

The Mintonette

A Newsletter of the Longmeadow Volleyball Booster Club.

October 6, 2008 – Issue 1

The Inaugural Issue

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Year-end Banquet being planned– The annual end of season banquet is being planned – More info to follow ASAP!

Half-Way Season Summary

The Lancer started in September on a four-game win streak. Then they lost 1-3 to Frontier. Against East Longmeadow, the Lancers lost 2-3. Since the loss, our Lancers have a three-game win streak recording wins against Agawam, West Side and Minnechaug.

For the ten games ending October 1, the Lancers are 8-2 and #2 in The Republican Fab Five. The Lancers have recorded 330 kills against the 10 opponents. Leading the Lancers offensively were Andrea Davis (112 Kills), Natalie Zucker (58 Kills), Lynsey Keator (52 Kills), and Caroline Martin (39 Kills). Natalie and Caroline lead in serving productivity. On defense, Lynsey Keator has tallied 14 total blocks out of a team total of 44. So far, Natalie Zucker (named Republican Athlete of the Week, September 22) registered 121 digs and 202 Ball Handling Assists to lead the Lancers. Andrea Davis was named AVCA high school player of the week for September 26 and leads the Lancers in Service Receiving at 126. These stat leaders along with Libero Jenna Carando, Christina Mentor and Hannah McGrath are "starters". Christina is out of the line up due to an injury and Anna McGann has filled the void. Coach goes to the bench for "secret weapons". Katelyn Boutin and Alison Donnelly are used as setters. Steph Lauria has made key serves. Desiree Santaniello, Steph Dionisi, Sara Underwood have subbed in for defense. While Olivia O'hara provides extra kill power upfront. All – in- all, the second half of the season looks like a winner.

QUESTIONS WITH JAY, FATHER OF SAM BURTON - THE GREATEST DIGGER IN LHS HISTORY!

Chicago – The Mintonette interviewed Jay Burton to find out how his daughter became the greatest digger in Lancer history. Sam Burton played volleyball at LHS (class of 2008) and holds the career record for Serve Receives (298) and Dig Saves (423). Also, Sam holds the record for Match Dig Saves (33) and Season Dig Saves (423). That's why Sam is the greatest digger in LHS history. Sam currently attends University of Chicago. (Note: Counting records began in the 2007 season)

Mintonette: What's a Digger?

JAY: A digger is any player who passes the ball with her forearms when the ball is spiked or attacked. (A dig is only recorded when a ball is successfully kept in play)

Mintonette: How did she learn to play?

JAY: Sam never played volleyball until summer volleyball camp before 9th grade. At LHS, Sam did not play many varsity games first year but the experience gained by practicing with varsity was immeasurable. Sam went to volleyball camps at Cornell, Bentley, and multiple times to Springfield College. She also played club volleyball every off season..

Mintonette: What made her the greatest?

JAY: Sam would probably say that she was only as good as the teammates around her. That she received great coaching along the way. Sam had a quiet determination to get to every ball and to win Western Mass. She always said that she never kept score; just played every point as if it was match point.

LANCER HEAD COACH FINALIST FOR AVCA MEDIA AWARD

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) in June announced that George Mulry and www.LongmeadowVolleyball.com was an AVCA Grant Burger Media Award Finalists. The award is an honor intended to recognize members who have been involved in the advancement of the sport of volleyball. Coach Mulry was recognized through web content coverage. MaxPreps, a multi-million dollar division of CBS Sports, was selected as recipient of the 2007-08 award.

"Coach Mulry has made a tremendous impact on volleyball in Western Massachusetts, both on and off the court," according to former Longmeadow Athletic Director Michael Deary. "Coach Mulry and www.LongmeadowVolleyball.com are just another example of how coaches go far beyond their duties to give back to the sport they love, and give their players and sport the recognition they deserve."

By being named a finalist for this award, Coach Mulry is recognized for promoting Lancer Volleyball thru the web-site. LHS is only one of a handful of schools in Massachusetts that has a volleyball web-site and the only school in Western Massachusetts to consistently post match statistics, game briefs and video clips, as well as local news content, after each match. Check out the AVCA Grant Burger Media Award Finalists web-site at www.longmeadowvolleyball.com.

AFTER THE SEASON

After the Lancer nets are put away, you'll probably want more volleyball. As a player, you'll think about next year and wonder how will I get better? As a parent, you'll want to help your daughter meet her goals. What are your options?

Western MA Junior Olympic Volleyball Club This club is for players of all ages and starts after the high school season ends in November and continues thru May. Everyone makes a team and practices are Sunday morning at Holyoke Community College. Tournaments are held at locations throughout New England. Nine Lancers played for WMJO club last year. WMJO club offers a summer Sunday night program too. Check www.wmassvolleyball.com for more information.

Other Opportunities. The Booster Club is looking into winter and summer team leagues. The team leagues would be made up of Longmeadow players and offers the opportunity to all play together. This will require players – everyone is welcome. This will require parents to drive to the court locations.

Coach Mulry says "The bottom line is, the more the players touch/play volleyball the better they will get." If interested, contact Katelyn Boutin or Chris Boutin at 567-1947.



**LONGMEADOW
LANCER VOLLEYBALL**
"Pure Intensity"
2008

Coaches' Corner by Coach Mulry

First, let me thank all the parents for their continued support of our team. Nothing makes the girls happier than looking across the gym and seeing all of you...well, except winning!

We are well into our season and things are looking great. We've had a couple hiccups along the way and the growing pains with the JV-B team are driving me nuts. Be assured, however, I am on the case and looking to add more matches for them every day!

I speak for both coach Bisulca and myself when I say, our team is miles ahead of where we were this time last year. That really speaks to the commitment and talent level of the girls.

We still have a long road ahead of us to reach our goals this season and I know getting there will be as much fun as last season.

Lancer Junior Varsity – On their Way to SUPER SEASON

VETERANS SHOW LEADERSHIP

Armchair Volleyball pundits have argued that putting together a winning varsity volleyball team is easy. At the beginning of the season, you know from the prior season the talent level of most players. For Coach Bisulca, he has to create a team composed of players where the skill level is somewhat unknown. For the 2008 JV team, the veteran players (2007 JV Team Players) have demonstrated leadership and the result is a winning JV team. JV veterans Olivia O'hara, Desiree Santaniello and Alison Donnelly have shown the "rookies" the winning way. Their hard work and leadership has been rewarded by being called up to varsity where they contributed to varsity wins. The class of 2011 has learned fast. Where the first games have been Picnic Play (just trying to get the ball over the net), the JV are playing strategic volleyball taking full advantage of 3 hits to dig, set, and kill. During an all freshman play, either Natalie Fioretti or Cady Deary gets the dig with a reception to Mackenzie Ditomassi for the set. After that the offensive players take over. Either Megan Houff, Kaitlin Corbett, Erica Oundjian, Megan Smith or Amanda Brock finishes the point with a kill.

Junior Varsity B

The class of 2012 has much volleyball talent. While the Lancer JV – B Team has practiced hard, there have been a limited number of games. This is not because of a lack of trying on the part of the coaching staff and the team. There are not many JV – B teams out there. For the first JV – B game of the year, Samantha Maynard, Sirena Gebeau, Alexa Engelman, Sam Grodsky, Jasmine Papoutsakis, Erin Kiernan, Sindhu Kondaveeti and Andrea Dimauro were ready to play. Unfortunately, at the last minute, Coach Mulry was informed by the Amherst coach that their JV – B Team was "Not Ready". So far the Lancer coaching staff is optimistic that the JV B Players will continue to play excellent volleyball.

The bottom-line – The Lancer JV Teams are well positioned to contribute to future Longmeadow Volleyball success. We expect it!

SAVE THESE DATES

WMASS Tournament - Oct 31 to Nov 9th

STATES: Nov 12 – 15th Locations: TBD

Kill (True) or Ball Handling Error - BHE (False)

1. The sport of volleyball, was originally called "mintonette". **Kill or BHE?**
2. Volleyball was invented by William G. Morgan. **Kill or BHE?**
3. Volleyball was invented before Basketball **Kill or BHE?**
4. Volleyball and Basketball were invented at Springfield College. **Kill or BHE?**
5. During the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, American men and women took gold and silver medals in indoor volleyball competition. **Kill or BHE?**
6. The inaugural season of the Longmeadow High School volleyball team was 1996. **Kill or BHE?**

ANSWERS

1. **Kill**
2. **Kill**
3. **BHE**
4. **BHE**
5. **Kill**
6. **Kill**

How did you do?

6 Right – Excellent job Coach!

5, 4, or 3 Right – You could be a Libero!

2 or 1 Right – Keep your day job!

Zero Right – Benchwarmer.

BOOSTER CLUB FUND RAISING

Longmeadow – Sandy Lauria, Booster Club Parent Representative reports September contributions of \$855 to the Longmeadow Volleyball Booster Club. A big "THANK YOU" to all that contributed – You are SUPER BOOSTERS! If anyone would like to contribute, they can send their donation (Check Payable to LHS Volleyball Booster Club) to:

Sandy Lauria
163 CAMBRIDGE CR
LONGMEADOW, MA 01106

NEXT STEPS - A first-time ever fundraising effort for players to ask for donations from relatives, friends, neighbors, parents', and co-workers to help with raising more money for the volleyball program is in process.

Booster Club contributions are being put to good use. Tickets are being purchased for JV players to attend the Friday night Spalding Showcase of Champions tournament at HCC and for Varsity to attend Saturday. A table is being purchased for the Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Dinner for seniors and coaches. The Booster Club will keep parents informed of the use of contributions. THANKS!

Lancers to Play in Spalding Showcase of Champions Tournament

For the second year (out of the 2 years the tournament has been held) the Lancer have been invited to play in the Spalding Showcase of Champions Tournament being held at Holyoke Community College on October 10-13, 2008. The Volleyball Hall of Fame will host 30 girls' high school volleyball teams at tournament in the "birthplace of volleyball." The tournament includes the most competitive girls' volleyball teams from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and New York.

The first Lancer match will be played Friday at 8 p.m. against Greely High School, Cumberland, Maine. The Rangers finished last season by winning their 49th consecutive match and were Maine State Champions. Play will continue for the Lancers on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. where Pool Play will begin. This Round Robin Tournament is structured with 2 six team round robin pools with playoff. Key Pool Play "A" competitors includes Andover High School, Burnt Hills (NY) High School, Frontier Regional High School, Milford High School and Salem (NH) High School. The winner of Pool Play "A" will play the winner of Pool Play "B". The complete schedule of events is available at www.volleyhall.org.



Also, the Showcase will present a skills competition for players on Saturday and Sunday between 12:30pm and 3:00pm. Skills Competition involves 4 players from each team (Best Server, Spiker, Passer, and Setter) competing in a 2 minute competition (30 seconds for each skill - serving, spiking, passing, and setting) This skills competition for volleyball is the equivalent of a home run derby or a slam dunk contest. This exciting event will showcase skills of one player from each team in a two minute competition using their skills of passing, setting, serving, and spiking, each for a 30-second span. Single day tickets are \$4 for Students and \$8 for Adults. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Also, weekend tickets are \$12 (adult) and \$6 (student).

The showcase is a part of the Hall of Fame Induction Celebration. The Induction takes place on Thursday, October 23. Six international greats will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for their contribution to the sport. In addition, the Volleyball Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner will be held at 6 p.m at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House. To continue the tradition started last year, the Booster Club will send the Lancer senior players and coaching staff to the celebration. For More Information - www.volleyhall.org