



Lady Stingray's

record (4-4-1 overall / 2-0 Mulholland League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

Weeks #4 - Tue-Sep 29th vs Wildwood / Wed-Fri Oct 2nd PacLu's Annual 'Arrowhead Trip'

Wildwood – coach suspected **Wildwood's** #2 CIF ranking was unwarranted as the **Wolves** had lost some All-League players to graduation, and were 2-2 coming in for this weeks meet at Calvary Assembly. Rankings, graduation and records aside - the **Ray's** remembered how close they came to knocking off the highly touted **Wolves** last season in an exciting match that ended in a '*stinging*' defeat...17-25; 25-20; 25-15; 18-25; 11-15. Needless to say, the girls wanted another shot at the **Wolves**, to show how far they have come since last season. And sporting their new, custom designed warm-up Tees, they got that shot 358 days later – on Tuesday.

Prior to set #1 the energy in the **Rays** huddle was palpable. The eyes were wide and bright, legs and arms active, voices pumped. They looked eager. Minutes before the starting whistle we talked about passion and focus, controlling nerves, staying positive, playing hard-nosed defense, and... starting fast (for a change). To date, the **Stingrays** had developed a tendency to start games slow. They knew that needed to change in order to set the right tone for this match. They did just that. Soph-outside hitter **Bridgette Kielhack** put the heat on the **Wolves** early and often from the service line, ending the day with 12 aces and 33 service points. **Anais Marin** and **Cynthia Rocha** also proved effective from the line, combining for 22 service points. The **Rays** jumped up 11-1 on the **Wolves**, forcing an early time-out by a dazed looking **Wildwood** squad. Their coach was mad, and the **Wolves** were yelping. This time the tone WE wanted - was SET!

The next 30 minutes saw **Wildwood** pick-up their defense, playing near even with the **Rays** while dropping set #1... 25-14. But the momentum was shifting ever so slightly. The **Wolves** newfound energy carried well into the 2nd set, largely on the strong service of senior outside hitter Sophie Tweed-Simmons, filling in at setter. They caught the **Stingrays** at 11pts and battled point-for-point to 16 apiece. Nevertheless, the **Rays** kept their composure, fighting through some tough service reception and playing the best individual and TEAM defense of their young season, winning set #2... 25-19. At several points throughout one **Ray** after another made an outstanding defensive save, extending long rallies won, more often than not, by the **Stingrays**. It became fun just waiting to see who would make the next exciting play.

Now up 2-0 in the match the **Stingrays** continued to pressure **Wildwood**, jumping up early 8-3. **Alex** and **Karina Tangari** made some great digs in the back, while **Taylor Pattillo** and **Chrissy Hensing** played at a feverish (inside joke) pace along the net. The **Wolves** appeared to run out of gas midway thru set #3, and disharmony raised its ugly head once more. The wolf pack was disarray, and the **Lady Rays** formulated enough chemistry to win the 3rd set going away 25-14.

We'll see the **Wolves** again Nov 5th at their place - and with their setter back they remain the league favorite. In the mean time the **Lady Stingrays** were the '**Beast**' this particular Tuesday. They will relish the victory briefly, and get back to work prepping for next weeks road opponents. This game had coach thinking of **Amanda Hungate** wielding one of her quirky, self-composed proverbs at the end of the game; perhaps... '*Happy Tuesday*'. And so it was Amanda. So it was.

Next Week – a full, five day week of volleyball sees the **Stingrays** travel to LACES HS in West Los Angeles to face league opponent **South Bay Lutheran** Wed night (6:00). On Friday afternoon (1/2 day) we travel to scenic La Verne for a non-leaguer vs **La Verne Lutheran HS**. The team will eat dinner in La Verne after the game.