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Sunnyslope, Chaparral in badminton final

Jim Richards

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Thursday night's Class 4A badminton title-match doesn't get any better than No. 1 Phoenix Sunnyslope against No. 2 Scottsdale Chaparral, considering the seedings and the fact that Sunnyslope narrowly defeated Chaparral during the regular season.

Thursday's rematch was set up after both teams posted convincing semifinal victories Tuesday night at Glendale's Independence High.

"This will be a very good match," Sunnyslope coach Sarah Schlesinger said.

"We'll just have to play our best. If we give them anything, we'll be in trouble. We'll take wins wherever we can get them."

Sunnyslope defeated No. 4 seed Tempe McClintock 5-1, as Theora Neumueller, Kyna Gorman, DesJean Bauer and Holly Wenzel - Nos. 3 through 6 - each won in straight games.

Megan Hallick posted an 11-5, 8-11, 13-11 victory for Sunnyslope. McClintock's No. 1, Yumi Taguchi, posted the team's only win, 11-1, 11-9.

Chaparral posted a 5-0 victory against No. 3 Phoenix Shadow Mountain, as its top four seeds - Liz Hudson, Sarah Plitt, Leslie Appleton and Christian McGuire - along with No. 6 Joelle Fang, won in straight games.

Barring a one-sided singles result, Thursday's title match likely will feature Chaparral's top-seeded state doubles team against Sunnyslope's second-seeded team.

During the regular-season match, which Sunnyslope won 5-4, Chaparral's Appleton, Plitt and Conti were singles winners, and Sunnyslope's Abrams, MacKenzie and Klein posted singles victories.

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