

## **Inland Sports High School Top 10: Week Ending 8/25/18**

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It was a busy week for our Inland Sports area teams with several tournaments and crucial non-league contests. Here's how our top 10 and 5 more look after two weeks of official action.

1. Temecula Valley (1-1) : Although the Golden Bears were off this week they move into the top spot after splitting matches with Canyon Crest Academy and Marymount in San Diego. Thursday's scheduled showdown with Santiago was cancelled due to lack of available officials.
2. Corona/Santiago (2-3): It was a 1-1 week for the Sharks who defeated Los Osos on Tuesday but fell in 4 to Great Oak on Thursday marking the Sharks second Southwestern League loss. Thursday's scheduled showdown was cancelled due to lack of available officials.
3. Great Oak (5-1): The Wolfpack opened 2018 with a bang defeating 2018 CIF-State Division 1 champion Santa Margarita on Tuesday & Corona/Santiago on Thursday. They also have a win against Baseline League champion Rancho Cucamonga at Santa Barbara's Tournament of Champions.
4. Paloma Valley (8-2): The Wildcats continue an impressive start to 2018 by qualifying for Gold Division action at Hemet's Dan Quam Memorial Volleyball Tournament on Saturday. They also recorded a win against Citrus Belt League member Redlands on Thursday of note.
5. Ontario Christian (3-1): The Knights completed their tour of Big VIII non-league matches with a sweep of Roosevelt on Tuesday and a five set loss to Norco on Thursday.
6. Elsinore: A five set win against Hemet on Tuesday coupled with an appearance in the Gold Division playoffs at the Dan Quam Memorial Volleyball Tournament moves the Tigers up two spots this week.
7. Aquinas (1-1) : The Falcons lost their lone contest this week to division 5 quarterfinalist Xavier Prep in five sets.
8. Hemet (9-3) : The Bulldogs win against Valley View and Gold Division runner up in their tournament offsets a tough loss Tuesday to Elsinore along with Wednesday's loss to Rancho Cucamonga.
9. Murrieta Valley (4-0) : The Nighthawks stay at #9 with sweeps over King & Corona/Centennial.

10. Yucaipa (1-0) : An opening day win over La Quinta (Desert Empire League) holds the Thunderbirds in our rankings this week.

### **Five to Watch:**

1. Beaumont: The Cougars are off to a 3-2 start so far. A 1-1 week keeps the Cougars at #1 in our group of five more.

2. Woodcrest Christian: The Royals are off to a 6-2 start in 2018 recording a sweep of Notre Dame on Tuesday & a 5-2 mark at the Azusa Tournament.

3. Vista Murrieta: Last year's Southwestern League runner up gets their 2018 season underway with a bang on Wednesday as league rival Great Oak comes north.

4. Citrus Valley: The Blackhawks recorded a win over High Desert power Serrano along with a loss to Sierra Canyon.

5. Murrieta Mesa: The Rams are off to a 4-0 start including a perfect 3-0 against the Big VIII.

### **Tournament Time:**

A few early season tournaments occurred this weekend across our area.

-In the 24th Annual Dan Quam Memorial Volleyball Tournament hosted by Hemet High School the Bulldogs fell in a Gold Division final to Chaparral who defends their title from 2017.

-At Rancho Christian the Eagles welcomed six other schools for their inaugural "Volley in the Valley" tournament. Xavier Prep came away with the title & Linfield Christian a runner up finish. The Lions are off to a 7-1 start so far and open league play at Ontario Christian on Tuesday.

-At Grand Terrace it was Corona/Centennial coming away with the title winning a three set thriller over Sultana (Hesperia) and evening their record at 5-5 on the year.

### **Key Matchups:**

Mon 8/27 445pm Paloma Valley @ Heritage- The volleyball Battle of Menifee was rescheduled to this date as the former Sunbelt League counterparts get together for a local showdown.

Mon 8/27 445pm Corona/Centennial @ Redlands East Valley- The Huskies look to carry momentum from their Grand Terrace tournament title into a big road match against perennial playoff qualifier Redlands East Valley.

Tues 8/28 430pm Murrieta Mesa @ Hemet- The Rams are off to a 4-0 start highlighted by a five set win over King a week ago. Meanwhile the Bulldogs look for a 10th win in 2018.

Tues 8/28 430pm Palm Springs @ Great Oak- The Wolfpack look to continue an excellent start with a win over low desert power Palm Springs.

Tues 8/28 6pm Woodcrest Christian @ Aquinas- An intriguing Ambassador League matchup to open up with as the Division 6 semifinalist Falcons host the Royals.

Wed 8/29 515pm Murrieta Valley @ San Clemente- The Nighthawks take a rare trip to Orange County for a date with a solid San Clemente team.

Wed 8/29 515pm Great Oak @ Vista Murrieta- Southwestern League play gets started with a matchup between last year's Queens Court finalists.

Thurs 8/30 Chaparral @ Hemet 430pm- A rematch of Saturday's Dan Quam Memorial Volleyball Tournament title matchup won by the Pumas in a sweep.

Thurs 8/30 Elsinore @ Santa Rosa Academy 430pm- Rangers coach Steve Jones has certainly decided to test his team in non league with tournament appearances at Queens Court & Hemet along with this matchup against Sunbelt League champion Elsinore.