

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10th
NO SCHOOL
Faculty On Campus

November 13th-14th
Vermont Commons
Model U.N.

November 20th
Progress Reports
sent home

November 23rd-27th
Thanksgiving Break

Varsity Volleyball Sanctioned in Vermont

Peter Goff

*photos courtesy of
Henry Harder '17*

As some of you are aware, Vermont Commons has been working on the forefront of the effort to make Vermont the final state in the U.S. to have an officially sanctioned High School Volleyball program. The VYVA has been running and organizing the league and championships for almost a decade, and those achievements and championships that VCS has earned are part of the history of VT Volleyball forever.

The official sanctioning will mean very little (directly) to VCS, but it means a great deal to the state, as it paves the way for equal budgets (coaches, transportation, equipment, etc) for volleyball teams. This means more and more schools will begin to play, and we will have to divide into size-appropriate divisions in the future. Last week, that journey ended with the unanimous support of the Vermont Principal's Association.

The commitment that Vermont Commons Volleyball student-athletes and their families have shown our team and the sport as a whole has benefitted the whole state. Well done Flying Turtles!

[Read the Burlington Free Press article here!](#)



Volleyball Season Wrap-Up

Articles by Peter Goff

Photos by Henry Harder '17

JV Jamboree

On Saturday, 10/24, a team of VCS JV girls and two teams of JV boys travelled to Essex to take part in a 19-team tournament. The girls team was excited to welcome Tess back to the court and ended the season by playing their best volleyball. The girls' team will be in good hands moving forward (but we're always looking for more recruits!!)

Varsity players Amira, Anna, Natalie, and Fiona volunteered to come to the jamboree to help coach & officiate. Luckily, it turns out, as all were drafted onto the floor to play! Natalie surprised a number of boys with her ability to block on the 8ft. mens' net, while Amira and Anna showed the JV boys from other teams what consistency in passing and setting can look like. One of our boys' teams made it to the play-off bracket and finished the day with a close-fought victory over CVU, spearheaded by the net-play of Jacob and Nick, who were subsequently asked to be ready as bench-subs for the Varsity team in their playoff match.



Varsity Girls' Playoffs

Our girls hosted a match against newcomers Mt. Anthony. The Patriots made the 3 hour drive north and played against their first Vermont team on our home floor. Mt. Anthony had been playing against Massachusetts teams for the whole season. Our girls won the first set, but fell to the furious fusillade of serves from the Patriots. The whole VCS community owes seniors Nina Mantegna and Anna Leffler a huge thank you for the remarkable commitment they've shown to the Flying Turtles over their careers.



Varsity Boys' Playoffs

On the boys' side, we hosted a quarterfinal match versus the Enosburg Hornets. Having beaten them in our two previous matches (including a 3-0 sweep at Senior Day), we entered the contest confident of advancing to the semifinals at Essex.

The match can be summed up like this; Eli makes a perfect pass, and then Ryan sets either Danny in the middle for a thunderous lefty-kill or Mason on the outside for a slashing spike through the defense. Whenever the Hornets returned a ball, Xavier, Graham, or Jake were there on defense, blocking and digging. After going up two sets, we only had to win one of the next three.

The tough-minded and well-coached Hornets adjusted their gameplan and got the score to 26-26 (set to 25 points, but win-by-two). Your Flying Turtles did not fold under the pressure and went on to win the set (28-26) and match.

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Varsity Boys' Playoffs Cont'd

Next up, the semifinals. Essex was the 2-time defending State Champions, undefeated this season posting a 21-2 set record (with one of those two losses to VCS the week before). Essex was ready for the Danny/Mason combo and paid them the ultimate hitter's compliment by regularly triple-blocking them. EHS got two close set victories to go up 2-0....and then Xavier stepped to the service line at 18-18.

Some backstory; each coach gets two timeouts per set and they are generally used to disrupt the timing of a server (because it usually works). Xavier served 4 straight points (mostly unreturnable aces) and Essex called a timeout to ice the XMan...to no avail. At 24-18 they called another timeout, but the IcyX calmly stepped to the service line and iced the pesky wee little arthropods.

EHS rallied to win the set & match. There's no question that the better team won the day; there's equally no question that the boys' team reached a new level of play, and I believe have to be considered favorites to make it to the State Championship match next season.

Again, we offer our sincere thanks to seniors Eli Hinds and Josh Wolfstein for all they've brought to this team over their careers.

All-Vermont Team

For the fourth year (since 2012), The Vermont Youth Volleyball Association organizes the selection of an All-Vermont (aka "All-League") team. During the regular season, opposing coaches nominate players. Before the State Championship, coaches vote to narrow the field to about 10 boys and 10 girls. From within that group, one player is recognized for sportsmanship and is elected as Captain of the All-Vermont team.

This year, the VT Volleyball coaching community selected VCS senior co-captain Anna Leffler as the top setter in the State. Also on the team, a trio of Juniors who were recognized as among the best in the state; co-captain Mason Hill, Danny Watson, and Amira Silverman (both Mason and Amira are now 3-time All-VT teamers). Next up for the All-Vermont team, a match against the New Hampshire All-Star team (TBA)

While Mason was a clear choice for hitter and Anna received all of the first-place votes for the setting position, even more impressive is the respect accorded to them by the coaching community. All 25 of the nominated girls (and 18 of the nominated boys) were eligible to be selected as the All-Vermont Captain, based solely on demonstrated sportsmanship. Anna and Mason both received 1st, 2nd, or 3rd -place votes from every coach. That is who we are, and why VCS Volleyball is still considered the benchmark against which all other programs are measured.

Future

Middle School March Madness

Keep an eye open for the Middle-School March Madness mini-season. Hundreds of middle schoolers from all over Vermont tried Volleyball for the first time last spring, and we will run the program again. Several of this year's rising stars (Austin, Phoebe, Heloise...) got their first taste of Volleyball by taking part in this program.

VYVA Offseason

The VYVA will once again be offering clinics and scrimmages to new programs. We will need VCS veterans AND first-timers to help us run those events around the state. We will continue to offer youth tournaments and leagues, so be sure to keep an eye on the VYVA Facebook page.

New Teams

At a meeting last week, we learned about several new schools that will be playing next year; St. Johnsbury Academy (Boys & Girls), BFA (Boys & Girls), and South Burlington High School (Boys & Girls). MMU, Colchester High, and Milton will be bringing in girls' teams as well.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
TURTLES ON ANOTHER
FANTASTIC SEASON!**

Take the 3SquaresVT Challenge, November 15th-21st

by Kent Vaccaro

This year, for the week before the bounty of Thanksgiving, our Food for All Research & Service class invites you to join them in Hunger Free Vermont's annual 3SquaresVT Challenge. This challenge's purpose is to help raise appreciation for the reality and impact of hunger on the people of Vermont.

To participate in the 3SquaresVT Challenge, a family chooses to live on \$1.70 per person per meal, the amount of money the 3SquaresVT food stamps program provides families. Feel free to join the challenge for the whole week, or just a few days. We would greatly appreciate if we got some Vermont Commons School families to participate in the 3SquaresVT Challenge, and show VCS' support for hungry Vermonters.

JOIN US!! Register by [clicking here](#) and please email Mark Cline Lucey at mark@vermontcommons.org to let us know about your participation.



Art 11 at Shelburne Farms

Photos by Amira Silverman '17



VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403

P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: [INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG](mailto:info@vermontcommons.org)

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

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