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It Comes Once a Year

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Valencia girls volleyball wins seventh straight league title



Saugus High's Kacie Crawford (No. 3) with a spike on Tuesday.

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Senior Night for the Valencia girls volleyball team comes once a year. It seems clinching league titles has become as regular.

The Vikings celebrated their seventh-straight Foothill League title on Tuesday evening with a 25-18, 25-15, 25-12 sweep of Golden Valley.

"We wanted (the league title) outright or nothing at all," said Valencia head coach Ray Sanchez.

Valencia remains perfect in league at 9-0 with one match to play. A loss by second-place West Ranch to Saugus Tuesday gave the Vikings (19-5) the title outright.

"Us seniors have been together all four years and we wanted to go out on a high note," said Valencia libero Megan Lavo. "Now we look to CIF (playoffs) and take it one step at a time."

Senior outside hitter Shelby LeDuff, who has been Valencia's preeminent player all season, finished the contest with 14 kills and two aces. Setter Christina Worth finished with a team-high 21 assists.

The Grizzlies kept pace with Valencia throughout the entire match, however they were unable to capitalize on opportunities.

Valencia's service errors kept Golden Valley close in the first set with the Grizzlies even tying early. But Valencia overcame some early jitters and the Grizzlies' resilient play to pull through late.

After Valencia took control of the second set, Golden Valley surprised the Vikings early in the third by taking a 6-5 lead. But the league champions took control from there, closing the Grizzlies out with a 20-6 run.

Valencia closes out its regular season with a match Thursday against West Ranch.

Then it's on to the CIF-Southern Section Division I-A playoffs Tuesday.


The Vikings farthest run in the playoffs took them to the quarterfinals in 2004. The team has lost in the second round in each of the past three seasons.

But now the team looks forward to breaking that cycle.

"We've worked all year to get to this point," Worth said. "We play every game like its a CIF title match and we stay focused on that."

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