

# Island Sports

## Skippers volleyball season was a great run

By Stephanie H. Cotsonas

It was a disappointing end to a great season for the North Kingstown High School girls' volleyball team, as East Providence defeated North and moved into the finals for the Division I state crown. The Townies dominated the Skippers 3-1 in the semifinal match at the University of Rhode Island's Keaney Gym last week.

North was off to a great start as the first point of the night was scored at the hands of Sam Andreozzi of Jamestown. Islander Michelle Marguette had a great serve receive and it looked like the Skippers were there to win as they took the first game, 25-21.

In the second game it seemed as though East Providence was getting discouraged until they pulled ahead 7-13 and the Skippers took a time

out. North kept their spirits up as Andreozzi had another kill but the Townies took game two, 19-25.

In the third game, it was obvious East Providence was there to avenge their loss to North in last year's title match. Colleen Bailey, also of Jamestown, scored with one of her two kills of the night but the Townies quickly took game three, 8-25.

In the fourth and final game, after being down 6-1 at one point, Andreozzi changed the energy on the court with a kill to bring the score to 7-8. The rowdy North crowd were chanting and cheering while stomping on the bleachers as the score went to 10-10. There was intensity on the court as the rivals took turns scoring and North tied the score seven times, but was unable to pull ahead. After An-



Sam Andreozzi goes down for a dig in the Skippers' semi-final game against East Providence.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

dreozzi's two consecutive kills tied the score at 22-22, East Providence finally prevailed 23-25.

Coach Brian Garrepy said, "I thought we were going to piggyback off the first serve receive of the night and I was thinking this is the night. Then there was a two game lapse where they just beat up on us and we didn't step back up until it was 10-10 in the fourth. It would have been nice to win that game four to push a game five, then everything would have been on the line and we could reset our focus."

The Skippers were led by senior co-captain Andreozzi with 11 kills and 7 digs. When asked how she

felt after the first game Andreozzi said, "It was hard because I get my head down really quickly and my coach said I have to be the leader out there tonight."

Andreozzi went on to say, "We were close. We had an awesome season and it stinks because we worked so hard and last year we won the state championship. I am happy that in my high school career at least we got one." Andreozzi will head to the University of Maine next fall on a volleyball scholarship. She is also looking forward to her club season.

After the game, Assistant Coach Joanne Fitts said, "Offense was down a little tonight, everyone was off a little bit." Fitts later praised Marquette as being outstanding in serve receives all night.

Last year the Skippers won the title in the final match against East Providence. North Kingstown and

East Providence did not meet during the regular season although they did meet at the Koch Eye Tournament in early October, where the Skippers won.

As the reigning state champions, North was the Division I South champion and East Providence was the second seed in Division I North going into the tournament. The Townies ended the regular season 15-3 and lost to Toll Gate and LaSalle twice. North had a great season and went 16-2, losing to Classical and Toll Gate. East Providence went on to lose the title match to LaSalle Academy in the finals last weekend.

Garrepy was emotional and proud as he spoke of his team. "I feel bad for the girls; they put in the hard work. It's not how you want to cap a great season," he concluded.

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