Cabrillo finishes undefeated season with State crown

Seahawks become first NorCal team to win state title

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LOS ALTOS HILLS — Perfection, attained.

Kelsey Shaver had 14 kills, Bria Morgan finished with 12 and Madison Borch added 10 as the Cabrillo College Seahawks defeated the Grossmont College Griffins 28-26, 25-21, 19-25, 25-19 to become the first Northern Californian team to win the California Community College Athletic Association state championship since the D-I and D-II merger Sunday at Foothill College.

“I can’t believe that we made history,” said Cabrillo head coach Gabrielle Houston-Neville. “To win the state championship is such an awesome feeling, but to know that we were the first Northern Californian team to do it is amazing. I’m proud of the girls and with how hard they’ve worked all year. I’m speechless.”

The Seahawks (31-0) had already beaten Grossmont (30-5) in four games on Saturday in their first round match up of the state championships, and Cabrillo also defeated Irvine Valley College, the No. 1 seed from Southern California, just a few hours later to earn a spot in Sunday’s title game.

The Seahawks, seven time Coast Conference champions, felt like they had already won the championship on Saturday, but Sunday was “making it official” according to Houston-Neville.

Cabrillo jumped out to a 2-0 lead after winning both Game 1 and Game 2 before Grossmont upset the No. 1 ranked team in California in Game 3 to stay alive.

“We kind of took our foot off the pedal on that one,” Houston-Neville said. “I felt like we were thinking we were going to make errors or something.”

The Griffins took a 4-point lead at 6-2 early and Cabrillo could never overcome the hole.

Grossmont extended their lead to as big as 10 points in the third game behind their strong serves, which threw off the Cabrillo offense.

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“We needed to close,” said state finals MVP Shaver. “We had beaten them before, so that pushed us to know that we could do it again.

After trailing early the Seahawks took their first substantial lead at 15-11 by going on a 40-run.

Grossmont called a time to gather themselves, but nothing could stop the Seahawks in what would be the final game.

One of Kelsee Montagna’s six kills put them at match point at 24-19, bringing their storm of fans to their feet for the game clincher.

Borch teamed up with Alex Flores for the final point and the Cabrillo bench stormed the court with eyes full of tears and emotions on their sleeves.

“I just went up as hard as I could and I knew I had to get it done,” Borch said. “Everyone did their part, and it was just so crazy. I can’t even describe how I’m feeling right now.”