

The Pueblo Chieftain

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South topples West, leads S-CL

Colts take Cyclones down in three straight games.

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Potential matched results Thursday night for the South High School volleyball team.

The Colts cruised past perennial power Pueblo West 26-24, 25-21, 25-11 in a key South-Central League match at the Cyclones' gym.

"We just kept up our energy level and played well the entire match," junior South middle hitter Megan Tapia said. "This was a huge win for us."

The Colts upped their record to 7-3 overall and to 5-1 in the S-CL. West dropped to 8-3 overall and 5-1 in league. South now leads the league by virtue of its head-to-head win over the Cyclones. The Colts' lone league loss was in four games at Alamosa.

West has won seven of the last eight S-CL crowns and it advanced to the Class 4A state tournament in 2001, 2002 and 2006. "The girls started playing well Tuesday when we beat Pueblo County and everything just came together for us," South coach Tiffany Shrewsbury said. "This was a big win and I'm just so proud of the way my entire team played. Everybody did their part."

In the opener, the Colts and Cyclones were locked in a battle before South captured the narrow win.

The Cyclones countered and led Game 2 16-11 when the Colts could not make a return.

Following a spike by Rachael Ratzlaff, West kept the lead at 19-16. That's when the Colts came alive. And after Dakotah Russ' failed spike, South had a 20-19 edge. Tapia provided back-to-back service aces to push the Colts ahead 23-19. Moments later, South won when Russ served into the net.

"We had our opportunities to win Game 1 and Game 2, but we didn't take advantage of those opportunities," first-year West coach Greg Clark said.

The Colts were never threatened in Game 3, thanks to great play from Tapia and senior outside hitter Sarah Housman.

"This was awesome (Thursday night)," Housman said. "This is the first time we've beaten Pueblo West at that their home gym since I've been here."

Clark kept the defeat in perspective.

"We play matches like this so we will be ready come districts, regionals and state," Clark said. "The girls played with a lot of heart. We just have some things we need to correct."