

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL REGIONALS

UPSETS GALORE IN SOCAL, NORCAL STAYS STATUS QUO

El Camino College's occupation of the No. 1 ranking in the state and No. 1 seed in the Southern California region 1 days as No. 16 seed Cypress shocked the Warriors in five games and highlighted an upset-filled first round of the Community College women's volleyball regional playoffs Nov. 23.

The upsets all occurred in the SoCal playoffs as El Camino was joined in elimination with No. 4 seed Ventura and it was almost four upsets as No. 3 Los Angeles Pierce (16-2) held on to edge No. 14 Irvine Valley, 29-31, 30-23, 21-14, in a marathon playoff. For Pierce, Kha'Tara Steen scored 19 kills, Tanya White had 17 kills and five blocks, and tallied 67 assists. The Lasers, last season's state runner-up, stormed into the playoffs with a seven-game winning streak and finished at 13-7.

Cypress (11-8) had 27 kills from Tordra Sessions and 24 by Breezie James in ruining a perfect season for El Camino. The Chargers won by scores of 30-26, 31-29, 22-30, 27-30, 15-12. El Camino, the South Coast Conference champions and undefeated team in the state and finished the year at 17-1.

The No. 13 seed College of the Canyons went the distance to oust fellow Western State Conference foe and No. 4 seed Ventura, 32, 30-28, 30-25, 23-30, 15-13. Ventura had 26 kills by Danielle Falk and 22 kills-29 digs by Taryn Mulford but the champion Pirates fell to a season finish of 15-5. Canyons improved to 13-6.

Finally, it was No. 11 Santa Barbara (13-6) slaying No. 6 Palomar in a sweep, 30-21, 31-29, 30-26. The Comets (11-1) finished second place team from the Pacific Coast Conference.

Golden West, a team that was ranked No. 1 all season on the State Volleyball Top 25 poll but was handed the No. 1 seed in the region, had no problems in downing No. 15 Long Beach, 30-20, 30-15, 30-22. The Orange Empire Conference champions (20-1) were led by Rachel Falco and Cheryl Selenak with 12 kills each. Long Beach closed out at 12-7. Golden West, 11-time defending state champions.

Orange Coast (15-5), No. 8 seed, swept No. 9 and Foothill Conference champion San Bernardino Valley, 30-28, 30-26, 30-26. The Pirates were paced by Donka Drozd with 17 kills and Melissa Zapiain with 16 kills. Caitlin Parker added 46 assists. San Bernardino finished at 13-2 despite 11 kills by Christine Hurt.

In other SoCal regionals, No. 5 and Pacific Coast Conference champion San Diego Mesa (17-3) swept No. 12 Cuesta College, 21, 30-24, 30-21, while No. 7 and Co-WSC South Division champion Santa Monica (15-6) had a slow start before sweeping Victor Valley (12-6), 29-31, 30-20, 30-17, 30-15.

NORTH REGION

While the South had wild affairs, the North region's top eight seeds and host schools all moved into the second round with round victories. San Joaquin Delta (18-1), the No. 1 seed and No. 3 team in the state, swept No. 16 San Jose (10-18), 30-14. Delta's Jennifer Emerson served during a 12-0 run by the Mustangs in the opening game to set the tone.

Taft, the No. 2 seed and Central Valley Conference champions, knocked out CVC foe and No. 15 Porterville (10-18), 30-26. Led by All-State setter Lehua Yap, Taft improved to 20-1 and swept an opponent for the 12th consecutive year. Golden Valley Conference champs and 19-1, took four games to get past No. 14 De Anza (12-9), 30-26, 25-30, 30-26. Sacramento City College, No. 4 and 16-4, swept No. 13 Sierra (12-4), 30-20, 30-19, 30-28. Another Bay Valley Conference champion, No. 5 Santa Rosa (17-6), defeated No. 12 American River (9-13), 30-28, 30-19, 28-30, 30-26. Sixth seed College of the Siskiyous (21-4) had to face No. 11 and CVC fellow opponent Reedley (10-10) and took the match in three games, 30-24, 30-26, 30-26.

In another sweep, No. 7 Fresno City (17-5) downed No. 10 and Coast Conference South champion West Valley (11-18), 30-19, 30-15. Shasta, the No. 9 seed at 13-6, used 17 kills by Katie Wilson and 15 kills-16 digs from Michelle Laur Chabot (16-3), 24-30, 30-27, 30-22, 30-21. Also for the Knights, Jessica Sylvester delivered 59 assists. The second round of the regional playoffs takes place Saturday, Nov. 27. Check the COA website for pairings.

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