



Stingray's

record (10-3 overall / 1-1 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

Week #5 - Wed-Apr 1st vs Pacific Hills HS (non-league) // Fri-Apr 3rd @ Pasadena Poly (league)

Pacific Hills – last Saturday, after the **Grizzlies** gave the **Stingrays** all they could handle, coach Johnson of **CC-Downey** said they “expect **Pacific Hills** to be their main competition in the Gold Coast League” this season. He also said the **Bruins** are “tall, with a lot of basketball players” from their CIF Championship team. This sounds like the makings of another tough opponent... right? Unfortunately for the **Rays** it didn't work out that way. In fact, the **Bruins** couldn't elicit much of anything that resembled volleyball for most the afternoon, looking like a team that had indeed gone deep into the basketball season, and not quite ready for volleyball. So the **Stingrays** preparation for Friday's big game against league rival **Pasadena Poly** was left to one important practice on a drizzly Thursday afternoon. Hopefully that would be enough.

One nice thing about the match was an opportunity to get everyone in the game; everyone except **Royce Angeles** that is, who turned an ankle playing round-ball Wednesday. **Jared Riva** filled-in nicely at the opposite playing a full rotation in games #1 and #2, which the **Rays** won easily 25-10 and 25-15. He played solid defense on the day and had 3 ace serves. Mr. Riva stepped aside from the front-row in game #3 allowing **Marcus Staton** some experience. Marcus is becoming more comfortable at the net of late, getting touches on a number of block attempts, defending his zone, and taking a few swings. Senior setter **Corey Maulupe** had a pretty fair day at the back line serving 3 aces on jump serves, each one catching the tape. He blended that with 3 kills (on tips), 1 block and 16 assists on the day. **Dan Constable** had his best serve-receive day of the season, and also had a nice quick-hit along with 3 aces from hard, deep serves. **Kordell Faatolo** came back from Saturday's injuries with 8 kills and 2 aces of his own, and fellow sr-**Josh Sanchez** added 4 kills and an ace. **James Cooper** had his best day at the service line, and both **Jonathan Wood** and **Sam Knowlton** saw service passing the back row for the **Rays**. It was a good day for playing subs and having fun, but a poor prep for **P-Poly**.

Pasadena Poly - their was a look of eagerness in their eyes just before coach offered last minute tips on strategy and attitude, and sr-captain **Josh Sanchez** urged the **Rays** to “start fast” for a change. That said - the **Panthers** looked formidable during warm-ups with 4 legit hitters, a decent setter and 1 jump server. But warm-ups never determine the outcome as the match still has to be played. The **Stingrays** came out serving tough, putting **Poly** on their heels and down as much as 8 pts early in the set. A few errant passes resulting from poor communication plus a couple service miscues allowed the **Panthers** back in the game... albeit too late to salvage a 25-21 win for the **Rays**. The 2nd set opened with both teams trading side-outs in a battle of wills. Still, the **Stingrays** managed to carry a 4pt lead to the home stretch at 21-17. Then before we knew it we were facing set point at 24-23 as **Poly** profited from 4 critical service errors and some sloppy 'D' by the **Rays**. Then the **Panthers** began to struggle at serve, gifting the **Rays** renewed hope sufficient to carry set #2 by a thin margin of 27-25. In set #3 the **Stingrays** would not be denied as **Corey Maulupe** (4 kills; 4 aces; 1 blk; 7 digs; 19 assists) heated-up his jump serve and hooked-up with **Kordell Faatolo** (6 kills; 1 blk; 7 digs), **Josh Sanchez** (9 kills; 1 blk; 5 digs) and **Nick Crandall** (4 kills; 3 digs) for some key spikes in key moments. And no one could ignore the energy of soph-**Jared Riva** (1 ace; 5 digs), which seems to be contagious of late. And that's a GOOD THING – because the **Rays** are at their best when energized. How nice to beat a school like **Pasadena Poly** in their gym with a 'take no prisoners' attitude... **3- 0** (25-21; 27-25; 25-16).

Next Week – Wed-Apr 7th vs Flintridge Prep – 3:30 // **EASTER BREAK** (back Tue-Apr 21st)