



**CCCAA Men's Volleyball State Championship
April 20/22, 2011 · Orange Coast College (Costa Mesa, Calif.)**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irvine Valley outlasts Grossmont in five sets for 2011 CCCAA Men's Volleyball State Championship

Irvine Valley College won a marathon five-set match over Grossmont College to capture the 2011 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Men's Volleyball State Championship on Friday night at Orange Coast College's Peterson Gymnasium in Costa Mesa.

Irvine Valley rolled to opening sets wins, beating Grossmont 25-17, 25-17 in Set 1 and 2. But the Griffins wouldn't go down without a fight and they roared back to take Set 3 and 4, 25-23 and 25-18 before Irvine Valley closed out the state final with a narrow 15-13 victory in the deciding fifth set.

State tournament most valuable player Brandon Directo led the Lasers with 17 kills and 8 digs and added 5 blocks in the win. Mark Metrakos also posted 17 kills and a team-high six blocks. Kevin Fiske totaled 58 assists.

Irvine Valley won its fourth state championship overall (1993, 2007, 2008) and first since 2008. Second-year head coach Ki Yi closed out the season with a 15-6 overall record.

"These guys did an amazing job," said Yi. "I was going to live and die with Brandon swinging, and he took care of business."

"I could tell the guys were nervous towards the end", Yi said. "And so was I and I think I did a bad job of hiding it. But I am so proud of these guys. It was a great overall effort."

In the deciding fifth set, Grossmont led early, 6-5 before IVC came storming back to score four straight points thanks to three Grossmont errors and a Directo kill.

Irvine Valley was leading 11-7 and had to withstand one last Grossmont surge.

Four IVC errors and a kill by Shalimar Buchanan got Grossmont within one point at 14-13. But Directo capped IVC state championship run with a cross-court kill to seal to win.

It was a tough way to go out for Grossmont head coach Fred Featherstone. Featherstone coached his final match for the Griffins after a 23-year career and led Grossmont to its first ever state championship final.

"This is going to sting for a while," Featherstone said. "23 years of hard work and it came down to a few bounces. It was an exciting match and I'm proud of the guys for fighting their way back into it and not quitting."

All-tournament selection Jose Mendoza led Grossmont (16-5) with 14 kills. Buchanan added 13 kills and 8 digs, while All-tournament setter Shane Beatty totaled 49 assists.

2011 ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM

MVP: Brandon Directo, Irvine Valley

Mark Metrakos, Irvine Valley

Kevin Fiske, Irvine Valley

Jose Mendoza, Grossmont

Shane Beatty, Grossmont

Kristopher Johnson, Long Beach

Troy Tomasello, Orange Coast