

DailyNews.com A-Z

del.icio.us Digg Reddit YahooMyWeb Google What's this?

### Chatter: Point West brings home the gold

BY ERIK BOAL, Special to the Daily News

Article Last Updated: 07/08/2007 10:20:55 PM PDT

It was a fitting conclusion for former Moorpark High teammates Chelsea Daley and Rachael Kidder. It was the appropriate ending to a brilliant two-year run for USC signee Kimmee Roleder. And it was the ideal finale for coach Rob Machan.

After capturing the 17-under club title at the U.S. Junior Olympic Girls' Volleyball Invitational tournament last summer, Point West Mizuno returned to Minnesota this year to take on a greater challenge in the 18-under national division. The result was the same for the Agoura Hills-based club team.

Led by tournament MVP Roleder, a Pasadena High graduate, Point West completed a four-day, 11-match run to the gold medal, defeating Milwaukee Sting Gold 25-21, 23-25, 15-9 in the championship match of the 48-team tournament Friday at Minneapolis Convention Center.

"We practiced and trained all those months for one reason and one reason only, and that was to win gold. And that happened," said the Azusa Pacific-bound Daley, a repeat selection on the all-tournament team. "It was a wonderful experience. I couldn't have asked for anything better. Our whole entire team played really well this tournament."

Although Kidder, who has verbally committed to UCLA, has two years

Advertisement

remaining at Moorpark, Friday marked the last time she would play with Daley and several other Point West teammates who will be college freshmen in the fall.

#### Have you ever driven a Corvette?

- I will at REV IT UP@!
- Not yet.
- Yes and I love it!

"We were all so excited that we won that it didn't hit us until we were at the airport saying our good-byes," Kidder said. "Especially Chelsea, she's always been there for me and I've always played with her, so it's going to

be hard without her there. And Kimmee has given me so much great advice. Our team got really close (in Minnesota), but unfortunately everyone is going off to college."

Point West finished 10-1, rebounding from a three-game loss Wednesday to Iowa Elite X-treme to win its final seven matches, including all three Friday in the single-elimination Gold Division playoffs to send Machan off a winner. The tournament was Machan's last with Point West Mizuno after accepting the head coaching position at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

Most Viewed Most Emailed

(From the last 24 hours)

"It was kind of a disappointment when we didn't make (18-Open), but to see Gene's Team (23rd in the 18-Open division) struggle like they did, I'm glad we stayed in national," Daley said. "I'm completely content with how we finished. Just to make it to (Junior Olympics) is an accomplishment. But we won and that's all that matters."

Molly Cindric (Oaks Christian of Westlake Village/Merrimack College), Samantha Macks (Oak Park/University of Tampa), Leslie Windham (Grace Brethren of Simi Valley/The Master's College) and Chelsea Hamilton (Quartz Hill) were the other local athletes who contributed to Point West's title.

UCLA signee Dicey McGraw, a Santa Margarita graduate, led Laguna Beach to a third-place finish in the 18-under national division.

Best director: Flintridge Sacred Heart of La Canada Flintridge senior Samantha Orlandini, who has verbally committed to Cal State Northridge, is regarded as one of the state's top setters.

But it was younger sister Jenna who took center stage for Sports Shack at the annual Volleyball Festival in Reno this past week.

Samantha teamed with Alex Johnson (Westlake/CSUN) and Harvard-Westlake of Studio City's Cathryn Quinn, Kaitlin Segal and Taylor Morgan to help Sports Shack's 18-under team to a sixth-place finish in the 103-team tournament.

But it was Jenna, a junior libero, who received Sports Shack's director's award - given to the top individual performance in the entire club - after contributing to the 16-under team's perfect 13-match run to the title, which they completed Friday with a sweep of Canada Prospects at University of Nevada's Lawlor Events Center.

"It was a big honor for her," said Shelli Orlandini, Jenna and Samantha's mom and Flintridge Sacred Heart coach. "It was the longest week ever because Sam had the morning flight and Jenna had the afternoon flight. But it was great to watch Jenna standing in front of the entire club receiving that award."

"To have (Pepperdine assistant and club head) Tim Jensen say that she's the best player at her position in the entire club is a big deal. I was very proud of her."

Along with Jenna Orlandini - who lists Duke, Michigan and Notre Dame as her top college choices - Flintridge Sacred Heart's Connor McCracken and Harvard-Westlake's Crystal Higgins were instrumental in Sports Shack's championship.

Festive mood: Santa Monica Beach Club's 18-under team, coached by Pierce College's Nabil Mardini and featuring nine local athletes, continued its run of impressive performances at the Volleyball Festival with a 10th-place effort.

In the 17-under division, Sports Shack placed fourth, SMBC was 14th and Point West tied for 15th. SMBC tied for 11th and Point West finished 19th in the 16-under division.

[erik.boal@dailynews.com](mailto:erik.boal@dailynews.com)

(818) 713-3607

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Return to Top](#)

## Comments | [Trackback](#)

### Photo Galleries



[Angels vs. Yankees](#)



[Dodgers vs. Marlins](#)



[All-area girls soccer team](#)