

The San Diego Union-Tribune

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Volleyball fans given their wish in California Challenge



Torrey Pines senior Delayne Maple (shown in a photo earlier in the season) helped the Falcons win the championship of the California Challenge.
(John Gibbins/U-T file)

Heavyweights meet in tournament final as Torrey Pines prevails

By TERRY MONAHAN
AUG. 24, 2019

It was the heavyweight match players and fans wanted to see Saturday at the annual California Challenge.

The top two high school girls volleyball teams in the San Diego Section not only reached the championship match at Alliant University but did so without a single loss on the season.

After losing the first set of the final, top-ranked Torrey Pines rallied for a 24-26, 25-14, 15-8 victory over No. 2 Cathedral Catholic.

“We put more pressure on them after the first set,” Torrey Pines coach Brennan Dean said. “That made it tougher to run what they wanted to run on offense.”

Torrey Pines and Cathedral Catholic could play as many as four more times this season.

In the opening set, seniors Maddie Endsley and Lindsey Miller combined for 15 kills, all but four of Cathedral’s first-set kills.

After that they had seven kills in the final two sets.

The Falcons, now 7-0, got seven kills in the final two sets from Delaynie Maple and seven kills from Maya Satchell to turn the momentum back in favor of the two-time defending section Open Division champions.

Maple and Satchell were named to the all-tournament team along with teammates Megan Kraft and Carly Diehl. All are seniors.

“We expected to play Cathedral in the final,” said Kraft, the tournament’s MVP after getting four kills, three blocks and three aces in the final. “We know Cathedral so well, so we find a way to get new energy to face them.

“We kept one eye on them during the tournament, doing a little scouting to see if they would reach the final.”

The second set was all Torrey Pines as the Falcons took a 9-3 lead and never looked back.

Torrey Pines put the Dons in trouble with a 7-3 start in the final set.

Torrey Pines visits Cathedral (6-1) for a nonleague match on Thursday.

“We love to play good teams like this,” said Kraft, who is headed to USC for beach volleyball with teammate Maple.

“We wanted to play them since they beat us in last year’s Challenge.

“Even though you’re leading them, you can’t take Cathedral for granted. They could catch fire and wipe out a big lead in no time.”

While Endsley took match honors with 12 kills with Miller close behind with 10, the Falcons got 10 kills from Maple and nine more from Satchell.

Tournament host La Costa Canyon, which took over organization of the event from Torrey Pines, dropped the Silver Division final to San Juan Hills. It was the Mavericks’ fourth match of the day.

La Costa Canyon dropped into the Silver Division with a loss to La Jolla in the seeding round, but the Mavs downed El Capitan and La Jolla Country Day to reach the final.

Del Norte was victorious in the Bronze Division, sweeping aside Clovis Buchanan 26-24, 25-17 in the final.

In the Competition Division, Point Loma was bested by Rancho Cucamonga Los Osos 25-18, 25-15 in the championship match.

Monahan is a freelance writer.