Volleyball takes fourth in NCAA tourny

By Victor J. Dinak
LA JOLLA, Calif. — The women’s volleyball team took fourth place in the NCAA Division III Tournament here last weekend.

The squad dropped its semifinal match 15-7, 15-7, 16-18, 15-4, to the tournament’s top seed, the University of California at San Diego, and then lost the third-place match against the third seed and defending national champions, the University of La Verne, 15-7, 15-5, 15-12, 15-7.

In other tournament action, second seed Elmhurst (Ill.) College defeated the University of La Verne in the semifinals, 3-1, and went on to upset UCSD in the finals, 3-1.

The first semifinal match pitied MIT versus the UCSD Tritons. The Tritons, all but one of whom were Californians, have been ranked first all season in the NCAA Division III coaches’ poll and have made both finals in the tournament’s two-year history.

Tritons start well

The Tritons came out strong in the first game of the best-of-five match. The Engineers started sluggishly, quickly falling victim to UCSD’s细腻 defense. Barbara Wesslund ’84 served an ace to open the game andafter a series of errors, the Tritons had a 4-0 lead. The engineers refused to quit. Instead, they dug in and played intense defense, showing the California crowd that there is volleyball in the East.

UCSD had two opportunities to increase its lead but the engineers held them on both occasions. Wesslund served for two assists. Jerry Smith ’85 and Julie Koster ’85, as well as blocks by Barbara Wesslund ’84, Julie Koster ’85, and Janette Kauth ’85, answered with two of their own, two of which were service aces.

The Tritons broke the Engineers’ serve and added two points to their own score, bringing themselves within two points of the match. The Engineers pressed on, Munro serving for two with Koster’s net assistance to bring the score to 7-5 in favor of UCSD.

Koster stopped UCSD’s next scoring attempt with a commanding block, clearing the way for Kauth to serve. Kauth added one with Munro and Koster blocking at the net. UCSD answered with a point of its own before Wesslund spiked the ball into the net.

The Tritons then put three points together, despite a Munro dig. Munro’s serve was 17-16 lead. Cantu again served, and after a series of shots, Cantu and Amy Smith blocked a Triton spike, giving the engineers the game and earning the respect of the West Coast crowd.

The fourth game was UCSD’s. Kauth gave the engineers an initial lead of 2-0 with Munro spiking a Heng set. UCSD promptly answered with one. The two teams then traded points, spikes, and blocks before UCSD’s teams dominated.

Barbara Wesslund ’84 faced a tough defense from UCSD blockers during the first elimination round of NCAA Division III championship play. Doran broke the game open by serving for six points, many Engineer mistakes.

The Engineers held UCSD to two service attempts. UCSD’s Kauth, Cantu, and Munro attempts fell victim to UCSD’s quick style of play. The Tritons then put three points together despite a Munro dig, and Cantu broke the serve with a kill.

oulders and Porsche Carrera Sunglasses

20% Off On All Prescription Eyewear

Offer not valid with other promotions

Cambridge store only

5 Brattle St. (Harvard Sq.), Cambridge
876-0851

Tech photo by Omar S. Vakf

Montgomery Frost Lloyd’s Inc.
Prescription Opticians
Quality Eyewear Since 1870

Prescriptions Filled Quickly and Accurately
Ray-Ban, Vuarnet,
and Porsche Carrera Sunglasses

Take a Greater Ft. Lauderdale Break.
Hollywood Pompano Beach Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Deerfield Beach

For a Spring Break that’ll blow you away.