

Photo Baldwin Lee

Volleyballers win Western National Qualifier, headed to Nationals

Submitted by Baldwin Lee

The NorCal Volleyball Club 18s are headed to USA Volleyball Nationals in style, earning a bid by finishing first at the Sierra National Qualifying Tournament in Reno from April 9-11 in their division. Laserfocused NorCal did not lose a single set in the last two days, including sweeping in their final matches against teams from Oklahoma and Southern California. Their gold finish gave them a golden ticket to nationals in Columbus at the end of April. Local players on the team are Libero Brianna Lee (first row, third from left), Outside Hitter Molly Mitchell (fourth from left), and Opposite Hitter Kate Dendinger (sixth from left). The NorCal team has

qualified for nationals every year the tournament has been held since they were 12 years old, so this is a final trip together. Dendinger, Lee, and Mitchell also helped their Campolindo High School team finish first in Northern California and runners-up for all of California in Division One last school year, up against the largest schools in the state.

Boys water polo teams happy to be back in the pool and competing

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As with Haley, Hanley was hampered by the short preseason. "It was definitely a learning experience getting thrown right into it," Hanley said. "We use the preseason for chemistry and learning about each other so we're

doing everything on the fly. The players are willing to work with each other, which I have loved to see so far."

The offense is led by Brock Zamanian who has been a standout and should improve with the return of Ben Carson, who is coming off an illness. Hanley is also impressed with the junior class because "they're all excited and chomping at the bit to play."

The defense is led by perpetual all-star junior West Temkin. "West has been our anchor on the defensive end," Hanley said. "He has a high skill level and takes each

game as an opportunity to get better. He is a great communicator and sets the tone defensively."

It's a combination of attitude and skill that Hanley appreciates most from the team. "Our speed and quickness allows our team to get up and down the pool better than the other teams," Hanley said. "Our players have a great mindset and they're ready to attack every day. As we continue to figure out the team's chemistry and the tendencies each player has, we will keep building on each other's strengths."

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