ONTO STATE
CABRILLO TOPS DELTA IN 4 GAMES

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL | SPORTS, CI

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WOMEN'S NORCAL VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

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SUMMER MITCHELL, Cabrillo College middle blocker

'HAWKS HEADED TO STATE

Cabrillo trying to become first champ from NorCal

By JULIE JAE
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APTOPS - The Cabrillo College women's volleyball team will have to pack its bags in a hurry. The double championships begin Friday, and the Seahawks just bought their ticket.

On Tuesday night in front of about 40 fans, the top-seeded Seahawks took down a rainy No. 4 Delta team, 25-20, 25-16, 25-15, 25-20 in the third round of the California Community College Athletic Association NorCal championships.

"I'm in shock," said freshman middle Summer Mitchell. "I knew my team was capable of doing this all along. I knew we had a great team, but still."

The Seahawks are ranked No. 1 in the state, but NorCal teams have traditionally struggled in the championships. In fact, no NorCal team on record has won the state title. Coach Gayle Houston would like to change that.

"Our goal was to get there so we could win it," she said. "It wasn't just about getting there. Really, it's about going all the way."

As the top seed, Cabrillo will play the lowest-seeded winner of the two SoCal semifinals on Friday night. In a new four-team tournament format adopted this year, the winner of the other NorCal semifinal Tuesday night between Fresno City and Santa Rosa will play the topseeded SoCal team in the championship.

CABRILLO

Continued from C1

the double-elimination tournament, which wraps up Saturday. To win the title, Cabrillo will have to defeat all three teams.

"I've been waiting for a team in NorCal to upset the teams in the south," said Delta coach Michelle Reyes. "I bet that Cabrillo could do it."

Despite showing its nerves more than the Seahawks, Reynolds' Mustangs were just a few points from turning the tables on Cabrillo and punishing their own ticket to the state for the 15th straight year.

After pushing the Seahawks (28-11) to extra points in Game 2, then losing it on errors, Delta (20-19) came out in full force in Game 3 to reach the match in Game 3. The Mustangs rallied from two games down to defeat Sacramento City, and the Mustangs hoped to do it again.

The Mustangs exploited a height advantage in the middle that wasn't there the past

times the teams played before Cabrillo's 6-foot middle Sierra Clark suffered a season-ending knee injury. They also picked up their blocking and before long jumped to an eight-point lead. Cabrillo couldn't seem to get back on track and could only watch as the game slipped away.

But Houston didn't panic, and neither did the Seahawks.

"I knew the kind of program they were and that we couldn't count them out until we were done," Houston said of Delta. "I knew the girls were going to come back and were not going to have another breakdown, like in Game 4."

She was right. Cabrillo sprinted back to life to take Game 4—a well-deserved spot in the state tournament.

CABRILLO setter Brooke CarrollICAN'T IMAGINE saving a ball for the Seahawks on Tuesday against Delta in the third round of the NorCal playoffs. With the win, the Seahawks advanced to the state tournament.

JAYRREL THOMAS, Courtesy

CABRILLO setter Brooke Carroll

CABRILLO setter Brooke Carroll leaps to save a ball for the Seahawks on Tuesday against Delta in the third round of the NorCal playoffs. With the win, the Seahawks advanced to the state tournament.

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Uprising led Cabrillo with 11 kills and Bridget and Mitch- ell bailed 11 kills and two of the Seahawks' three blocks. Stephanie Meader made nine kills. Michelle Meyer starred as liberos, making 27 digs, while setter Brooke Carroll added 34 assists.

For Delta, right-middle Jessica Swift made 12 kills and 13 blocks and libero Heather Tamps added 10 digs.