

2004 Citi California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Men's Volleyball Championship

CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

One day, two matches. The final prize: the 2004 state championship.

For Golden West, Orange Coast, L.A. Pierce and Long Beach, this is the task that lies in front of each school. The to claim a pair of victories against two of the top-ranked teams in the state to be crowned the state champion.

The two Orange Empire Conference entries, Golden West and Orange Coast, will host their Western State Confer counterparts in semifinal action starting at 1 p.m. In a rematch of last season's state championship match at Long College, top-ranked Golden West takes on four-time defending champion L.A. Pierce. The Brahmas won that matc last season; the Rustlers won their regular season clash this time around, also in four games.

The Rustlers are led by all-state performer Adam Sorenson, who finished third in the state with a .508 hitting perce posted 1.11 blocks per game, good enough for a third place total. The Rustlers also boast the middle duo of Mark Justin Walley, who combined for 344 kills and 101 blocks. Mike Gazzano led the state with 13.1 assists per game i Rustlers attack.

The defending state champions have a potent offense of their own, led by last season's state tournament Most Val Quentin Wilson. The sophomore outside hitter led the Brahmas with 224 kills, an average of 4.23 per game. To co attack of the Rustlers, Pierce will line up freshmen David Pauls and Oscar Avelar, who finished first and second, re hitting percentage while combining for 345 kills against just 40 errors.

The second semifinal will be played simultaneously and hosted by Orange Coast against the WSC Champions froi The Pirates won a five-game thriller against the Vikings early in the season, winning by the slimmest of margins in 13. The two teams return to Peterson Gymnasium with much more at stake the second time around.

The Pirates are led by all-state performer Poyer Poia, who tallied 240 kills for a 4.3 per game average. Setter Mike the Coast attack to the tune of 12.5 assists per game while libero Matt Skolnik led the state with 3.45 digs per gam claims the top blocking spot for the Pirates with just under one per game.

The Vikings present a formidable blocking challenge to the Pirates, boasting the top two blockers in the state. Larr players with a beefy 1.57 per game, while Jonathan Charette added 1.13 per outing. Taylor also swung at a .483 c with a .427 ledger from Malu Seiuli.

The winners will hook up for the championship match at Golden West College starting at 7 p.m. There will not be a season's final, but one of those teams will have a chance to add to a combined total of 12 state titles. Orange Coa Beach, however, will have other ideas and plan to claim the title as its own.

Preview provided by Eric Montgomery, California Community College Sports Information Association