

Alaska State Volleyball Championships set to start

The 2007 ASAA/First National Bank State 3A/4A Volleyball Championships starts this Thursday, November 8 at West High School.

The Colony Knights and West Valley Wolf Pack will serve up the competition in the first 4A match of the day. Colony was the runner-up in the Northern Lights Conference and has a season record of 14-3. This is the fifth straight year in a row Colony heads to the championships but they haven't won the state title since the 1998-1999 season. The Wolf Pack made it to the championships the last seven years in a row and hold a season record of 12-1. The MidAlaska Conference Champions hope to outscore the Knights in the first round of the state tournament. Game time is 2 p.m.

Also at 2 p.m., the Mt. Edgecomb Braves and Delta Junction Huskies will battle it out on the court in the 3A division. Delta Junction has a season record of 11-6 and placed third in the Aurora Conference. The Huskies finished sixth place last year, but have held the state title times, most recently the 1997-1998 season. The Braves are the 3A Southeast Conference Champions, but missed last year's state tournament. In 2005, Mt. Edgecomb was the runner-up in the state championships.

At 3:45 p.m. it's Juneau-Douglas vs. Dimond in the second 4A match. The Crimson Bears are the 4A Southeast Conference Champions and hold a 9-3 season record. This is the fifteenth straight tournament appearance for Juneau. They were champions in 2002 and finished fourth at state last year. The Dimond Lynx haven't been to state since 2003 when they finished third, but they have been champions six times, the most recent in 1994. The Lynx 2007 season record is 15-2.

In the second match of the 3A division, Cordova and Nikiski take to the court. Cordova has a season record of 22-2. The two-time defending state champions have qualified for state the last six years in a row. Cordova also won the 3A state title in the 1995-1996 season. Nikiski placed fourth in state last year and currently holds a 7-10 season record. The Nikiski Bulldogs have been state champions four times, the latest in 2004.

At 5:30 p.m., The South Anchorage Wolverines take on the Wasilla Warriors in the 4A division. The Wolverines are the two-time defending state champions and are making their third straight appearance at the championships since their school opened in 2004. This year, the Wolverines are 16-1 for the season. The Warriors are 7-9 for the season. This is their first state appearance since 2003 when they finished sixth. The Warriors won the state title in 2001.

Also at 5:30, it's the Valdez Buccaneers vs. the Anchorage Christian Lions in the 3A match. The Buccaneers are 13-4 for the season and return to the state tournament after missing last year's championships. Valdez won state four years in a row from 2001 to 2004 and finished in fourth in 2005. The Lions are 9-4 for the season. This is the second straight state appearance for the lions who finished in third place last year.

In the last 4A match of the day, the Palmer Moose take on the Eagle River Wolves. This is the first state appearance for the Wolves since their school opened in 2005. Eagle River's season record is 11-7. The Moose have made it to the state tournament the last ten years in a row. Last year Palmer finished third in the state competition. This year their season record is 13-1. The match is set for 7:15 p.m.

Also at 7:15, the Grace Christian Grizzlies face off against the

Petersburg Vikings in the 3A match. The Grizzlies are 12-2 for the season. This is the Grizzlies sixth state appearance in the last seven years. They won the championship in 1999. This is the sixth year in a row that the Vikings have qualified for state. They were runner-up last year and also in 1999.

The second round matches start at 9 a.m. on Friday with the semi-finals scheduled for 2 p.m. At 9 a.m. on Saturday, teams will play for third and fourth place. At 6 p.m., the championship game for the 3A division starts followed by the awards ceremony. The 4A championship match starts at 8:15 p.m. and is followed by the awards ceremony. For more details about the 2007 ASAA / First National Bank State Volleyball Championships go to www.asaa.org <<http://www.assa.org/>> .