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Tony Nunez/Register-Pajaronian

Mt. Madona's Jake Getz striking down one of his career-high 37 kills against the Aptos Mariners on Thursday at Aptos.

Jake Getz has career-high 37 kills in win over Aptos

By TONY NUNEZ

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — The Mount Madonna Hawks beat the surging Aptos Mariners in four sets to regain control of the SCCAL on Thursday night, which was senior night for the Mariners, in Aptos High.

The mariners were coming off a victory over Soquel High that had them in contention for the SCCAL title. The Hawks denied the Mariners the chance to take the league in league play.

Jake Getz had a career-high 37 kills on the night for the Hawks.

It looked like Aptos was going to be overpowered early in the game as the Hawks ran out to an early 5-1 lead in the first set.

Cole Welle halted the Hawks run for just a moment with a kill to cut the lead to three points, but the Hawks went on another run to gain a 10-point advantage.

They cruised to the 25-15 first set win.

The Mariners woke up in the second set.

After Mount Madonna kept them at arms length all set long the Mariners finally gained the lead at 18-17.

Both teams traded points back and forth until two Mount Madonna blocks put them ahead with a chance to win the set at 24-22.

Aptos answered back by scoring two points of their own and both teams fought for 12 straight possessions.

With the score tied at 30, Mount Madonna got two kills from Getz to put the set away at 32-30.

Aptos won kept themselves alive by taking the second set despite the Mount Madonna following in the Aptos gym starting up a spontaneous chant.

The set was tied late at 21 and Welle scored the first of four straight Mariner points to win the set.

The final set resembled the

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Castillo chooses Simpson



Contributed

Monte Vista Christian's Alysa Castillo signed her national letter of intent to Simpson University in Redding on Thursday. Castillo helped Monte Vista to a share of the Monterey Bay League Pacific title. The 4-foot-11 guard received a full ride scholarship.

Santa Cruz sweeps Austin 2-0

Warriors move on to the D-League Championship in their inaugural year

By TONY NUNEZ

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

SANTA CRUZ — The three-game losing streak that the Santa Cruz Warriors took into the playoffs seems like a distant memory after Friday night.

The Santa Cruz Warriors defeated the Austin Toros 103-97 Friday night, completing the series sweep and advancing to the NBA D-League Finals in their inaugural season.

Along with it being the Warriors fourth win a row, it was also the Warriors 21st win at home in the rocking Kaiser Permanente Arena.

Austin raced out to a 10-0 lead to start the game, with Steffon Hannah breaking the Santa Cruz scoring drought at the 8:16 mark. The Warriors ended the first quarter down by 10, and the Toros extended their lead to 12 before Santa Cruz went on a 16-4 run to tie the game midway through the second quarter. Austin ended the first half ahead by six, and held a lead going into the fourth quarter.

The Toros led by as much as six early in the fourth, but a Darington Hobson layup with 4:58 left tied the game at 88. After trading buckets, the Toros and Warriors were knotted up at 94 with 2:19 remaining, but Santa Cruz ended the game on a 9-3 run to secure a finals berth.

"It feels great," said Santa

Cruz Warriors Head Coach Nate Bjorkgren after the victory. "It was an outstanding atmosphere. The players played hard, but we have a lot of work to do yet."

Santa Cruz was paced by Jeremy Tyler, who scored 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Lance Goulbourne recorded his first double-double of the playoffs with 13 points and a game-high 11 boards, in addition to a game-high four steals.

Austin was led by Tre Kelley, who scored a game-high 24 points. Top NBA D-League prospect Lester Hudson scored 20 and grabbed seven rebounds, while Chris Roberts chipped in with 11 points.

Earlier in the Day both Hannah and Cameron Jones won D-League awards.

Hannah came away with his second consecutive D-League Defensive Player of the Year award, averaging just less than two steals a game.

Jones took home the Most Improved Player of the Year after averaging 12.6 points per game and making his way into the starting line-up mid-way through the season.

With Friday's win, the Santa Cruz Warriors will play the winner of the Rio Grande Valley Vipers-Tulsa 66ers series for the NBA D-League Championship. A schedule of games will be released upon completion of that series.



Not a one-hit wonder



Tony Nunez/Register-Pajaronian

Watsonville High's Armando Torres elevating during the second set of the Wildcatz's game against Carmel on Tuesday in Watsonville.

Junior Armando Torres is more than his quiet appearance shows

By TONY NUNEZ

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — He takes two steps, explodes from the ground, reaches his right arm back, contorts his body into the shape of a bow, then like the release of a slingshot a rapid and controlled strike comes down.

All the opposition can do is jump, raise their hands and hope that they don't get taken off.

He's fired up and ready for another kill. You wouldn't know it by looking at his face, because of his quite demeanor, but the game of volleyball is Armando Torres' passion.

"I hope that one day I can go to college and play volleyball," said Torres. "I haven't really thought about it because I'm just a junior, but it is one of my goals."

As a junior Torres is leading the Monterey Bay League in kills and is also fifth in digs.

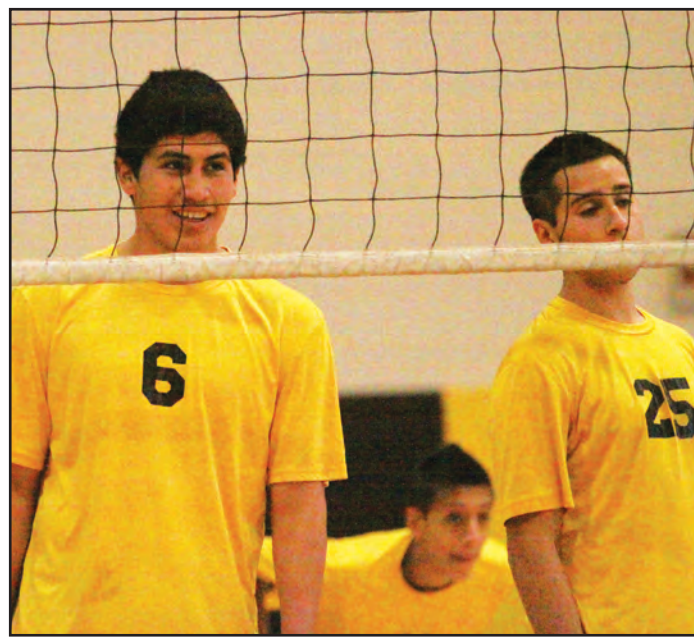
Though the game is his passion, Torres wasn't always the dominating force that he is today.

In sixth grade Torres tried out for E.A. Hall Middle School, but he was cut. It was just one of the things that has driven Torres to be the player that he is now.

Another factor has been the time that he has spent in club volleyball in the summer with his teammates and head coach Derrick Moore.

"Armando is just a machine," said Moore. "He's elevated his game so much. He's just put in the time during the summer in practice. We know that when it's crunch time he's going to give us that smash that we need

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Tony Nunez/Register-Pajaronian

Watsonville High Wildcatz's Armando Torres and Ivan Mendez relaxing between points during their game against Carmel on Tuesday in Watsonville.

Aptos' Hiltz places second at CCS Top 8

By TONY NUNEZ

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

SAN JOSE — Nikki Hiltz came just a few seconds short of taking first place in the 1600-meters at the 2013 CCS Top eight track and field meet.

After the initial lap Hiltz and Sarah Robinson of Henry M. Gunn High, who is ranked second in the nation, separated from the pack.

Both jockeyed for position during the second and third lap of the mile, but Hiltz emerged as the leader at the start of the final lap.

The Oregon commit held the lead up until the second turn of the final lap. Then Robinson

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Tony Nunez/Register-Pajaronian

Nikki Hiltz during her final lap in the 1600-meters at CCS Top 8 on Friday.

