SD City badminton players Duprat, Nguyen are honored

The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference has selected San Diego City College badminton players Darby Duprat and Thau Nguyen as its Women’s Athletes of the Week for the week that ended Sunday.

Duprat, a sophomore from Hoover High School, and Nguyen, a sophomore from Crawford, led the Knights to their fourth straight PCAC team championship and teamed up to win the conference doubles title.

Duprat and Nguyen then defeated East Los Angeles’ Yuki Tai and Suki Kwan 21-7, 21-17 in first-round doubles and beat Khanh Dinh and Zahn Wong 21-11, 21-13 in second-round doubles as the Knights defeated the Huskies 17-4 in the Southern California championship match and advanced to Thursday’s match with De Anza in Cupertino for the state team title.

It’s the third straight year unbeaten City College (7-0) has played for the state title.

Honorable mention for the week went to Palomar softball player Kristina Carbajal and Grossmont softball player Amanda Hartnett.

Carbajal, a freshman from Mission Hills High went 3-for-4, doubled and had three RBI’s as the top-seeded Comets downed San Bernardino Valley 15-0 in the first game of the teams’ best 2-of-3 playoff series, then was 4-for-4 with a homer, triple and three RBIs as Palomar swept with a 10-6 victory.

Hartnett, a freshman from Steele Canyon High, went 4-for-4 with two RBIs in an 8-4 loss to Cypress to begin the teams’ first-round best 2-of-3 series. The second-seeded Chargers eventually swept the Griffins.
Honorable mention went to San Diego Mesa tennis player Sophia Najera, Palomar tennis player Remy Littrell and Grossmont softball player Jennifer Schuff.

Najera, a freshman left-hander from San Diego Charter High School, was PCAC Athlete of the Week on March 9 and couldn’t receive the award a second time, won the singles championship in the CCCAA State Community College Tournament at Ojai. Seeded No. 9, she upset No. 1 seed Maya Mammetguliyeva from Fresno City College and Turkmenistan in the finals.

Littrell, a sophomore from Valley Center High and the two-time PCAC Player of the Year, upset No. 2 seed Shay Fulton 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 to reach the state quarterfinals were she was eliminated. Littrell received the ITA’s Region I (California community colleges) Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award.

Schuff, a sophomore shortstop from Patrick Henry High, went 2-for-4-4 with an RBI as the Griffins, who finished second, downed Mesa 4-2. She batted .466 on the season.