speed and style of play we have become accustomed to over the last 14 days. The teams traded points during the mid-section with Taylor and Michel scoring regularly for GB leading at the second technical 16-14. The second continued in this fashion with Bragg scoring twice towards the end of the set which GB won 25-20.

The second set saw a similar pattern with both teams trading points and again Taylor scoring twice for GB. With the first technical being 8-6 in favour of GB. A solid mid-section increased GB's lead with strong aggressive hitting from Bragg and Michel. GB led 16-13. The Chile team came out after the second technical a different team and served really tough especially middle blocker Atala. Chile resilient defence and outstanding pick ups from their libero helped them into a 19-17 lead. Despite a second ball attack from Wicks GB failed to reduce this deficit losing the set 25-23

The third set did not go according to the game plan and Chile led at the first technical 8-4 despite three good points from Bragg. Chile were serving extremely tough, especially Middle blocker Atala. Chile extended their lead to 16-7 at the second technical. GB had lost some momentum now and although they traded till the end of the set the damage had been done. Chile won set three 25-13

GB started the brighter of the two team in set four with Wicks orchestrating the distribution as well as scoring two points with a kill block and service ace. GB led 8-6 at the first technical. GB's determination was evident and Sandell scored three times in quick succession to help GB lead 16-15 at the second technical. With Chile's Vorphoral continuing to be a constant thorn in the GB game plan the teams continued to side out until Beattie and Bragg attacked with ferocity to clinch the set 25-23. After being 21-18 down this was a true test of mental toughness which they had overcome much to the delight of the Peruvian crowd.

The fifth set was always going to be close and it was Chile who gained the advantage taking an early 4-1 lead. Beattie and Michel shared five kills between them before another Vorphoral attack gave Chile a 9-6 lead. With the Peruvians now fully supporting the GB team and the home fans going wild, Sandell arrived with three kills to give GB a lead after trailing at 10-7. Strong serving from Wicks and a kill block from Carter allowed the jubilant GB team to record their second win in three games.

Although GB have played with more fluency in previous games, this was a massive result and another great victory on this extremely beneficial tour. To come back from the position they were in deserves great credit and showed excellent mental toughness. The team now fly to Argentina for 5 more tough matches.

Key Stats:

Serve Receive: Team: 1.56 from 95
Kills/Efficiency: Team: 53 / 21.62% (Michel: 11 / 50%, Bragg: 12 / 21.9%, Beattie 11 /20%)
Blocks: Team: 10 (Michel 3)
MVP: Ciara Michel

Squad:

2. Lucy Wicks, 3. Nicola Osborne, 6. Jenn Taylor, 7. Maria Bertelli (Libero), 8. Rachel Bragg, 9. Jo Morgan, 10. Lynne Beattie (Captain), 12. Lizzie Reid 14. Victoria Palmer, 17. Janine Sandell, 18. Grace Carter, 19. Ciara Michel