

CCCAA 2009 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 3, Sunday, December 6

at San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton

MATCH 13

S1 Orange Coast d. S3 Irvine Valley, 3-0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-17)

Records: Orange Coast 24-3, Irvine Valley 18-6

Irvine Valley eliminated, finish in 3rd place at Final 8

RECAP: It's been said that it's difficult to defeat the same team three times in the same season, but don't tell that to the Orange Coast College (OCC) Pirates of Costa Mesa.

OCC, which won both Orange Empire Conference (OEC) matches from its conference rivals, the Irvine Valley College (IVC) Lasers, made it three for three for the season as the South's No. 1-seeded Pirates swept past the South's No. 3 Lasers by the scores of 25-20, 25-17, 25-17, in Blanchard Gym at San Joaquin Delta College.

The Pirates, known for their serving, used blocking and timely hitting to keep the Lasers at bay. OCC gained 7 total blocks (1 solo block, 12 block assists) and a .277 hitting percentage to dominate.

In game (set) 1, OCC sophomore hitter Briana Fields (Edison HS) had 5 kills (1 error) in 9 swings and sophomore libero Nikki Osuna (Los Alamitos HS) logged 8 digs to get Coast going. The Pirates took the lead for good at 14-13 on a kill by Fields. Fields' last kill of the game gave OCC a 23-20 lead before a pair of attack errors by IVC (with Fields registering a solo block at 24-20) closed out game 1.

Game 2 saw Fields and sophomore outside hitter Poerava Gantt (Kapaa HS, Hawai'i) each nail 4 kills as OCC sprinted to leads of 14-7 and 19-11 to cruise to the 25-17 win.

In Game 3, the Pirates jumped out to a 6-0 lead with freshman setter Kimya Jafroudi (Huntington Beach HS) at the service line. An ace by Jafroudi and three IVC attack errors contributed to the early margin. Gantt added 5 kills and Osuna added 7 digs as OCC built leads of 10-2 and 18-10. With OCC leading, 23-17, another pair of attack errors doomed the Lasers and closed out the game, match, and their season at 18-6.

The match was the third meeting between the two colleges with OCC winning both in conference play.

Overall for OCC, Fields led the Pirates with 13 kills, while Gantt added 12 kills and 9 digs. Jafroudi logged 34 assists, Osuna tallied 21 digs and sophomore opposite hitter Karlee Skalia (Green Valley HS, NV) and freshman middle blocker Kristin Rice (Mission Viejo HS) each had 3 block assists.

For Irvine Valley, the Lasers were led by sophomore middle blocker Karly Loucks (Villa Park HS) and freshman opposite hitter Hillary Crone (Great Oak HS) with 8 kills each. Sophomore setter Allie Hammer (San Clemente HS) dished out 34 assists and sophomore libero Nichole May (Centennial HS) dug out 14 assists.

Quotebook: OCC head coach Chuck Cutenese said, "I didn't want to put that into our team's heads," in reference to the difficulty of defeating the same team three times in the same season. "Our strength is our serving." OCC had only three service errors.

Irvine Valley head coach Tom Pestolesi said, "Orange Coast is relentless on defense. They (the Pirates) are solid, well-coached, is a lot better at doing the little things, and is much better (than us) on 'out of system' plays. They hit their serving spots well and dug well, and that's a bad combination for us."