

CCCAA 2009 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 1, Friday, December 4

at San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton

MATCH 2

N4-Sierra d. S1-Orange Coast, 3-1 (25-22, 18-25, 25-20, 26-24)

Records: Sierra 22-9, Orange Coast 20-3

RECAP: The Wolverines are relishing their first-ever appearance at the Final 8 tournament and the North's No. 4 seed added yet another notch to their Cinderella season with an upset 4-game victory over South top seed Orange Coast.

Sierra finished in fourth place in the Big 8 Conference and OCC shared the Orange Empire Conference title, but that didn't matter in this contest. Sierra rode the defensive play of libero Alexis Moser, who had 28 digs, and placed three players in double figures in kills—Rachel Vetterlein with 17, Shelby Madigan with 12, and Danielle Griffin with 11 (also 5 blocks).

Wolverines' setter Corinna Farris added 48 assists and 11 digs while Larae Saylor contributed 20 digs.

Orange Coast was paced by Poerava Gantt with 19 kills and 14 digs, and setter Kimya Jafroudi with 54 assists and 10 digs. Briana Fields added 13 kills and 4 blocks, and Rachel Freeno delivered 7 kills and a team-high 26 digs.

In the clinching fourth game, the two teams traded 10 leads before Sierra climbed ahead at 25-24. Kristin Dahle crushed a kill to end a set that included a series of long rallies and extraordinary defense by both teams.

Quotebook: Sierra Coach Vera Nelson said, "We keep showing the players the sign of a bull's-eye, it's something that is giving us focus.

We changed our blocking scheme to defend (Gantt), and that was a big factor. When we beat Delta in 5 back in Big 8 play that was a match that seemed to put us over the hump, and make the players believe in themselves. We've been on fire ever since."