

Spikers face tall order to repeat success

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One of the toughest things to do in sports is follow in the footsteps of greatness. After last year's boys' volleyball team went 25-12 (7-3 in conference), won regionals and came up just short in sectionals, that is exactly what this year's team has to face.

"Varsity was exceptional last year and we had really good team chemistry," said head coach Jennifer Sinnick. "The losses of Miles Kilgallon (All-State honorable mention), Tim O'Reilly, Chris Johnson and Chris McKinney will affect us quite a bit this season."

One of the things that made the team last year so good was the chemistry that the players had, Sinnick said. The ability to trust that a player would be where he needs to be and not let his teammates down was essential.

Sinnick said she is not worried about the vacated leadership spotted being filled.

"We will have leaders in senior Colin Kilgallon [a 2005 all-conference selection and Miles Kilgallon's younger brother], Frank Theodorakakis and Joe Demonte. I expect them to be really good this year and I expect them to be a critical part of the team. I am expecting good leadership from them and keeping things together for the team," Sinnick said.



Kilgallon

Considering that many quality players graduated, there isn't really much of a way to say how this team will do this year. One week into the forming of the team, already a problem has arisen.

"I know we will be competitive but the number of wins will depend on my setters. We are very inexperienced at that position," said Sinnick. "We have guys like Colin, Joe, Frank and even senior Hassan Ahmad who can put the ball down, but we are going to need players to step up in the setter position," Sinnick said. She compared the function of a setter to that of a quarterback in football.

This year's team is primarily made up seniors, with a few juniors and, as of now, no sophomores or freshmen. According to Sinnick, sophomore Andrew Goldfein has shown a lot of potential and could eventually play the varsity level.

The juniors on the varsity team don't lack talent either, and their skills and determination are an essential part of the team. Sinnick mentioned Miles Castro, Justin DePeralta and Luciano Garneata as juniors to watch out for.

"[The team is] going to need to have some patience for maybe the first quarter of the season, until we learn to play together and until we get some chemistry at the key positions," Sinnick said.

Even with the lack of chemistry and experience, Sinnick is still excited and optimistic about the upcoming season and still is expecting big things from her players.

"These guys have been working really hard and we have a lot of talent on this team. I am glad to see that we have good role models for the younger kids. There is some inexperience, but I'm hoping that these guys will be patient and come out hungry to be the best team that they can be," Sinnick said.