

No. 4 SAN TAN ADVANCES TO ITS FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
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PHOENIX, Ariz. – Behind an all-around team effort offensively and defensively, the No. 4 San Tan Charter School volleyball team advanced to its first ever championship game with a hard fought 3-1 win over No. 9 Holy Family (25-16, 25-12, 23-25, 25-22) at Phoenix Christian High School.

“It was the most amazing thing to watch them come out on fire and ready to play,” said Roadrunners head coach **Nikki Revling**. “Injuries are starting to get the best of us so it was important to get out of here in three, but I’m ok with getting it done in four.”

With the way the first two sets played out, it looked as though the Roadrunners might have a quick night. The team looked focused and had an answer for everything the Padres threw at them winning 16 and 12. Even in set three, San Tan looked to have the match well in hand, but Holy Family showed the resilience they have displayed throughout the year. The Padres rallied from as many as seven down in the game three and sent the match to a fourth set. The Roadrunners seeming were shell shocked early in the set four losing the first six points before staging their own comeback. San Tan went on a 9-1 run and then opened up a six-point margin (19-13) and again looked as though they were going to cruise home to victory. But the Padres pulled their best Lee Corso and said “Not so fast, my friend.” as they cut the deficit to one. It was the Roadrunners turn to show what they were made of and they showed a fortitude to compete through a time when they were struggling to find holes in the Holy Family defense. With some key serves and some stellar defense of their own. San Tan managed to finish off the Padres 25-22 in set four.

“That team (Holy Family) is impressive,” said Revling. “Those girls were running balls down that most girls can’t get to. They are by far one of the best teams we’ve seen all season.”

The Roadrunners seemingly got help from every player who stepped on the court tonight. All nine players recorded at least one dig and every server recording at least one ace. San Tan also took advantage of their length up front against an undersized and youthful front line. The Roadrunners set season highs for blocks with eight and junior setter **Kylie Rosero** led the way with two solo blocks and five assisted rejections.

Offensively, **Alissa Roberts** and **Emilee Golonka** lead the way with eight kills, Rosero was right behind with seven. Roberts led the team in aces with seven. Defensively, Roberts was a wall, digging 20 balls while Libero **Ana Britton** was right behind her with 19.

The championship match on Saturday is a rematch of a contest earlier this season, won by James Madison 3-2. San Tan held a 2-0 lead in that match and let it slip away.

“We were rooting for them to win (their semifinal match),” said Revling. “We were in the stands excited to watch them play and really wanted them to be the team we competed against. Hopefully we can change the outcome of this next match in our favor.”

Game Notes:

- The third set was the first set all year if San Tan was the first team to 20 points, they didn’t win the set.
- Roberts went without a kill throughout set three on 20 attacks. She actually went 25 attacks before recording a kill on the 26th attempt. That is the longest drought without a kill in her career.

- The Roadrunners has four players in double digit digs (Wilson, Britton, Miranda and Roberts)
- Roberts 20 digs is the most for a Roadrunners player since she had 21 and Kate Miranda had 20 versus James Madison earlier in the year.
- Rosero's five block assists is the most in a game by a single player in Roadrunners history.
- James Madison leads the series with San Tan 1-0.
- This final is a matchup of the top two teams from Region 1.

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