

CIS women's volleyball nationals: Laval takes bronze medal against Pandas on their home court

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One year after leaving nationals dejected with their fourth-place finish, the Laval Rouge et Or were able to improve their standing by one position with a 3–1 victory over the host Alberta Pandas in Sunday’s bronze medal match.

Right from the start of the match, the Rouge et Or emanated confidence, intensity, and the hunger needed to leave Edmonton with the bronze medal.

“That was the goal from the beginning of the season to go to nationals and have a podium. We knew that if we won the first game, we would play for a podium,” Rouge et Or head coach Alain Pelletier explained.

Just like in their quarter-final and semifinal matches, Laval's players and coaches again screamed and jumped up and down after every point they won against the Pandas.

However, after dropping the first set, the Pandas were able to generate their own intensity, and the support from the hometown crowd helped them even the match at one set apiece.

Laval's powerful hitting, nevertheless, was the deciding factor in them pulling away in the third set and hanging on in a tight fourth set.

"In the second set, they were too excited and the pace was really fast and that is not our game. We need to be calm during rallies," Pelletier said.

"If we want to be successful at attacking, we have to pass a really good ball. Out of system, we become an average team, so as soon as we control the play from the first contact, we're a really good team."

Leading the way for the Rouge et Or was a member of the CIS All-Rookie team, Eve Trepanier. She tied for the game-high in kills with 20, but made no attack errors. Alberta's Tiffany Proudfoot also tallied 20 kills.

"I knew that she had character and she is a strong competitor. She deserved this and so Melanie [Savoie] threw her over the prize for player of the game," Pelletier noted.