

Mid-Pen keeps its playoff hopes alive \ * * Kehillah Jewish unable to deal with serves

BY JOHN REID

Daily News Staff Writer

The Mid-Peninsula girls volleyball team kept its Private School Athletic League playoffs hopes alive, sweeping visiting Kehillah Jewish-Palo Alto 25-21, 25-15, 25-20 on Tuesday in Menlo Park.

The Dragons (9-2, 8-2 PSAL Bay Division) turn around and become Ram fans. Mid-Pen needs the Rams (3-7, 3-7 PSAL Bay) to somehow beat San Francisco Christian in a match next Tuesday at the Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto. Mid-Pen, which plays East Palo Alto Academy on Friday, is battling SFC for the second playoff spot. Jewish Community-San Francisco, which the Dragons host on Monday, has locked up the No. 1 spot in the Bay.

The Dragons had a fine all-around match from senior captain Jasmine Thomas and junior Jessica Sanchez, whose strong serving helped jump-start Game 3. Sanchez had four straight aces to build a 5-1 lead.

The Rams countered with some nice serving by Eliza Cohen, who helped rally her club to within 9-8. Negin Ehsanipour had a kill for Kehillah Jewish, which led 12-10. An ace by Mid-Pen's Monet Ward tied the game 14-14. Another ace by Ward gave the Dragons a two-point lead. Sanchez had a great dig, but the point went to the Rams. After an ace by Sanchez, Kehillah Jewish coach Jennifer Idleman called timeout.

Sanchez kept the serving run going. When Thomas put down a winner for 20-16, she showed off some smooth dance steps. Jennifer Calla had a nice block for 22-19 as Idleman called her last timeout of the match. Thomas served an ace for 24-19. A four-hit violation against the Dragons kept the match alive, but Thomas ended it with a two-hand bump that hit the line.

"We haven't been communicating the past few matches," Sanchez said. "We were better communicating this match."

"We weren't talking, whether the ball was going out or not," Thomas said.

Idleman called a timeout down 14-11 in Game 2 during which she delivered a fire and brimstone like speech to her team. Sanchez followed the timeout with an ace.

"We rallied well as a team, but we could have played better," Idleman said. "I wasn't happy with our transition at the net."

Email John Reid at jreid@dailynewsgroup.com.

Powered by TECNAVIA

Copyright © 2011 *thedailynews* 10/19/2011