



MVL NATIONAL
VOLLEYBALL
LEAGUE

MATCH REPORTS

SUPER 8 WOMEN

Saturday 14th January 2012

Malory Eagles Vs Polonia

Result: Malory Won 3-2 (16-25, 25-18, 25-20, 21-25, 15-10)

London 'rivals', Malory Eagles and Polonia, met for the second time this season. After a strong warm up, Malory Eagles were ready for battle. Armed with new signings - Megan Viggars and Petra Jandova, Coach Jefferson Williams changed his starting line up and opted for a 2 setter system, a system new to the team. Polonia recognised initial teething problems with this and stormed ahead to win the first set 16-25.

Following some tough talk from Coach Williams, Eagles responded and their efforts were rewarded by winning the second set 25-18. Malory Eagles strength shone through with some consistent, tactical attacks from Viggars and timely aggressive blocks from Lauren Williams.

In the third set, Malory began to gain momentum and strong serving from Nicole Parish ensured that Malory took the third set. Julie Kouamo's spectacular defence proved that she deserved to wear the Libero shirt for this important game.

Unforced errors crept upon the Eagles much to the annoyance of Coach Williams. Polonia began to find their stride again in the 4th set. They showed great resolve as a unit and deservedly took the set, to keep the spectators on the edge of their seats for an exciting 5th set.

The crowd were entertained by energetic rallies in this deciding set and were enthralled by the persistence of both teams. Jandova made her debut and prowled the net, determined not to allow the opposition past her. Both teams fought long and hard but a delighted Malory Eagles took the set and match – a great win following a disappointing start to the season.

Malory Eagles 3 Polonia 2

Barbara Foster

Saturday 14th January 2012

Ashcombe Vs Wessex

Result: Wessex Won 0-3 (22-25, 19-25, 24-26)

Despite recent strong performances, Ashcombe were unable to overcome Wessex last weekend. The Dorking side were hoping to overturn a 3-2 loss from earlier in the season. But missing starting players Hannah Carey and Alex Standifird took its toll and despite a brave effort the team went down fighting 3-0. Ashcombe now have to battle for their place in next season Super 8 with only two matches remaining to secure the points needed to finish clear of the relegation playoff spot. It what has been an uphill struggle of a season for the team, focus will now shift to the shield where the team will take on New Forest at home this Saturday. With over a month to prepare for the next Super 8 fixtures against Swiss Cottage and Malory Eagles, Ashcombe are hoping to rebuild and turn their season around in the final stages of the league.

Saturday 14th January 2012

Wessex VC Vs Swiss Cottage

Result: Swiss Cottage Won 1-3 (25-17, 25-18, 21-25, 26-25)

Wessex's first game of 2012 was home against Swiss Cottage. Despite the clubs poor results at the end of 2011 the performances had been promising so were hoping to kick start 2012 with a victory.

The first set, started off with Wessex taking a 4 point lead, with some good serving from Annie Tinker putting the away side under pressure. However, Swiss Cottage battled back with a string of 6 serves from Yalkin. This along with some errors from Wessex meant Swiss Cottage won the set 25-17.

Again, Wessex started the set with a 4 point lead but Swiss battled back earlier than in the previous set reaching the second technical timeout with a 3 point lead. This lead was extended with efficient line shots from Vajdova. Wessex were unable to cope with these shots, losing the set 25-18.

The third set started like the previous two with Wessex taking the advantage. This set unlike the previous, Wessex were able to maintain their lead throughout the set; despite an attempted comeback from Swiss Cottage and an injury to Wessex's main outside player, Sarah Palmer. 25-21.

The fourth set was extremely close right from the off with no team taking a significant lead. This point for point battle continued to the end of the set but 3 serving errors in a row by Wessex presented the set to Swiss Cottage on a plate 26-24 therefore winning the match 3-1.

Wessex's MVP: Annie Tinker
Swiss Cottage's MVP: A Vajdova

Saturday 3rd December 2011

Swiss Cottage Vs Malory Eagles (London)

Result: Swiss Cottage Won 3-2 (16-25, 25-11, 25-17, 19-25, 15-12)

On Saturday 10th November Swiss Cottage entertained "the old enemy" Malory Eagles and came away with a 3-2 win.

After a pulsating start Swiss were unable to match Malory and within the blink of an eye had taken the first set 25-16 with the most noticeable performance by up and coming star Mechel Daniels.

The frustrated Swiss Cottage coach saw fit to shuffle his pack and introduced Cristina Madeddu and Hana Velebna to the starting line up. This seemed to give Swiss the impetus and with this new found aggression ran away with the second set 25-11 win.

Riding high on the back of this impressive set, Swiss stuck to the same rotation and although Malory shuffled their pack to try and counter the threat, it was too late to make any inroads as the third set went to the home team 25-17.

The fourth set saw the introduction of Rachel Turner and Malory veteran Barbara Foster and similarly to Swiss in the 2nd set, Malory looked a better team working harder on defence and being able to counter with intelligent spiking from Turner and a more aggressive block by Lauren Williams. Swiss tried in vain to build momentum and although the Swiss Libero (Marta Cerri) made it difficult for Malory to score at will, they managed to force the game into a tie breaker.

The fifth set was worth the entrance fee alone as both teams matched each other point for point and it wasn't until Swiss strung a couple of blocks together that they looked to edge out the game and despite a mini rally by Malory, Swiss secured all three points with a final set score of 15-12.

Saturday 3rd December 2011

Malory Eagles Vs Ashcombe Dorking 1

Result: Ashcombe Won 2-3 (25-19, 23-25, 23-25, 25-20, 13-15)

Malory Eagles disappointing run of form continued with a 2-3 home loss to near rivals Ashcombe Dorking. Having taken the first set reasonably comfortably, 25-19, Malory lost the next two sets to identical scores of 23-25. A stern talking to by head coach Jefferson Williams saw the team come out all guns blazing in the fourth, winning 25-20 to take the match to a fifth set decider. Despite their best efforts, the girls were unable to maintain the momentum, eventually losing the set and the match 13-15. The girls were obviously disappointed to have come so close yet still have lost but on the day they were outperformed who were simply more organised in defence than their hosts. Malory's most valuable player was Julie Kouamo who made her first outing as a swing hitter this season and special mention must go to Paige Nelmes, who put up a strong display on both serve reception and defence

as Libero. The girls are now looking forward to their Christmas break and hope to return in the new year ready to revive their chances of reaching the play off positions.

Reporter - Carlos Johnson

Sunday 20th November 2011

Wessex Vs Polonia

Result: Polonia won 0-3 (19 -25, 25-27, 10-25)

On Sunday 20th November a weakened Polonia team faced Wessex in women's super 8s. This was a good opportunity for Wessex to maybe gain some unexpected points.

After a strong warm up by both teams, the beginning of the first set was close with neither side taking control due to many unforced errors from Polonia and Wessex. After the first technical time out Polonia won a string of points taking a six point lead. Nevertheless, Wessex fought hard to take the lead for the first time in the set 19-18. This lead was short lived, with Polonia serving 7 points in a row, taking the first set 25-19.

The second set Wessex started strong with some consistent serving by Annie Tinker, with Wessex being ahead 8-4 at the first technical timeout. This consistent serving continued through the set with Polonia trailing for the majority of the set. They still continued to battle hard, and gradually closed down the 5 point gap and took the lead 24-21. With some steady serving by Jess Grimson and good blocking by Gemma Beddows saw Polonia's 3 set points disappear. However, a couple of unforced errors by Wessex at the end of the set eventually let Polonia win the set 27-25.

After a close fought second set, the third was quite the opposite, with the Wessex heads dropping. Polonia took total control of the set, winning it 25-10 and the match 3-0. Despite the loss, Wessex can take many positives from the game into their next match against Tendring in the cup.

Saturday 24th September 2011

Malory Eagles Vs Swiss Cottage

Result: Swiss Cottage won 1-3 (13-25, 25-17, 22-25, 20-25)

Malory Eagles women opened their 2011/12 Super 8 campaign with a tricky home tie against last season's runners up Swiss Cottage. Both teams have made changes to their squads during the off season and it was the North Londoners who made the better start. The home side seemed nervous and it was mistakes that handed Swiss the opening set. Eagles regrouped to take the second- with Libero Julie Kouamo organising the passing unit, setter Lauren Williams was able to deliver accurately to her hitters who overpowered Swiss.

Having spent most of last season on the Malory bench, Becky Howarth and Barbara Kurucova were keen to impress. Kurucova pulled the strings and Howarth showed no signs of the injuries that plagued her last year the; pair were instrumental as Swiss closed out sets three and four to claim a hard fought victory 3-1.

Coach Jefferson Williams can take heart from the performance of teenage newcomers Paige Nelmes, Mechelle Daniel and Nicole Parish. With no match next week Williams will have a few more precious training hours to effect the small improvements needed to succeed at this level.

MVP: Nicole Parish.