



Stingray's

record (8-3 overall / 0-1 Prep League) **Volleyball Weekly Recap**

Week #3 - Tue-Mar 24th @ Vistamar / Thr-Mar 26th Mary Star / Sat-Mar 28th vs Avalon & CC Downey

Vistamar – the scouting report we on **Vistamar** hampered the **Stingrays** chances of winning, but not nearly as much as their lackluster play. Once they dropped the set #1 21-25 it got ugly as the **Rays** starters struggled to pass, hit or serve with any consistency. And **Vistamar** was only getting warmed-up. The opposing coaches remarked it had been the **Vikings** best day at both setter and outside hitter positions. Before you knew it the **Rays** looked like they'd been hit by a virus that infected the entire team with malaise, and everyone was heading to the cars. Every player has a bad day now and then, but when you have 4-5 players off at the same time, your chances for success are very low. Hopefully we put this one behind us quickly.

Mary Star - playing our cross town rival from San Pedro usually means a fight to the finish. Thursday afternoon was no exception. And 'though the **Stingrays** were looking to rebound from Tuesday's debacle, they took their time getting down to business. Coach Bareford moved **Josh Sanchez** back to the middle to shore-up the block, provide some offense, and balance the **Rays** service reception. The move paid dividends as the senior captain totaled 18kills, 4 solo blocks and 7 digs on the day. A little more time with setter **Corey Maulupe** (3 kills; 5 aces; 34 assists) and that connection should get stronger. **Nick Crandall** (4 kills; 2 aces) moved to the outside and is relearning the mid-back. **Kordell Faatolo** (8 kills; 1 ace) injured his shoulder on a hard swing, causing him to miss most of the 4th and some of the 5th set. **Jared Riva** filled-in for Kordell and fought to keep the team moving forward. Sr-**Dan Constable** had his best output of the season (4 kills; 1 ace; 1 solo block). After dropping set #3 with an *out-of-rotation* call the **Rays** began set #4 reeling toward the canvas. But thanks to some sloppy play by the **Stars** the **Rays** were handed a gift in an almost comical manner, winning 25-14. This meant another 5 setter for the boys, who have a reputation of confidence in such situations. But the **Stars** did not fade easily, delaying the ending 5 overtime points before losing 21-25; 25-21; 23-25; 25-14; 20-18.

Avalon – playing the first of two matches Saturday meant a potentially long day, beginning with CIF #10 ranked **Avalon**. But those watching the 1st round match between **Avalon** and host **CC Downey** could see **Downey** was the superior team. Knowing that didn't keep the **Rays** from starting the day in 1st gear, as they dropped the first 2 sets 16-25 and 17-25. The team needed energy badly, and **Jared Riva** was up to the task. Playing the opposite, **Jared's** voice and vigor juiced a flagging squad to finally start hitting **Corey Maulupe's** (7 kills; 1 ace; 36 assists) sets, and play some team 'D' to win set #3 25-22. From that point the **Rays** loosened-up and helped with the energy level, and the momentum was theirs as they finished-off the **Lancers** in sets #4 and #5... 25-18 and 15-8. The **Stingrays** remain undefeated (6-0) in 5-set matches; a PLHS record.

CC Downey – the host school **Grizzlies** showed the effects of sitting for 2 1/2 hrs as they came out of hibernation sluggishly against a pumped-up school of **Stingrays**, dropping set #1 25-22. But the feeding frenzy was soon over as **Downey's** defense dug-in and the **Rays** were left trying to wriggle around the paws of a tough front and back row. From the 2nd set on the **Grizzlies** dug most everything we dished out, then came back with more than the **Rays** could handle as they showed us their heels to win 17-25; 16-25; 15-25; a good experience to build on.

Next Week – Wed-Apr 1st (no fooling) vs **Pacific Hills**-3:30 / Fri-Apr 3rd @ **Pasadena Poly**-3:30