

CCCAA 2009 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 2, Saturday, December 5

at San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton

MATCH 11

Winner's Bracket Final

S2 Cypress d. S3 Irvine Valley, 3-2 (23-25, 25-18, 22-25, 25-18, 15-12)

Records: Cypress 24-4, Irvine Valley 18-5

RECAP: Nothing seems to affect the Chargers of the Cypress College. Not a 1-0 and then 2-1 games deficit against Orange Empire Conference rival Irvine Valley, and not being behind 12-11 in the deciding game. Kills by Marina Samoa, Katie Saavedra, and Kelly Chiffer were followed by an IVC attack error as Cypress advanced to tomorrow's championship final with a 5-game thriller over the Lasers.

With the victory, Cypress sealed its best women's volleyball finish in school history. The team can finish no worse than state runner-up in capturing the important winner bracket final victory. The Chargers, 3-0 now at this tournament, are back in the Final 8 after last making it in 2004, also played in Stockton.

A Katie Wilkerson kill clinched game 1 for IVC at 25-23. In game 2, Irvine led 14-10, but Cypress rallied for a 15-4 run to take that set, 25-18. In game 3, the Lasers regained the game lead at 2-1. A hand-to-board dig by Maddie Sapigao set up another set-clinching kill by Wilkerson for a 25-22 win.

In game 4, Cypress roared to a 17-10 lead before IVC cut it to 19-16. Some strong play at the net by Kayla Pace resulted in 2 kills before Marina Samoa pounded a kill to send the match into the fifth game, 25-18.

The exciting fifth game included 11 ties and 8 lead changes as Cypress' 4-0 run finished off the win, 15-12.

The match was the third meeting between the two colleges with Cypress splitting 1-1 in conference play.

Overall, Samoa totaled 20 kills and 25 digs with 3 aces (and even 3 set assists) in a dominating performance. Setter Giajaida Vargas equally put on an exhibition of polished volleyball by recording 54 assists, 9 digs and 2 kills. Chiffer added 15 kills and Saavedra 13 kills and 15 digs. Pace hit .444 with 9 kills in 18 attempts and added 3 blocks. Madison Moss made 18 digs.

For Irvine Valley, setter Allie Hammer was steady with 60 assists, 10 digs, 6 blocks, 2 aces and 2 kills. Wilkerson struggled with her accuracy (.117), but had 16 kills and 11 digs. Caitlin Segert was superb in the middle with 12 kills (.385) and 6 block assists. Nichole May contributed 20 digs. Ellie Wiekamp made 9 kills.

Quotebook: Cypress Coach Nancy Welliver said, "Our players served precisely where we were coaching them to place them. I think it helped us late in the match. I'm glad we got this one because we don't have 2 matches left in us. One we can do. Irvine Valley played so much better than we last faced them."

Cypress setter Giajaida Vargas said, "We're more of a family than a team. Everyone on the team communicates with each other well. We got down, but we know Irvine Valley from conference, and I think we just kept positive thoughts."

Irvine Valley Coach Tom Pestolesi said, "Cypress digs everything. They don't do anything fancy, but they have very good volleyball

players. They don't make mistakes. I still feel good about our team. We're tired, but so is everyone else. We know we have a chance and that's all we can ask for on the final day."