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Prep volleyball: Mataele has 18 kills in Grant win

Daily News

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Brooke Mataele comes from a background of competitive volleyball, having grown up in Hawaii before transferring to Grant High of Van Nuys.

In the first City Section postseason contest of her career, Mataele's competitive instincts took over at the right time for third-seeded Grant.

The junior recorded a match-high 18 kills, including eight in the final game, to lead the Lancers to a 25-20, 25-15, 25-17 victory over No. 30 Eagle Rock (8-6).

"In Hawaii, everything is very competitive," said Mataele, who combined with Aliyah Hayes and Chelsea Umana - both of whom added nine kills - to overwhelm Eagle Rock's front line.

"But we're competitive here, too. The thing I like about this team is that we work really well together."

Grant (13-1) relied on Kelsey Molina (32 assists) setting up a strong middle attack to offset slow starts in the final two games.

"They were ranked a lot lower than they should've been," Grant coach Ian Lee said.

Vicky Delgado led Eagle Rock with 18 digs.

- Erik Boal

Granada Hills 3, San Fernando 1: Abby Dreyfuss had 16 kills and six aces to lead No. 6 Granada Hills to a 25-15, 19-25, 25-22, 25-12 opening-round victory over No. 27 San

Fernando.

Ashley Streid (14-3) added 10 kills for the Highlanders.

Birmingham 3, Poly 1: Breana Collins recorded 10 kills to lead No. 8 Birmingham of Lake Balboa to a 25-16, 25-17, 25-18 victory over No. 25 Poly of Sun Valley (3-11).

Deidre Jeppson added 27 assists for the Patriots (9-5).

Sylmar 3, Franklin 0: Cynthia Barajas recorded 14 aces in a 25-12, 25-8, 25-12 victory for No. 4 Sylmar (13-1) over No. 29 Franklin.

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Verdugo Hills 3, King-Drew Magnet 0: Diamora Hunt had 10 kills for 10th-seeded Verdugo Hills of Tujunga (10-10) in a 25-21, 25-15, 25-23 win.

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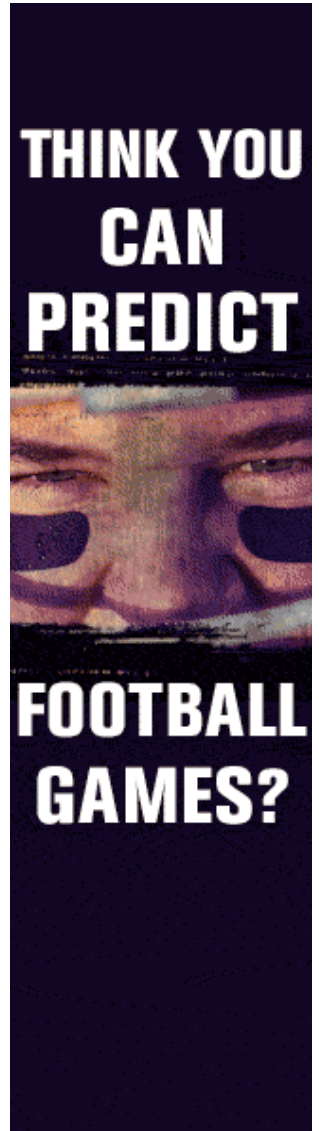
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