

# North Kingstown boys' volleyball advances to the semifinals

By Rudd Hall

The North Kingstown varsity squad took on Coventry High last Friday night, with the winner advancing to the Division 1 semi-finals.

The Skippers came to play. Fired up in warm-ups, they continued their adrenaline-rushed performance into game one.

They started out with an ace on the second serve of the game and it seemed Coventry lost their morale almost instantly. The Skippers took advantage of Coventry's sloppy serves, which were easily returnable or never went over the net at all, pulling ahead to an early 10-5 lead.

Brett Stetson was solid at the net, blocking any blast that Coventry put to him. He added insult to injury after his spectacular defensive performance by firing an ace from deep behind the service line.

Coventry battled back after the five point deficit and finally rallied to bring the game to within one point, 13-12. From there the two teams went point-for-point with Stetson again firing up his team with a blast right down the line opening up the contest.

The excitement rose later in game one with a rally that seemed to go on forever, when finally Michael Ohanian of North Kingstown had enough, and blasted a kill, ending game one with a North Kingstown victory, 25-22. "We came out and just wanted to win," said Ohanian.

"Remember what I said a few weeks ago about lacking the fire," said Head Coach Joanne Fitts, "not today, it's the quarter finals, we've come to play!"

Coventry came back however in game two, stepping up both their serves and their defense, and pulled ahead late to finish game two with a 25-20 win.

Since it's a best-of-five contest, the next two games were crucial for both teams, who were tied at one each.

Game three started off with problems for the Skippers, but Jamestown's Jon-Michael Degidio started putting his game together, and according to teammate Ohanian, "He did really good, he pushed his sets out far enough so I had the ability to angle my shots, they were really good sets, like he's done all season." North Kingstown pulled out the

third game with a 25-20 win.

The Skippers were able to close the door on the Oakers in game four.

"Game four, it was pretty close in the beginning, but we just went on a run where we got off about seven points and we just kept the lead from there," Ohanian said.

North Kingstown went on to win the match, 25-16, which advanced them to the semi-finals. "We're playing East Providence, who's going to be tough, we've had problems with them in the past," said Ohanian, "but we're ready, its payback."

After the game, Coach Fitts added, "The boys all had a strong game. We face East Providence this Wednesday at RIC for the semis. Tisser (Daniel) had 21 kills, Ohanian with 19 kills, Jon-Michael had an outstanding match lead in the show. Our only weakness in the whole game was that we missed twenty serves. We're trying to serve tough, but if we can still pull out the win that's fine with me."

The coach added, "We stayed fired up, bring on East Providence."



Jon-Michael Degidio received praise from coach Joanne Fitts for his play during the Skippers quarterfinal game against Coventry. Photo by David Zapatka

# Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation helps make sailing dreams a reality

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

It is true that anyone can learn to sail, and some Jamestown residents will get a little help from the Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation (CISF).

"Over the course of the years that the foundation has existed we have never turned down a learn to sail or instructional sailor whose family needed some help. We have paid the tuition at the Conanicut Yacht Club (CYC) or Sail Newport or wherever they wanted to get their lessons. We are not just high level," said Robert Salk, a CISF board member.

CISF is a tax-exempt, charitable organization established in 2001 by Bradford N. Swett to promote sailing and racing at every level, for the benefit of Jamestown residents of all ages.

According to CISF President Hannah Swett, CISF has dispersed \$350,000 since inception and has given funds to Olympians, youths learning to sail, clinics, and Opti charters among other causes. For the past six years the foundation has awarded a new Opti to the winner of the Bradford N. Swett Regatta.

CISF raises funds through 100-percent tax-deductible donations. The foundation solicits and accepts cash, securities and boats to be sold and leased. CISF has one fundraiser a year on Labor Day weekend. According to Hannah Swett, "We have a pool party with a regatta that morning and awards and a silent auction that evening. We raise all the money we give out there and we usually raise close to \$20,000. All that money goes directly to the kids to go sailing."

There are two main categories of sailors that the foundation supports. The first is the young sailor who has shown great promise at the youth instructional or inter-scholastic level. The second is the adult sailor who has excelled at the collegiate, national or international levels.

For both of these categories, coaching, travel, and equipment expenses often prevent promising sailors from reaching the next lev-

el of success. The foundation provides necessary funding, coaching or equipment to qualified individuals who would otherwise not reach their full potential without such assistance.

According to Hannah Swett, CISF has no administrative costs so 100 percent of the dollars raised gets paid out. "We distribute all realized revenue to sailors and these funds will be awarded based on the individual needs of the applicants."

Hannah Swett is also proud of a new program where CISF has partnered with the CYC in a learn to sail program in Hunter 14's. Throughout this summer CISF will

be offering free sailing lessons to introduce Jamestown children to sailing in a fun environment with a short time commitment. CISF hopes it will jumpstart the interest of some island kids so they will sign up for a sailing session the following summer.

Grants requests are due by May 1 and Nov. 1 of every year. According to Salk, CISF is trying to spread the word about who they are and what they do. "We are getting more applications every year because word is getting around that we do indeed pass out dollars. We think there are some people out there who are struggling whose kids can't do junior sailing with

the high price tag," Salk said.

Salk continued, "We have funded a cross section of athletes from Olympic hopefuls to rising high schools stars to eight-year-olds. We have some very qualified sailors that we have funded along the way who we think will become All-Americans including islanders Luke Adams, Brendan Faria and Natalie Salk." May 2008 grants went to Erica Lush, Walmen Dumaling, Kelsey McDonough, and Amina Brown.

CISF board members include Jim Bryer, Anne Deffley, Al-

yce Dwyer, Kim Ferguson, Meg Gaillard, Peter Johnstone, Ralph M. Kinder, Bill Munger, John C. Quinn, Robert A Salk, Cory Sertl, and Hannah M. Swett.

According to Salk, "We are always looking for two things: we are looking for support and we are looking for applicants who need that support."

For more information on CISF, contact Hannah Swett by phone at 212-772-7550 or email at hannahs@aol.com.

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LEGAL TIP

A high school didn't breach a duty of care to a female student who was sexually assaulted and murdered after leaving the school without authorization, the Vermont Supreme Court has ruled.

The student, who had a history of truancy and drug abuse, had just returned from an authorized absence for a doctor's appointment when she encountered a man departing the school who had requested to see her. She ignored an assistant principal's request that she check in with the guidance office and left with the man. Her body was later found under a bridge.

Her mother sued the school for wrongful death, alleging negligent supervision. A trial judge dismissed the case, finding the school breached no duty because the student's death was unforeseeable.

The Vermont Supreme Court agreed.

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