

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Side Out(side): Locals will take to the sand



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

Instead of playing indoor during the pandemic, the high school volleyball season will be waged on the beach. In 2021-22, beach volleyball will be a CIF-sanctioned sport and feature a postseason.

Season serves as warmup for 2021-22, when CIF begins beach championships

By Gordon Kass

The last touch on a volleyball by a local player in a high school game came back on Nov. 23, 2019, when Aptos' Peyton Dueck smashed the title-winner against Nordhoff to give the Mariners the CIF State Division IV championship.

Nearly 16 months later, local prep athletes will finally be hitting and digging volleyballs again. Fittingly in this beach community, those balls will touch beach sand rather than the usual hardwood surface during Friday's initial contests.

That's because beach volleyball, and its two-player games, serves as a safer alternative to indoor volleyball during the COVID-19 pandemic. Santa

COMING UP

FRIDAY, 4 P.M.

Scotts Valley at Harbor Soquel at Santa Cruz (Main Beach)
Mount Madonna at Aptos (Rio Del Mar)

Cruz Coast Athletic League squads and other county teams will play a short season in March and April, with matches involving five pairs per team.

Aptos and Soquel are the co-favorites in a six-team upper division, with Harbor and Mount Madonna right in the mix, and Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley lurking nearby. Matches will be held at Har-

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SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

Soquel High setter Ava Adamsen defends the net for the Knights as Aptos outside hitter Peyton Dueck hits for the Mariners in the CCS D-III semifinals last season. This season, local volleyball teams will compete on the beach during the pandemic.

+ Inside: NFL teams are busy as business season begins. **News+Notes, B5**

WARRIORS ANALYSIS



NAM Y. HUH — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warriors center James Wiseman, right, battles for a loose ball against Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine during a game in December.

Targets to watch at trade deadline

By Wes Goldberg
Bay Area News Group

The Warriors' offseason has already begun. Between now and the start of next season, when the organization hopes to vault back to title contention, general manager Bob Myers is tasked with completing the two-year rebuild through trades, the draft and free agency.

With the March 25 trade deadline approaching, the Warriors should be shopping, and Myers' recent comments to 95.7 The Game claiming they will be aggressive indicate they will.

Already, several players are on the trade block: Houston's P.J. Tucker, San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge and Cleveland's Andre Drummond. Stars such as Washington's Bradley Beal, Orlando's Nikola Vucevic and Chicago's Zach LaVine are more sought after than available, but stable veterans such as Toronto's Kyle Lowry, Sacramento's Harrison Barnes and New Orleans' Lonzo Ball are capable of helping a playoff contender.

Here's where the Warriors stand days before the deadline, and some players they could target:

Team needs

Barring an All-Star scorer becoming available, the Warriors should try to find bonafide sixth and seventh men who are under contract through next season to round out the core rotation. More immediately, they could seek to make improvements on the fringes. A backup

WARRIORS » PAGE 4

THE SCORE

WARRIORS-ROCKETS, LATE

Up next: Warriors at Memphis

When: Friday, 5 p.m.

TV: NBCBA

Online: For a report on Warriors and Sharks' games, go to: [santacruzsentinel.com/sports](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/sports)

49ERS COMMENTARY

There's still one glaring hole on roster

Good NFL teams don't build through free-agent splashes.

No, big free-agent spending sprees are typically the domain of the Jets, Raiders, and Jaguars.

The goal is to acquire good players, mainly through the NFL Draft, and to keep them around when their contracts are set to expire. Then you can augment in free agency.

That's what the 49ers did during this free-agent period. They deserve plaudits for keeping left tackle Trent Williams, cornerbacks Jason Verrett and Emmanuel Moseley, and fullback Kyle Juszczyk and adding pass rusher Samson Ebukam as a Dee Ford replacement (even though Ford remains on the roster) as well as upgrading the center position by reportedly agreeing to a deal with former Cal Bear Alex Mack.

The 49ers did what good teams do.

Everything the 49ers have done in free agency has been solid. But it's the move they have not made

KURTENBACH » PAGE 5



Dieter Kurtenbach

SCCAL GIRLS TENNIS ROUNDUP



Soquel's Maya Van Ness returns the ball to Tallia Harper during the Knights tennis match against host Santa Cruz on Tuesday.

SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

SC's Harper rolls in final rematch; Knights top Cardinals in opener

By Jim Seimas
jseimas@santacruzsentinel.com

Santa Cruz High junior tennis star Tallia Harper — the two-time defending Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League champion — sent a memo to the rest of Santa Cruz County's No. 1 singles players Tuesday: She's gotten better in the offseason. Significantly.

In a rematch of last year's SCCAL Tournament singles

championship, Harper earned a 6-0, 6-0 win over Soquel's Maya Van Ness in the teams' league opener. The Knights made a statement, too. That was their lone loss as Soquel rolled to a 6-1 win.

"Overall, I feel like I've been playing more consistent, not making as many unforced errors as I would've last season," Harper said. "My serve, for sure, it got a lot better than it was last season. I've

been working a lot on my second serve."

Van Ness said she has improved her service game and groundstrokes.

The abbreviated regular-season schedule concludes in a little more than one month. The SCCAL Championships are slated to take place April 22 at Cabrillo College.

"It is so weird," Van Ness said. "I can't believe it's happened."

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NCAA TOURNAMENT

Madness trip leads to life on lockdown

By Eddie Pells
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS » At Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis on Wednesday, a couple of coaches running laps around the warning track passed different diversions scattered across the minor league ballpark.

In one section, a badminton net. In others, a soccer ball and a football. No sign of a basketball.

When the 1,500 or so players, coaches and staff members in town for the NCAA Tournament want to get a breath of fresh air and a glimpse of some green grass, this is their option. Their only option.

This is life at a basketball **NCAA » PAGE 5**

TUNE IN

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Texas Southern vs. Mount St. Mary's: 2:10 p.m., truTV

Drake vs. Wichita State: 3:27 p.m., TBS

Appalachian State vs. Norfolk State: 5:40 p.m., truTV

UCLA vs. Michigan State: 6:57 p.m., TBS

On the air Thursday

SPRING BASEBALL

10 a.m.	Nationals vs. Mets	MLB
1 p.m.	Cubs vs. Indians	MLB
7 p.m.	Giants vs. Mariners	NBCBA 680
11 p.m.	A's vs. Padres (delay)	MLB

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2 p.m.	First Four: Texas Sth-Mt. St. Mary's	TruTV
3:20 p.m.	First Four: Drake vs. Wichita State	TBS
4 p.m.	NIT: N.C. State vs. Davidson	ESPN
5:30 p.m.	First Four: App. St. vs. Norfolk St.	TruTV
6 p.m.	NIT: SMU vs. Boise State	ESPN
6:50 p.m.	First Four: UCLA vs. Michigan State	TBS

BOXING

6 p.m.	Lightweight: Machado vs. Fierro	NBCSN
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GOLF

11 a.m.	PGA Tour: Honda Classic	GOLF
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NBA

4 p.m.	Jazz at Wizards	NBA
7:30 p.m.	Hornets at Lakers	NBA

NHL

4 p.m.	Flyers at Islanders	NBCCA
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SOCCER

2:30 p.m.	Olympic Qualifying: U.S.-Costa Rica	FS1
5 p.m.	Olympic Qualifying: Mexico-D. Republic	FS1
7 p.m.	Women's USC at UCLA	PAC12

TENNIS

5 p.m.	ATP Acapulco; WTA Monterrey	TENNIS
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WRESTLING

8 a.m.	NCAA D1: Championships	ESPNU
11 a.m.	NCAA D1: Championships	ESPNU
3 p.m.	NCAA D1: Championships	ESPN2
6 p.m.	NCAA D1: Championships	ESPN2

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 cancellations or postponements, listed game times and dates may change.

Warriors

FROM PAGE 3

point guard to run the second unit in place of rookie Nico Mannion would help lift some of those minutes when Stephen Curry and Draymond Green are on the bench. Plus, the Warriors are always on the lookout for two-way wings and floor-spacing big men.

Trade assets

Golden State's best asset is the Timberwolves' first-round pick (protected for selections 1-3 in 2021, unprotected in 2022) acquired in last season's deal that sent D'Angelo Russell to Minnesota in exchange for Andrewiggins. As the Timberwolves toil through the season with the NBA's worst record, this is one of the most valuable trade chips in the league, and not one the Warriors will part with for anyone short of an All-Star.

Same goes for rookie center James Wiseman, who the Warriors selected with the No. 2 pick in November's draft and has shown flashes of a skill set that should be enticing for any rebuilding team. According to league sources, Golden State is committed to Wiseman, and won't move him unless part of a package that nets a perennial All-Star talent.

The Warriors can't trade a pick between now and 2027, and have three other second-round picks to use as sweetener.

Then there's Kelly Oubre Jr., who has been a key part of the Warriors' defense and, at times, an explosive scoring threat. Since he'll be a free agent this summer, the Warriors could move him for a rotation-caliber player under contract next season. The Warriors could also try to deal point guard Brad Wanamaker, who has recently fallen out of the rotation.

Other young players include Eric Paschall, Jordan Poole and Mychal Mulder, but they would more likely be moved in a larger package to make salaries work.

Trade targets

BEAL » There are no indications that Beal is going anywhere, but if Washington were to make him available, few teams could offer a package as strong as Golden State's. Minnesota's top-three protected pick and Wiseman would give the Wizards the means to rebuild on the fly with a young big three consisting of Wiseman, the Minnesota pick and their own 2021 first-round pick. Only a player of at least Beal's caliber would warrant the Warriors unloading all of their assets.

LAVINE AND VUCEVIC » Both players could help the Warriors — LaVine with his scoring and perimeter shooting, and Vucevic with his playmaking, rebounding and shooting from the center position. Golden State could offer the Minnesota pick and contracts,

but it doesn't seem right now that either team is in a place to make that deal. **BARNES** » However interesting this reunion would be, it's unlikely. The Minnesota pick is too valuable to move for Barnes, and other teams (Boston, Miami) seem like more likely landing spots.

JOHN COLLINS » The Warriors could probably get Collins for the Minnesota pick, but where would he play? Collins can space the floor from either the power forward or center position, is young and athletic, but Green and Wiseman are entrenched as the Warriors' frontcourt of the future — or at least the near future in Green's case.

AARON GORDON » The Magic forward is among the hottest names going into the deadline but, like Collins, it's unclear where he would fit in with Golden State. Even if they moved Wiggins in the deal to clear space at small forward, Gordon is a better fit at power forward. Plus, his spotty injury history could be cause for trepidation. **KYLE LOWRY** » Finals experience, hard-nosed defender, can play on and off the ball. But his \$30 million contract is tough to match with salary and he will be a free agent after the season, at which time he may prefer to return home and sign with the Philadelphia 76ers.

VICTOR OLADIPO » Theoretically, Oladipo makes sense as a playmaker and defender, but his injury history is problematic and he will be a free agent this summer.

LONZO BALL » The Warriors and Pelicans have already discussed a deal centered around Ball for Oubre. With the deadline approaching, could they kick the tires again? Ball is a restricted free agent but, if re-signed, could provide Golden State with playmaking, shooting and versatile defense. He could come off the bench or play alongside Curry, Klay Thompson and Green.

ERIC BLEDSOE » Multiple reports indicate that New Orleans has made Bledsoe available. His playmaking and defensive acumen would be helpful off the bench, but he could be too expensive. Bledsoe is under contract for \$18.1 million next season — a steep price for a reserve. Though it's worth noting that his \$19.3 million salary in 2022-23 is only partially guaranteed. **JJ REDICK** » The Pelicans shooting guard could be helpful, but he seems motivated to find his way to the Northeast when he hits free agency this summer.

GEORGE HILL » Hill is a reliable 3-point shooter, ball-handler and defender with deep postseason experience. He's also under contract for next season for a manageable \$10 million that is only partially guaranteed. Because the Warriors cannot trade Oubre back to Oklahoma City during the same season, per league rules, they'd likely have to get a third team involved.

Volleyball

FROM PAGE 3

bor High, Main Beach and Rio Del Mar.

There won't be SCCAL or Central Coast Section tournaments won't be held this year. In 2021-22, beach volleyball will be a CIF-sanctioned sport and feature a postseason.

Another group of county schools will play in a second division. That contingent includes San Lorenzo Valley, Watsonville, Monte Vista Christian, St. Francis, Kirby, Pacific Collegiate and Pajaro Valley.

"COVID has been a tough year on sports, and these student-athletes have been aching for competition," Aptos' new head coach Madison Dueck said. "We're lucky to have a league that has been so patient and willing to get these girls playing and competing in some capacity."

Madi, the older sister of current Mariners' star Peyton, played collegiate beach volleyball for Cal and took over at Aptos in February. The Mariners couldn't ask for a more qualified coach for a beach season: Madi compiled 50 wins during 2017-2020 at Cal, seventh-most in school history.

"I love the beach game and am fortunate enough to have four years of D-I experience in it to share with my players," Dueck said.

The Mariners graduated a large portion of their 2019-2020 team but have three stellar defensive players leading the way, a particular advantage in the two-player beach game.

The younger Dueck, a senior bound for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to play both indoor and beach, is the region's top player. She has been on USA Beach "High Performance" teams since 2013 and her list of accomplishments includes many top placings in USA Volleyball and AAU tournaments. However, recent appendectomy surgery will sideline her for a majority of the season. Emma Yeaman and Leilani Valdez played back-row on Aptos' state championship team and will be major contributors.

"One of our biggest strengths as a team this season is our ball control, which gives us a huge advantage when transitioning to the sand," Dueck said. "Having good ball control is one of the best skills to have as a beach player."

Other top Mariners include Jordyn Waite-Ward, Isabel Pfeiffer and Mikayla Santaella. Incoming freshmen Peyton Westjohn, Avi Boyd and Haley Curutan will bolster the lineup.

Soquel should be solid. The Knights tied Harbor for the regular-season SC-



DAN COYRO - SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

Ciara Cantlen will take to the beach this season for Soquel High's volleyball team.

CAL title in 2019 and won the SCCAL Tournament with sweeps of Aptos and the Pirates. In the CCS playoffs, the Knights were upset by Aptos in a tight match in which Soquel setter Ava Adamsen was injured during the contest.

Soquel returns two superb players in Adamsen and junior Ciara Cantlen, who broke out in 2019 and should be on everyone's radar. The athletic 6-foot Cantlen showed her all-around skills in that SCCAL title match against Harbor with 16 kills and 12 digs in just three sets, and earlier in the year with a 16-kill, 21-dig four-set effort against powerful Saint Francis of Mountain View.

"Ciara is an exceptional all-around player, teammate, and, as important as anything, has a true love for the game," Soquel coach Al Adamsen said. "She has all the shots in the book, yet is still eager to learn and improve."

Indoor setters are often great beach players and that applies to Ava Adamsen.

"Ava has exceptional all-around skills," her coach said. "Indoor, she was the floor leader as the setter and occasional right-side hitter. She also proved herself to be a talented blocker. All these skills are already present on the beach."

The Soquel lineup also features two sophomores: 6-foot-2 Kylee Eze and Maddie Petersen.

Harbor, with three beach courts on campus, shouldn't be overlooked. The top of the Pirates' lineup will be strong with seniors Bibi Bartlett and Natalie Schipper as one duo and juniors Taylan Johnson and Cassandra Kemos as another. Senior captain Kylie Mundell will be a major contributor. The Pirates fill out the ros-

ter with a host of young players, including Kaitlin Lawrence, Holly Pendergraft and Gwen Grigsby.

"Bibi has been one of our most committed athletes since the fall conditioning sessions," Harbor coach Matthew Schutz said. "She has improved dramatically in the time we have been working out on the beach."

Santa Cruz is led by junior Marilu Pally, who will play beach volleyball for Cal. The Cardinals were hit heavily by graduation, losing SCCAL first-team libero Chloe Drysdale and two big hitters in Marlena Diego and Rashonda Rhodes.

"The girls are happy to be together and practicing in some form as a school team, and we are looking forward to some friendly competition against the other schools in the county," Santa Cruz coach Lina Manley-Diaz said.

The Mount Madonna Hawks, as usual, sharpened their talons on fierce SCCAL competition in 2019, and that aided them in their charge to the CIF State Division V title.

Erin Mitchell, who played on Mt. Madonna's first state title team in 2007 and coached the Hawks to their second state championship last year, has departed to get her teaching credential at Humboldt State. Junior varsity coach P.K. McDonald has moved up to take the helm of the Hawks.

"We're going to be led by Liana Kitchell," McDonald said. "She grew up playing beach volleyball and knows the beach game really well. She provides leadership. We also have Savanna Cambell and she is going to play D-III volleyball next year. But we lost a strong senior class. I think we'll be in the middle of the pack. Everyone is excited for the

ONES TO WATCH

Peyton Dueck, Aptos, Sr.: Mariners' star will play indoor and beach volleyball at Cal Poly

Emma Yeaman, Aptos, Jr.: Solid defensive player on Aptos' state title team

Ciara Cantlen, Soquel, Jr.: A front-court force who can play in all six rotations indoors, a dangerous combination on the beach

Ava Adamsen, Soquel, Sr.: Best setter in the area and that touch translates well on the beach

Kylee Eze, Soquel, So.: Tall, agile, 6-foot-2 middle blocker is dominant at the net

Marilu Pally, Santa Cruz, Jr.: Cardinals' ace is committed to playing beach volleyball at Cal

Hannah Fleming, Scotts Valley, So.: A potential D-I beach volleyball talent, she has been organizing beach tournaments during the pandemic

Svea Anderson, Scotts Valley, Sr.: Falcons' star will play at D-III North Park University in Chicago

Liana Kitchell, Mount Madonna, Jr.: Strong front-court player who can also sparkle defensively

Olive Hess, Harbor, Jr.: Experienced Pirate brings package of offense and defense to the beach

opportunity to play. They just want to get out there and have some fun."

Scotts Valley is a dark horse that should not be overlooked. The Falcons have six players with extensive beach experience, including Hannah Fleming, Svea Anderson, libero Joelle Andrews, middle blocker Kylie O'Connor, Sydney Inman and Elise Bullard. Scotts Valley has depth beyond that, led by four-year varsity indoor starter and team captain Kate Shilling.

Fleming, whose parents were both competitive beach volleyball players, will play beach volleyball in college next year. Her 12-kill, 15-dig performance led the Falcons in a big upset of Harbor last season. Anderson is an outstanding outside hitter and she will play indoors at the D-III level in college next season. Andrews has been playing beach volleyball tournaments since the sixth grade. O'Connor is a punishing middle blocker in the indoor game and will bring her power game to the beach.

"With beach volleyball being added as an official sport next spring, this season will draw lots of interest from athletes about how it will look in the future," Schutz said. "While there will not be CCS playoffs this year, we are so happy to be able to practice, compete and bond as a group."

Tennis

FROM PAGE 3

pening because of COVID. But if we get through it, I'm glad. I'm just glad it's happening still."

More than a dozen socially distanced and masked parents lined the cyclone fence at Santa Cruz to take in the action during the COVID-19 pandemic.

No. 2 singles player Isla Garcia-McDougall (6-3, 6-0), No. 3 Hana Blaustein (6-4, 6-1), and No. 4 Ella Summerville (6-2, 6-4) earned straight-sets wins for the Knights.

Soquel also swept the double competition behind the teams of No. 1 Bridget Baskerville and Mariah Montanez (6-1, 6-1), No. 2 Alana Riling and Mia Tomaino (6-0, 6-3), and No. 3 Ruby Storrey and Dani Marlatt (6-1, 6-0).

SCOTTS VALLEY 7, AT ST. FRANCIS 0 » Senior Helen Elmer defeated Aracely Lehman 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, and the Falcons swept the Sharks in the SCCAL opener for both teams at Pajaro Dunes.

A trio of sophomores helped the Falcons dominate the remainder of the singles matches: No. 2 Veronica Farquhar beat Aidan Croghan 6-4, 6-3, No. 3 Emma Dyc-O'Neil blanked Claudia Kehoe



SHMUEL THALER - SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Two-time defending individual SCCAL champion Tallia Harper of Santa Cruz High began the 2021 with a convincing victory over Soquel's Maya Van Ness on Tuesday.

6-0, 6-0, and No. 4. Livia Johnston silenced Viviana Moreno 6-0, 6-0.

Miranda Larson and

Liz Bahr defeated Peyton Croghan & Makena Bedolla, 6-3, 6-4, at No. 1 doubles, Cheyenne Coo-

per and Stella Cheney beat Claire Croghan and Alexa Garcia, 6-0, 6-1, in the No. 2 spot, and Sydney Young and Liat Weinstein defeated Christina Flynn & Ava Meschi, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 3.

Scotts Valley hosts Monte Vista Christian on Thursday at 3 p.m.

APTOS 7, AT MVC 0 » Mariners freshman Rebecca Fuller won her first match at No. 1 singles, beating Kayleigh Bajarin 6-4, 6-4 on the road in the teams' SCCAL opener.

No. 2 Juliet Sweet (6-1, 6-2), No. 3 Autumn Zaretsky (6-2, 6-4) and No. 4 Madison James (6-0, 6-1) also earned singles wins.

Annika Lee and Holly Hegna, Santana Rigor and Madison Phillips, and Chloe Chausse and Ashley Lavender earned doubles wins.

SLV 2, AT WATSONVILLE 1 » Shorthanded as prospective players get their physicals and paperwork cleared, the Cougars won two singles matches to secure the win.

Kendall Fournier beat Brooklyn llamas, 6-2, 6-3, in the No. 1 spot and Tessa Jacquerot prevailed 6-3, 7-5 at No. 2 over Erin De La Torre.

Watsonville's Haley Koda and Angelina Urabe won at No. 1 doubles, 6-3, 6-1.

Contact reporter Jim Seimas at 831-706-3256.