

Wrap Up of the Seton Volleyball Championships

The Seton Volleyball Championships has ended and our 2018 Volleyball Season is over. Our 80-plus student athletes represented St. Charles with class and distinction. We are proud of all of our athletes but especially proud of our 8th Grade Girls and Boys who competed in the 2018 Elizabeth Seton Volleyball Championships late in October.

For those who don't know, the Seton is an invitation-only tournament with bids going out to all corners of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. An invitation is an honor and earned only with hard work, sweat and sometimes tears. To win in pool play or advance in the tournament is extraordinary difficult. The competition is fierce, the crowds are large and the noise can be deafening.

Both St. Charles teams were up for the challenge and did not disappoint the large groups of Crusader faithful who converged on Center Court in Waukesha. Our fans had much to cheer about and much for which they could be proud.

Our boys showed up the last Monday in October ready to play. They opened against Holy Family, a team who won three times as many games this season as our humble Crusaders. But our boys would not be denied. They were firing on all cylinders and at times appeared to will the ball over the net, simply refusing to let it hit the ground. Holy Family fell quickly and our boys were on top of the leaderboard at 2-0.

St. Sebastian and overall number one seed St. Anthony were more formidable opponents. Our Crusaders battled hard and played with heart. The 24 points they put up against the eventual Seton winner St Anthony was the most of any team in their pool. When you consider that the average height for St Anthony's front row was at least 6 foot, 2 inches, this was a remarkable feat. Heading into their last match of the evening against St. John Vianney, they still controlled their own fate. Win and move on or lose and go home. Key plays by **Henry Schermitzler** and

Luke Gigot, as well as outstanding setting by **Javin Warren** and **Derek Gehring** kept it close. An inspirational serving run by **Caden Maltby** fired up the crowd but in the end, it just was not enough. Their season ended that night but their memories will last a lifetime. This was a really fun team to watch and they will be missed.

Coach Schermitzler did an outstanding job with these young men, growing the team from only four Crusaders in 2015 to 10 strong this season. If you see **Dylan, Jacob, Cameron, Derek, Lucas, Brendan, Caden, Henry, Joseph, or Javin** congratulate them and tell them thank you for choosing to play Crusader Volleyball and setting the bar high for years to come.

Our Lady Crusaders opened the tournament on Oct. 31 as the overall 8th seed out of 64 teams in D1 and D2. When you consider that this team finished last in conference in 5th grade and second to last in conference in 6th grade, you can understand why we are so proud of these young ladies and how hard they have worked under **Coach Clausen** who assumed the reigns after the 5th Grade season.

St. Eugene put up only single digits in two sets and averaged only 9 points a set against our Crusaders who rolled to a straight three set win in round one.

Emily Clausen and **Maya Karnowski** led the way with multiple assists from **Vee Schoenauer** but everyone contributed to another straight set win over St. Joe's Grafton in round two. A huge crowd was on hand two nights later to watch our third round match up with overall number one seed Christ King.

Our Lady Crusaders got off to slow start and fell behind early two sets to none. With their backs against the wall they came out swinging in set three, jumping out to an early lead and energizing the St. Charles crowd. Christ King, however, was unrelenting and showed why they haven't lost a match in two years. The 3rd set was close but our Lady

Crusaders came up short falling in straight sets to the eventual Seton Champion. As only the third team in St. Charles history to advance to the Elite Eight of the D1 side of the Seton Tournament, our Lady Crusaders have much to celebrate.

If you see **Sofia, Grace, Emily, Kate, Ava, Veronica, Ella or Claire** congratulate them and tell them how very proud we are of all of them.

Our 2018 season was a rousing success. We have much to celebrate and much to look forward to next season. Thank you to our players, parents, coaches and fans. We can't wait to see you again next year.

Just a heads up that practice opens Aug. 12, 2019.

God Bless You Crusaders!

John Grogan
Volleyball Coordinator
St. Charles Parish and School