

CCCAA 2009 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 2, Saturday, December 5

at San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton

MATCH 9

S1 Orange Coast d. N1 Sacramento City, 3-0 (25-23, 25-14, 25-21)

Records: Orange Coast 22-3, Sacramento City 31-2

Sacramento City is eliminated, finish tied for 5th Place at the Final 8

RECAP: In a little more than four hours, Sacramento City College went from undefeated, No. 1 team in the state to losing two matches in startling 3-game sweeps against Southern Region teams as the Panthers have to again settle for a tie for 5th place at the tournament.

Orange Coast followed up Cypress' sweep by roaring past Sacramento in three straight games, closing out the 75-minute match on Alex Mainini's kill. OCC controlled the match, but Sacramento crept close in game 1, cutting it to 24-23. A long rally ensued, but Briana Fields slammed a kill to give the Pirates a 1-0 game lead.

In game 2, Sacramento led 4-3, but OCC went on an 8-0 run and never looked back. The Panthers made 8 attack errors in the game while Orange Coast hit .353 with only 1 error.

In game 3, Orange Coast smelled victory and took leads of 5-0 and eventually 17-6 on another Fields kill. Sacramento put together an 8-0 run of its own to cut it to 17-14 on two kills by Breanna Warnock. The deficit ultimately was too much for Sacramento in the matchup of the tourney's two top-seeded teams.

OCC, an original No. 5 seed in the South, received 10 kills by Poerava Gantt and 9 each from Rachel Freeno (and 18 digs) and Karlee Skalia. Fields was credited with 8 kills, but often controlled the net and disrupted Sacramento's offense with her blocking. Nikki Osuna added 22 digs.

For Sacramento, a brilliant season for All-State player Natasha Vinnikova ended with a top-flight performance on 18 kills (.366 hitting) and 21 digs. Lauren Mace tallied 13 digs and Alex Tkachuk had 7 kills. Reserve Michelle Palacios gave the team its only big run with her serving (1 ace) in game 3, and she had 5 digs.

Orange Coast plays Sierra in the Loser Bracket Final at 7 p.m. in a rematch of a first-round, 4-game win by the Wolverines.

Quotebook: Orange Coast Coach Chuck Cutenese said, "Our serving and pass receive is our strength and we did that really well today. The girls were fired up to beat Sacramento. Also, our team seems to play off of how well Briana Fields plays. She completely was the difference in this match. As for having three teams make it into the final 4, that really does show the strength of the Orange Empire Conference."