



**California Community Colleges  
Commission on Athletics  
Men's Volleyball Championship**  
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Santa Monica College (Santa Monica, CA)

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***Irvine Valley outlasts Long Beach in five games to win 2007 COA men's volleyball championship***

Irvine Valley College prevailed 3-2 over Long Beach City College to capture the 2007 California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Men's Volleyball Championship at Santa Monica College.

IVC won the match by scores of 30-25, 27-30, 32-30, 16-30, and 15-13 to upset defending state champion Long Beach and earn its second state title since 1993.

"I think a lot of people figured we didn't have a chance against Long Beach," said Irvine Valley head coach Tom Pestolesi. "We struggled most of the match, but we did better at the end of the fourth, so we knew we would be ok in the fifth. Obviously Long Beach is a great team, but we won six out of seven five-game matches, so we were confident."

Irvine Valley took advantage of numerous LBCC hitting errors and used a strong blocking attack to take game 1. LBCC jumped out to an early 8-3 lead before IVC rallied to tie it up 12-12. Irvine Valley led 26-21 before Long Beach came within two points at 27-25 but would get no closer.

LBCC evened the match with its 30-27 win in game 2. Long Beach never trailed, but Irvine Valley got as close as 21-19 before the Vikings got two kills and an ace from opposite Adam Church on their way to a 6-2 scoring run to take their biggest lead of 26-21.

Church led the Vikings with 8 kills in the game.

Irvine Valley came back late in the third game to steal the lead. Irvine Valley trailed deep into the game and finally tied it up at 27-27. Libero Sean Grubbs' ace gave IVC its first lead at 31-30 and a kill by outside hitter Marcus Fernandez wrapped up the game win.

"We basically stole game 3," Pestolesi said. "That was the match right there. Like I said yesterday, the team that wins game three usually goes on to win the match."

"We needed to put them away in game 3," said LBCC head coach Randy Totorp. "Our serving was off and we gave them a bunch of free points along with the win."

Long Beach forced a fifth game by cruising to a 30-16 win in game 4. LBCC surged to a 16-6 lead and never faltered. Outside hitter Richard Carmerlengo led Long Beach with 7 kills in the game.

In the deciding game 5, LBCC and IVC traded points and were tied at 5-5. Long Beach took a 6-5 advantage before Irvine Valley got an ace from Grubbs and two points on LBCC errors to go ahead 8-6 as the team switched sides on the court.

"Coming out with that lead was huge," Pestolesi said. "We forgot all about that fourth game and came out strong."

Irvine Valley had leads of 10-7 and 14-11 before Long Beach mounted a late attempt at a comeback.

A kill by Church and an IVC hitting error got the Vikings within one point at 14-13. But a finishing strike down the middle of the court by outside hitter Peter Johnson was the championship point for Irvine Valley.

"Irvine Valley really peaked as a team," said Totorp. "They really came together since we last played and beat them."

Fernandez and Johnson both totaled 14 kills to lead Irvine Valley. Middle blocker Ted Slaughter added 13 kills and four blocks, and Grubbs added 10 digs. Setter Tyler Rex chipped in with five digs and four blocks.

Outside hitter Naseri Tumanuvao did his best to keep Long Beach in the match. He led all with 17 kills and 17 digs and added five blocks. Outside hitter Derrick Seay also had a good night, posting 15 kills, 10 digs and three aces and Church added 17 kills, seven blocks, and three aces.

With the win, Irvine Valley closes its season with a 17-3 overall record while Long Beach ends with a 16-3 mark.

The state title win marked the second time that Irvine Valley defeated Long Beach in the championship final. In 1993, IVC beat LBCC 3-1.

### **State Championship Final: Irvine Valley 3, Long Beach 2**

#### **BOX SCORE**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Irvine Valley	30	27	32	16	15
Long Beach	25	30	30	30	13

#### **Leaders**

Irvine Valley: Marcus Fernandez 14 kills; Peter Johnson 14 kills; Ted Slaughter 13 kills, 4 blocks; Sean Grubbs 10 digs; Rory Jones 5 digs, 4 blocks

Long Beach: Naseri Tumanuvao 17 kills, 17 digs, 5 blocks; Adam Church 17 kills, 7 blocks, 3 aces; Derrick Seay 15 kills, 10 digs, 3 aces

**Final Records:** Irvine Valley 17-3, Long Beach 16-3