



# Stingray's

record (2-0 overall / 0-0 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

**Week #1** - Sat-Feb 28<sup>th</sup> vs Crean / Tue-Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> @ St. Paul / Fri-Mar 6<sup>th</sup> @ John Glenn

**Crean Lutheran**-The *Stingray's* got a good look at the present *and* future of the volleyball program Saturday morning. **Crean Lutheran** brought two squads of boys for the scrimmage, requesting a JV game with our youngest *Ray's*. Coach Bareford was happy to oblige, as this gave everyone a chance to gain some valuable experience. Jr-**Royce Angeles** anchored a largely rookie JV team which included **Jared Riva** and **Sam-wise Knowlton** hitting outside, **Marcus Staton** and **Jonathan Wood** as middle-blockers, and **Nathan Pearce** opposite 1<sup>st</sup> time setter **Royce**. Eager is a less than adequate adjective to describe **Jared's** energy throughout the match, as he's been chomping-at-the-bit to play front row. And he took full advantage to show some impressive hops and powerful swings at a hapless **Saints** defense. Too soon to know where the rookies will fit in this season, but they're coming along nicely.

**St. Paul HS** – playing a night game at **St. Paul** took the *Rays* to Santa Fe Springs, where they met up with srs-**Kordell Faatolo** and **Corey Maulupe** fresh from the bedside of brother and alumni athlete **Chris Faatolo** at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. **Chris** had his appendix removed Tuesday and is recovering nicely. God answered those prayers, then gave the *Rays* a gut-checking 5-game match against a **St. Paul** team that wouldn't go away after dropping the first 2 gms... 26-24 and 25-9. The **Swordsmen** featured a one-man offense in outside hitter Andrew Canales (#6), who chalked-up 17 kills and 10 aces vs our 'D'. But one hitter wasn't enough to carry the evening for **St Paul**. In game #3 the *Rays* let-up enough to lose 21-25. The *Rays* rally cry became 4, as in... win game 4, but the door remained open as they dropped #4 in like fashion... 21-25. The boys finally showed they could finish an opponent by jumping out early in game #5... 4-1, 6-2 and 8-3 before leaving the **Swordsmen** behind at 15-8. The offense featured **Kordell** (11 kills, 3 blks, 2 aces, 21 digs) and **Nick Crandall** (6 kills, 2 blks, 1 ace, 14 digs) playing on the outside. Sr-**Josh Sanchez** unselfishly played his old spot at MB, but the *Rays* passing wasn't sharp enough to run the quick. Still, sr-setter **Corey** managed to find **Mr Sanchez** often in the back row for some spectacular pipes kills (8 kills, 2 blks, 1 ace, 13 digs).

**John Glenn HS** – facing a public school of 2,000+ in their home gym can be a daunting task for a small school - but it's not like we haven't done it before. In '02 our boys beat **Long Beach-Cabrillo** (then 2,800 students) in an exciting 5-game match. Coach's Wes and Daniel, as well as **Nick's** brother Chris, were part of that big win. The same squad went on to slaughter **Torrance HS** (1,800+) the next year. But Fridays match at **John Glenn** became a mess quickly, as the **Eagles** proved unable to muster any semblance of what the game should look like. And sadly, instead of dispatching the 'birds' in short order and heading home for the weekend, the boys played down to the level of their opponent, prolonging an inevitable result. The match was also interrupted a number of times with *out-of-rotation* and *improper substitution* calls against **Glenn**, virtually lulling the *Rays* into a state of mediocrity. It was a forgettable win at best, with set results of 25-17, 25-19 and 25-15. One positive was varsity P/T for rookie **Marcus Staton**, who is playing volleyball for the first time, and cast as a middle blocker... one of the more difficult positions. The *Rays* will go only as far as the underclassmen improve this year.

**Next Week** - we face CIF rated teams in **Serra** and **Chadwick** at home on Tue and Wed, and then **St. Anthony's** away on Friday. **Come out and support the Stingrays!**