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An Optimistic Ending To High School Volleyball

At the end of every volleyball season, the coaches of 40 different high school volleyball teams in the greater Sacramento area pick local senior players to compete in the annual Optimist All Star Game. This year, the Varsity Volleyball coach of CB, Mr. James Todd chose, Sophia Overstreet ('20) and Sydney Durana ('20) to compete [...]

Written by: Gracie Balantac - Talon Staff Writer

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At the end of every volleyball season, the coaches of 40 different high school volleyball teams in the greater Sacramento area pick local senior players to compete in the annual Optimist All Star Game. This year, the Varsity Volleyball coach of CB, **Mr. James Todd** chose, **Sophia Overstreet ('20)** and **Sydney Durana ('20)** to compete for the Girl's South Team for the Small Schools game.

In preparation for her final high school volleyball game in her number eight jersey, Sydney went all out in practices.



Sydney Durana ('20) and Sophia Overstreet ('20) with old teammate and fellow "south-sider"

"We were scheduled to have two practices at Mira Loma High School with coaches Kalani Pananganan of El Dorado High School and Devin Elmore of Mira Loma High School," Sydney said. "One of our practices ended up getting cancelled, but during the one practice, we got to know and love our teammates and coaches."

"I got to see old club teammates and also meet new people that I can relate to through volleyball," Sydney stated.

This is the first year participating in the games for Sophia and Sydney because it is only available to seniors, but the two CB All-Stars have watched the Optimist games in past years.

"I love watching games like this because you see how much fun they have, and it's awesome to see everyone just let it all out on the court one last time," Sydney said. "Being able to play in one of these games, it's amazing."

The game was at Capital Christian High School on Sunday December 8th with Small Schools game at 1:00 pm with the Large Schools following. Unfortunately, the South Team lost in their match, but our CB girls had of friends and family to help cheer them on.

"I saw my friends and my mom in the stands and it made my heart warm with the amount of support I have received throughout the years," Sydney said with a smile.

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Despite losing, the South Small Schools Team was in great spirits after their final high school match.

"I'm not too upset that we lost — I'm more upset that I won't be playing high school volleyball anymore. We all are. But good things must come to an end and I'm so honored I was picked to play in one last game with Sophia," Sydney said.

Sophia and Sydney's high school volleyball experience may be over, but their love for the sport is not. They made their community proud by playing hard and representing CB.

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