



CCCAA STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY | SPORTS, D1

SEAHAWKS SINK

CABRILLO LOSES TWICE, ELIMINATED FROM TOURNEY

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CCCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Seahawks unravel

Team's state title dreams disappear on first day of tournament

By **MOLLY RUPERT**
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REDDING — The bad beginning turned into an even worse ending as the Cabrillo College women's

Cabrillo's Summer Mitchell gets a hit past El Camino on Saturday.
CCCAA/CONTRIBUTED

volleyball team relived its nightmare from the 2010 state championships Saturday.

The Seahawks lost to El Camino, 25-19, 19-25, 25-22, 25-27, 15-11 in the opening match of the California Community College Athletic Association event at Shasta College. They then fell to Santa Rosa Junior College 25-12, 26-24, 25-19, 25-19 in the consolation bracket.

The second loss at the knocked the Seahawks out of the race for the title and sent them home after the first day of play. It is the second time in two years that the Seahawks have gone home on the first day of the state championship tournament.

"We were not mentally pre-

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SEAHAWKS

Continued from D1

pared," said Cabrillo coach Gabby Houston-Neville. "You can't put heart into a player."

The Seahawks, the top-seeded NorCal team, finished the season 28-3.

"We just fell apart passing wise," said Brooke Carroll, the team's setter. "We couldn't get our offense going."

Carroll, a San Lorenzo Valley High graduate, is one of six sophomores on the team who graduate this year. Hitters Sierra Clark, Tori Bozzo, Summer Mitchell and Alekxis Mondragon, as well as libero Ashley Pittman, will also be graduating. The women leave knowing they were part of the school's five consecutive Coast Conference championships, including a perfect 10-0 record in conference play this season. Together, they won the NorCal championships for the second straight year, earning a No. 2 ranking in the CCCAA state standings and the top spot from the North for the weekend's tournament.

All the accolades didn't mean much after the loss to the Bear Cubs [29-3].

Clark couldn't speak after the final point fell. She just sat on the team sidelines, shaking her head and staring into space.

"I'm not going to tell you that you played the best volleyball of your life, because in your heart you know you didn't,"



CCCAA/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cabrillo's Summer Mitchell gets a hit past an El Camino blocker during the first match of the CCCAA Women's Volleyball State Championships. Cabrillo lost that match in five sets and later lost to Santa Rosa in four for a disappointing end to the tournament.

Houston-Neville told the team following the loss. She had to wipe tears from her eyes.

Bozzon and freshman Kaitlyn Shaug led the team with 11 kills apiece in the final match and Clark added six. Carroll finished with 34 assists and Pittman made 28 digs.

Cabrillo had more to hold its head up about in the match against SoCal No. 2 El Camino. In particular, the strong serving of freshman Jordan Cotton, an Aptos High graduate, in Game 4 against the Warriors gave Cabrillo a 27-25 win and forced a decisive Game 5.

Cotton came to the line with the Seahawks down 24-20. She served six consecutive points during a period that saw teammate Sierra Clark tally three

kills and a block to keep the rally alive and give Cabrillo a 26-25 lead.

"I've been jump serving since seventh or eighth grade," Cotton said. "[Serving] is the biggest strategy of the team. I just wanted to win so bad and we brought it back."

During her serves, El Camino called not just one timeout to break her streak, but two.

It didn't bother Cotton. "You just take it on," Cotton said of the pauses in her routine. "You have to go back out and, especially after a timeout, hit that first one."

Bozzo earned the final kill of the game for the 'Hawks, sending the ball untouched into the back row after a long volley.

Bozzo, a sophomore from Sali-

nas, finished the match with 17 kills, while Clark led the team with 18 in a balanced attack.

There wasn't much energy left after the final minutes of Game 4. The Seahawks kept it close, hanging on 9-8 after the teams switched sides midway through the game, but a 3-point streak was too much for Cabrillo to overcome.

"Our energy dropped in intensity," said Summer Mitchell, who finished the match with 14 kills. "We were afraid. OK, not afraid, but just getting into it, deciding what they were like in the third and fourth games."

The Warriors [26-2] face defending champion and SoCal No. 1 seed L.A. Pierce [31-0] at 10 a.m. today.