



# Stingray's

record (14-6 overall / 4-4 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

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**Week #9** - Wed-May 6<sup>th</sup> @ Rio Hondo / Fri-May 15<sup>th</sup> @ Cantwell Sacred Heart – CIF Playoff

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**Rio Hondo Prep** – though the **Stingrays** were missing All Prep League nominee **Josh Sanchez** to a mission trip in Haiti, they still had enough *chutzpah* to deliver yet another victory to the win column versus last place **Rio Hondo**. That's 14 wins for the 2009 squad, with the only losses coming to teams ranked in CIF's Top-10. But any way you slice it the **Rays** are back in the CIF Playoffs after a 2 year absence, and hoping to represent their team, school and league 'proper'. Soph-**Marcus Staton** received the P/T created by *Mr. Sanchez's* mission, and took full advantage of the opportunity with solid play at the net, particularly on the block, where he's had a number of touches and stuffs of late. Soph-**Jared Riva** filled-in at opposite for the full rotation Wednesday, lending a chance to take some swings from the front row for a change. Sophomore **James Cooper** and fr-**Jonathan Wood** also saw action on the back row with vastly improved serving AND passing. The **Stingrays** remained in control throughout the match even though **Rio's** 7<sup>th</sup> man, the 'gym birds', chirped from the rafters to distract even the refs at times. **Rio Hondo** is remodeling their gym over the summer, so this was the last time to play in the **Kares 'Aviary'**. Everyone got into the act on this day, as the **Rays** flew away for a 3-0 win to set scores of 25-12; 25-12; 25-18, wrapping-up the regular season... 14-6 overall.

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**Cantwell Sacred Heart - CIF 1<sup>st</sup> Round Playoffs** – the **Cardinals** gym holds fond memories for coach Bareford, as it was the site of our schools first ever CIF playoff appearance back in 2002. **Wes Bareford, Chris Crandall, Daniel Cisneros, Chris Jenkins, Luke Frieburghouse, Quincy Stevenson** and **Kellyn Stoffel**, the 7 brave players who made-up the entire squad that night as we took the CIF 2001 finalist to a thrilling 5 game match before the roars of our volleyball family, which included the Overbey's, Mr. Warneke, Mr. Fitzgerald and South Bay Lutheran's faithful student fans. Perhaps the echoes would still be there? But as we stepped inside a new and different look quickly unfolded. **Cantwell** had recently suffered a fire which led to a new ceiling, gym floor and paint, giving the house an entirely new look. So the past had been put soundly to bed, and the **Stingrays**, not the **Waves** – had a tall task ahead.

Utmost on the coach's minds was how the seniors would play thru the tiredness that would inevitably accompany the previous night's events. All four seniors celebrated Thursday with a Grad-night Dinner and an all-nighter at Disneyland. That meant most did not get to bed 'til after 8:00am Friday morning. Not exactly the "best laid plans of mice and men gone astray"... but close enough. Add to that an ailing setter and you have a recipe for problems. But sr-setter **Corey Maulupe** is not one to make excuses, and played all night like the 'man' he is becoming. Team passing was also pretty good 1-thru-6, but the skills that involve timing and jumping were clearly the most impacted by fatigue. **Corey** was too weak to effectively jump serve, eliminating a weapon we had had all season. Sr-**Josh Sanchez** took a while to find his timing, but by mid 2<sup>nd</sup> set he'd arrived. Sr-**Kordell Faatolo** struggled with his approach and wisely tipped until he warmed-up. And sr-**Daniel Constable** tried his best to slow the **Cardinal** attack, but blocking requires 'mucho' energy, and once again – timing! And, adrenaline can carry a team only so far. All this said the boys acquitted themselves admirably in the face of the obstacles, and a few 'butterflies', fighting for every point. **Jared Riva** and **Nick Crandall** had solid games, and **Marcus Staton** saw P/T in a CIF playoff for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. But by the 3<sup>rd</sup> set there was little left in the tank, and the **Stingrays** season was coming to a close. They gave all they had to give – and we are proud of their effort. It will be hard to say goodbye to this bunch - but we will try at the Sports Awards Banquet. Thanks for everyone's support. Thanks for a great season **Stingrays!**