

Article

Volleyball: Mixed results for Birkirkara

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Birkirkara experienced mixed feelings in their last two matches from the local MVA Ladies' Second Division when they had to bow down to Paola's U/18 side in a very tight match, while then emerging out as winners against Phoenix. In the top of the table clash against Paola U/18, Birkirkara started well by winning the first set 25-20 after a string of good services by Francesca Soler and Ritianne Cassar, although the match showed that it was going to be a tough one from the beginning. In fact, Paola improved considerably in the next two sets, winning them 25-16, 25-15 in the process, with Birkirkara unable to find the form they showed in the first set. The fourth set was another tight one, with the score always being close, although Birkirkara managed to keep the upper hand throughout, until two points by Deborah Mallia at the end of this set helped them to win 26-24 and take the match to a fifth deciding set. Paola U/18 started strongly, taking a 5-0 lead, which they kept until the very end, winning this set 15-8, and the match 3-2. With this win, Paola U/18 moved into second place instead of the same Birkirkara. In the other match, Birkirkara immediately returned to winning ways with a 3-0 win over Phoenix. Birkirkara were better throughout the whole match, with Phoenix finding difficulty to build attacks and gain points. Birkirkara's setter Nadine Gatt got the best out of middle players Rossella Spiteri and Fleur Azzopardi, with these two gaining most of the points at the beginning of the match. The first two sets were soon over, Birkirkara winning 25-14 and 25-15 respectively. Phoenix played better in the third set, obtaining more points through better services and actions, especially from Alexandra Meier and Gail Vella. However, Birkirkara were superior, with Ritianne Cassar and Daniela Magro doing a lot of harm with their service. At the end, Birkirkara won 25-20 to gain another three points, vital for the last stages of the league and playoffs.