

Life's a beach for volleyball pair

Nick Wade

January 27th, 2010

REVENGE was the driving force behind two crushing upsets in the finals of the Beach Volleyball Regional Series at Eastern Beach yesterday.

Gold Coast combo Dan Carey and Isaac Kapa broke through for their first victory of the series, upstaging highly fancied top seeds Josh Slack and Brett Richardson, 21-15, in a one-sided final.

In the women's, interstate pair Eliza Dean and Pip Soulsby put the sword to Victorian top seeds Cristy Mace and Tamsin Barnett-Hinchley, surging to a 21-16 triumph.

On an afternoon of redemption, both champion teams held on to avenge defeats from previous legs of the series after building commanding leads early in their deciders.

"We lost to Tamsin and Cristy down in Frankston ... we were really excited to come to a great venue down here and were really fired up to beat them," Soulsby said.

Dean and Kapa will launch their assault towards qualifying for the 2012 London Olympics when they embark on the world tour next year.

Neither have competed in an Olympic Games, unlike their grand final opponent Slack, a three-time Olympian with more than \$600,000 career prize money.

"We're doing all the preparation, we're just going as hard as we can," Carey said.

"It was great today, we lost the semi last week to (Slack-Richardson). We don't like coming second, we try not to make a habit of it, so it's good to get this one on the board."