



**California Community College Athletic Association
Men's Volleyball Championship**

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Irvine Valley College (Irvine, CA)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long Beach City College to face Golden West College for 2009 State Championship on Saturday

Semifinal Match #1: Long Beach 3, Santa Monica 0 (30-28, 30-27, 30-20)

It may have gone down as a three-game sweep, but it wasn't easy as Long Beach City College defeated Santa Monica College in Thursday's opening semifinal match of the 2009 CCCAA Men's Volleyball Championship in Irvine.

Long Beach won the match by scores of 30-28, 30-27, and 30-20 to improve to 17-1 this season.

Santa Monica opened the match playing well and led game one by scores of 15-10 and 20-15. But Long Beach finally took its first lead at 24-23 and never looked back in taking the opener.

SMC jumped out to a big lead in game two and once again, LBCC rallied for the win. Trailing 16-10, the Vikings rolled to eight straight points behind the serving of freshman Devon Taylor to go up 18-16.

"Devon was the key in game two," said Totorp. "He won game two for us, no doubt about it. They had to adjust to his serving which allowed us to block and play back on defense."

With the confidence of taking games one and two, LBCC cruised to the 30-20 win in game three to complete the sweep, their 14th of the season.

Sophomore Antwain Aguiard led LBCC with 15 kills and four blocks, while sophomore Casey Bennett had 14 kills and nine digs. Sophomore Andrew Marques posted 47 assists.

For Santa Monica (14-6), sophomore RJ Storm-Larsen had a team-high 11 kills. Sophomore Quinn Lukens totaled 10 kills and six digs while sophomore Matt Atkins had 34 assists.

LBCC returns to the state championship final on Saturday at 7 p.m. after a one-year absence. The Vikings look to capture the program's seventh state title and third under head coach Randy Totorp.

"We have a lot of third-year guys that saw us lose in the final in 2007," said Totorp. "This team wants a state championship."

Semifinal Match #2: Golden West 3, Orange Coast 1 (25-30, 30-28, 30-19, 30-27)

Golden West College returns to the state championship final for the first time since 2003 thanks to its 3-1 win over rival Orange Coast College in Thursday night's second semifinal of the 2009 California Community College Athletic Association Men's Volleyball Championship in Irvine.

Golden West overcame an opening game loss as well as some playoff jitters to take the match by scores of 25-30, 30-28, 30-19, and 30-27.

Orange Coast came out aggressive in game one, stealing momentum from Pacific Coast Conference champ Golden West.

According to Golden West head coach Mike D'Alessandro, nerves likely played a factor.

"That was the first game of the playoffs for us," he said. "Orange Coast had already played a tough five-game match on Tuesday. So I think our guys might have been nervous."

But Golden West took back control in game two.

"We blocked a lot of balls on defense in the second that really helped us turn it around in the second," D'Alessandro said.

Orange Coast jumped out to a 10-8 lead in game three before Golden West tied it up at 11. But behind the serving of Greg Smith, the Rustlers rallied for eight unanswered points to take a commanding 19-11 advantage and eventually cruised to the big 30-19 win.

Game four was a classic battle between the two squads. The game was tied six times while neither team lead by more than two points. Golden West finally jumped up 26-24 before holding on for the victory to secure its state final berth.

Ian McKelvie led Golden West (14-5) with 14 kills and 12 digs. Ryan Bagwell posted 12 kills and nine digs. At setter, Jake Maosi had 29 assists while Sam Morehouse totaled 25 assists.

For Orange Coast (13-9), Jake Melone led all with 24 kills. Rick Schroeder had eight blocks and six kills, while Doug Astor totaled 53 assists.

"Long Beach is a great team," said D'Alessandro of his next opponent. "They don't make a lot of mistakes."

In their lone meeting this season, Long Beach swept Golden West at home on February 4.