Balanced Alberta attack snatches gold from Rouge et Or's clutches

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Rider felt they established themselves as a "serve and block" team in their quarter-final matchup against St. Mary's, and those words proved true on Saturday as Alberta recorded eight aces—three from Dodds and two each from Blair and Wigg—and eleven set blocks to Laval's four. It was that balance that did it in Laval, according to Blair.

"It was a real collective, even though it looked like we won a two-person team [with Dodds and Blair]—we started that way, but as the season wore on, our team evolved, and it became very balanced," she said. "If anyone was just going to focus on those two, or one of the two, they were going to pay."

They won the title at the expense of the defending champs wasn't lost on the Pandas, who also saw their title run as redemption for last season's first-round upset.

"We took the trophy right out of Laval's hands. They won it last year and thought they would win again this year, and we took it from them," Blair said.

"We know what it felt [to lose] that quarter-final match, and we never wanted to feel like that again," Boyer added.

Marie-Christine Mondor had 20 kills for the Rouge et Or, while Veteran of the Year Maryline Laplante added 13 kills and 11 digs in her final CIS game.

In the bronze medal game, another two-time CIS Player of the Year, Dina Jaworski, recorded 18 assists with 15 kills in a straight-set victory over the Trinity Western Spartans. It was Calgary's third-straight bronze medal at Nationals.