

CCCAA 2009 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 2, Saturday, December 5

at San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton

MATCH 10

N4 Sierra d. N3 Santa Rosa, 3-2 (25-18, 25-18, 17-25, 10-25, 15-13)

Records: Sierra 23-10, Santa Rosa 23-8

Santa Rosa eliminated, finish tied for 5th Place at the Final 8

RECAP: After Santa Rosa Junior College blew out Sierra in game 4, 25-10, the momentum appeared all Bear Cubs entering the fifth game of this elimination match. But, that's where the Wolverines had them where they wanted them.

The original No. 7 seed from the North and the 14th-ranked team in the state, Sierra became the unlikely last North team standing by outlasting Santa Rosa in the fifth game, 15-13, and winning in the first 5-gamer of this year's tourney. Sierra was the fourth place team in the powerful Big 8 Conference.

For Sierra, 5-gamers have become a routine as it played its 10th such match of the season, now split at 5-5 in those marathons. The third encounter between these two Big 8 schools turned out to be charmed for the Wolverines, who lost their two conference matches against Santa Rosa in the regular season.

In the deciding game, Sierra led early 7-3 following back-to-back kills by Rachel Vetterlein. Santa Rosa would tie it 8-8 before Sierra took an 11-8 lead with Clara Bolster capping an exhausting rally with a kill. Sierra stormed back to take back the advantage, 12-11, on Shelby Madigan's kill. The see-saw continued with Santa Rosa's Turea Jones pounding two straight kills for a 13-12 Bear Cubs lead. An attack error by Jones and a tipped joust at the net that dropped in for Sierra

made it 14-13 before Vetterlein placed a shot down the left side for Sierra's match point.

For Santa Rosa, it finishes the tournament tied for fifth place after its state runner-up of last year in Pasadena. Bolster hit .350 for a team-high 16 kills, followed by 15 from Liz Tomforde. Jones, an All-State performer, led SRJC with 26 digs plus 13 kills and 4 aces. Tomforde and Chelsea McCown each recorded 19 digs.

Leading Sierra were Madigan with 17 kills, Vetterlein with 15 kills and 12 digs, Alexis Moser with 31 digs, and setter Corinna Farris with 43 assists, 6 kills, 3 aces and 13 digs.

Sierra moves on to the Loser Bracket final against Orange Coast at 4 p.m.

Quotebook: Sierra Coach Vera Nelson said, "Madigan is a freshman and she has never hit as well (.279) as she did in this match. Vetterlein was obviously there for us in the fifth game, making big kills. I guess we are prepared to play long matches since we've been in so many. We totally broke down defensively in the fourth game, but we have the ability to let things go quickly. We work on that aspect, to not dwell on what went wrong. We just played with emotion in that fifth game. For Santa Rosa, you never want to play a team three times in a season. That's a great team and we have a lot of respect for Coach Kelly Wood and her squad."