NORCAL WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

State one match away

No. 1 Cabrillo dispatches Santa Rosa, needs one more win to advance

By JUAN REYES
sports@santacruzsentinel.com

APTO — O'er word best used to describe the way the Cabrillo women’s volleyball team is playing right now: flawless.

The No. 1 seed Seahawks produced an easy 25-14, 25-18, 25-15 victory over No. 9 Santa Rosa (14-11) in the second round of the NorCal playoffs on Saturday night to further validate their top ranking in the state.

“We’re really excited,” Seahawks freshman Kelsey Shaver said. “Just a lot of energy through the gym and it was really exciting to see all the people that came out to support us.”

Cabrillo (27-0) advances into the finals of its half in the NorCal bracket. It hosts No. 4 Delta (21-5) on Tuesday at 7 p.m. If the Seahawks can win again Tuesday, they’ll make their third trip to the California Community College Athletic Association state championship tournament in two years.

Cabrillo outside hitter Delanie Borek pushes the ball over the net during the third game in Aptos on Saturday as the Seahawks battled Santa Rosa in the second round of the NorCal playoffs.

IF YOU GO
NORCAL THIRD ROUND
WHEN: Tuesday, 7 p.m.
WHO: No. 4 Delta (21-5) at No. 1 Cabrillo (27-0)
MORE INSIDE
NORCAL GIRLS
No. 3 Sequoia taken down by No. 2 Sonora.

SEE CABRILLO ON B2

CABRILLO

Continued from B1

four years.

“It feels very, very good and I’m happy to be there,” Cabrillo coach Gabrielle Houston-Neville said. “We’re just trying to take it one day at a time. We wanted to get through this match, that was super important, and now we’re just looking forward to whoever we’re going to play.”

Cabrillo came out strong in the first game and took a quick 6-2 lead and extended it to 16-7 before the Bear Cubs went on a five-point run lead by sophomore Megan Johnson.

But the Seahawks rebounded and pushed the score to 20-12. Then freshman Kelsey Shaver came through by scoring three of the last five points to win Game 1.

It was the same story in the second game. After Cabrillo started with a 14-3 lead and several serves later, a swift tap over the net by freshman Tyler Gasologa put her team up 16-7.

Gasologa finished with 45 assists and four blocks, including one kill.

The Bear Cubs pulled within five points after scoring four straight to make it 16-11, but Shaver came through with one of her 12 kills on the night to snap Santa Rosa’s run.

Santa Rosa kept things interesting early in the third game. The Bear Cubs led two straight points to make it 9-9, but Seahawks sophomore Bria Morgan broke the tie to take back the lead.

Cabrillo freshman Madison Borch contributed one of her 12 kills to increase the lead to 13-9 and Shaver managed to contribute two more points before the Bear Cubs botched a Seahawks serve into the net to end the match.

“I think we just kept our mind on the point at hand,” Shaver said. “We just tried to push through on every single point, not looking ahead of anything and just being really present.”

Cabrillo sophomore Kaitlyn Connolly finished with a team-high 28 digs.

Seahawks outside hitter Kelsey Shaver celebrates after her team scored in the third game versus Santa Rosa at Cabrillo College on Saturday night.