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NEWS  
**Small change makes big difference for JSerra**

*The Lions switch personnel at libero in between games in a victory over Laguna Beach last week.*

BY NATHAN PERCY  
/ STAFF WRITER

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JOSH BARBER, JOSH BARBER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For the JSerra High girls' volleyball team, a simple substitution made a world of difference and helped the Lions to a 3-1 victory over Laguna Beach Thursday night at Laguna Beach High.

After dropping the first game, Lions' coach Mike Murphy put senior Mary Douglass at libero and saw immediate defensive improvements.

The Lions swept the next three games and won the match 20-25, 25-16, 25-17, 25-23.

"Mary's a senior and she's a terrific player," Murphy said. "She really takes control and initiative in the back row and is the glue that holds together our serve-serve. We were in system a lot."

As much as Douglass helped the Lions' defense, unforced errors and a lack of communication hindered the Breakers most of the night.

Despite taking the first game, Laguna Beach struggled at the start of the second and third games, leading to lopsided losses.

The Breakers started to figure it out in the fourth game, sparked by setter and opposite Jamie Robbins and outside hitter Sabrina Stillwell, who nearly helped force a fifth game.

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“We at least tried to get the ball to those two hitters to get us back in it, we weren’t really finding success elsewhere,” said Breakers coach Raul Papaleo. “Sabrina did a good job, we just fell short at the end.”

In the end, the errors caught up with the Breakers and JSerra, behind strong offensive performances from outside hitters Kayla Demari and Gigi Hernandez, improved to 2-1 on the young season.

Laguna Beach (0-3) has played three tough opponents to open its season, but has yet to find anything to show for it.

Hernandez led the Lions with 14 kills, followed by Demari with 13. Murphy used two setters during the match, and Hannah Joyce led with 25 assists.

Kaitlyne Schryer added 10 assists for JSerra and Douglass led the defense with 30 digs in three games.

“We served tough, they’re a good passing team,” Murphy said. “We just stuck to the plan. I told them after the first set not to worry about it. We turned it around and beat a good team, it was a good win for us.”

Stillwell finished with 14 kills for Laguna Beach, Cameron Dorn added 10 kills and Jamie Robbins had six kills to go with 13 assists.

Setter Briana Boyd added 14 assists for the Breakers, who won the first game thanks to a strong front line credited with five blocks for points and caused problems for JSerra’s attack.

However, the next three games were filled with frustrating moments for Papaleo, who watched his team come out flat in the second game and commit seven errors in the third game.

The errors continued in the fourth game, Laguna Beach committed 11 to spoil the chemistry between Robbins and Stillwell.

“We killed ourselves with unforced errors,” Papaleo said. “We’re not passing well, we can’t play well unless the touches are good. Not communicating and letting balls drop between the players – there’s a lot of work we need to do.”

The Breakers went 1-3 in the Division 1 pool of the Dave Mohs Tournament over the weekend.

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