



# 2017 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships

## Sandia Captures Third State Title

The Sandia Matadors (17-6) defeated the Centennial Hawks (23-2) in the finals of the 2017 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships to capture the Class 6A title. The Matadors won 3-2. It was the first title for Sandia in volleyball since 2013 and the third in school history.

Set one was a back and forth battle between the two schools until a tie at 15-15. Then, Sandia put together an 8-1 run to take a commanding 23-16 lead. The Hawks managed a few more points but the lead was too much, as the Matadors took set one, 25-19.

The Hawks jumped out early in set two and looked to be in control, holding an 18-9 lead. However, the Matadors made it interesting, battling back to with an 11-5 run, cutting the Hawks' lead to 22-20. Centennial rattled off the next three points of the set to even the match at 1-1, winning 25-20.

The score was tied four times in the early part of set three, as neither team was willing to give an inch. Then, with the score tied at 10-10, Sandia went on an 8-0 run to grab an 18-10 lead in the set. Over the remainder of the set, the two teams exchanged points, with Sandia eventually taking set three, 25-16 and a 2-1 lead in the match.

Set four was do-or-die for the Hawks and the defending champions were not going to go down without a fight. The Hawks never trailed in the set but at the same time never had more than a three-point lead until late in the match. With the score 17-14 in favor of Centennial, the Hawks finished out set four on an 8-3 run, winning 25-17 and forcing a fifth and deciding set.

The fifth set of a classic Class 6A Championship match did not disappoint. Over the course of the set, there were six ties and four lead changes, as neither team was willing to let the blue trophy slip through their fingers. With the set tied at 9-9, Sandia scored the next two points to go up 11-9. Those two points proved to be the difference, as Centennial was never able to get closer than two points again. Sandia won set five, 15-12, capturing the 2017 Class 6A title, three sets to two.



## Los Lunas Wins Third Blue Trophy in School History

For the second time in three years, the Los Lunas Tigers (21-4) hoisted the blue trophy overhead, beating St. Pius X (20-3) 3-2 in the finals of the 2017 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q 5A State Volleyball Championships.

It was also the third state title for Los Lunas, as the Tigers had won back in 1979 and most recently in 2015.

In set one, the Sartans moved out to a quick 15-9 lead over the Tigers. Los Lunas pulled to within two at 16-14 but St. Pius X was too much in set one winning 25-19. Set two was controlled by the Tigers, as Los Lunas never trailed in the set until 24-23. The Sartans snuck out the final point to take the set 25-23 and a commanding 2-0 lead in the match. There were 13 ties in set two.

Set three started much the same as set two, as the Tigers controlled the majority of the match. This time, however, Los Lunas built a lead at 14-9 and 22-16, which were too steep for the Sartans to climb back, as the Tigers took set three 25-23.

Knowing their backs were against the wall in set four, the Tigers jumped out to an early 4-1 lead. The Sartans tied the score at 5-5 before Los Lunas went on a 10-5 run to grab a 15-10 lead. Another 10-4 run by the Tigers gave them the win at 25-17 and tied the match at 2-2, heading into the fifth and final set.

In the fifth set, Los Lunas jumped out to an early 5-2 lead before St. Pius X battled back to tie the set at 6-6. A 5-0 run by the Sartans put them up 10-6 but the Tigers refused to go away, eventually tying the set at 13-13. The two teams exchanged points until the set was tied at 18-18. Two hard fought points by the Tigers gave them the win (20-18) and the 5A State title for the third time in school history.



## Sandia Prep Wins Back-to-Back Titles

The Sandia Prep Sundevils (23-1) hoisted the blue trophy for the third straight time at the 2017 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships, with a 3-0 win over the Robertson Cardinals (17-9) in the class 4A championship match.

It was the fourth title in school history for Sandia Prep.

The Sundevils and Cardinals battled back and forth throughout most of the match. Just as Sandia Prep tried to pull away from Robertson, the Cardinals kept it close, as the Sundevils held a two-point advantage at 14-12 midway through the first set. A 5-2 run by Sandia Prep pushed their lead to 19-14. The Sundevils finished off the set on a 4-1 run, taking set one, 25-21.

Sandia Prep jumped out to an early 8-3 lead in set two and maintained at least a five-point advantage





until the score was 16-11. The Sundevils finished off the set on a 9-6 run to take a 2-0 lead in the match, winning set two 25-20.

In set three, the Sundevils jumped out to a 6-0 lead to start the set. Robertson cut the lead to three at 10-7 and again at 14-11. The two teams exchanged points over the next several minutes of the match until a 7-3 run by Sandia Prep pushed their lead to 21-14. The Cardinals continued to fight but it was just too much in the end, as the Sundevils took set three 25-16 and the blue trophy.

### **Texico Completes 4-Peat in Class 3A**

The Texico Wolverines (21-3) defeated the Santa Rosa Lions (18-6) in three sets, 3-0, to win the Class 3A 2017 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships, completing a four-peat. It was the Wolverines' 11th title since 2001 and the 14th overall in school history.

In set one, Santa Rosa led most of the way and at one time by as much as four at 14-10. The three-time defending champions weren't going down that easy and eventually tied the set at 18-18, before going on a 7-0 run to take set one 25-18.

Set two was another back and forth battle between the two schools and, just like in set one, the score was tied at the midway point at 11-11 before Texico began to pull away again. An 8-4 run by the Wolverines gave Texico a 20-15 lead and a 5-1 run ended the set with 25-16 victory and a 2-0 lead in the match.

With six lead changes and six ties to begin the third set, it looked as though the Lions were not going away without a fight.

With the score tied 14 all, Texico went on a 7-0 run to take a 21-14 lead. Santa Rosa then cut the lead to 21-18 on a 4-0 run but the lead was too much to overcome as Texico captured set three, 25-19 and the 3A championship for the fourth consecutive year.



### **Logan Wins First Volleyball Title in School History**

The Logan Longhorns (21-3) defeated the Ramah Mustangs (20-3) in five sets, 3-2, in the 2017 Class 2A Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships. The Longhorns earned their first title in school history in the five set thriller.

In set one, Logan jumped out to an early 14-8 lead and looked to have the match under control. However, Ramah battled back, going on an 11-0 run to take a 19-14 lead. Logan pulled back with-in one at 19-18 but the Mustangs would hold on in the end to take set one 25-20.

Set two started much the same as set one but this time Logan maintained a lead throughout the set and eventually tied the match at 1-1 with a 25-19 win. Ramah took an early lead in set three



and seemed to be in control at 14-10. The Longhorns, however, tied the score at 16 all and put together an 8-1 run to take a 24-17 lead. Ramah did score a couple of quick points in the end but it was too much to overcome and Logan took set three, 25-19.

In set four, Logan was poised to close the door on Ramah but the Mustangs did not give up so easily. Logan would lead by as much as five at 15-10 before Ramah scratched their way back into the set, eventually tying the score at 20 all. The two teams went back and forth over the next few points, tying the score at 22, 23 and 24 before the Mustangs put together two straight points to close out set four with a 26-24 win, tying the match at 2-2.

In the fifth and final set, the two teams went back and forth. With the score tied at 5-5, Logan went on a 4-1 run to take a 9-6 lead. Ramah got to within one at 10-9 but the Longhorns scored the next five points to capture the 2017 2A Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championship.

### **Melrose Wins Sixth State Volleyball Title**

The Melrose Buffaloes (19-7) captured their sixth blue trophy in school history at the 2017 Class A Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships with a 3-0 victory over the Elida Tigers (23-3). The win broke the Tigers' streak of seven straight championships.

The Class A match was a unique one, as it pitted a rematch from 2016.

In set one, Elida was up early on Melrose, holding the lead pretty much the entire match and, at one point, a five-point lead at 17-12. The Buffaloes then went on a 5-1 run to cut the lead to one at 18-17. Over the course of the next several minutes, the set would be tied three times. Melrose took their first lead at 23-22, eventually winning set one 25-23.

Elida was the aggressor early in set two, taking a 7-3 lead to start the set. Melrose then pulled to within three at 13-10. Melrose tied the set at 18-18 and took their first lead at 19-18. Set two went into extra points, as neither team was willing to give an inch. However, Melrose eventually took set two, 26-24, and a commanding two sets to none lead.

Just like in the previous two sets, Elida jumped out early and looked to stay alive in the match, holding a 7-4 lead and later in the set a 15-11 lead. A 6-2 run by Melrose tied the set at 17-17. The Buffaloes grabbed the lead again late at 20-18. The seven-time defending champs continued all the way to the end but it was Melrose's day, as the Buffaloes finished off set three with a 26-24 victory and claim to the 2017 Class A title.

