

# SPORTS

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## Prep Girls Basketball Playoffs: Knights make school history

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[FROM STAFF REPORTS](#)



RIVERSIDE • The dream season for the Academy for Academic girls basketball team will continue.

The Knights are headed to the semifinals for the first time in school history after defeating the California School for the Deaf 50-42 in the CIF-Southern Section Division 5A playoffs on Wednesday night.

This is the first time that an AAE team has ever advanced past the quarterfinals in any sport. AAE will host Mesa Grande Academy in the semifinals on Saturday.

“It feels great,” Knights coach Ashley Simpson said. “The cool thing is, I think that it’s any coach’s dream to have a team that works together, that you’re proud of every win and how they’ve grown.”

Carolina Phillips scored a game-high 17 points to lead the Knights (19-5) and Melissa Owuor scored 15.

“It came down to slowing it down, taking our time and waiting for that perfect shot,” Simpson said. “We’ve been focusing in practice on playing smart, slowing it down if we’re ahead and using the clock. They used the clock to their advantage tonight.”

AAE (50)  
Phillips 17, Owuor 15, Sutton 8, N. Gruver 8

CSDR (42)

A. Mueller 14, Wnek 13, Smith 7, Thompson 6, Yopez 2

AAE 8 12 16 14 — 50

CSDR 9 10 9 14 — 42

3-point field goals — Academy for Academic Excellence none; California School for the Deaf 2 (Smith, Thompson). Fouled out — Yopez (C).

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