

COA Women's Volleyball Championship
December 1-3, 2006
Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, CA

**An official event of the 2006-07
COA Championship Festival**

2006 Championship Fact Sheet

TOP SEEDS ALL MAKE IT TO '06 STATE VB ELITE EIGHT

For the first time since 2002, the highest four seeds from the North and from the South have advanced to the 2006 Community Colleges Women's Volleyball Championship. The eight-team tournament takes place Dec. 1-3 at Fresno State University.

From the North, state's No. 1 ranked San Joaquin Delta, No. 6 Sacramento City, No. 9 Shasta, and No. 11 West Valley made it through two regional playoff matches to make it to the state tournament. Those four teams were seeded 1-thru-4 going into the tournament. The North region is looking for its first state champion since the state tournament was created in 1977.

From the South, state No. 2 ranked El Camino, No. 3 and defending state champion Orange Coast, No. 4 San Diego State and No. 5 LA Pierce make the trip to Fresno in keeping their original region seedings of 1-4.

NORTH REGIONALS-SECOND ROUND

In the second round of the North regionals Nov. 25, Big 7 Conference champion Delta (24-1) crushed 19th-ranked Sequoias, 30-13, 30-10, 30-20, as Frances Sandor scored 18 kills and 14 digs, Ellie Cornfoot had 16 kills and 10 digs, and Rasmussen added 14 digs and 38 assists. Under first-year head coach Michaela Reyes, the Mustangs have won 10 matches. Delta has finished a consistent third or higher at the state tournament every year dating back to 1999, including last year and in 2002.

Sacramento City (24-3) downed state No. 16 DeAnza, 30-16, 30-21, 30-24. The Panthers finished second to Delta and are making the trip to the Final 8 after a year's absence. The school's highest finish at the state tournament was a fourth in 1999.

Golden Valley Conference champion Shasta (25-5) corralled No. 24-ranked Foothill, 30-19, 30-22, 30-18. The Knights are going back to 1999 (at Pasadena CC) for their last appearance in the state tournament. Against Foothill, C.J. Neatham had 16 kills and 21 digs, and setter Gloria Bacciarini made 36 assists.

West Valley, the Coast Conference South Division champion (21-5), made it four sweeps for the North top four seeds with wins over No. 12 Santa Rosa, 30-18, 30-20, 30-28. The Vikings become return visitors to the Final 8 from last year. In 2005 they had its highest volleyball finish--tied for third in the state--when the tournament went to a four-team championship due to budget woes.

SOUTH REGIONALS

In the South regionals, El Camino (24-1) overcame a one-game deficit to run past No. 13 Irvine Valley 31-33, 30-16, 30-14. The South Coast Conference champion Warriors are frequent visitors to the Elite 8, including last year's third-place finish. El Camino won state titles in 1981 and in 1983 when the MVP of the tournament was current head coach LeValley Pattis.

Coming off their 2005 state title, Orange Coast (21-2) will try for two in a row after a 30-21, 30-25, 30-16 waxing of Golden West. The Rustlers of Golden West won an amazing 12 consecutive state championships from 1993-2004 and even returned to the Final 8 the past two years since the retirement of coaching legend Albert Gasparian. Meanwhile, Orange Coast has taken over the throne as Orange Empire Conference champions under Coach Chuck Cutenese. The Pirates advanced to the tournament table last season's Final 8 MVP in Kiwi Winkler, who had 18 kills v. Golden West. Also for OCC in the round playoff win, Ashlee Moon had 19 digs and Chelsea Spadero dished out 37 assists. The Pirates have four state titles including wins in 1978, 1980 and 1982.

San Diego Mesa (22-3) had its hands full against No. 18 Cuesta before pulling out a five-game thriller, 26-30, 30-16, 30-14. The three-time, undefeated Pacific Coast Conference champion Olympians missed out last year on the tournament when they finished state runner-up in 2004.

Volleyball fans might be surprised to learn there is only college from the South region that has made it into each of state tournaments (including this year's)-Western State Conference South Division champion Los Angeles Pierce. (23-3) had to face the most difficult second-round opponent of any of the state's top seeds in WSC foe Citrus. After two matches in conference, Pierce outlasted state No. 7 Citrus in five games, 30-16, 25-30, 30-28, 29-31, 15-9. As Brown led five Pierce players in double-digits with 20 kills. Setter Jackie Tomas had a busy night by recording 71 a

REGIONALS FIRST ROUND--LUCKY 11 SEEDS

Only two upsets occurred in the first round of the regionals across the state on Nov. 21. Both were pulled off by Nc Cuesta from the South and Foothill from the North. Cuesta (in San Luis Obispo) shocked the state's No. 8-ranked seed Fullerton in five games, 30-28, 28-30, 30-24, 25-30, 15-10. In the North regionals, Foothill surprised No. 15 a seed Canada in four games, 30-21, 30-19, 25-30, 30-27.

In the South, El Camino swept 16th seed San Bernardino Valley, 30-19, 30-10, 30-19; Orange Coast took four gar seed Bakersfield, 30-16, 30-25, 25-30, 30-16; SD Mesa went four to get past state No. 25-ranked Riverside, 30-25 30-21; and Pierce swept No. 21-ranked Long Beach, 30-19, 30-26, 30-23.

The top seeds from the North won first round matches all in sweeps with Delta topping 16th-seed Yuba, 30-20, 30- Sacramento City trouncing 14th seed Butte, 30-12, 30-19, 30-25; Shasta defeating 15th seed Solano, 32-30, 30-21 West Valley rolling past 13th seed Siskiyou, 30-22, 30-26, 30-21.

In the South, fifth seed Citrus swept 12th seed and state No. 20th ranked Mt. San Antonio; seventh seed Golden V seed and state No. 17 Cerritos; eighth seed Irvine Valley downed ninth seed and state No. 14-ranked Canyons, 3-

Back in the North, fifth seed Santa Rosa went the distance to defeat 12th seed and state No. 25-ranked Reedley, 3 seed DeAnza swept 10th seed and state No. 23 Fresno City; and eighth seed Sequoias bounced ninth seed and s Cabrillo in three games.

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