



Stingray's weekly

record (2-4 overall / 0-0 Prep League)

Volleyball Recap

Week #4 - Tue-Mar 23rd @ Serra High / Fri-Mar 19th vs Gahr

@ **Serra** – much like **Pacific Lutheran** the **Cavaliers** are in a rebuilding year, and Tuesday afternoon showed every evidence of that fact. Both squads came out shaky, and though the **Rays** built a small lead in the 1st set it was difficult to watch. More sloppy play gave away our small lead in time to lose the 1st set... 23-25. It was a disheartening loss, but these boys are getting better every week. Set #2 looked much like the 1st, play-wise and score-wise, with another 23-25 loss. Here we were again, 2 sets down and trying to prove 'we are better than this' where it matters - on the court.

Set #3 began with the **Rays** falling behind 2-0 on poor serve reception. Fortunately this was *NOT* an omen for what lay ahead. Solid passing from **James Cramer** (5 kills; 5 digs), **Jake Klingsporn** (3 digs) and **Nick Crandall** (3 kills; 1 ace; 6 digs) got **PacLu's** offense back in system long enough to pressure the **Cavaliers** into a number of errors. Coach Mayrie called time-out, but the **Rays** refused to be 'iced' stretching an 11-5 lead to 17-8 with strong serving by **Jared Riva** (5 aces; 5 digs) and **Jacob Kalama** (5 kills; 5 digs). The shift in momentum was one the **Rays** wanted to secure, but they knew the real test would come in the 4th set, in spite of how impressively they had just won the 3rd... 25-10.

Tough serving and steady passing was the tactical refrain from coach, and **FIGHT** became the boys battle cry. Set #4 saw the **Rays** jump up big early on, but the **Cav's** made a brief run at the end before losing 25-15. The **Stingrays** were in a groove now, and they were determined to carry the momentum into the 5th and final set. And, they wanted to get ahead early, then ride the lead home by siding-out.

Unfortunately **Serra** got the same memo and took a 6-3 lead at the outset. But the **Rays** kept fighting and good things started to happen. It began with defense, as they stayed in every rally by playing some of the best defense of the season. **Nick, Brock, James, Jared, Jacob, Marcus Staton** (2 kills; 2 digs) and **Royce Angeles** (3 kills; 1 blk; 2 digs; 21 assists) all kept rallies alive with defensive plays. **Jake** and **Brock Mullenbach** (7 kills; 2 aces; 1 blk; 6 digs) kept flowing passes to the setter, and **James Cramer** and **Jared Riva** got hot from the service line once again. The **Stingrays** tied the score at 6-6, and took the lead for good at 8-7. The **Cav's** were out-of-rotation, into the net and out-of-sync the entire match. But the team that picked each other up, kept playing and fought to the end won this day. The **Rays** closed-out the match with a 15-8 stomping that had many of the **Cavaliers** shaking their heads in dismay, including coach Mayrie. It wasn't pretty, but the boys fought hard for this win. Nice job **Rays!**

Gahr – a final tune-up before league play meant facing a team that could run the quick-hitter, and **Gahr** provided that albeit without the 'POWER'. Sporadic offense sprinkled with exciting defense kept the match interesting and the scores close as the **Rays** lost in straight sets to the **Gladiators**... 25-19; 25-21; 30-28. **Jared Riva** (5 kills; 4 digs) filled-in for missing starter **Jacob Kalama**, and **Ethan O'Neal** played back row for missing defender **Jake Klingsporn**. In the **Prep League** we will see big strong middle-blockers such as 6'8" Kenyata Smith of **Flintridge Prep**, and Hank Trumball of **Chadwick**, complemented by excellent outside hitters. **Gahr** scored on the **Rays** from the middle often enough for the boys to see first hand what we need to work on, namely - how to slow down the quick-hit. It's a tall order for a young team, especially as blocking is so difficult to master. And though we may not complete the task this season, I guarantee we will have fun trying – scrapes, bruises and all.

Next Week –the **Stingrays** begin league play **Tue-Mar 30th** @ **Rio Hondo Prep** in Arcadia, then wrap-up the first half hosting rival **Pasadena Poly** on **Wed-Mar 31st**. **We will need your support!**