

## Edwards twins give ECC women's volleyball team twice the lift

By Tony Ciniglio, Staff Writer

Posted: 12/03/2011 12:46:37 AM PST

Updated: 12/03/2011 12:46:58 AM PST

Some of the most heated moments of the El Camino College women's volleyball season have come during unexpected times.

Their scrimmages.

That is when twins Lauren and Kaitlyn Edwards turn up their sibling rivalry, much to the delight of their teammates.

"They give each other tons of grief, and they try to see who's going to outplay each other," El Camino coach Le Valley Pattison said, laughing.

"The team really enjoys their sister-sister relationship."

Pattison said the sisters have a friendly bet on who will rack up more kills this season. But Pattison said it is more of a bragging-rights deal, nothing that would tempt either one to try to bribe South Coast Conference MVP setter Sarah McFadden for a few extra sets.

"The bet was kind of cute, a little sisterly competition," Pattison said.

"They're actually really close, which is nice. But they do like to tease each other."

Ultimately, the Edwards twins do share one ultimate goal, to leave a legacy with El Camino's proud volleyball program.

The former West Torrance High standouts have

powered El Camino to this weekend's four-team state finals at Shasta College in Redding, where El Camino will vie for a fifth state crown.

"That's been our goal," Kaitlyn said. "The sophomores last year had really wanted it, and they instilled that in us. Now we want it. And we're trying to instill the same thing in this year's group of freshmen."

Last season, El Camino made the third round of Regionals but was ousted by Pierce, one step away from the state finals.

This season, the twins made sure El Camino was not going to be denied, putting together perhaps their best performance against Grossmont to punch their ticket to Shasta.

"After coming up just short last season, we made it our point to get to state this season," Lauren said. "It's a big accomplishment."

The sisterly rivalry will come out at times.

The sisters will make fun of each other, saying things like "nice shank" after a poor hit or goading each other after a match.

"Our teammates egg us on sometimes, especially Teilua Barnes," Kaitlyn said, laughing.

**FREE**  
**Home Security System!**



**\$850 Value!**  
**Call Today, Protect Tomorrow!**

**1-888-472-8414**

\* With \$99 Customer Installation charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services.

Lauren was born two minutes ahead of Kaitlyn, and they agree Lauren has the more dominant personality.

"I do sometimes pick on Kaitlyn, but she can handle it," Lauren said. "We have our competitive moments, but we get along really well for the most part."

The twins are rarely apart, having played on the same teams throughout their lives.

They coach the South Bay Volleyball Club, Lauren assisting former El Camino College player Liz Hazell with the 14s and Kaitlyn assisting former El Camino player Karina Woehrstein with the 15s.

"Lauren and I are best friends on and off the court," Kaitlyn said. "We make each other better, and we're able to grow and learn from each other."

And they give El Camino a dynamic look.

Lauren is a 6-foot-1 middle blocker who generates a great deal of offense. Kaitlyn is a 5-foot-11 outside hitter who is emerging as a consistent threat.

Together they are twin terrors.

"The team has done really well this season and I'd say they are a big part of that," Pattison said. "Lauren is really coming into her own. She is kind of a quiet leader, not real flashy or loud. But she carries the team on her shoulders and is steady.

"Kaitlyn is real fluid and moves well. A smart hitter. She's a little skinny thing, but she does a lot with her little skinny body."

It is not the first time the twins have taken a program on their backs.

They had West playing at a high level, including a third-place finish in the cutthroat Bay League in their senior year.

They speak proudly of pushing a Falyn Fonoimoana-led Mira Costa team to five games and of winning their first-round playoff match at Temecula Valley before losing to eventual champion Newport Harbor in the second round of the playoffs.

"That was my first year playing in CIF (playoffs). My only year actually," Kaitlyn said. "To be able to win that playoff game was a special feeling."

Both are weighing four-year college options.

Cal State East Bay has told the sisters it will be in Shasta to watch them.

Chapman, Cal Lutheran, Colorado Christian and Sonoma State have expressed strong interest also.

They said they haven't decided if they are a "package deal." They are focused on this weekend and leaving their mark at El Camino.

"We want to leave it all on the court, no regrets," Kaitlyn said.

[tony.ciniglio@dailybreeze.com](mailto:tony.ciniglio@dailybreeze.com)

#### At a glance



Send flowers  
for any occasion  
**Bouquets**  
from **\$19<sup>99</sup>**<sub>+s/h</sub>

**ProFlowers**  
Offer ONLY available at:  
[proflowers.com/happy](http://proflowers.com/happy)  
or call 1.877.804.1133

**What:** State Championships

**Where:** Shasta College, Redding

**Participants:** Pierce (30-0, Southern California No. 1), ElCamino (24-2, Southern California No. 2), Cabrillo (28-1, Northern California No. 1) and Santa Rosa (28-2, Northern California No. 2)

**How El Camino got here:** El Camino beat Santa Barbara 25-17, 17-25, 25-17, 25-22 in the first round, Irvine Valley 23-25, 25-18, 25-19, 15-25, 15-13 in the second round and Grossmont 25-18, 25-12, 27-25 in the third round

**Outlook:** El Camino is trying to bring home its fifth state title, adding to its crowns from 1981, 1983, 2007 and 2008. El Camino opens the double-elimination tournament today at 2 p.m. against Cabrillo and will look to avoid entering the losers' bracket that would require a 7 p.m. elimination match today. El Camino is starting to heat up, as evidenced by its dominant victory over Grossmont in the third round. Setter Sarah McFadden (Lakewood) was the South Coast Conference MVP this season and is the leader of a balanced El Camino attack that features twins Lauren and Kaitlyn Edwards (West Torrance). University of Arizona bounceback Tarryn Luafalemana (Carson) has strengthened El Camino with her midyear return from a broken foot, and Northern Arizona bounceback Keely Stevenson (El Segundo) has provided some stability in the back row. Teuila Barnes (Leuzinger) has also been a strength in the middle for the Warriors. The final is on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. If the loser suffers only its first loss, then the state title would be decided by one game to 25 points.

DONATE YOUR CAR!



The Breast Cancer  
Research Foundation.

**100% Tax  
Deductible**

**Free Pick-Up  
Anywhere**

**We're Available  
7 Days a Week**

Donating is Fast & Easy!

Call Today **877-821-5493**

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is a classified 501 (c)(3) charity.