



Competition Day 5 – Saturday 20th May 2017

UKR v JPN
3-0
(25-7 / 25-19 / 25-17)

It was back to business on Day 5 of the competition with UKR and JPN playing each other for the first match of the day. UKR did not waste time getting in the game with PRYVALYKHINA (1) hitting hard and PODLIESNA (3) putting pressure on the serve, taking UKR to a 8-1 lead and therefore the first technical time out.



JPN KIKUCHI (9) hit backcourt and got the ball back for JPN with OSADA (12) and her windmill serves. JPN did not manage to hang on to the ball and UKR with KOZYNA (11) at the serve, went on to score a few more points, taking UKR to a very comfortable lead at 12-2. JPN coach asked for a tie out to refocus his team. UKR increased the pressure and the frontcourt was doing a perfect job.

UKR was still leading 14-4 but JPN got the ball back with SAITO (5) serving. Some great cover from PODLIESNA (3) gave the serve back to UKR to reach the second technical time out at 16-4.

HURANSKA (8) continued dishing out serves and PODLIESNA (3) did a good job finishing off points at the net. UKR got to 22-5 and JPN got the chance to serve with SUMIMOTO (3). UKR reclaimed the serve and KOZIAR (9) came in to serve at 23-5. She managed to get UKR to a set ball but JPN regained the serve with KANEKI (7) placing one last ace before UKR won the first set 25-7.



JPN took control at the start of the second set only to be shut down by a powerful hit from PRYVALYKHINA (1). However a block and a clever placed tip from captain NISHIIE (1) gave JPN the lead at 4-2. PRYVALYKHINA (1) again hit within the two-meter line and UKR caught up with the score at 4 all. PRYVALYKHINA (1) took her team to the first technical time out at 8-5.

A fantastic rally took place straight after the time out and JPN was the clear winner there. UKR hit out and JPN got to a 1 point difference but let it go. Then it was the turn of UKR to lose the ball and SAITO (5) took the opportunity to gain a few points to reach 11-9 in favour of UKR. With a great hit down the line from KIKUCHI (9), JPN got very excited and almost matched the score at 12-11. UKR were still leading at the second technical time out 16-13.

KOZYNA (11) continued to serve and UKR continue to be efficient front row. JPN asked for a time out at 18-13 in favour of UKR. NISHIIE (1) hit a killer crosscourt and gave JPN a point but PRYVALYKHINA (1) put a stop to it. She was then subbed for BEZPROZVANNA (7) who took over at the serve. A few aces later and JPN asked for another time out at 22-15. JPN got the ball back only to serve it out, thereby giving away another point to UKR. They managed to lose it only momentarily and got the ball to serve for the set. They finished at 25-19 after some very exciting play. The score was an improvement for JPN on the last set.

They started again taking control from the first ball and then with some great serves from KIKUCHI (9) followed by a great hit from NISHIIE (1). They were soon leading 4-0 and UKR took a time out for the first time in the game. JPN was on a roll and took a very significant lead at 7-0.

An ace from PODLIESNA (3) followed by a strong middle hit from PRYVALYKHINA (1) got UKR closer to the score but the first technical time out went to JPN at 8-4.

JPN kept the lead and at 11-9 in their favour, BEZPROZVANNA (7) came in for PRYVALYKHINA (1) to serve. UKR closed the gap at 11 all. A block out from UKR gave the ball back to JPN at 12 all. A hole in the UKR defence gave one serve to JPN but UKR got it back to reach the second technical time out at 16-13 in their favour.



UKR got their momentum back and started scoring with SAVCHENKO (4) serving. JPN asked for a time out at 18-13. This was not enough and after another 3 points for UKR at 21-13, JPN asked for a second time out. They fought tooth and nails but could not get back to the score in spite of some serving errors from UKR at 23-15. A hit out by NISHIIE (1) and an ace by PODLIESNA (3) took UKR to a set point but JPN had not said their last word and battled to save the last point without success. UKR took the third and final set 25-17 and the game 3-0.

BEST SCORER: JPN – NISHIIE – 8 points
 UKR – PRYVALYKHINA – 21 points

NED v CHN
0-3
(5-25 / 12-25 / 11-25)

The second game of the day saw CHN play NED and CHN did not waste time piling on the points with WANG Y.N (7) at the serve to reach 3-0. NED got the ball and ZHAO (12) went to serve. A block out gave the ball back to CHN and they continued their scoring points show with ZHAO M. (13) scoring to the first technical time out at 8-1.

CHN got to a 10-1 lead and a block touch out gave the serve to NED. They managed to serve but lost the point and then got it back when another CHN hit went out. The score went to 12-3 but CHN pressed on and captain XU J. (10) went to serve. The second technical time out was soon reached at 16-3 for CHN.

Hard hits combined with aces saw CHN reach 18-3 when ZHANG X. (9) hit out, giving the chance to NED to score some points. They managed to get to 5-18 when WANG Y.N. (7) rocket hit gave the ball back to CHN. NED asked for a time out at 21-5 to get the players to take a breather and refocus on the game. ZHANG X. (9) piled on the points until the end of the set at 25-5.

The second set followed pretty much the same pattern as the first set with CHN blocked any attempt from NED to take some points and they soon surged ahead with ZHAO M. (13) at the serve taking a 6-1 lead. NED managed to get the serve back with STINISSEN (1) but lost the battle at the net. CHN soon reached the first technical time out at 8-3.

Captain XU J. (10) took over from the serve and got CHN to 11-4. Miscommunication between NED players saw them lose the ball and CHN to serve again with ZHANG X. (9). WANG Y.N. (7) did her usual job at the net. NED managed to get the serve back and VAN DER HAAR (5) served some well-needed point but that was not enough and CHN was still in the lead at 14-8.

STINISSEN (1) managed a great hit from the wing and CHN substituted QIY J.(2) for WANG L.(3). This was enough to destabilise NED and get them to serve out. CHN reached the second technical time out at 16-10.

NED asked for a time out at 20-11 to slow CHN down. This did not quite work and CHN could only but march on with a steady pace to the end of the second set. Errors from the NED saw CHN do just that at 25-12.

NED scored the first point of the third set and managed to lead 2-1 for a short time before CHN put the pressure on and got serving with GONG B. (6). However CHN let their level of play drop a bit and NED got in a few points with some great defence from CEELEN (4). The score evened out before ZHANG X. (9) started serving to take CHN to the first technical time out at 8-5.

NED managed to hang on to a 3-point difference for a while at 10-7 in favour of CHN but WANG Y.N (7) widened the gap with a strong opposite hit. NED got in with a chance to serve and get some points but it was not to be and WANG Y.N. continued her scoring streak with an ace. Two substitutions from NED with KOPPERS (7) and ZHAO (12) in for LIST (8) and VAN DAM (10) temporarily slowed down the set but the second technical time out went to CHN at 16-8.

NED got a block in but served in the net. As a result, CHN added some more points to the score to get to 19-9. A net touch from CHN gave the opportunity to NED to serve but CHN got the ball back soon enough. A block from VAN DER HAAR (5) stopped the progression but it was short lived. It was only a matter of points before CHN took the set 25-11 and the game 3-0.

BEST SCORER STINISSEN – 5 points
 XU JIE – 18 points

RUS v USA
3-0
(25-13 / 25-23 / 25-18)

The game started with a lot of energy from both teams. RUS set the pace by hard hits from MEDNIKOVA (3) and serves from PANINA (5). ERICKSON (6) retaliated at 4-1 down for the USA with a hit cross-court followed by a hit down the line.

RUS took back the ball but a good reaction by NIEVES (16) saw the serve go to USA still down at 5-3. SMIRNOVA (13) pounded the ball crosscourt and RUS got to the first technical time out at 8-4.

ERICKSON (6) through the middle gave the ball back to USA but only briefly and RUS kept on serving reaching a 10-5 lead. A block by BURKLAND (7) and serve by ERICKSON helped get a point but the RUS block was too strong.

BURKLAND's reaction at the net was to bury the ball and help USA get one more point but RUS kept on widening the divide and were leading 13-7. RUS hitting line was getting through USA block but a net touch on their side allowed USA to serve. It was not enough and RUS got to the second technical time-out at 16-8.

Serves were in but hits were out for RUS however they still managed to keep the lead at 17-10. The gap increased to 19-10 with quick reactions from RUS frontcourt.

At 21-12, ARBATSKAIA (8) got substituted for KARASEVA (10) – USA substituted EDWARDS (17) for BAKER (18). ERICKSON (6) got blocked once but not twice and took the serve. DOSTY (8) came in for KANAHELE (14) at 22-13. This did not prevent RUS from scoring one more point and substitute KUNSTMAN (9) for IVANOVA (1). RUS soon had a set point and a net touch from USA gave RUS the set 25-13.

The first serve of the second set went out for USA and gave RUS an advantage from the start. However USA quickly regrouped and a backcourt hit from ERICKSON (6) got the ball back. SHIFFLETT (3) was not only serving but also setting to help her teammates finish the rally. DOSTY (8) pounded the ball and USA got to a 5-2 lead. RUS reacted straight away but USA got the ball back at 6-2. SHIFFLETT (3) shoulder reaction tricked RUS and USA got to the first technical time-out at 8-2.

In spite of some excellent shots from DOSTY (8), RUS got the serve and SMIRNOVA (13) used that opportunity to add on more points to her side. Errors at the net on USA side made her task easier and RUS were getting closer at 8-10 still in favour of USA. BURKLAND (7) put a temporary stop to that and pounded the ball down the line followed by a block. At 13-9 for USA, PANINA (5) served hard and MEDNIKOVA hit ever harder but out. USA got to the second technical time out at 16-11 in their favour.

USA was still leading at 21-15 but RUS would not give up. ARBATSKAIA (8) hit through the middle and swiped USA block to take the serve back at 21-17 in favour of USA. ZAKREVSKAIA (15) then pounded the ball again and USA asked for a time out at 21-19. RUS block found ERICKSON (6) and stopped her. RUS

got to 1-point difference and asked for a time out after losing the point with a score of 22-20.

KARASEVA (10) got in to serve for ARBATSKAIA (8) at 21-22 and brought the score even at 22 all. The next serve went out but RUS got the ball back and a crosscourt hit from PANINA (5) down the small diagonal saw RUS take the second set 25-23.

RUS started strongly leading 2-0 in the third set. USA managed to use RUS block and DOSTY (8) went on to serve at 3-2. MEDNIKOVA (3) got the serve back for RUS and added more points to the score. USA did not help by blocking out and RUS got close to the first technical time out at 7-3. A USA error at the net gave RUS the advantage at 8-3.

Nothing seemed to work for USA at 9-3 down, hitting serves in the net. RUS substituted ZAKREVSKAIA (15) for BISAEVA (6) and they got to a 7-point lead. A great block from BURKLAND (7) got the ball back to USA. One serve out and it was back with RUS. MEDNIKOVA (3) hit down the line and PERMIAKOVA got in to serve at 13-6. DOSTY (8) high reach allowed USA to go and serve but a block out gave the point back to RUS at 14-7. Clever play by ARBATSKAIA (8) gave the serve to KUNTSMAN (9) but she was stopped by BURKLAND (7). A serve out by USA saw RUS take the second technical time out at 16-9.

MILLER (10) got in for DOSTY (8) and the ball went to USA for the serve. ERICKSON (6) did what she does best - hit hard but a USA block out gave the ball back to RUS. KARASEVA (1) got in for ARBATSKAIA (8) to serve.

BURKLAND hit the block out and got the ball for BAKER (18) to serve. An error at the net gave the ball back to RUS and they soon widened the gap to a 7-point difference at 19-12. DOSTY (8) went back in for MILLER (10). BISAEVA (6) hit hard and got RUS to the 20-point mark. USA asked for a time out at 21-13 in favour of RUS.

PERMIAKOVA (2) hit out and gave USA the opportunity to come back at the serve with SHIFFLETT (3). A block-out from USA saw RUS get 3 point away from set point. Fantastic defence and attack from BISAEVA (6) did not deter USA however and they used DOSTY (8) reach to pound the ball at 16-22. RUS started doubting and hit out. ARBATSKAIA (8) came back on court for KARASEVA (10). KUNTSMAN (9) hit and went on to serve at 23-17 for RUS. A clever shot from ERICKSON (6) delayed the unavoidable, she then got blocked and RUS served for the set and game at 24-18. RUS won the last point, set 25-18 and game 3-0.

BEST SCORER: RUS – SMIRNOVA – 10 points
 USA – ERICKSON – 11 points