



Competition Day 6 – Sunday 21st May 2017

**5th v 6th
NED v JPN
3-1**

(25-11 / 25-15 / 23-25 / 25-19)

Today's first game of the finals saw NED play JPN for 5th/6th place. NED started well with a hit from VAN DER HAAR (5) followed by her serving. At 2-1, NED lost the serve and JPN had a chance to take some points but failed to do so. NED took the lead at 4-1 but served out. JPN took the opportunity to come back at 3-4 but lost the ball. NED got to the first technical time out at 8-6 in their favour.



Serve from BRANSMA (6) followed by two blocks at the net from ZHAO (12) and VAN DER HAAR (5) saw NED take a 3-point lead to 10-7. Some great teamwork and fights at the net got JPN to take a time out at 13-7 in favour of NED.

NED continued their progression and with some good defence and communication between the players, they soon reached the second technical time-out at 16-7.

Strategically placed serves from ZHAO (12) got NED to 19-7 and another time-out from JPN. After that serving streak, JPN got the serve back and managed to score some points but STINISSEN (1) put an end to it and took NED to a 22-9 lead. NISHIIE (1) hit crosscourt and got the ball back for JPN. KIKUCHI (9) took the opportunity to score a few points on the serve and JPN got to 11-23 but NED took the serve back and were soon taking the set 25-11 with an ace from KOPPERS (7).

JPN started the second set by taking on the first couple of points but NED soon got the ball back at 2 all. NED started serving but a block from SAITO (5) stopped them. An ace from NISHIIE (1) saw JPN come back at the score. NED got the ball, blocked and served hard to get to 6-5. JPN however came back and claimed the first technical side out at 8-6.



JPN continued their progress leading 9-7 and then 11-9 due to some mistakes from NED. ZHAO (12) put a stop to that and went to serve. NED eventually took the lead for the first time in the set at 14-11 and JPN had to get a time-out. ZHAO kept going with the serve and soon got NED to the second technical time-out at 16-11. ZHAO was still serving and JPN had to get another time-out to try and stop her.

JPN got the serve back at 20-14 but NED put a stop to it. JPN also served out and NED got to 22-15 with KOPPERS (7) serving. NED got to the end of the set at 25-15.

In the third set, the score was even from the start with both teams trying to get ahead but struggling to do so. It was back and forth for a while with many errors on both sides getting to a 4 all score. NISHIIE (1) then put pressure on the score to allow JPN to get ahead and reach the first technical time-out with a great hit from KANEKI (7) at 8-4.

KIKUCHI (9) backcourt added to the hitting and service festival from JPN to lead 10-4. NED got the ball back but was still trailing behind. The serve was out, JPN got it back but a hit from VAN DER HAAR (5) momentarily stopped the progression. A block from KOPPERS (7) helped NED get closer to the score at 8-13. BRANDSMA (6) at the serve reduced the point difference to 2 and served out. JPN aced the next ball and were up 14-11. They claimed the second technical time out at 15-11.

After the second ace, NED asked for a time out. JPN surged ahead and got to 18-13. NED served out when given the opportunity and JPN was on its way to finishing the third set with a 21-13 lead on NED. NED had to ask for a time-out to slow things down and refocus the team. It worked and NED got the serve back. VAN MARUM (3) came in for BRANDSMA (6) and KOPPERS (7) started serving.

It was then JPN turn to ask for a time out at 21-17 still in JPN favour. VAN MARUM (3) did her job at the front and helped NED get to 18-21 but then JPN got the ball back. An error at the net from NED saw JPN score another point at 23-19 but NED took back the serve. STINISSEN (1) to two points in and JPN asked for a second time-out at 23-21. A clever trick by NISHIIE (1) saw the set point go to JPN but a lift frontcourt gave one more chance to NED at 22-24. JPN however finished the set 25-23.

NED started the fourth set with an ace but soon lost it to KIKUCHI (9) who went on to serve. At 2 all, NED got the serve back with ZHAO (12) acing it. Efficient blocking from VAN DER HAAR (5) saw NED briefly lead at 4-2. Strong serving from NED saw the team reach the first technical time-out at 8-3 in their favour.

JPN got the serve back following some errors from NED but hit out and KOPPERS (7) was soon serving. Efficient blocking and serving got JPN to ask for a time out at 12-5 in favour of NED. The tactic worked and JPN got the ball back to score at 12-7 but a block touch saw the ball go to NED. JPN slowly crept back at the score but served out and NED got to the second technical time-out at 16-11.

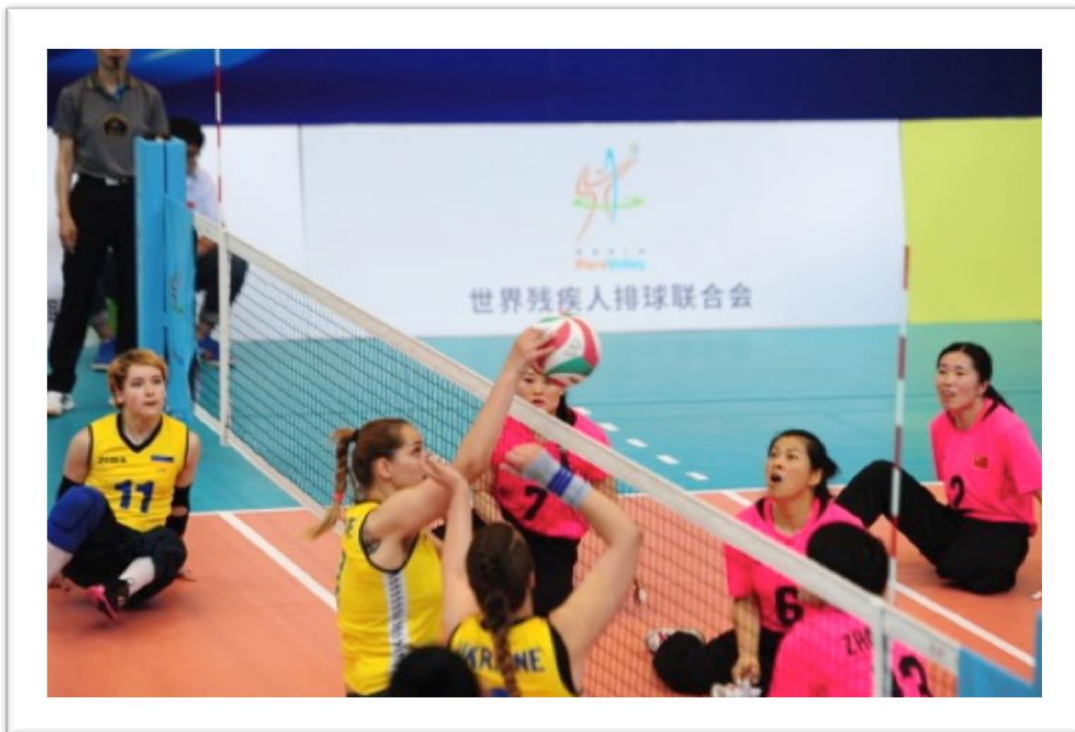
JPN was hard at work trying to get some points but served in the net. NED served out in return. NED substituted LIST (8) for BRANDSMA (6) and the score went up to 19-14. JPN asked for a time-out to stop KOPPERS (7) from serving at 20-14. At 22-15, JPN got the ball back and hit on the backline gaining some precious points. LIST (8) came back on court. NED asked for a time out at JPN was slowly creeping back in at the score 22-18. NED got the ball back and only had to score two points. They did just so with one hit from ZHAO (12) and a serve out from JPN. The set ended up at 25-19 for NED and the game at 3-1.

BEST SCORER NED - ZHAO – 17 points
 JPN – KANEKI – 10 points

BRONZE MEDAL MATCH
CHN v UKR
3-0
(25-12 / 25-23 / 25-11)

The Bronze medal match saw UKR play CHN. UKR got the first serve but WANG Y.N (7) clever tip behind the block gave CHN their first point. ZHAO M.L. (13) started serving and XU J. finished the rally with a hard hit. CHN were soon 6-1 up but a block from PRYVALYKHINA (1) momentarily stopped them. BEZPROZVANNA (7) came in to serve but a defence error saw CHN reach the first technical time out at 8-3.

CHN served out and UKR got a chance to score some points with a block out from CHN and serves from HURANKSA (8). The ball went back and forth between the two teams with errors on both sides taking the score to 11-7 in favour of CHN. QIU J.F. (2) put a couple of aces in and WANG Y.N (7) hit hard. UKR asked for a time-out at 14-7.



UKR momentarily regained the serve but CHN cruised to the second technical time-out at 16-8. A clever tip from captain XU. J. saw the ball back on CHN side and confusion at the net on UKR side gave the serve to CHN at 20-11. UKR hit out and requested a technical time-out after two players collided on court. CHN were soon close to closing the set at 23-12 with ZHANG X. F. (9) serving. They did just that at 25-12 finishing with an ace.

UKR took a short lead at the start of the second set at 4-0 but then served out. CHN could not capitalise on this and gave the ball back for PRYVALYKHINA (1) to hit hard through the middle. CHN asked for their first time out at 6-1. The first technical time-out went to UKR still leading 8-4 after some great fighting at the net from both teams.

CHN reduced the gap to 1 point at 8-9 and UKR asked for a time-out. A hit from PODLIESNA (3) gave the serve back to UKR but WANG Y.N. (7) did the same to get the ball back to CHN. At 10 all, CHN seemed to have found their game but PRYVALYKHINA (1) backcourt hit stopped them again. Both teams matched each other point for point from 12 all. CHN got to the second technical time-out at 16-15.



CHN surged ahead leaving at 3-point gap at 19-16. BEZPROZVANNA (7) came in for PRYVALYKHINA (1) but served out and gave an extra point to CHN at 20-17. At 22-18, CHN got blocked and UKR had a chance to get some point but this did not happen. At set point, BEZPROZVANNA (7) buried the ball down and MANANKOVA (10) went to serve. UKR were closing the gap at 23-24 and CHN asked for a time out. WANG Y.N (7) hit hard crosscourt and gave the second set to CHN 25-23.

The third set started with CHN not wasting time before scoring points. They were soon leading 4-1. The serve worked well on their side and they capitalised on it with ZHAO M.L. (13) aces to lead 6-2. PRYVALYKHINA (1) was getting blocked from all positions at the net and CHN got to the first technical time-out at 8-2.

At 10-2, UKR substituted PRYVALYKHINA (1) got substituted for BEZPROZVANNA (7) but CHN were still ahead at 12-4. They got a fantastic point which led them to the second technical time-out at 16-7.

CHN were soon 10 points ahead but UKR had not given up and were still fighting to keep the ball off the ground. Another ace by ZHAO M.L. (13) got CHN to 20-8 and UKR substituted SAVCHENKO (4) for KOZIAR (9). This gave the serve to UKR but it did not get to the net and CHN scored another point, taking them to 22-9. UKR managed to fit in a couple of points to come back at 22-11 but CHN soon took over again and won the set 25-11.

BEST SCORER CHN -ZHANG X.F. - 13 points
 UKR - PRYVALYKHINA - 11 points

GOLD MEDAL MATCH
USA v RUS
1-3
(23-25 / 25-16 / 25-17 / 25-18)

The long awaited gold medal match was finally upon us after a week's worth of exciting games with the top sitting volleyball team in the world.

RUS started strongly at the net and got a 2-point lead. A tricky shot at the net from KANAHELE (14) gave the first point to USA followed by a lift from RUS. RUS with SMIRNOVA (13) gained another point and got a massive block on ERICKSON (6) to get to a 4-3 lead. A couple of errors on the USA side saw RUS one point short of the first technical time-out at 7-4. SHIFFLETT (3) on the serve tried to get another point for USA but RUS got to the first technical time out at 8-5.



An ace by SMIRNOVA (13) saw RUS take off and widen the gap at 9-6. A block from BURKLAND (7) put a stop to that, followed by a clever tip behind the block. ERICKSON got some strong serves in and USA was soon back at 9 all. RUS asked for a time with USA in the lead at 11-9. With a strong block from PANINA (5) and with ZAKREVSKAIA (15) on the serve, RUS took another point but USA got it back at 12-10. NIEVES (16) at the net prevented RUS from scoring another point but then PANINA (5) went through the block. RUS block was very strong but so was USA and the score reflected that. At 14 all, IVANOVA (1) served cleverly and took RUS ahead at 15-14. With the next serve out, the score was even again. A hit out from RUS saw USA take the second technical time-out at 16-15.

Clever tip from SHIFFLETT (3) gave USA a small one-point advantage at 17-16 but ZAKREVSKAIA (15) powerful hit stopped USA. They however managed to get the ball back and take a 3-point lead at 20-17. IVANOVA (1) got substituted for KUNSTMAN (9) and SMIRNOVA (13) put the pressure on the serve. USA was still leading but just by one point. A ball out from RUS gave USA a 2-point lead and ERICKSON (6) back in the serve got some well-needed points in at 22-19.

A substitution for RUS with BISAEVA (6) in for ZAKREVSKAIA (15) gave an extra point to RUS still down at 21-22. USA asked for a time out to slow the game down. In spite of a clever tip from ERICKSON (6), USA lost the ball again but EDWARDS (17) tipped it back again.



A block out from USA saw the score level to 22 all. BURKLAND (7) buried the ball and USA was back at the serve with EDWARDS (17). MEDNIKOVA (3) cleverly placed the ball and RUS got the serve back with KARASEVA (10) coming in at 23 all. Miscommunication between the USA players got Coach HAMITER to call a last chance time out at 24-23 in favour of RUS. USA hit the ball out and gave the first set to RUS 25-23.

The second set saw a battle at the net from the first point with ERICKSON (6) winning the joust and taking USA to a 2-1 lead. A fantastic save from NIEVES (16) followed by a hit from ERICKSON (6) saw US lead 5-1. A call from the referee was contested by RUS but did not stop NIEVES (16) from acing the serve twice in a row. PERMIAKOVA (2) got in but RUS still could not receive and USA took the first technical time out at 8-1. In spite of another spectacular save from NIEVES (16), RUS got the serve back and scored with ARBATSKAIA (8) at the serve. ERICKSON (6) buried the ball deep in RUS court and got the ball back for USA at 9-3. RUS got the ball back but could not capitalise on it and the USA defence worked like clockwork. USA got two serves in and a down the line hit from BURKLAND (7). RUS Substituted PERMIAKOVA for MEDKNIKOVA (3)

and got a point at 5-13. BISAEVA (6) did what she does best and aced the first serve but then lost it. USA got closer to the second technical time-out at 15-6 but lost the serve. PANINA (5) got serving and KARASEVA (10) came in for her. A hit out from USA saw RUS slowly creep back at the score but a clever tip from NIEVES (16) saw USA reach 16-9.

PANINA (5) came back in for KARASEVA (10) and MEDNIKOVA (3) hit hard. A tip from the USA gave the ball back at 17-10. ERICKSON (6) second hand down the base line added another point but USA lost the ball to a block touch out. BISAEVA (6) got substituted for ZAKREVSKAIA (15) and RUS grabbed another two points. ERICKSON (6) power hits forced RUS to take a time out at 19-12. NIEVES (16) was back at the serve and added some more points for USA at 21-12. RUS felt under pressure and started hitting out and letting the ball drop between them. An ace from NIEVES (16) was welcome at 24-12. USA momentarily lost the ball and allowed RUS to come back at 14-24. A serve from ARBASTSKAIA (8) and error on the USA side allowed RUS to creep back in with a 8-point deficit but a great tip from ERICKSON (6) saw the set go to USA 25-16.

First serve and point for USA at the start of the third set courtesy of BURKLAND (7) followed by a great block saw USA lead shortly at 2-0. Both teams were taking risks at the serve which resulted in balls going out, but soon the score was even at 3 all. USA got the serve back with NIEVES (16) working her magic. RUS was too strong however and took the ball back at 5-4 in their favour. With a net touch from RUS and SHIFFLETT (3) back on the serve, USA got an extra point but RUS soon reached the first technical time-out at 8-5.

BURKLAND (7) hit down the line and a block from KANAHELE (14) and EDWARDS (17) put USA back in the race. MEDNIKOVA (3) tipped the ball behind the USA block but got the serve back with BURKLAND serving an ace at 10 all. USA lost the ball in defence twice and SMIRNOVA (13) block gave a 3 point advantage to RUS at 13-10. NIEVES (16) tip on the RUS back line gave the ball back to USA until ARBASTSKAIA (8) hit through the middle. A couple of RUS blocks later and RUS was leading 16-11 at the second technical time out.

ERICKSON (6) got a ball in and back for NIEVES (16) to serve. The USA block worked well but so did RUS. They got the ball back at 18-13. A hit through the middle from ZAKREVSKAIA (15) forced USA to ask for a time-out at 20-13.

This was short-lived and RUS were still in the lead at 22-15. BURKLAND (7) hit hard and got the ball back. DOSTY (8) came in for KANAHELE (14) at 16-22. A hit from MEDNIKOVA (3) saw RUS two point short of the set which they eventually won 25-17.

The fourth set started with the two teams not giving an inch and taking risks serving. RUS took a short lead 3-1 with a USA hit out. Players on both sides were throwing themselves around to get to the ball but RUS moved ahead leading 6-2. USA serving errors did not help but they still managed to get another point still at 4-7 down. RUS got to the first technical time-out at 8-4. BISAEVA (6) came in for ZAKREVSKAIA (15) at the serve but a quick reaction from NIEVES (16) got the serve back to USA at 6-9. SHIFFLETT (3) got a point in for USA but they were still trailing behind at 8-13. USA asked for a time out.

IVANOVA (1) got blocked by NIEVES (16) on her serve and MEDNIKOVA (3) tried to replicate the same move but got her block out. She soon remedied to that by burying the ball down, giving RUS a 5-point lead. ARBATSKAIA (8) took RUS to the second technical time-out at 16-10 for RUS.

BAKER (18) came in for ERICKSON (6). Mistakes by USA saw RUS get closer to the 20-point mark. USA got the ball back and a three-women block followed by a tip from BURKLAND (7) and serving from SHIFFLETT (2) reduce RUS lead to 3 points. RUS asked for a time out to try and stop USA.



USA kept scoring at the serve and RUS coach tried to motivate his players. With a serve in the net, RUS lead extended to 18-15. ZAKREVSKAIA (15) came back in and a net touch by USA did not help the score. ERICKSON (6) was back on court on USA side but miscommunication between the players saw RUS get to 20-15. Both teams fought tooth and nail to win the rally but RUS eventually hit the winning point. USA took a time out at 21-15 in favour of RUS. Receiving errors on the USA side made things worse and soon RUS were only 3 points away from the end of the set. A lift on RUS side put a stop to that and DOSTY (8) came in for KANAHELE (14). USA was 5 points behind and RUS asked for a time out. PANINA (5) hit down the line and SMIRNOVA (13) went to serve for the set and match at 24-17. IVANOVA (1) got substituted for KUNSTMAN (9). USA hit the block out but a serve in the net ended the set and game at 25-18, 3-1 for RUS.

BEST SCORER: RUS – MEDNIKOVA – 14 points
 USA – ERICKSON – 19 points

FINAL RANKING

GOLD MEDAL - \$ 10,000.00	RUSSIA
SILVER MEDAL - \$ 6,000.00	USA
BRONZE MEDAL - \$ 4,000.00	CHINA



PLAYER AWARDS

	NAME	COUNTRY
MVP - \$1,000.00	Heather ERICKSON	USA
Best Server - \$666.00	Monique BURKLAND	USA
Best Receiver - \$666.00	Willemina ELLEN	NED
Best Spiker - \$666.00	Heather ERICKSON	USA
Best Setter - \$666.00	GONG Bin	CHN
Best Blocker - \$666.00	Irina SMIRNOVA	RUS
Best Defender - \$666.00	WANG Yanan	CHN

