



Stingray's weekly

record (1-1 overall / 0-0 Prep League)

Volleyball Recap

Weeks #1 & #2 - Sat-Mar 6th @ Liberty Tourney / Wed-Mar 10th @ CCHS / Fri-Mar 12th vs CAMS

Liberty Christian Tourney – on a rainy Saturday in Huntington Beach the **Stingrays** got their first real taste of competition at the Liberty Christian Tourney. In pool play they faced **Crean**, **Capo Valley Christian**, **L.A. Lutheran** and **St. Anthony's**, coming away with a 3-5 record and some good match experience. **Nick Crandall** and **Brock Mullenbach** led the offense most of the day, with **Jacob Kalama** and **James Cramer** getting in on the action where possible. The biggest standout on the day was senior setter **Royce Angeles**. His leadership and calm demeanor kept the **Rays** focused during some rough moments. And, he literally ran all day, chasing down errant passes while trying to improve them with better second balls. Frankly, he gave our hitters more chances than earned just by working hard. But with a young team you have to expect that, and **Royce** isn't one to complain.

Crystal Cathedral – coach got to watch **CCHS** play at Saturdays tourney, and was not overly impressed. But the **Lions** had a decisive advantage playing here, in their home gym. The gym is a multi-use facility, complete with multi-colored lines and low-pile carpet that earns any player willing to dive a decent strawberry for the effort. That became an annoyance and distraction to the **Rays**, who sported a number of 'tattoos' after the game. But you have to give our host credit for outplaying coach 'B's scouting report using a tough defense, and forcing the **Stingrays** to work for every point. Coach's 6-2 offense experiment lasted exactly 1-set before the **Rays** returned to what they know best... a 5-1. But going down 1-0 meant the boys had to scratch and claw their way out of a hole all night. Somehow, they managed just that. Freshman **Jacob Kalama** led the team with 12 kills (1ace, 1 blk, 9 digs), several on tips around the block. **Jacob** is learning how to hit with power, but often resorts to the tip. **Nick Crandall** rarely shies away from power, but this is also his 3rd season. Nick scored 10 kills, 3 aces and 12 digs on the night, and remains one of our 'go-to' guys. Freshman **James Cramer** was also productive scoring 8 kills, mostly from the right side. Once his defense tightens-up he will be a solid all-around player. **Brock Mullenbach** was our most effective server, hitting zones with enough consistency to score 15 pts from the back line. It was a long and late night in Garden Grove, but we came away with our first 5 set win - and some valuable experience.

CAMS – the season home opener saw a good turn-out from the **Stingrays** faithful, and though we missed starter **James Cramer**, the **Rays** managed to play well... at times. Consistency is the biggest battle we're likely to face this season, and offensive runs of more than 3-4 points will be rare. That means the ever fickle '*momentum*' which so often dictates who wins, will be harder than usual to capture. And, whether from the service line or the net, only time will develop any consistency. So the **Stingrays** credo is practice-practice-practice; and for the fans... patience-patience-patience. Fridays game proved that theory as the **Rays** had to fight their way back from a 2-0 deficit to extend to yet another 5 setter, this time dropping the match to the more experienced **Rebels** 2-3. **Nick Crandall** had a good night offensively (15k; 1ace; 9 digs), and **Brock Mullenbach** managed 8 kills, 3 blks and 15 digs all while fighting a 'bug'. **Jared Riva** had his best game at the back line with 5 aces (5 kills; 8 digs).

Next Week –the **Stingrays** play @ **Mary Star Tue-5:00pm**; then are home on **Fri-Mar 19th** vs **Gahr**, a school of over 2,000 students. The **Stingrays** have already proven they have heart, but will have to show better skills and volleyball I.Q for longer stretches of time to succeed in week #3.