

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL REGIONALS**CYPRESS MAKES HISTORY IN ADVANCING TO STATE TOURNEY**

For the first time in state women's volleyball history the lowest seed has advanced to the state tournament as Cypress South Region's No. 16 seed, completed its second straight major upset to highlight the second round of the California College regional playoffs.

Cypress (12-8) downed fellow Orange Empire Conference foe and No. 8 seed Orange Coast (15-6), 27-30, 30-20, on Nov. 27. The Chargers, ranked No. 25 in the state, now make their first trip to the Citi California Community College Commission on Athletics Women's Volleyball Championships at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton Dec. 3-5.

The Final Eight includes the remaining four teams in both the South and North regions following second round play the four top seeds all were successful in advancing to the State Tournament. In the South, only the No. 2 and No. 5 through the regional playoffs along with Cypress and No. 5 seed San Diego Mesa.

In the North, No. 1 seed and state No. 3 ranked San Joaquin Delta swept No. 8 seed Shasta (13-7), 30-13, 30-9, 30-20. Delta (19-1) ran a 14-0 run to finish off the first game as Breanne Zelmer tallied seven aces for the Mustangs.

The state's No. 5 rated and No. 2 seed Taft (21-1) made it 13 consecutive sweeps with a 30-21, 30-16, 30-21 win over Fresno City (17-6). For Taft, Kaena Apana had 12 kills and 12 digs while Pikake Nutter-Gaudet led the match with 19 State setter Lehua Yap had 42 assists to go with six kills and 13 digs. The Cougars and Coach Kanoe Bandy are on their first trip to the State Tournament.

Butte, state No. 6 and North No. 3 seed at 20-1, is making yet another Final Eight trip behind a 30-28, 30-20, 30-21. No. 6 seed College of the Sequoias (21-5).

Sacramento City College, the No. 4 seed and 10th ranked in the state, ran its record to 17-4 by once again beating Orange Empire Conference Gold Division opponent Santa Rosa, 30-28, 30-20, 30-22. Santa Rosa was the No. 5 seed and closed at a respectable 17-7.

In the South, Cypress, coached by Nancy Welliver, had strong performances in the Orange Coast win by sophomore Tordra Sessions with 22 kills, four aces and four blocks, and by libero Nancy Laguna with 35 digs.

The state's 11-time defending state champion Golden West, ranked No. 2 in the state and the No. 2 seed in the South, No. 7 seed Santa Monica, 30-19, 30-16, 30-24. The Rustlers are 21-1.

Los Angeles Pierce College, No. 3 seed and state No. 4 ranked, advanced with a sweep over No. 11 seed Santa Rosa 30-18, 30-28, 30-27. Coach Kim Lester and state No. 8-ranked San Diego Mesa also made it into the Final Eight with a 19, 30-14 triumph over No. 13 College of the Canyons.

For purposes of matchups at the State Tournament, the South re-seeds with Golden West at No. 1, LA Pierce at No. 2, Santa Monica at No. 3 and Cypress at No. 4. The North stays identical to its pre-regional playoff seeds with host Delta No. 1, Taft No. 2, and Sacramento No. 3.

After going to a single-elimination, four team championship last season, the Final Eight format returns with eight teams in a double-elimination tourney over three days.

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