



Stingray's

record (10-4 overall / 1-2 Prep League)

Volleyball Weekly Recap

Week #6 - Tue-April 7th vs Flintridge Prep (CIF #5) // EASTER BREAK // back Tue-Apr 21st

Flintridge Prep – everyone knew the **Rebels** had climbed their way to #5 in the CIF polls, and had recently taken 5th place at the prestigious **Providence Tournament**. We also knew they were tall in spots, particularly in the middle. So going into Tuesdays important **Prep Lge** meet against **Flintridge Prep** the **Stingrays** were clearly undersized and overmatched, on paper anyway. But the **Rays** have been playing with confidence and renewed energy since the mini- tournament at **CC-Downey**, and the only question coach wanted answered was...”*Could we match their energy?*” Game #1 revealed an early answer, as the **Stingrays** came out fighting for every point to take an 8-5 lead. But the **Rebels** started to heat-up, and at 22-21 our service went sour, eventually losing in that same vein with a service error at 23-24. Early in the season this could have been devastating for the **Rays**, when such loses were often too hard to handle. But in the last couple of weeks these young men have become competitors, and are learning to deal with adversity far better. And... it has made them more fun to watch!

The **Stingrays** put set #1's disappointing loss behind and focused on set #2, determined to find a better result. **Kordell Faatolo** anchored the **Rays** back-row passing, and mixed-in a few deft tips for kills here and there. Senior setter **Corey Maulupe** showed his athleticism by cleaning up some sloppy passing at the mid-point for some beautiful sets from the back-row. Junior utility player **Royce Angeles** subbed-in, weak ankle and all, playing the sort of defense the **Rays** needed at that juncture, and the rest of the way. And neither team held more than a 3 point advantage the entire set, as the **Stingrays** prevailed to win set #2... 26-24. Tied 1-1.

The 3rd set became one of those games where most every **Stingray** seemed to check-out at the same time, and no one was able to pass the ball forward or on-target to the setter throughout. **James Cooper** came in briefly for a struggling middle-block and immediately served an ace. After that coach was looking for any opportunity to re-insert soph-**Nick Crandall**, in hopes he could regain some rhythm and help the squad with his offense. But the set was over before we could wake-up and the **Rays** lost 25-10.

That meant an all-or-nothing set #4 just to get us to the **Rays** favorite scenario... a set #5. The **Stingrays** play dauntlessly in such moments, and remain undefeated in 6 tries. Unfortunately a good team like the **Rebels** wasn't going to make that easy, as the **Rays** soon discovered upon taking the lead at 14-12. After a **Prep** time-out our serve-serve passes and serving went on vacation once more, just at the mid-set, allowing the **Rebels** to recapture control and the momentum at 19-15. The **Stingrays** stayed loose and fought hard to the end, but could not afford to swap point-for-point as **Flintridge's** experience proved adequate to secure what the **Rays** relinquished all too easily, winning 3-1 overall (25-23; 24-26; 25-10; 25-19).

Flintridge Prep is expected to battle **Chadwick** for 1st place in the Prep League, and **Chadwick** is currently ranked #2 in CIF. That means 3rd place in the Prep is up for grabs, with **Pac-Lu's** match against **Pasadena Poly** sizing-up to be the game of the season for the **Rays**. We hope you will come out and cheer for the **Stingrays** at this important upcoming home match, which falls right after the Easter Break on **Tue-April 21st at 4:00pm** at Calvary Assembly.

Next Week – **EASTER BREAK** // (back Tue-Apr 21st)