



# Stingray's weekly

record (1-3 overall / 0-0 Prep League)

## Volleyball Recap

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**Week #3** - Tue-Mar 16<sup>th</sup> @ Mary Star / Fri-Mar 19<sup>th</sup> vs St. Anthony's

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**@ Mary Star** – the **Stars** are in an 'up year' for boys volleyball, and it took some good zone serving from the **Stingrays** just to try and keep pace throughout Tuesdays match, played at **MSHS's** new campus in San Pedro. The boys fell behind early, but coach 'B' would not call time out as the **Rays** were passing beautifully - they just couldn't manage to finish an attack. Leading 7-0, a service error by the **Stars** was enough to get the **Rays** on the board and into the match for good. After tying them at 13, the *good* starting running out for the **Rays**, as the more experienced **Stars** finished the set with some powerful hits from the outside, winning 25-20. Set #2 saw the **Rays** come out fast with solid serves by **Brock Mullenbach**, strong net defense from **Marcus Staton**, and some good swings from freshman outside hitter **Jacob Kalama**. At 14-12 **PacLu** appeared to have captured the momentum from the favorites, so the **Stars** called a time out to try and settle things down. The time-out paid off as their offense got back into a rhythm, particularly at the MB where they scored several quick-hits to the short corner and leveled the score at 20 all. At this point the **Rays** serve receive skills virtually disappeared, allowing the **Stars** an easy close-out of set #2... 25-22. Prior to set #3 the **Rays** talked about taking a set from the **Stars** just to get back in the match. But **Mary Star's** experience showed as they jumped up early to leads of 7-2, 13-6 and 20-13. Coach 'B' subbed-in frosh **Ethan O'Neall**, then soph-**Jonathan Wood** for some valuable game experience, but the **Stingrays** starters lost their focus and folded easily... losing 25-14. A couple of starters had off games Tuesday, but overall it was a good learning experience on many levels. We grew up some Tuesday, and it showed come Friday.

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**St. Anthony's** – coach was interested to see how much each team had improved since last facing each other Mar 6<sup>th</sup>. Back then the **Saints** 'go-to' guy was their 6'5" MB, but on Friday they mixed it up, going to the outside a high percentage of the time. And though the **Stingrays** defended well on most down balls, it was the free ball that revealed a weakness. Far too many balls got deep to the end line or short to the middle on the **Rays** side, with poor anticipation and positioning the prime culprits. Our outside passers kept dropping back, weight on their heels, expecting down balls. That meant the middle backs cheated-up to help cover tips in the middle – which is NOT their area. So the **Stingrays** took a step backwards *defensively* on Friday, one they will work hard to recover in coming practices. Offensively the **Rays** had better results vs the **Saints** than they did earlier in the week vs **Mary Star**. Setter **Royce Angeles** (35 assists, 2 aces, 3 digs) connected with **Nick Crandall** (9 kills, 6 digs), **Brock Mullenbach** (9 kills, 1 ace, 1 blk, 9 digs) and **Jacob Kalama** (10 kills, 1 blk, 8 digs) for a balanced front row attack and 28 kills on the day. **Brock**, **Jacob** and **Marcus Staton** (3 kills) also showed improved net play with several good team block efforts. Freshman right side hitter **James Cramer** tallied 3 kills, 2 aces and 5 digs on the day. One outstanding note was the pin-point serving of **Royce Angeles**. Time after time **Mr. Angeles** hit the zone coach called for, with devastating accuracy. Coach asked **Royce** for a short zone, and **Royce** would serve it within 5' of the net. Coach asked him to drill a back-row passer, and the passer would shank the serve. Every time he stepped to the line the **Saints** ended up playing 'out-of-system', removing their MB and sometimes outsides from the equation. **Royce** wrecked havoc on **St. Anthony's** offense all day, scoring 19 pts from the line, to complete one of the best serving days **PacLu** has seen in 10yrs of competition. Nice job captain!

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**Next Week** –the **Stingrays** enter their last week of non-conference competition prior to league play at athletic **Serra HS**, **Tue-Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> - 3:30pm**; then are home for another 'popcorn Friday' on **Fri-Mar 26<sup>th</sup>** vs **Gahr**. It's been great to see so many people at home games. It was also great to see alumnus player, now ESPD officer **Chris Jenkins** ('03) in the stands. **Thanks for the support!**