Mesa’s Mootry, IVC’s Lerno Women’s Athletes of Week

Volleyball players Alexandra Mootry of San Diego Mesa College and Megan Lerno (Imperial Valley) are Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Women’s Athletes of the Week.

Mootry, a sophomore middle blocker from Patrick Henry High School, helped lead the Olympians to 3-1 record in the Mesa Invitational, turning in what coach Kim Lester described as “an amazing all-around performance, contributing not only at the net but defensively and at the service line … the best I’ve seen her play.” Mesa defeated Glendale 3-1 (25-11, 23-25, 25-10, 25-18), Riverside City College 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-19) and Moorpark 3-0 (25-14, 25-12, 25-12). The Olympians lost only to state No. 10-ranked Bakersfield, the tournament runner-up.

In making all-tournament, Mootry had 18 blocks, 7 service aces, 18 kills and 14 digs.

Lerno, a 5-foot-10 freshman outside hitter from Southwest High School in El Centro, led the Arabs to a 3-1 record and the championship of the Imperial Valley Round Robin tournament. After leading IVC to a 3-0 (25-12, 25-20, 25-11) victory over College of the Desert, Lerno sparked the Arabs to wins over Cerro Coso 3-0 (25-8, 25-12, 25-15) with 9 kills and 11 digs and Mt. San Jacinto 3-0 (25-15, 25-23, 25-11) with 9 kills and 17 digs.

The Arabs’ only loss of the tournament came to NJCAA power Yavapai (AZ), which has started the 2012 season with a 15-3 record and has swept its last six opponents 3-0. Lerno had 8 kills, 10 digs and 1 block in three sets against the Roughriders.

Honorable mention honors went to Grossmont soccer player Ashley Callahan, Grossmont volleyball player Victoria Ruiz, Southwestern volleyball player Alejandra Puga and San Diego City College volleyball player Tessa Butterfield.

Callahan, a freshman center midfielder from West Hills High School, scored two winning goals as the Griffins opened PCAC play with back-to-back wins over San Diego City College 2-1 and MiraCosta 2-0. Callahan scored in the 80th minute to break a 1-1 tie against City College. She scored in the 47th minute to break a 0-0 tie vs. MiraCosta.

Ruiz, a sophomore outside hitter from Rancho Buena Vista High School, made the all-tournament team at the Mesa Invitational after putting down 60 kills. She had 12 kills in the Griffins’ 3-0 (25-17, 25-14, 25-19) victory over Cerritos, 18 kills in a 3-1 (25-23, 22-25, 25-21, 25-11 win over Moorpark, 12 kills in a 3-0 (25-16, 25-19, 25-21) loss to two-time defending state champion and currently No. 1-ranked Pierce and 18 kills in a 3-1 (25-16, 27-25, 18-25, 25-21) win over El Camino.

Puga, a freshman setter and outside hitter from Regiomontana High School in Monterrey, Mexico, led the Jaguars to a 3-0 (25-21, 25-15, 25-12) sweep of Santa Ana with 11 kills, 0 errors, 6 assists and 2 aces. She ignited a 3-1 (25-12, 14-25, 25-14, 25-20) win over Cerro Coso with 20 kills, 4 errors, a hitting percentage of .381 and 5 service aces.

Butterfield a sophomore outside hitter from Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley, had 10, only 1 error and 17 digs in a 3-1 (25-11, 25-14, 24-26, 25-9) loss to state No. 5-ranked Irvine Valley. She also helped lead the Knights over Santa Ana 3-0 (26-24, 25-15, 25-19) and Mt. San Jacinto 3-2 (25-17, 23-25, 18-25, 25-21, 18-16).