

COA Women's Volleyball Championship

December 9-11, 2005

Selland Arena, Fresno, CA

**An official event of the 2005-06
COA Championship Festival
presented by US Bank**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL FINALS

Three of the top five ranked teams in the state advanced from the South with regional final victories Saturday night Orange Coast, No. 3 El Camino and No. 5 Los Angeles Pierce along with upset winner No. 11 Irvine Valley moved California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Women's Volleyball Championships Presented by U.S. Bank at Fresno's Selland Arena.

Seeded No. 1 in the South region, Orange Coast swept No. 17 Victor Valley, 30-13, 30-16, 30-16. The Orange Empire champion Pirates remained the state's only remaining undefeated team at 22-0, all 3-game sweeps.

Orange Empire MVP Kiwi Winkler led OCC with 16 kills, 11 digs and a season-best six aces, while Brittney Ray added 16 digs. Sophomore setter Caitlin Parker guided the Coast offense by dishing out 31 assists. Christina Ford led Fort Lauderdale co-champion Victory Valley (19-2) with four kills while Dana Ehlers tallied two kills and three blocks.

El Camino, the South Coast Conference champions, advanced to the State Final Eight after being upended last year in the round of the playoffs as the No. 1 South seed against Cypress. The Warriors (20-1) took four games to knock off No. 11 (17-5), 30-23, 30-26, 23-30, 30-27. Leading El Camino was Bev Hazell with 15 kills and 21 digs, and Lindsey Spai double-double of 15 kills, 10 digs. Lauren Taylor also doubled with 13 kills and 12 digs and Taryn Tamblyn tallied 2

Irvine Valley, seeded a surprisingly low 11th in the South region, ended No. 3 seed and state 4th-ranked Ventura's winning streak with a 3-game sweep on the road, 30-24, 30-22, 30-24. Against Ventura, the Lasers were paced by Natalie Dittrick with 16 kills and outside hitter Lauren Miller with 14 kills and 13 digs. Sophomore Brittany Harkey put up six blocks and had an impressive hitting percentage of .737 (19 attempts, 0 errors).

IVC setter Tiffany Hess contributed 48 assists and 13 digs. Ventura (18-2) lost despite 15 kills by Danielle Falk, 28 kills by Loren Hannah, and 37 assists from setter Lisa Howard. All three are sophomores. The Lasers (16-6) joined El Camino teams to defeat Ventura (Western State North champions) in best-of-5 game matches. Irvine Valley, the second place OEC, also had upset a No. 6 seed and state No. 8 San Diego Mesa in three games in the first round.

Los Angeles Pierce (21-2) was the only South team to make it back to the State Final Eight from last year's participation (Golden West, Cypress, San Diego Mesa were the others). The Brahmas downed No. 5 seed and state No. 9 Cerritos in a three-game sweep, 30-24, 32-30, 27-30, 30-27. The Falcons (18-4) finished the season with 12-kill performances from Shanelle and Nancy Marin. LA Pierce won the Western State Conference Southern Division title in the regular season. Cerritos lost to Golden West's 12-year reign on the state crown with a four-game win over the 12th seeded Rustlers in the first round. Cerritos was the last team to win the state crown before Golden West in 1992.

In the history of the State Tournament, El Camino (1997), Orange Coast (2001), and Irvine Valley (2003) all have finished up to Golden West teams in the past nine years. LA Pierce took fifth place last year in its first State Tournament appearance in history. Orange Coast has won three state titles (1978, 1980, 1982) and El Camino captured two state crowns (1981, 1983). The '83 champion was led by tourney MVP LeValley Pattison, now the veteran head coach of the Warriors.

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