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2011 FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Championships Women's Elimination Bracket Match Recaps

Round of 32

Maria Antonelli / Talita Antunes Brazil (2) def. Sona Novakova / Tereza Tobiasova Czech Republic (44) 21-19, 21-23, 15-11 (:53)

The Brazilians did not allow more than 14 points in any set during pool play, but met some tough resistance in their opening bracket match against the 44th-seeded team from the Czech Republic. In the first set the Czechs took a 14-11 lead and led as late as 18-17 before the Brazilians closed the set on a 4-1 run. In the second set Talita recorded three straight aces to counter the balanced Czech attack. Antonelli and Talita had a couple of chances to seal the match after leading 20-18, but Novakova and Tobiasova came up big with a 5-1 run to force a third set. Two early aces on consecutive serves by Antonelli helped Brazil jump out to a 9-4 lead in the deciding set, but the Czechs stormed back with four straight points. Brazil proved to be too much though, scoring five of the final seven points to win the morning match.

Doris Schwaiger / Stefanie Schwaiger Austria (6) def. Simone Kuhn / Nadine Zumkehr Switzerland (17) 21-14, 21-14 (:33)

The Austrian sisters each had an ace during a 4-1 start in a match in which they never trailed. The Schwaigers had two 3-0 runs and a 4-0 run in winning the first set 21-14. Neither Austrian committed a hitting error in the first set. In the second set the Swiss tied the score at 8-8 but Austria scored 13 of the final 19 points. This marked the fourth meeting this season between the two teams, with Austria improving to 4-0 in the series.

Greta Cicolari / Marta Menegatti Italy (13) def. Anastasia Vasina / Anna Vozakova Russia (26) 21-16, 21-18 (:36)

Energized by the home crowd in centre court, the Italians started out strong by using defense to spark a 5-2 opening run. When Russia cut the lead to 9-7, Cicolari and Menegatti erased any doubt by scoring the next five points to take a commanding 14-7 lead into the technical timeout. In the second set, Russia appeared poised to win the first set against Italy this event. After trailing 11-10, Russia scored six of the next eight points. The teams traded points and then Italy claimed the match after scoring seven of the last eight points. They were led by Menegatti's 13 digs in the match to go with her 18 kills and three aces. Cicolari committed just two hitting errors, bringing her four-match tournament total to only five.

Chen Xue / Xi Zhang China (8) def. Geeske Banck / Anja Gunther Germany (31) 21-12, 21-12 (:30)

China led 4-3 at the first side change, then a pair of blocks by Xue helped extend the lead to 12-5. Xue ended the set with five blocks, which also helped force the Germans into five other hitting errors. Xue and Zhang scored four of the last five points to win 21-12. In the second set, the Chinese did not commit a single hitting error and never trailed. Germany trailed just 6-4 when China scored four in a row. With the score 16-10, China scored five of the last seven points to sweep a match for the first time in this event. China was the only pool winner which had to go three sets in all three pool play matches. Zhang was perfect in the second set, registering a kill on all 11 of her attacks.

Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh United States (5) def. Zara Dampney / Shauna Mullin Great Britain (41) 21-13, 21-12 (:29)

The Americans held a slim 9-8 lead in the first set of the nightcap in the centre court before outscoring Dampney and Mullin 12-5 the rest of the set. May-Treanor and Walsh combined for 14 kills with no hitting errors in the set. The second set was nearly the same, with the U.S. leading just 10-8 before its big push. May-Treanor led the 7-0 spurt with a pair of aces and three digs that led to points. May-Treanor had three aces in the second set and seven digs in each set.

Sara Goller / Laura Ludwig Germany (7) def. Ekaterina Khomyakova / Evgenia Ukolova Russia (34) 21-15, 21-17 (:37)

The Russians were the lowest-seeded team to win its pool, going 3-0 in pool play despite being seeded 34th. Germany led 11-10 at the technical timeout, but Russia came out and scored the first three points before Goller and Ludwig responded with five straight of their own. The Germans ended the set by scoring five of the last six points, and did not commit a single hitting error compared to the Russians' seven. In the second set, Russia led 9-5 before Germany tied the score at 9-9. The Russians held a 14-12 lead but like the first set, saw Goller and Ludwig score five straight points to take control.

Katrin Holtwick / Ilka Semmler Germany (40) def. Katrien Gielen / Liesbeth Mouha Belgium (38) 21-19, 21-18 (:37)

The Belgium women were playing together for just the second tournament. In the first set Gielen and Mouha never trailed in building a 17-15 lead, but the Germans scored six of the last eight points to win 21-19. The second set was close to a repeat, as Belgium held a slim lead early on. Germany took its first lead at 15-14 and outscored Belgium 8-4 down the stretch to win 21-18.

Holtwick had a pair of aces in each set, and Germany limited Mouha, one of the top blockers in pool play, to just one block in the match. Mouha did end the match with an impressive .750 hitting percentage.

Jennifer Kessy / April Ross United States (3) def. Heather Bansley / Elizabeth Maloney Canada (39) 21-14, 21-14 (:39)

Kessy and Ross were looking to avenge a loss to the Canadians in last year's Phuket Open in their only other meeting between the two teams. Canada began the match with a 7-5 lead, but the U.S.A. reeled off nine of the next 10 points to go ahead 14-8. Canada made a little run to pull within 15-12, but then Kessy and Ross scored five straight points. In the second set U.S.A. held a slim 9-8 lead before going on a 10-3 run to take control of the set. Ross had three blocks in the set, including a big block to win the match. Bansley and Maloney combined for six aces in the match, but were plagued with 12 hitting errors.

Sanne Keizer / Marleen Van Iersel Netherlands (4) def. Rebekka Kadijk / Merel Mooren Netherlands (25) 21-17, 21-15 (:31)

Keizer and Van Iersel, winners of two of the last three FIVB Swatch tournaments, began bracket play with a match against their fellow countrywomen. The two teams were close early on, with the underdogs clinging on to a 13-12 lead before Keizer and Van Iersel turned it up, scoring nine of the final 13 points to win 21-17. There were no aces in the first set but 10 service errors between the four players. In the second set Kadijk and Mooren again were strong early, holding a 15-13 advantage. But the final eight points all went to the favorites.

Jana Kohler / Julia Sude Germany (24) def. Emilia Nystrom / Erika Nystrom Finland (21) 21-19, 21-19 (:40)

The young Germans had lost handily to the twins from Finland a year ago in their only previous meeting, but the first set let them know times had changed. Neither team could pull ahead by more than two points the entire set. Finland used a 4-1 run midway through the set to take a 13-11 lead, but Germany responded with two late 3-0 runs to win 21-19. In the second set Finland used consecutive aces by Erika to go ahead 8-5. Kohler and Sude answered with a 9-2 run to make it 14-10, but Finland rattled off the next five points. Germany's defense (12 digs in the second set alone) helped propel them to another 21-19 win and guaranteed Kohler and Sude their biggest payday ever.

Lenka Hajeckova / Hana Klupalova Czech Republic (22) def. Angie Akers / Nicole Branagh United States (11) 24-22, 19-21, 15-13 (:56)

American teams had been a thorn in the side of the Czechs, as no U.S. team had lost to either of these two players since 2006. The Czechs apparently didn't read the history books, using two service aces by Hajeckova to jump out to a 6-3 lead. The Czechs led 16-13 when the U.S. scored six of the next seven points. Akers and Branagh had one set point themselves before succumbing on the Czechs' third set point attempt. Hajeckova and Klupalova combined for five service aces in the first set. In the second set, the U.S. led early on, extending it to an 18-14 edge before the Czechs scored four straight to tie the score. Akers ended the set with a kill, forcing the tiebreaker. In the third set the U.S. led only twice; at 1-0 and 10-9, and while the Czechs could never push the lead to more than two points, Hajeckova's kill gave them a 15-13 win.

Louise Bawden / Becchara Palmer Australia (18) def. Ying Huang / Yuan Yue China (30) 24-26, 22-20, 15-11 (1:03)

China led 18-16 in the first set but Australia scored three in a row to take the late lead. Australia had four set point tries but China prevailed with a 26-24 set win. The two teams combined for six aces in the first set, while Bawden recorded three blocks. In the second set, neither team led by more than two. China went on a 3-0 run to take a 15-13 lead, but then Australia scored four of the next five. Down 19-18, China scored two straight points capped off with a block by Huang to set up match point. But Australia responded with three consecutive points, ending the set with a Bawden block. China started the third set up 4-2 but had its last lead at 9-8. Australia ended the match by scoring seven of the last nine points, with Bawden getting an ace and block in that span.

Elsa Baquerizo / Liliana Fernandez Steiner Spain (23) def. Vassiliki Arvaniti / Maria Tsiartsiani Greece (19) 21-17, 21-13 (:36)

Both Arvaniti and Tsiartsiani recorded a pair of kills as Greece jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the first set before Spain settled in. Spain went on a 5-1 run to take its first lead at 7-6. With the score 15-13 in favor of Spain, Liliana had a pair of blocks to spur Spain's 4-0 run which increased the lead to 19-13. In the second set, Spain continued its momentum with a 6-1 start. The two teams mostly traded points before Spain went on a 5-1 run to push the lead to 18-10. Liliana ended the match with six blocks and three aces, and the Spaniards committed just two hitting errors in the whole match.

Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Hanson United States (12) def. Vivian Cunha / Taiana Lima Brazil (9) 25-23, 22-20 (:44)

At the technical timeout in the first set, Brazil led 12-9. The U.S. scored four straight points to force a timeout by Brazil. Then the momentum switched and Lima and Vivian went on a 6-2 run to regain the lead and force a timeout by the Americans. Fendrick and Hanson tied the score at 19-19, and managed to survive four straight set points by Brazil before a key ace by Hanson turned the tide in making the score 24-23. In the second set no team ever led by more than two points. Brazil led 16-14 but received a red card during a 3-0 U.S. run. The Brazilians each had two aces in the second set but after going undefeated in their three pool play matches could not hold off the Americans.

Carolina Salgado / Maria Clara Salgado Brazil (10) def. Kristyna Kolocova / Marketa Slukova Czech Republic (20) 21-17, 21-14 (:34)

The first set was close throughout, and there were four early lead changes until Brazil took the lead for good at 5-4. Brazil led 17-16 before scoring four of the last five points to win the set. Statistically the set was even, with both teams committing just two hitting errors and getting one ace each. In the second set though, the Czechs committed six hitting errors while Brazil had none.

The Brazilian sisters began the second set on a 6-2 run to force the Czechs to take an early timeout. The two teams then pretty much traded points until 17-14, when Brazil closed out the match with four straight points. Slukova had nine kills in both sets.

Juliana Felisberta Silva / Larissa Franca Brazil (1) def. Tanja Goricaneč / Muriel Graessli Switzerland (46) 21-16, 21-15 (:35)

Juliana and Larissa, coming off a disappointing 17th-place finish in Beijing, seemed determined not to repeat that performance. In the first set Brazil led 10-8 before scoring five of the next six points. Juliana sealed the set with a block, and had 10 kills. In the second set, the Swiss led 8-5 before the Brazilians reeled off seven unanswered points, fueled by defense by both Juliana and Larissa. Juliana added to her kill total with 14 kills in the second set, and Larissa tallied 13 digs in the match.