

DeBacker, Hadfield led Lady Warriors to H-DN volleyball crown

Aaron Finley/For the Times Standard

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Kristen DeBacker and Jaelyn Hadfield had 13 kills apiece, as the Del Norte Warriors secured the Big Four title outright with a 25-13, 25-13, 25-14 victory over the Arcata Tigers Tuesday night in Crescent City. DeBacker added a match-high eight service aces, while Hadfield recorded a double-double with 11 digs to go along with her 13 kills.

The Warriors jumped out to a quick 7-1 lead in the opening game and never looked back in wrapping up the conference title and subsequent automatic berth into the North Coast Section playoffs with still one match remaining in the regular season.

While DeBacker was leading the charge both at the net and from behind the service line from the opening service of the match, the Tigers were unable to get anything going all evening. DeBacker had four kills and four service aces in the opening game alone, while Hadfield added four kills of her own, as the Warriors jumped on the Tigers early and often.

Showing no signs of letting up, the Warriors carried the momentum of the opening game well into game two, this time scoring nine of the game's first 10 points and eventually stretching the margin to 21-8. The Tigers got to within no less than 10 points, as the Warriors quickly took a two-games-to-none lead and left little doubt as to whether the conference race would be settled early.

The Tigers did not go away without a battle though, as a Julie Leong service ace gave the Tigers their first lead of the match at 2-1 in the decisive third game. The game remained close before the Warriors again opened things up at the midway part of the game. Leading 9-8, the Warriors went on a 14-5 run to take a commanding 23-13 lead and ultimately put things away for good.

OTHER SCORES:

McKinleyville 3, Eureka 0

The McKinleyville High volleyball team swept visiting Eureka to earn a measure of vengeance for a loss earlier in the season on Tuesday.

Using a new defensive scheme coupled with Caryn Romanini's 11 digs, the Panthers cruised to the 3-0 victory.

Kaila Johnson and Romanani distributed the ball nicely (14 and 10 assists respectively) and Madison Smith (11 kills), Jessica MacMullin (6) and Ashley Christie (6) took care of the rest.

Jocelyn Grondalski put points on the board as well dishing out seven service aces.

"We were very consistent with our serves," said Mack head coach Dolores Cano.

Southern Trinity 3, Ferndale 1

The Warriors took care of the Wildcats on Tuesday night. Dropping only one game, Southern Trinity continued their Little 5 dominance.

South Fork 3, St. Bernard's 2

South Fork came out to win and it took all five games to do so against Little 5 rival St. Bernard's.

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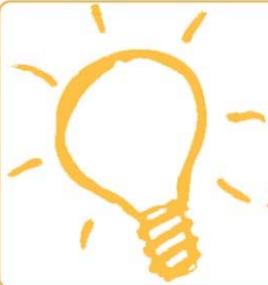
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Brianne Miller (12 aces and five kills) and Kesley Stillwell (12 aces and five kills) proved the difference.

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