

Valencia volleyball won't have any sharing, wins league title

Vikings end league season on top



Valencia's girls volleyball team celebrates a point during its victory against Golden Valley Thursday at Valencia High School.

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Valencia girls volleyball finished off an eighth straight Foothill League championship season with a three-set win over Golden Valley on Thursday at home, 25-10, 25-16, 25-12.

The victory clinched an outright league crown for the Vikings (15-9, 9-1).

It was a fitting finish on Senior Night, as the group was led by a talented senior class that helped the Vikings shut down Golden Valley's play near the net.

Valencia senior Heidi Brown, who had eight kills, said this year's title was especially rewarding because it felt like a tougher fight.

"I was extremely proud of the way our team played today," Brown said. "A lot of people doubted us and didn't think we were going to win it this year, but we pulled it out and I'm so happy for my team that we could do that."

Katie Hank had five kills in the first game and Brown added three more as Valencia raced out to 10-3 lead and stayed ahead the rest of the way.

The Vikings' offense left little need for its defense as its leading blocker, Brown, only had a pair of blocks in the match. Valencia picked up early leads in the next two games and never trailed the matchup.

The Grizzlies (0-15, 0-10) had a tough time getting over the Vikings' strong defense at the net, but head coach Jeff Cody said he was proud of the way his team avoided errors and forced the Vikings to score as opposed to beating themselves.

"This was good for us. We're young and we're rebuilding and I think we made them earn the win," Cody said. "We struggled a little bit with the long rallies, that's where our inexperience kind of shows through."

For the Vikings and head coach Ray Sanchez, the title was a reward for a tough year's work, but only preparation for the postseason. He said it seemed like this year's group had to really get the most out of their talent to take the title because of how much stronger at the top the league was this year.

"I just congratulated the girls on a hard-won, tough-fought league championship. They really earned it this year. But the real season starts Tuesday," Sanchez said, referring to CIF-Southern Section Division I-A playoffs that begin next week.

The Vikings will get a first-round home match.

The brackets will be released on Sunday.

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