



StoneBridge
School

...
ENCOURAGES
COLLABORATION
to prepare students to
work and serve in the
community.

*“But those who wait
on the Lord shall
renew their strength;
They shall mount up
with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not
be weary, they shall
walk and not faint.”*

— ISALAH 40:31 —

Girls’ Volleyball 2013

RECORD: 28-3, 16-0 METRO, 24-MATCH WIN STREAK, STATE SEMI-FINALS

The root of the Hebrew word “wait” means to “bind together.” Waiting is in no way passive — it is active, intentional, and ultimately liberating.

For StoneBridge volleyball, the years of actively waiting came together in a season of liberating fulfillment, the culmination of many years of cultivating a love for volleyball, an excellence in the craft and a volleyball family. This family enjoyed a season for the ages that gave coaches, players, parents and friends a glimpse into how it is possible to “run and not grow weary.”

A near-perfect cohesive blend built around three co-captains (Alex Mann, Moriah Telfer and Tess Parroco) and five seniors (Mann, Telfer, Madison Tanner, Makena Nicholas, Emmy Jennings) meant every practice, every event and every match brought forth an effort befitting the most successful volleyball team in school history.

The turning point came early, during the Endless Summer tourney after a loss to public school Warhill. Coach and captains came together and determined that the rest of the day-long tourney would be dedicated to learning how to “play hungry” and impose their will on their opponents. The Cavs could not have known that their next match would start a run of victories that would cause the team to soar to new heights never before seen in StoneBridge history, including: the first-ever #1 state ranking, undefeated Metro regular season, a 24-match win streak, second consecutive Metro conference tourney championship, a #2 seed in the state tournament and our first state tournament victory.

The five seniors were like “five smooth stones” in the hands of their coaches as “David” took down many Goliaths — always loyal, always ready, always giving maximum effort, always eager to strike, always fearless. Co-captain Alex Mann again anchored the team as the program’s best-ever setter with unmatched composure. Co-captain Moriah Telfer intimidated opponents from the back row as the premier libero in school and perhaps conference history. Madison Tanner saw her years of training blossom as a primary outside hitter and one of the key mainstays in the rotation. Makena Nicholas brought the most pounding serve in school history to bear in several key matches. Most notably, she saved the Cavs in the state tourney quarterfinals with a series of punishing serves that helped erase large deficits in the early sets. Emmy Jennings made a late-August decision to join the team for her senior year and developed into the best under-5’6” middle blocker we’ve ever seen and a serious candidate for SBS’s most important player.





Junior Tess Parroco embraced the challenge of leadership as one of our co-captains, matured into the most dominant attacker in the Metro and along the way became the SBS career leader in kills. Fellow Junior classmates CeCe Burkett (defensive specialist), Hannah DeBord (opposite hitter) and Josie Overton (outside hitter) added an element of depth that proved decisive in many key matches. Underclassmen Aradhana Khubani (Sophomore) and Allie Plumlee (Freshman) were among the most skilled players in the conference and gave SBS's attack powerful options from anywhere on the court.

"Perhaps most amazing of all," Coach Steve Elliott remembers, "there seemed to be no fatigue or weariness, even as the season extended into its fourth month. Prior to every match we prayed for the freedom to run. Every match, we took flight on wings as eagles — free to soar."

Coach Eric Plumlee summed up the season by saying, "In my mind, what made the girls perform better than the sum of their individual talents, was their chemistry. The girls had a bond both on and off the court and a familiarity with each other that developed trust, allowing them to work effectively and efficiently together. In addition, the team

personality was incredibly competitive with a 'won't lose, never say die' mentality. Throughout the season, their tenacity and will to win were what combined with their impressive physical play to make them so successful." ♦

