



2016 Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships

Centennial Captures Second State Title

The Centennial Hawks (24-1) defeated the Las Cruces Bulldawgs (18-11) in the finals of the 2016 Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships to capture the class 6A title. The Hawks won 3-1, capping off an incredible season, losing just six sets all season long. It was the first time that the Bulldawgs were in the finals since 2006.

Centennial maintained a small lead early in the first set, holding a 7-4 advantage. The Hawks then put together an 8-2 run in the middle of the set, stretching their lead to 15-7. The Bulldawgs would get to within seven points at 16-9 and fought off four set points but in the end Centennial was too much, taking set one, 25-15.

In set two, it was all Centennial. The score was close early as the Hawks held a 7-5 lead over the Bulldawgs. Then a 14-3 run pushed the score to 21-9 in favor of Centennial. The Bulldawgs managed just three more points in the set, as the Hawks took a 2-0 lead in the match, winning set two 25-11.

Set three looked to be the final set of the match, as Centennial jumped out to an early 16-10 lead. However, Las Cruces was determined not to be swept. The Bulldawgs went on a 10-4 run to tie the set up at 20 all, finishing the set on a 5-1 run, making it 2-1 in the match with a 25-21 victory in set three.

The Hawks opened set four with a quick 7-2 lead. Las Cruces tried to keep it close, exchanging points with Centennial over the next few serves but a 9-3 run by the Hawks gave them a 19-8 lead. Again, the Bulldawgs fought off four match points but the Hawks' lead was too much to overcome, as Centennial won set four 25-16 and hoisted the blue trophy for the second time in three years.



St. Pius X Wins Seventh Blue Trophy in School History

For the first time since 2012 and for the seventh time in school history, the St. Pius X Sartans (21-2) took home the blue trophy with a 3-0 win over the Goddard Rockets (12-13) in the 5A finals of the 2016 Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships.

It was also the first time since 2013 that Goddard had been in the championship match.

In set one, the Sartans moved out to a quick 11-3 lead over the Rockets. Goddard pulled to within six at 12-6 but a 9-4 run by St. Pius X gave the Sartans a large lead at 21-10. The Rockets then rattled off four straight points but it was not enough as the Sartans took set one, 25-14.

Again in the set two, the Sartans quickly jumped out to an early lead at 7-2. Goddard cut the lead to three at 10-7 but St. Pius X closed out set two on a 15-3 run, winning 25-10 and taking a 2-0 set lead in the finals.

Set three was much the same, as the Sartans' outside hitters and blockers were just too much for the Rockets. St. Pius X started the match on a 10-2 run but Goddard wasn't going away quietly, cutting the lead to three at 13-10. The Rockets took their first lead of the match at 15-14, but following a Sartans' timeout to regroup, St. Pius X capped off the match with an 11-1 run, to win 25-16 and capture the state title for the first time since 2012.



Sandia Prep Wins Back-to-Back Titles

The Sandia Prep Sundevils (23-1) hoisted the blue trophy for the second straight time at the 2016 Rudy's "Country Store" & 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 third 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, 25-18.

Sandia Prep jumped out to an early 8-3 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 9-3 run to take a 2-0 lead in the match, winning set two 25-14.

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 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 Cardinal continued to fight but it was just too much in the end as the Sundevils took set three 25-17 and the blue trophy.



Texico Completes 3-Peat in Class 3A

The Texico Wolverines (21-3) defeated the Dexter Demons (18-6) in four sets, 3-1, to win the Class 3A 2016 Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships, completing a three-peat. It was the Wolverines' 10th title since 2001 and the 13th overall in school history.

In set one, Texico and Dexter seesawed back and forth early, as the set was tied nine times between the beginning of the set until the score was 10-10. Texico then went on a 9-2 run, taking a 19-12 lead. Dexter cut the lead to five at 20-15 and then tied the set at 22-22 before Texico edged out the Demons in set one, 25-23.

Set two was another back and forth battle between the two schools and just like in set one, the score was tied at 10-10 before Dexter began to pull away this time. The Demons took a five-point lead at 20-15 and, over the next few minutes of the set, the two teams exchanged points. The Wolverines fought off four set points but Dexter eventually took set two, 25-19, to pull the match even at one set apiece.

Texico and Dexter combined for nine lead changes in the early part of set three and were tied at 13-13 midway through the set before Texico put together a 10-3 run, taking a 23-16 lead. The Demons, however, pulled to within four at 23-19 but solid net play by the Wolverines allowed them to take set three, 25-19 and a 2-1 lead in the match.

Set four was again a close the entire way, although Dexter never led in the final and deciding set. With the score 10-8 in favor of the Wolverines, Texico put together an 8-3 run and held an 18-11 advantage late in the set. Dexter would cut the lead to five at 23-18 but it was as close as they would get, as Texico took set four 25-19 and the match, 3-1.



Mora Wins First Volleyball Title Since 1986

The Mora Rangerettes (20-3) defeated the Mesilla Valley Christian SonBlazers (22-2) in four sets, 3-1, in the 2016 Class 2A Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships. The Rangerettes earned their second title in school history and the first since 1986.

In set one, Mora jumped out to an early 4-1 lead but Mesilla Valley tied the score at 10-10, midway through the set. Mora then went on a 7-3 run to take a 17-13 lead. The Rangerettes maintained the lead over the next few minutes of the set but the SonBlazers slowly chipped away, eventually tying the set at 22 all. Mora finished the set on a 3-0 run and took an early 1-0 lead in the match.

The Rangerettes again jumped out early in set two with a 7-2 lead. However, Mesilla Valley, like in set one, fought back and tied the score at 8-8. An 8-2 run by Mora extended their lead to 16-8. The two teams exchanged points before Mesilla Valley put together a 4-0 run to cut the Mora lead to 21-16. In the end, Mora's lead was too much to overcome in the second set, as the Rangerettes won 25-18 while taking a commanding 2-0 lead in the match.



Set three was all Mesilla Valley early, as the SonBlazers held a 7-2 lead. Mora pulled to within two at 13-11, before a 5-0 run by Mesilla Valley pushed their lead to 18-11. The Rangerettes tried to chip away at the SonBlazers' lead but it wasn't enough as Mesilla Valley pulled to within one set at 2-1, with a 25-16 win in set three.

Mora jumped out to a 7-0 lead in set four but Mesilla Valley cut the lead to three at 13-1, midway through the set. Back and forth the teams went as the SonBlazers continued to keep the Rangerettes within reach. Then, with the score at 22-19 in favor of Mora, the Rangerettes rattled off two straight points to bring the score to 24-19 and match point. Mesilla Valley scored three straight to fight off elimination but Mora would get the final kill and the Class 2A title with a 25-21 win in set four.

Elida Continues Dynasty in 1A Volleyball

The Elida Tigers (22-3) captured their seventh straight blue trophy at the 2016 Class A Rudy's "Country Store" & Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships with a 3-1 victory over the Melrose Buffaloes (17-8). It was also the ninth title in school history for the Tigers.

The Class A match was a unique one, as it pitted two defending state champions from 2015. Melrose won the 2A title, while Elida had won the A title. It was the first time since 2000 that two defending state champions from the previous year met in the finals the following year. Melrose (A) and Animas (2A) both won blue trophies in 1999 and then faced each other in 2000 for the A championship.

In set one, Melrose jumped out to an early 9-2 lead and looked to have the six-time defending champs on the ropes. Elida would slowly chip away at Melrose's lead tying the score at 10-10 and then again at 20-20 before pulling away and winning game one 25-19, on a 5-1 run.

Elida was the aggressor early in set two, taking a 6-1 lead to start the set. Melrose then pulled to within one at 8-7 before 7-0 run by the Tigers gave them a 15-7 lead. The Buffaloes would stay within striking distance and cut the Elida lead to three at 23-20 but the Tigers were too much, taking set two 25-23 and a 2-0 match lead.

Set three was a tight one the entire way. Elida held no more than a five-point lead over Melrose until late in the set. Melrose tied the score at 19-19 and the two teams exchanged points over the next several minutes of the match, as the score was tied 26 all. Elida put the match away with two straight points, grabbing their seventh blue trophy in a row.

