



# Stingray's

record (4-1 overall / 0-1 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

**Week #2** - Tue-Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Serra / Wed-Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Chadwick / Fri-Mar 13<sup>th</sup> St. Anthony's

**Serra** – It was nice to hear the home crowd at our first home game of the season, and the **Stingrays** did not disappoint their fans in an exciting afternoon match. **Corey Maulupe** flowed the gold to outsiders **Josh Sanchez** and **Kordell Faatolo**, who racked-up 10 and 15 kills respectively to keep the **Rays** offense hitting on all 6 cylinders. **Royce Angeles** filled-in nicely for the ailing **Marcus Staton** in the middle, and **Nick Crandall** took some hard swings on the right side. What looked to become a 3-and-out yawner turned into a 5 set test of will and skill when the **Cavaliers** captured the momentum in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set with a 26-24 win. The **Rays** remained in a funk for one more game, losing the 4<sup>th</sup> set 17-25, but woke-up in time to finish off the visitors 3-2 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set by jumping out early 4-1, 6-2 and 8-3. All day long the **Stingrays** were out-matched across the net by **Serra's** superior height and strength, but they were never really intimidated, dispatching of the Goliath's 15-8 in set #5 to take a 3-0 record into Wednesday's match vs league rival **Chadwick**.

**Chadwick** – playing an early season match against the favorite to win the powerful **Prep Lge** showed the **Rays** how far they have to go to become a good team. And though they lost in three, the boys showed glimpses of greatness Wednesday, particularly on defense. But speed was the key in the match, and **Chadwick** was faster all day. Consistently passing on target they got their offense running *in-system* by game #2, making it difficult to develop a rhythm on the **Rays** side, harder still to forge a come back. The boys fought hard to the end, diving for down-balls, stuff blocking the **Dolphins** best hitter #3-Max MacFarland (George Mason), and extending rallies with off-court passes brought back into play. **Corey Maulupe** was clearly the *man-of-the-match*, and though the **Rays** offensive production was toned-down by a tough **Chadwick** defense, every **Stingray** showed improvement on the day, and contributed to the overall effort.

**St. Anthony's** – the **Stingray's** played a familiar refrain Friday afternoon at **St. Anthony's** of Long Beach, starting off slowly, winning big in the middle, then letting-up just enough to force yet another 5 set match of nerves and will. Normally steady **Josh Sanchez** had a particularly odd day, scoring several kills off a *goofy-footed* approach, left-handed swings, even off-the-wrist contacts. And somehow he managed a personal best tallying 25 kills to lead the **Stingrays**. **Kordell Faatolo** was the *iron-man* for the match, getting to virtually every ball and hitting both strong and smart to pressure the **Saints** defense. Setter **Corey Maulupe** struggled with some difficulties, but showed his athleticism throughout with a number of amazing sets to the outside that produced timely results. Both referees and surprise guest **Tim Warneke**, founder of **Pacific Lutheran High**, commented on **Corey's** outstanding play. Right-side hitter **Nick Crandall** tied his season high for kills with 6, but contributed even more with some well placed serves and strong defense. For the first time this year both our middle-blockers, **Daniel Constable** and **Royce Angeles**, scored multiple kills off the quick set, and assisted in kills with sets to teammates. And once again the **Rays** handled set #5 with uncanny composure, displaying an almost *been-there done-that* attitude to finish off the **Saints** 15-9 for their 4<sup>th</sup> win of the young season.

**Next Week** - two worthy non-league opponents with student bodies of 650+ students in **Whitney** of Cerritos (Wednesday), and **CAMS** of Carson (Friday). - **See You There!**

**Special Thanks** to **Jon Schwartz** and **Daniel Cisneros** for helping out at practices and games.