



Stingray's

record (12-5 overall / 3-3 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

Week #7 - Tue-Apr 21st vs Pasadena / Thr-Apr 23rd @ Flintridge / Fri-Apr 24th vs Rio Hondo

Pasadena Poly – after the **Stingrays** beat **Poly** at there place they not only knocked them out of the CIF polls, but took their place at #8 in Div V. And if this was not enough incentive for the **Panthers** to beat **PacLu**, a win was *required* on Tuesday just to force a tie-breaker come May 8th. The **Rays** came out shaky at the service line in game #1 but passed well enough to take the set 25-20. Then, in set #2 our passing took a vacation, giving **Pasadena** a15-5 lead and forcing a **Rays** time out. Recapturing the momentum was now the focus, and although it came too late to save the set, it did carry over into set #3. Senior setter **Corey Maulupe** led the way and tranquilized the **Panthers** with a number of wicked jump serves (2 kills; 5 aces; 2 blks; 7 digs; 29 assists) that buried **Poly** in set #3... 25-9. **Kordell Faatolo** (9 kills; 1 ace; 1 blk; 9 digs) and **Josh Sanchez** (10 kills; 3 blks; 8 digs) took turns pounding and tipping **Poly** into a dither, and **Nick Crandall** and **Royce Angeles** had 6 and 2 kills apiece on the day. In set #4 the **Cats** woke-up and the **Rays** looked sluggish in the heat, struggling to a 19-25 loss and what proved to be the biggest 5th set of the year. True to form the **Stingrays** showed their confidence in the final set jumping out 5-2, 8-3 and 11-4 before letting up briefly, then finishing strong to close out 15-10. The **Rays** are now an extraordinary 7-0 in 5 set matches, and coach 'B' looks grayer than ever.

Flintridge Prep – the ride to **Flintridge** is long, but never long enough to keep the **Rays** from getting up for a ranked team. And though we had dropped to #10 in the polls, the boys were riding high after trouncing **Poly** in Tuesday's thriller. Game #1 saw the lead change hands 6 times before **PacLu** took control at 18-15. MB's **Dan Constable** and **Josh Sanchez** led the way with spot-on serve reception and solid defense. But the **Stingrays** desire was the most obvious difference, and the **Rebels** had trouble arresting that ever elusive *momentum* that wins games - losing 20-25. Set #2 found the **Rebs** warming up to the task, taking an early lead at 7-4; but the **Rays** evened things up at 8-8 and 10-10. Then, a couple of service errors and miscues at the net put the **Rays** in a hole they never quite found their way out of - dropping set #2 19-25. Set #3 looked like it would be all **Flintridge** as they jumped out early to a 10-3 lead. But the **Stingrays** showed their grit and fought back to knot it at 15 each when **Corey Maulupe** began connecting with **Kordell Faatolo** (8 kills; 1 blk; 7 digs) and **Josh S** for a number of important kills. **Josh S** (10 kills; 4 blks; 1 ace; 9 digs) also caught fire defensively in set #3 with several block touches that slowed the **Rebels** quick hitters, and 2 solo stuff blocks. At 18-18 the **Rays** started trading point-for-point with the **Rebs**, and at set point found themselves on the add-out side of the score, ending in a disappointing 25-27 loss. They fought hard from the 1st whistle to the last point, but after set #3's loss the **Stingrays** were running on fumes as fatigue and its close cousin, *unforced errors*, left their mark all over the **Rays** end game - losing set #4 14-25.

Rio Hondo Prep – last place **Rio Hondo** was the perfect opponent for **Senior Day**, and some P/T for the entire team. **Jonathan Wood** got his 1st kill of the season. **Marcus Staton** and **James Cooper** played well in their rotations. But the day was about the seniors, and all 4 had good games. **Josh Sanchez** (5 kills; 3 aces; 3 blks), **Kordell Faatolo** (9 kills; 3 aces), **Corey Maulupe** (1 kill; 2 aces; 21 assists) and **Dan Constable** (3 kills; 1 ace; 1 blk) have now lead the **Stingrays** to a 12-5 record, and, what could be **PacLu's** first appearance in the CIF play-offs in 3 years. That's quite an accomplishment for the smallest school playing in the **Prep League**. Nice job men!

Next Week – Wed-Apr 29th @ Chadwick – 3:30pm // Fri-May 1st vs Pacifica Christian – 3:30pm