

## Charlotte VB Wins ECU Tournament

Written by Ryan Rose

Sunday, 26 August 2012 08:44

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Senior co-captain Bianca Rouse (Columbia, S.C. / Keenan HS) became the 17th player in team history to eclipse the 1,000-kill mark for her career and Charlotte completed the weekend sweep by taking down host East Carolina 3-0 (25-11,

30-28, 25-23) Saturday night at the East Carolina Classic. The 49ers did not drop a set, winning all nine frames in the weekend for just the second time in school history (2006) to get the 3-0 start. With the team's first double-double of the season (15 kills, 16 digs), Rouse earned Tournament MVP Honors.

The 49ers jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the opening set and extended that lead to as many as 13 points in the frame until a Jenna Litoborski (Lemont, Ill.) kill ended the period with the 14-point margin.

It looked like much of the same in the second, with the Niners opening up a 3-0 lead, extending it to 11-5 and 17-10 before the Pirates reeled it back with a 12-3 run and a 22-20 lead. Charlotte then went on a 4-1 run to take its first set point, but the Pirates answered and the two teams traded points to the end. ECU fought off two match points to earn one of its own at 26-25. After a Rouse kill and Amanda Videmsek (Highland Heights, Ohio / Beaumont School) ace, Charlotte never trailed the rest of the set and finally took the set win on a Rouse kill, followed by a kill from defensive specialist Chrissy Drake (Greer, S.C. / Riverside HS) to the intermission.

Charlotte again took an early lead in the third, scoring the stanza's first four points. After a 10-5 lead, the Pirates were able to even the score at 15 and take their first lead at 17-16. ECU lead by as many as three, at 22-19, but Charlotte scored six of the last seven points for the sweep and the match victory. Freshman Carly Ochs (Town and Country, Mo. / St. Joseph's Academy) recorded a pair of kills with the score tied at 23 to put away the match.

Rouse and fellow co-captain Amanda Videmsek tied for the match-high kills total. Videmsek and Litoborski joined Rouse on the All-Tournament Team. The 49ers will head to the Big Orange Bash next weekend, hosted by Clemson in an attempt to set a school record by winning the first 10 sets of the year and chase down the school record of a 5-0 start. The weekend for Charlotte starts against the host Tigers at 6:30 p.m. on Friday.