



REAL TEXAS BAR-B-Q®

2022 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships

Gateway Christian Captures First Title in School History

For the third straight year, Melrose met up with Gateway Christian in the Class A final at the Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class 4A State Volleyball Championships. This season, Gateway Christian was the one lifting the blue trophy at the end of the season as the Warriors beat two-time defending champ Melrose 3-1 to claim the Class A Championship. It's the first state volleyball title for Gateway Christian.



"This season is a culmination of 16 years of coaching at Gateway Christian," said head coach Kerri Pirtle who also won a state title as a player with Goddard in 1999. "This is my last year and these girls earned everything. They worked so hard this season and said from the beginning they were going to do it together."

Gateway Christian surprised previously unbeaten Melrose by taking the first two games, 25-19 and 25-20. The Warriors couldn't hold off Melrose for the sweep, dropping the third game to the top seed, 24-26. Gateway Christian claimed the title with a clinching 25-21 score in game four. Both teams finished the year with identical 26-1 records, each school losing to the other.

Lagina Acoma Wins Second Straight Championship

It was a repeat feat for the Laguna Acoma Hawks. The top seed in the tournament beat perennial powerhouse Texico in the Class 2A final to win the Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class 4A State Volleyball Championships. It's back-to-back state titles for the Hawks.



“Last year we won our first state championships and to double it is that much sweeter,” said head coach Esther Lorenzo.

Laguna Acoma was in control of the Wolverines (19-8) the entire match, winning the first two games by identical 25-14 scores and clinching with a 25-19 count in the final game. Laguna Acoma finished the season with a 25-1 record. They’ve won 35 of their last 36 matches dating back to last year.

St. Michael’s Captures 3A Title

The 2022 Class 3A final was a rematch of the previous season, but the outcome was different. St. Michael’s beat defending state champ Robertson 3-1 in the Class 3A final of the Rudy’s Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class 4A State Volleyball Championships. It’s the first state championship for St. Michael’s since 2018.

“To cap off the year like this is one you’ll always remember, It’s one we’ve been working for this entire season,” said St. Michael’s junior Alex Crespin.



St. Michael’s (26-1) won the first game 25-17. The Lady Horsemen dropped the second game to their district rival by a 26-24 count. St. Michael’s would win the final two games 25-16 and 25-21. The championship match was the third meeting this season between St. Michael’s and Robertson (22-5), with each squad beating the other on the road during the regular season.

Goddard Captures First Title Since 2013

The Goddard Rockets came into the postseason as the #1 seed and finished on top. Goddard swept St. Pius X 3-0 to win the Rudy’s Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class 4A State Volleyball Championship. It’s Goddard’s first state volleyball title since 2013. For the Rockets, it was their third championship game in five years.

“Everything we fought for, the losses we took and the wins we made, it was all worth it,” said Goddard senior Alissa Benavides. “We’re more than just teammates, we’re sisters, and that’s what it takes to win a state championship like this.”

The first game between the Rockets and Sartans (21-6) could have gone either way. The Rockets prevailed on the final two



points to take it 29-27. That momentum carried Goddard to victory in the final two games 25-16 and 25-20. Goddard (23-4) ended the season on a 15-match win streak.

La Cueva Wins Back-to-Back Titles

The 2022 Class 5A state champion was the same as the 2021 winner. For the second year in a row, the La Cueva Bears finished the season on top at the Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships. La Cueva topped Las Cruces (22-5) in the final 3-games-to-1. The Bears finished the season with a perfect 27-0 record. They now have a 47-match win streak dating back to last season.

"We really didn't want to go with that one loss again," said La Cueva sophomore Sophie Diouf. "We've been working all season to get that undefeated title and go out the way we should."

La Cueva won the first game, never trailing, 25-20. The Bears then dropped the second set to Las Cruces 18-25, but rallied to win the next two games 25-17, 25-19. It's La Cueva's fourth state title in five seasons, and fifth state championship overall.

