

Russia vs. Switzerland 3-1 (25-10, 18-25, 25-13, 25-14)



Russia quickly claimed a comfortable 8-4 lead in the opening set and a Swiss time-out did not help the visitors as much they hoped. The hosts extended their advantage to 16-6 and even another break asked by Swiss coach Dirk Gross at 20-8 for Russia could not prevent Switzerland from suffering a heavy 25-10 loss. The second set followed a different plot with the score remaining close through to 15-all and Switzerland closing a long and exciting rally just a few moments later to call for the second technical time-out. The Swiss edged ahead at 18-16 and several service errors made by the home team paved the way with gold for the visitors who surprisingly claimed this set 25-18 after previously stretching their lead to 22-17. The course of the game changed again in set 3 where Russia opened proceedings with a 5-0 run and continued to control the match (8-4, 10-4, 16-9) until they closed it out 25-13. Russia continued their triumphal march in the fourth set (4-1, 8-4, 10-8) and eventually finished it all off at 25-14 to celebrate their first victory in the competition. Angelina Lazarenko top scored for the home side with 15 points while Maja Storck paced Switzerland with 12.

Russia coach Svetlana Safronova said: "I am satisfied with the result but I am not satisfied with the performance, and especially in the second set we lost concentration and made a lot of easy mistakes."

Russia rising star Angelina Lazarenko commented: "Today we scored a win but we need to improve our game, especially our serve."

Switzerland coach Dirk Gross: "We are happy that we could take one set from such a difficult game with the Russian team, who can count on very experienced players."

Bild u. Bericht CEV