

Schedule shift easy on Falcons



Torrey Pines setter Carly Diehl (shown earlier this season) was named tournament MVP on Saturday. Torrey Pines cruises in SoCal Invitational volleyball tourney

By TERRY MONAHAN
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You can thank Cal Dean for the latest championship. The 10-week-old son of Torrey Pines High girls volleyball coach Brennan Dean caused him to rethink his tournament schedule this year.

Instead of another out-of-town tournament, Dean opted to stay close to home for his final tournament of the year and the No. 2-ranked Falcons ran through the SoCal Invitational field without losing a single set.

After beating Houston Episcopal 25-13, 25-13 in the Platinum Division semifinals, Torrey Pines dominated Chandler (Ariz.) Hamilton more than the 25-20, 25-10 score might indicate in the championship match Saturday at Alliant University.

Falcons setter Carly Diehl was named tournament MVP with five kills and four aces in the final.

Torrey Pines teammates Trinity Durfee, with eight kills in the final, and Megan Kraft, with five kills, were chosen to the all-tournament team.

“We really clicked today,” said Diehl, who is heading to Yale next fall. “We were rolling the entire tournament, but especially (Saturday).

“They’d get a good play and we’d answer back.

“I’ve never played in this tournament before. Normally, we’re in Santa Barbara this time of the season.”

In the Gold Division, Eastlake (30-6) downed Upland (14-25, 25-23, 15-11), La Jolla (25-23, 25-18) and La Salle (25-15, 25-22) to capture the title.

The Falcons (28-2) were in such a groove on the second day of the 72-team tournament, Hamilton (23-8) led just once in the Platinum final and that lasted only a minute or so.

Hamilton managed to tie the score nine times in the first set without getting the lead.

The Huskies never posted three consecutive points in the set.

Hamilton led 1-0 in the second set before the Falcons roared back, using a 7-0 run at one point to turn a 3-3 tie into a commanding 10-3 lead.

Holding an 11-6 lead in the second set, the Falcons went on a 13-3 run to remove any hope of a comeback by Hamilton.

Diehl was so good delivering passes to her hitters, there was rarely a double block set up in the final two matches.

“What they did this weekend is what I see every day in practice,” Dean said. “With the competitive schedule we have, I expect there will be hiccups and we’ve had a few.

“Everyone wants to kill the giant. We’re entitled to nothing and we don’t take anything for granted.”

With less than two weeks remaining in the regular season, the defending San Diego Section Open Division champions are peaking at exactly the right time.

Thanks to Cal Dean.