

The young ones of Swieqi Phoenix will be facing Kavallieri another team from the Super league 2017-18. Swieqi Phoenix are coached by Ms. Leonard Zammit Munro while the ladies in black Kavallieri were coached by Ms. Maria Attard. The captains of the respective teams are Mariana Zammit Munro and

Both sides took a bit of time to settle down and the points advantage swung from one side to another. The swinging kept on going till 5-5 until Kavallieri took a 2 point lead but the young players from Swieqi managed to equalize. The shifting of points from one side to another continued seeing both teams taking the lead in turns. At 10-9 Under Kavallieri player Gisella Orsini landed a spike to make the score equal and repeated herself with another spike and a tip to put her team in the lead by two points. After a long rally a tip behind the block by Swieqi Phoenix player Ms. Chami Mae Campbell managed to reduce the gap momentarily. When Swieqi Phoenix were at 13-14 under, Kavallieri coach requested the first time out. The gap between the two teams is either 2 points or one in favour of the Kavallieri. Some mistakes from the Swieqi Phoenix players allowed the Kavallieri team to consolidate their lead with 5 points forcing Coach Zammit Munro to call his first time out at 14-19. The Kavallieri team used the 30 second time out to strengthen their focus and inflict 4 more points to their opponents. At 14-23 Coach Zammit Munro requested a second time out in order to regroup his girls. This time, the time out served to break the momentum by Kavallieri but on the temporary basis. A mistake by Kavallieri at 15-24 gave a bit of courage to Zammit Munro's players to win couple of points over their opponents but this was not enough as Kavallieri won the first set with the score of 25-18.

Kavallieri for the second set field in the setter Ms. Catherine Spiteri instead of Ms. Celaine Muscat. Swieqi Phoenix took a 2 point lead from the beginning of the set continued to administer it until the gap was increased to 4 points. Kavallieri Coach requested the first time at 2-6 to regroup his players. This time out served to stop the momentum from Swieqi Phoenix players and allowed to Kavallieri to reduce the gap to 1 point only. The hunger of Swieqi Phoenix players to succeed was enough to control Kavallieri and again took the lead thanks to the services of Ms. Abigail Camilleri Pearson till 11-5. A series of points swinging from one side to another started with both sides missing a couple of services. A couple of mistake by Swieqi youngsters allowed the Kavallieri players to close the gap to 3 points at which Coach Zammit Munro called for the first time out of the set. After a long rally, Swieqi Phoenix gained again possession of the ball and inflicted 4 consecutive points to their opponents. At 10-16 Kavallieri coach placed in player Ms. Gosia Gabrien to put on some pressure. Zammit Munro girls were not affected by the pressure and kept on leading by 6 points until a spike from Ms. Gisella Orsini (Kavallieri) gave some hope to her team mates that the gap can be reduced. Some strong services by Ms. Gisella Orsini and a spike from the frenchy Ms. Laura Ferrier reduced the gap to 2 points but a reply from Ms. Abigail Camilleri Pearson (Swieqi Phoenix) placed again her team mates with 3 points of advantage. At 18-22 under, Kavallieri coach called for the second time out with the hope to win the set. Swieqi Phoenix players tried to close the set but Kavallieri Players clinched 3 points to reduce the gap but in the end of the set Swieqi Phoenix won the set with 25-21.

Kavallieri coach changed his cards again and placed in the setter Ms. Celaine Muscat. Ms. Muscat already took her team to the lead with 2 good services. Swinging of points from one side to another started again. The gap between the two teams was either one point or two points but it was a matter of time for Kavallieri widened the gap momentarily. Zammit Munro's girls reduced the gap after 2 consecutive rallies in their favour to one point. Kavallieri started to inflict points to their opponents forcing Coach Zammit Munro to call for the first time of the set at 9-13. The girls of Zammit Munro lost focus and allowed Kavallieri to widen the gap to gain a 7 point lead. A reaction by Ms. Tamara Kenkovski

with a spike from 4 was an attempt to ignite some motivation in her teammates. Kavallieri team committed two mistakes to allow their opponents to close the gap but immediately Kavallieri took matter into hands. At 21-15 Kavallieri Coach changed the setter Ms. Celaine Muscat with Ms. Francesca Gauci. The gap between the teams was closing and the difference was now 3 points in favour of Kavallieri. A spike out by Ms. Tamaara Kenkovski gave a little breather to Kavallieri team who did not capitalise on this mistake. Both teams were winning points over each other but Ms. Laura Ferrier with a left hit spike made the score 24-20 for Kavallieri. Kavallieri failed to close the set but even Swieqi Phoenix players did not capitalise on this mistake and the third set was won by Kavallieri 25-21.

The forth set started with Swieqi Phoenix taking the lead with a tip by Ms. Monica Zammit Munro but Kavallieri immediately replied back. By the looks of the game Swieqi were determined to win the 4th set to force for the 5th and decisive set. Kavallieri were also determined to win the set as they were battling each point and managed to equalize the score at 4-4. Swieqi Phoenix took advantage of lack of concentration by the Kavallieri team and quickly gained a 3 point lead which did not last long enough as Kavallieri close the gap to one point. Swieqi Phoenix player Ms. Tamara Kenkovski was not not happy with this and counter attacked from 4 so her team goes to a 2point lead. After long rally between both teams Kavallieri managed to reduce the gap again to one point. Again a series of shifting of points started between both teams until a spike by Ms Abigail Camilleri Pearson put her team mates in a 3 point advantage. After Swieqi Phoenix gained another point Kavallieri Coach requested the first time out at 10-14. This time out stopped momentarily the momentum of Swieqi Phoenix. The latter continued to increase the gap to 5 points but a spike by Ms. Laura Ferrier was an attempt to reduce the gap. Unfortunately both teams have lost focus and were committing mistakes which allowed their opponents to gain advantage. At 19-13 in favour of Swieqi Phoenix, a ball over by Ms. Celaine Muscat allowed her team mates to regain the right to serve but the young opponents again stopped the initiative of Kavallieri to reduce the gap. At. 15-21 Kavallieri started to put some pressure on the players of Phoenix but managed to conquer 2 consecutive points only. At 18-22 Kavallieri put some extra pressure on Swieqi Phoenix and force Coach Zammit Munro to call for a time out at 22-19 to his advantage to regroup his girls. The gap between the two teams was of 2 points but a fault according to Kavallieri players not whistle by the referee gave boost to Swieqi Phoenix to increase the gap and consequently win the set with score 25-20.

With both teams having won 2 sets each, the fifth set was inevitable. This set will determine who will have more heart and fighting spirit to win the set. It appeared that the young ones of Zammit Munro were more determined than the Kavallieri as these took a 3 point lead from the beginning forcing Kavallieri coach to take time at 0-3. Time out was temporary ineffective but Kavallieri gained the right to serve at 0-4 and managed to reduce the gap to 2 points in the point after. Swieqi Phoenix replied back to gain the right to serve. A to and forth situation started for both teams but Swieqi Phoenix looked more focus and took a 4 point lead again to 7-3. A good block by Ms. Sophie Ann Busutil allowed Swieqi to reach 8 points first and therefore change sides with the score of 8-4. A spike by Ms. Laura Ferrier closed the gap to 3 points and a spike out by one of Swieqi players the gap has become two. Anohet spike by Ms. Gisella Orsini and Kavallieri were breathing now on Swieqi Phoenix back and this allowed also some pressure and the latter players allowing their opponents to equalise the score. Coach Zammit Munro called for a time out to regroup his girls and try to stop the Kavallieri momentum. A mistake on attack by Ms. Ruth Lupi gave the advantage again to Swieqi Phoenix who started to capitalize on that and build an advantage of 2 points. The experience of Ms. Gisella Orsini came as asset when she tipped the ball in the

court of Swieqi Phoenix and gained a point. Another point obtained by Ms. Osrini to equalise the score at 10-10 but it was not enough as Swieqi Phoenix collective effort helped to gain a 3 point advantage. Regaining the right serve Kavallieri player Ms. Celaine Muscat burned a golden opportunity to close the gap. Kavallieri again were handed the opportunity to reduce the gap but a spike of Ms. Abigail Camilleri Pearson managed to give her team the first victory by closing the last set at 15-13.

The final score of the match Kavallieri Volley vs Swieqi Phoenix :- 2 -3 (25-18;21-25;25-21;20-25;13-15)

Referee of the game Mr. Stephen Farrugia

