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Cabrillo flying high



Glenn Cravens/Register-Pajaronian

The Cabrillo College women's volleyball team celebrates after defeating San Joaquin Delta on Tuesday in the CCCAA Northern California semifinals at Cabrillo College in Aptos.

Seahawks defeat San Joaquin Delta to reach state series

By GLENN CRAVENS

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — The Cabrillo College women's volleyball team is headed to Redding.

The Seahawks advanced to the CCCAA state championship series after defeating San Joaquin Delta College 25-19 on Tuesday night.

Cabrillo is two wins away from the state championship, and they'll have to pick up those wins at Shasta College in Redding beginning Saturday.

"It feels so good to advance," said Cabrillo coach Gabrielle Houston-Neville. "We're just super happy. We've been working all year long and it was our goal to get there. We're happy as clams."

The Seahawks had to find a way to get by defensive-minded San Joaquin Delta, and they did so by turning to their serving.

Up 17-10 in the third game, Alekxis Mondragon served five consecutive points, three on back-to-back-to-back aces, to give the home team a 22-10 lead. Mondragon would have had a fourth consecutive ace, but the ball kissed the foul pole as it went over and past a San Joaquin Delta defender.

With no timeouts to stop Cabrillo's momentum, San Joaquin Delta was unable to stop hit after hit by Cabrillo's slew of hitters, and Cabrillo rolled by to take a 2-1 games lead.

Even though the fourth game was a toss-up early on, Cabrillo built its lead slowly. A 5-1 run, powered by aces from Summer Mitchell and Caitlin Macleod, put Cabrillo ahead 15-9.

Online

Pictures from Tuesday's match can be found at register-pajaronian.com.

San Joaquin Delta scored four consecutive points to cut its deficit to 15-13, but Cabrillo held control the rest of the way. Consecutive kills by Tori Bozzo ended the match.

Bozzo was a big part of the team's turnaround after the second game. She finished with 19 kills.

"She was off in Game 1 and turned it on in Game 2, Game 3 and Game 4," Houston-Neville said.

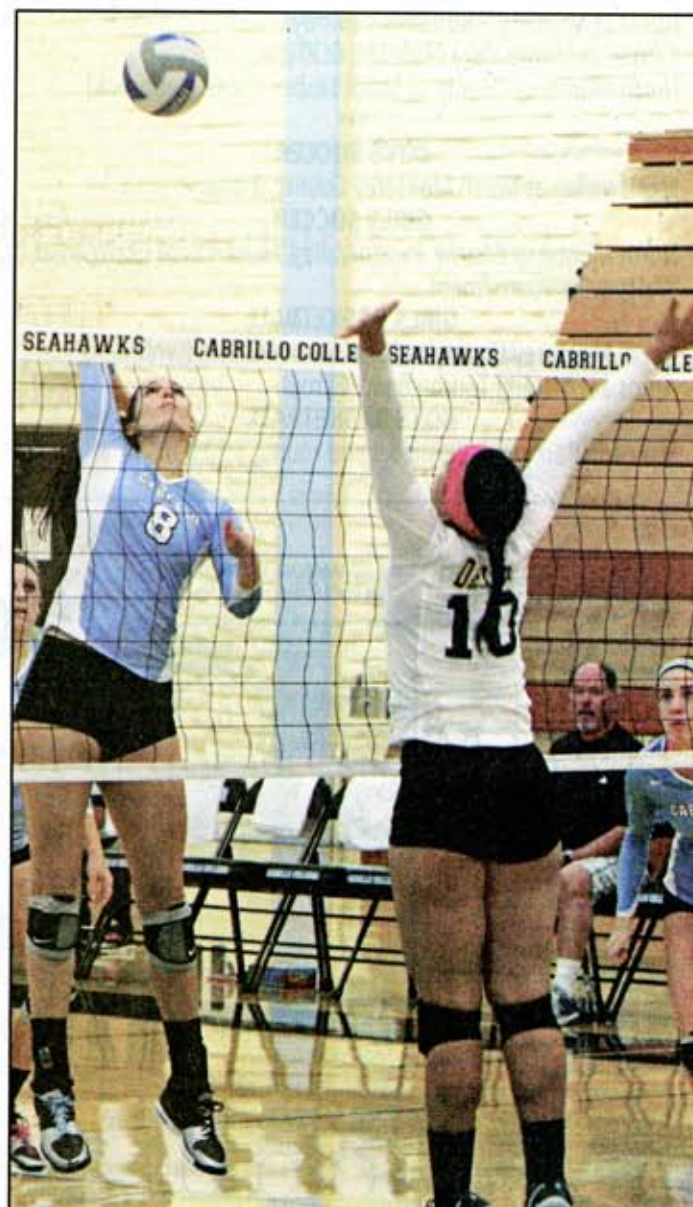
The final two games were a big shift from the first two, where San Joaquin Delta nearly challenged Cabrillo on every point.

Cabrillo won the first six points of the first game, but San Joaquin Delta tightened up its defense to tie the game at 14-14.

The teams battled back until Cabrillo pulled away at 23-19. San Joaquin Delta suddenly went on a 5-0 run and threatened to grab the first game. The Mustangs didn't get it right there, but they eventually did thanks to a kill by Heather Tatupu and a block by Tiana Franks.

The second game was much like the first. Cabrillo had a big lead to start, San Joaquin Delta battled back, and the game was 24-24. Cabrillo setter

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Cabrillo's Alex DaRosa prepares to hit the ball past San Joaquin Delta's Keilani Kitagawa during the third game of their match Tuesday at Cabrillo College in Aptos.