



CELlent NEWS

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SPECIAL REPORT



15Blue and 16Blue Push Nationally Ranked Teams to the Limit at JVA, 13B-14W-15W Earn Medals

Excerpts from Prepvolleyball's report, "Ranked Teams Eliminated on Day 1 of the JVA West Coast Cup."



Creating Havoc! 15Blue tests its mettle against ranked teams...

The other pool that provided a roller-coaster ride was E. While national No. 25 San Gabriel Elite 15 Rosh went 3-0, Vision 15 Gold, **Xceleration Blue 15-1** and Coast 15-2 were locked at 1-2.

Coast narrowly missed upsetting SG, falling 20-25, 25-13, 16-14. Leela Anvekar and Lola Foord teamed on a block, while Foord delivered a kill to help SG hang on.

Xceleration created some of the havoc by upending Coast-2 in three, 18-25, 26-24, 15-11. **Xceleration** had a shot at Vision too, but Vision prevailed, 22-25, 25-20, 15-13. Olivia Knutson's ace had **Xceleration** up 13-10 in Game 3. Vision, though, reeled off five straight to pull through. Emma Spindt put away two swings late to lend a hand in the comeback.

The two met again in the first one-game playoff, with Vision cruising 15-5. Vision then stayed alive by downing Coast-2, 15-10.

Oh so close for 16Blue, but played the spoiler...

There in Pool E of 16 Open were Rage Westside 16 Jen and Tstreet 16 Mike together again.

A month ago the two squared off at the SCVA Qualifier in Las Vegas with a bid on the line. Rage swept, making Tstreet's wait for a bid hours longer. Tstreet eventually joined Rage and it figured their rematch on Day 1 of the JVA West Coast Cup in Long Beach wouldn't be nearly as dramatic.

The two really should have been playing for first and second. We say should, because the pool was thrown in flux from the get go as **Xceleration Blue 16-1** stunned Rage in straight sets, 25-23, 25-22. All of a sudden, it was looking very much like the Rage-Tstreet encounter was going to carry greater implications.

And it did, though still not matching the intensity of having a bid on the line. It was close, however, with Rage in a must-win position to force a three-way tie or get knocked out of contention after barely getting started.

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Meanwhile, **Xceleration** was sitting pretty. Best-case scenario, the club would clinch first place based on tiebreakers if Rage won. If Rage lost, **Xceleration** advanced as the second-place team. There wasn't much for the Nor Cal club to do but sit back and enjoy the fun that followed.

There was lots of it.

Rage beating Tstreet in three, 26-28, 25-22, 15-9, was just the start of it. Samantha Strah put Rage up 14-6 in the final set before Emma Sharp capped it off as it led to a one-game playoff between the two.

It might be worth noting the only reason Tstreet was in a one-game playoff was because it survived an **Xceleration** scare, as Tstreet pulled the victory out, 27-29, 25-19, 16-14. **Xceleration** was up 14-12 but Tstreet scored the final four points, with Kelsy Rasmussen playing a key role. She saved the first match point then her ace put Tstreet up 15-14. In between, Piper Naess saved the second match point. **Xceleration** hit long at 15-14 and it was over.



Top photo:
13 Blue Bayview Classic
13/14 Division 4B Champions



Right photo:
15 White JVA West Coast Cup
Club Division Silver Champions



Top Photo:
14 White Bayview Classic
13/14 Division 5A Champions

Photos courtesy of Anna-Lisa Muraoka, Fiona Peers Artiaga, and Trenelle Holt.