

Newcastle University vs Durham (2th of November)

Score : 3-2 (I can't remember each set's score)

Evolution : 1-0; 2-0; 2-1; 2-2; 3-2.

Newcastle Team :

- Charles
- Ahmad
- Tom
- Nicolas
- Fan
- Hussain
- Georges
- Rick
- Michael

Durham Team was the same as the pre-season match.

Match Description

Set 1 :

Starting Position :

Nicolas	Tom	Rick
Simeone	Fan	Charles

Libero : Mick (the English Mick)

We made a good start, especially on serve and block, and we create a good advance (+6 points) quiet early in the set, so we manage to win it by making clean things (clean side outs, avoiding mistakes). I guess the score was like 25-20.

Set 2 :

Starting Position :

Tom	Rick	Charles
Nicolas	Simeone	Fan

Libero : Mick

Same as the first, but this time we made the difference in the middle of the set (with good serves),

and ending the set as the first one : few mistakes, good side out. Winning on about the same score (25-21 if I remember well).

Set 3 :

Starting Position :

Nicolas	Tom	Rick
Simeone	Fan	Charles

Libero : Mick

This is where we start loosing. Durham changes his organization (if you remember their best player, he starts playing opposite most of the time), and we get some trouble on defence. Charles starts feeling bad, and the setting quality gets done. We made a bad set (serves mistakes, spikes mistakes), and Durham made a really good one (on block defense espacially). I think we were thinking that match was win, and that every thing was going to be easy....

Set 4 :

Starting Position :

Tom	Rick	Ahmad
Nicolas	Simeone	Fan

Libero : Mick

We started with Ahmad setting, cause Charles wasn't feeling good.

Score was quiet close until the middle of the set. But then we start making mistakes, and first contact quality got down. Ahmad made what he can, but it wasn't enough because we weren't making the job on spikes and defences. The end of set was better, but too late. Durham was on a good dynamic, they won that set, but we achieve to play better at the end, to be prepared for the tie break.

Set 5 :

Starting Position :

Nicolas	Tom	Rick
Simeone	Fan	Charles

Libero : Mick

We take a huge lead at the start (8-2 I think), thanks to some good defences, good blocks and serves. After this, we just keep that advance.

About coaching

As you were not there, we made coaching ourself. Ahmad talk during points, Charles and I talk in time out and between sets.

Players' Performances

- Charles : he was a bit sick, he made two great first set. Take some rest at the beginning of the fourth set. Very good on choices (especially about the opponents blockers). Quality of set was variable.
- Tom : Lot of blocks. Useful on spikes too. But Charles didn't use middle a lot.
- Me : I'll try to speak about me, objectively. Spikes : few mistakes (only two if I remember well). Unable to kill points on set 3 and 4. Serves : Good short serves, with some aces :-). Some blocks too. Need to work a bit more on defense.
- Simeone : A very good match. He was the target on receive most of the time, and made a good job. Made some mistakes on spikes, but a lot of killing spikes too. Clean on blocks. Save a lot of balls on 6 position on field.
- Rick : Quiet on the field, but only says useful things about the game. Great on receiving. He had some trouble on get in the match on first points, but made a great job on the rest of the game !
- Ahmad : Only played a few points (2/3 of the fourth set). Made what he can, but wasn't help by defences and receiving that we made. Made good talks between points, and takes time out at good times.
- Fan : Difficulty for ball spiking (Charles and him didn't find themselves very well), but made a lot a good blocks. Useful on serves. Seems always happy to play, as usual.
- Mick : Very good spirit on the fields. Get some troubles with some serves, but managed to do a good job. Hard third set.

Hussain and Georges didn't play, but made some good noise on the bench.

Nothing to do with the match, but speaking with Georges an Charles, we are thinking (three of us), that Georges could made a good middle, and a good opposite, and He'll talk with you about this on next Monday I think.