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Chaparral sweeps to title

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Fans heading to Glendale Independence High School for the Class 4A badminton tournament title match expected a smorgasbord of action throughout the night.

Instead, No.2 Scottsdale Chaparral upset No.1 Phoenix Sunnyslope in about the time it takes for pizza delivery.

It took Chaparral only 30 minutes to return to the winner's circle after a one-year absence with a surprising, 5-0 victory over Sunnyslope, a team it had lost to 5-4 during regular-season play.

"Out of the many years I've coached, I have never seen this happen in the state finals," Chaparral coach Carrie Davis said. "Wiping them up in five games - that's crazy."

Chaparral's top three players - Liz Hudson, Sarah Plitt and Leslie Appleton - posted quick victories over Janet Barrita, Megan Hallick and Theora Neumueller, respectively. And as Chaparral's No. 4, Christian McGuire, was holding a 13-11 lead over Kynan Gorman, No. 5 Katie Conti and No.6 Joelle Fang wrapped up the title with wins over DesJean Bauer and Holly Wenzel.

It was Davis' fifth title in 18 years of coaching at Chaparral and a difficult one, thanks mainly to the reconstruction of Chaparral's gymnasium.

"We got shoved into a middle school (Cocopah) gym. We were constantly going to different places," Davis said.

"It was a very emotional year. It was a lot of things kids usually don't have to go through."

The victory marked the final high school matches for Plitt, Appleton and McGuire.

"None of us were anticipating this," Appleton said. "We thought it would at least go to doubles."

Sunnyslope's 5-4 victory over Chaparral came early in the season.

"We don't just do 4A competition," Plitt said. "We did 5A competition."

"We had experience with lots of competition. It really helped us."

Chaparral reached the title match with a 5-0 victory over Phoenix Shadow Mountain on Tuesday night.

Sunnyslope advanced by defeating Tempe McClintock 5-1.

"It was a great way to end a very hard-working season," Hudson said. "I couldn't be happier."

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