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V-ball players share success

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Foothill rivals, but club teammates, accept scholarships to four-year schools


By Paul Putignano

 Signal Staff Writer
pputignano@the-signal.com
 661-259-1234 x536

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For the last three years, Valencia senior volleyball player Katie Hank and West Ranch senior Allison Summers have been club teammates and Foothill League rivals.

Now, they also share the achievement of accepting a collegiate scholarship.

Hank will attend the University of Delaware in the fall of 2010 and Summers will attend the University of Georgia.

"It's a big weight off my shoulders," said Hank, who is heading into her senior year with the Vikings. "It is definitely something new. It's a big change. I think it will be good. I really liked the team and the coaches."

Summers shares the sentiment, noting the sense of relief associated with not having to worry about the application process.

"The stress level has definitely gone down quite a bit," she said.

However, Summers can't let up on her studies, because her scholarship does not kick in until her sophomore year.

With only 12 scholarships and no one graduating this season from Georgia's team, all the rides will be taken up when she arrives in Athens, Ga.

First she must get through her final year at West Ranch.

Aside from playing on opposite sides of the court during the league season, the two have been teammates for the last four years with Santa Monica Beach Volleyball Club.

It has helped in the recruitment process, and Summers is a testament.

The Bulldogs took notice at a tournament in Las Vegas.

"I was having a good game luckily," she said. "The assistant coach was scouting someone else, and wasn't there to scout me. He just heard the ball being hit and looked over."

For Hank, the improvement thanks to club ball was personal.


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"I definitely learned a lot about myself and learned a lot about commitment and being a good teammate, being supportive," she said. "I learned to be a leader too."

Then juniors, the outside hitters registered their share of accomplishments in 2008, including being named to the All-Santa Clarita Valley first team — the only two non-seniors on the team.

Summers was also named to the All-Foothill League first team and Hank the second team.

"It is good to play against her in high school," Summers said. "Katie is a really good player so I'm always warning my team about her. ... It is always a fun competition between her and I."

With the league season just around the corner, both players are ready to show why they earned their scholarships.

But it won't affect their friendship.

"We are close. ... We definitely talked to each other (about the scholarships)," Hank said. "We were both really excited when we found out."

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