

Valhalla star wins Ojai tennis crown

The Daily Californian staff report

Chris Numbers, the top-ranked singles player at Valhalla High, accomplished a rare feat for a San Diego County player, capturing the boys' under-16 division of the Ojai Tennis Championship.

The freshman survived a tough semifinal match before breezing in the championship final in front of a crowd of almost 2,000 spectators.

In his morning match, the third-seeded Numbers come back from a first-set 1-4 deficit to stop second-seeded Carlos Bustos of Irvine, 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Numbers then beat Ryan Gateley of Lagune Niguel, 7-6, 6-4, in the finale, played at Libbey Park in Ojai.

"I just played well and stayed with my serve and volley game," said Numbers, Southern California's second-rated player in his age group. "My morning match started at 8 a.m., so it took me a while to get going."

"I just hung in there, and came to the net. It didn't matter where I placed the ball, so I just attacked the net. He couldn't take three sets of pressure."

Numbers is the current leader among Grossmont League players, sporting an undefeated record in singles.

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