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**NORCAL JC WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

# Cabrillo sweeps into finals

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APTOS — They trailed 24-22 in Game 2, 24-22 in Game 3.

If there was ever a way for the Cabrillo College women's volleyball team to earn its battle-tested badge en route to a three-set victory, it figured it out on Saturday night in Aptos.

The Seahawks stared a fourth game in the eyes twice against visiting No. 8 Sacramento City only to respond at the absolute last second, winning Game 2 and winning Game 3, as top-seeded Cabrillo advanced to the NorCal Finals for a second year

## CABRILLO

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in a row by defeating the Panthers 25-21, 26-24, 27-25.

"We don't go down easy," Cabrillo coach Gabby Houston said afterward. "It was a gritty win. We were down 22-18 in Game 2 and we were down 22-18 in Game 3. We just don't give up. We just played one point at a time."

Sophomore setter Brooke Carroll had 34 assists, 12 digs and eight blocks to lead the Seahawks [27-1], who will now play either No. 4 Foothill [20-6] or No. 5 Delta [19-8] in Tuesday's NorCal final at Cabrillo College at 7 p.m.

The winner will earn a bid toward the State Championship tournament.

Sophomore middle blocker Sierra Clark, who missed much of Tuesday's first-round victory over Yuba in order to rest her previously injured knee, played healthy in the sweep of Sac City and

delivered eight kills and nine blocks.

Sophomore outside hitter Tori Bozzo led the Seahawks with nine kills.

"This was definitely one of the most intense [matches] we've had," Bozzo said. "We showed we don't give up and we can comeback after being so far down."

OK. But to do it twice?

After Cabrillo opened with a relatively easy 25-21 victory in Game 1 — at least when compared to the latter sets — Sac City took a step up on defense.

Outside hitter Megan Pollock, middle hitter Jessica Pena and outside hitter Akeya Maddox, among others, equaled Cabrillo's best shot at the net. There were few clean kills in the match, with both teams converting points off blocks at the net, blocks into the net and blocks ricocheting out of bounds.

"I think we played well at the net, for sure," Sac City coach Laurie Nash said. "We played a better blocking game

than we have in the past. Usually we're a digging team.

"But offensively, we were just a little out of sync. Cabrillo's serves very tough, so we had a lot of out-of-system balls in play."

Still, the Panthers managed to serve up game point on several occasions through two different sets. Leading 24-22 in Game 2, though, Carroll took over by delivering a down block at the net off an attempt by Emily Seros.

At the service line, the San Lorenzo Valley High grad then served up an ace to knot the game at 24-all.

"It was almost a miss-serve," Houston said of the ace by Carroll, who nearly sailed the serve out of bounds instead. "She felt lucky."

Bozzo then supplied the Seahawks with a 2-0 lead after blocking a Hilary Coy attempt.

"It's a good thing," Houston said of the come-from-behind wins in Game 2 and Game 3. "You're able to handle the pressure of being in that kind

of pressure and playing point to point.

"To come out with a win, it just instills confidence, where you know you can do it."

That was likely the case in Game 3. Sitting in the same situation all over again, Cabrillo prevented a Game 4 behind kills from Clark, Alexis Mondragon and Kaitlyn Shaug, who finished with eight kills.

Sophomore libero Ashley Pittman had 28 digs, while Summer Mitchell finished with seven kills.

"We had it. We had two opportunities to take it to four, to five. We had it in our hand," Nash said. "I think we played better than Cabrillo in the second and third games. But we couldn't execute in the end."

Sac City sophomore Tori Nunez finished with six kills and eight digs, while Cecily Basques had 23 assists and 15 digs. The Panthers [17-10] end their 2011 campaign much like the way it started — with a three-set loss to Cabrillo.