

1994 CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN VOLLEYBALL TEAM



PROFILE

The 1994 Castro Valley High Girls Volleyball Team had some big sneakers to fill.

The tremendously talented 1993 team had gone 28-4 and won the North Coast Section Division II Championship. Trouble was, there were 10 seniors on that team who had graduated. The '94 team had just four seniors who had played the year before.

As if that wasn't enough, the 1994 Trojans had a new coach, Eric Boice, who had been the junior varsity coach under the very successful Glen Mitchell. Boice had to meld the new girls on the team with the veterans. It wasn't always easy.

"Eric kept telling us we were only as strong as our weakest link," recalled Heather (Sammons) Miller, the league's Most Valuable Player that year. That meant the team had to come together as a unit and that's exactly what happened.



1994 CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The season culminated with a five-set victory over Ukiah in the NCS finals, a thriller that saw the Trojans come back from a two-set deficit. Alyssa (Carbonetti) Bellevue, the senior setter and co-captain, described what happened after the second set.

“It was the apex of my frustration,” she said. “I was just making dumb mistakes. Eric pulled me aside and told me to get that frustrated look off my face and get out there and win this game. He kind of reamed me out.”

With a mind reset, the Trojans came out and won the next three sets, each one a nail biter. It may not have been as easy as the year before but, to the seniors, it was more satisfying.

“No one expected us to win it all in 1994. It was a surprise,” Boice said.

“It can’t be overstated how important the girls before us were to our success,” said Alyssa. “They set the tone.”

In addition to those already mentioned, the 1994 team consisted of Amy Kohl, Barbara Klews, Brandi Walls, Gigi Townsend, Nicole Abella, Judi Behnken, Meghan Sutcliffe, Leslie Welch, Shauna Welch, Sara Szalay and Jill Schmitz. Boice’s assistant coaches were John Hierro, Tom Sammons, Dean Sutcliffe, Eric Jacobson and Jeff Mar. Marilyn Bowman served as team coordinator.