

**2001 HYUNDAI/CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by VolleyballOne**

AT LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Orange Coast (Orange Empire #1, 20-1) vs. El Camino (South Coast #2, 12-5), 6 p.m.
Los Angeles Pierce (South Coast #1, 17-0) vs. Santa Barbara City (South Coast #3, 11-7), 8
p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

State Championship, 7 p.m.

El Camino and Santa Barbara City won regional matches last night Tuesday and will join Orange Coast and Los Angeles Pierce in the 2001 Hyundai/California Community College Men's Volleyball Championship presented by Volleyball One, April 27-28 at Long Beach City College.

El Camino (12-5), the South Coast Conference runner-up, was a four-game winner over visiting Golden West last night in Torrance. The scores were 25-14, 23-25, 25-20, and 25-23. El Camino was led by Tamer George, who had a match-high 23 kills and hit .602 for the match. Stewart Solomon added 16 kills and Ben Napoleon 13 for the winners. El Camino will face Orange Empire Conference champion Orange Coast (20-1) in a semifinal match Friday (April 27) at 6 p.m. El Camino has won nine of its last 11 matches; one of those losses, though, was a four-game defeat at Orange Coast on March 28.

Santa Barbara City (11-7) gained the final berth in the 2001 State Championship by winning at Irvine Valley for the second time in a month. The scores were 25-22, 25-20, and 25-16. Ari Jeschke led a balanced attack with 10 kills and Donal McGraw and Chris Redfield added nine kills apiece. McGraw had a match-best nine blocks, and Tim Mays dished out 36 assists. The Vaqueros will have an uphill battle on their hands as they will face undefeated Pierce (17-0) in a semifinal match at 8 p.m. Friday. The Brahmas defeated Santa Barbara in five games at SBCC in March, then swept past the Vaqueros in the regular season final in Woodland Hills April 18.

The two semifinal matches, as well as Saturday's 7 p.m. championship match, will be played in the large gym at Long Beach City College, 4901 East Carson Street in Long Beach. The large gym is located on the northeast corner of Faculty Avenue and Lew Davis Street. Parking is available in the lots to the west of the gym along Faculty Avenue and to the south of the gym off of Lew Davis. Additional parking is available on the south side of Lew Davis in the Veterans Stadium lot. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students with ID, faculty/staff, and children.

Pierce is the defending state champion. The Brahmas have advanced to the State Championship match the past two seasons, losing to Golden West in 1999 before defeating the Rustlers in five games in a thrilling final last April at Irvine Valley College. Behind a 62-kill performance from Lance Walker, the Brahmas twice rallied from one-game deficits to beat Golden West by scores of 12-15, 15-12, 5-15, 17-16, and 15-9. Walker has moved on to Pepperdine, but the Brahmas have retooled around setter Dave Kniffin, a transfer from Loyola Marymount, and outside hitters Dhiraj Coates, Eric Gomez, and Brandon Butchart. One word of warning for Brahma fans: the last time Pierce finished the regular season undefeated, in 1994, they were beaten in the state championship match . . . by Orange Coast.

Orange Coast won five state championships between 1987 and 1994, but in recent years have seen district rival Golden West steal their spotlight with five titles in the last six years. The Pirates will try to advance to their final title match since 1997 and win an unprecedented sixth state championship. The Pirates are led by outside hitters B.J. Lightvoet and Soren Schneider, middle blocker Ryan Owens, and setter Nick Ptaschinski.

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