

Sea-King District 2 Playoffs - 2 final matches to place 1st - 4th @ Chief Sealth High School

Bellevue vs Seattle Prep - playing for 1st - 4th place

Bellevue was ready and excited to take on the Panthers at 9 am in West Seattle. Seattle Prep was ranked well in the state but the Wolverines were too, so it was expected to be a tough match. The Wolverines would learn that the Panthers weren't so tough after all and won 3-1.

Set 1: The Panthers started with a bad serve, but followed with a kill. Junior Maile Sugamura dug up the ball to Senior/Captain Izzy Koo who set to Senior/Captain Kaitlyn Watson for a shot to the back line. Junior/ Captain Huard hit the next kill that crossed the front of the Panther's court. Junior Halle Adam passed an amazing ball to Koo and Huard hit it high across the finger tips and out. The Wolverines were playing relaxed and focused. They were doing well and adjusting well for each point. Senior Jada Cho got the next dig to Koo then Junior Nyah Taylor hit from the back row to the back line. Huard and Senior Anastasiya Polyakova served aces and hit kills. Taylor and Huard dug to Koo who set up to Polyakova, Watson and Taylor for more kills. The teams were tied at 8-8 and swapped scores to stay tied until 21-21 when Taylor got off 3 kills. Watson finished it off with a block. Score, 25-21.

Set 2: Bellevue continued hustling and playing with quick reactions. Taylor started the set with an ace. Sugamura dug up a ball to Koo who set high to Watson for a reached kill from the right side and another one to Huard for a line drive shot. Watson then served 3 aces in a row and the score was 6-1. That lead stayed with them for most of the set. Taylor hit two balls that went into the block and dropped. Huard had several tough digs and hit right between a block for a kill. Watson slammed the ball and it hit a player in the back row, then tipped over the block with a touch. Taylor was digging balls up and hit deep into the back court. Watson struck down an overpass and hit 2 more kills and served another ace. Sugamura saved some amazing balls with digs on the floor. Koo served 2 aces and was putting up amazing sets all day. Huard got off 2 deep court kills and hit the floor to dig the a ball up with her fist. The set ended when Huard dug to Koo and set to Watson who hung in the air for the kill. Score, 25-16.

Set 3: The Panthers served, Huard passed up to Koo then Taylor who hit into the block and dropped. Seattle Prep jumped ahead with kills, aces, and with the help of Bellevue errors. Sugamura dove for a pass and it popped up over the net and dropped, the score was 3-8. Then Sugamura dug again and Koo dumped it for a point. Bellevue struggled against more kills from the Panthers and fell behind more, 5-14. But something changed and the Wolverines started coming back in points. Cho tipped high over a block for a point, Sugamura served an ace and 5 more digs, and Koo was working for every point. Then a Bellevue player was given a yellow card for subbing out in the wrong location. Huard got a block, and then she and Taylor hammered down 2 more kills each. Watson hit 3 more kills but it wasn't enough and the Wolverines fell to the Panthers. Score, 18-25.

Set 4: Bellevue lost the first 2 points but turned it around when Taylor passed to Koo who set to Huard for the kill. Watson served an ace. Huard got off 3 more deep court kills with the help from Koo's sets and digs from Polyakova, Sugamura and Taylor and then she followed it up with an ace. Taylor hit three kills. Bellevue was back to their normal playing and leading 11-7. Huard hit a line drive, Watson got a dig to Koo and Taylor for a kill and then Watson ducked for a hit out by the Panthers. Huard hit over the block and Taylor hit from the back row deep into the Panther's court. Polyakova swung on the right side for a kill. Then the Panthers served the ball out and it bounced into a garbage can. Huard dug to Koo and Watson slammed it down for a kill. Polyakova picked up the last dig to Koo and Huard put the match away with a kill from the back row. Sending them to battle for 1st place in Sea-King. Score, 25-12.

Bellevue plays Lakeside for the final match of Sea-King District before heading to the State Championship the following week.

Bellevue knew they were going to be going up against a stacked team of club players, some of whom are friends. The Wolverines had nothing to lose if they took second, so they came out to do their best and see how the Lions played. Bellevue lost 0-3.

Set 1: Bellevue started with the serve and Huard tipped the block for a point. Then the Lions hit out and Taylor served an ace. It was a good start. But the Lions weren't going to back down and hit the Wolverines with a dump, 2 aces and 2 kills before they served out. Huard swung hard at the back of their court and somehow the Lions played it up, sent it over and then blocked the next kill attempt by Bellevue. The Wolverines were still in the game and Huard was moving for the passes on the back line. Huard sent the ball to Koo and then Cho for a hit to the far right side, score was 5-8. The Lions stepped up their game and had a run of kills while Bellevue made errors that finally ended when Taylor passed to Koo who dumped it over the net, score was 9-18. The Lions got off more kills, but so did Huard. With the help of Sugamura, Taylor and Koo, Huard hit 4 kills and then served an ace. It wasn't enough and Bellevue learned what a well oiled machine the Lions were. Score, 14-25.

Set 2: The Lions served and Koo lunged for the set to Taylor for the first point. Watson jumped for a block and the Lions made some errors. The teams were volleying more and making great saves on both sides of the court. Koo and Sugamura got 2 balls to Huard who hit a cross court shot from the right side and finished off a volley to the left. Bellevue was leading 6-1. Huard dug again to Koo who dumped it over to the surprise of the Lions. Polyakova grabbed a dig to Koo and Huard hit high for the touch and out. Another amazing volley saw three saves from Huard but no point. The Lions caught up with a couple kills and the score was 10-10. Watson hit to the open middle and then stuffed a block on the Lions' middle. Polyakova served an ace and Bellevue was up by 3 points. Sugamura dove for a pass and Watson tried to save it with a belly slide, but to no avail. The Lions tied up with a kill and a block. Then Taylor passed to Koo who set to Huard for a back court kill. The points were flying back and forth. Huard tipped over a block and Taylor hit the ball at the net where it rolled over and dropped. Bellevue was hustling for every ball. Sugamura saved a dump effort by the Lions and Adam got a tough dig but neither resulted in a score. Bellevue stalled out with the last two hits going out but played a good set and showed the Lions that they could compete. Score, 19-25.

Set 3: Bellevue served and lost the first point. Sugamura got a nice save, while Polyakova and Watson worked the net, but came up empty. Huard lunged for a pass to Koo who set to Watson for a kill. Lakeside hit more kills, got an overpass and won the points after a few volleys. Bellevue had a rotation error and was behind, 6-11. Sugamura kept fighting for the passes to Koo and Taylor swung hard, a lion popped it up, and the ball hit the net and dropped on the Lions' side. Bellevue struggled with more errors and were starting to look unsure on the court. Junior Jordan Condie joined the front line and was fighting for blocks. The last successful combination came when Huard sent the pass to Koo who set to Taylor who hit the kill, the score was 8-16. The Lions couldn't be stopped and hit more kills. Watson and Cho stuffed a block each trying to stave off more points from the Lions. The Wolverines were too far behind and ended with a couple errors. The Wolverines took 2nd place in Sea-King and were seeded in 8th place for State. Score, 13-25.