

Island Sports

North Kingstown girls' volleyball beats South

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The North Kingstown High School girls' volleyball team improved their record to 8-1 after a win at home against South Kingstown on Monday night. The Skippers took all three games, 25-22, 25-12, 25-16. North's one loss was to East Providence in their first match of the season.

Head coach Brian Garrepy was pleased with Monday's match. "We like to see the consistency that we saw in stretches tonight. Sometimes we can run seven or eight points and look around at each other and let a ball drop. It is uncharacteristic and they are still learning. These are six kids that have never played together before."

Michelle Marguette, whose grandparents live on the island, helped lead the Skippers to victory along with North Kingstown residents Casey White and Michelle Babat. Marguette spent the majority of the game at the service line where she had two aces.

South led the third game 4-1 when Jamestown resident and senior Colleen Bailey stepped in and helped bring the score to 6-6. Bailey followed with a kill to pull North ahead where they remained for the rest of the game.

"Colleen is finally taking my words of 'swing hard' and actually doing it. She is swinging hard and is not content with putting the ball on the floor and just



Captain Colleen Bailey, left, and Jessica Bucklin, two of the hard-hitting seniors on the NKHS girls' volleyball team, helped the team improve their record to 8-1 on Monday night.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

letting it play out. She's become a side-out machine and she still blocks as good as any right side player in this game," Garrepy said of Bailey's play.

After a disappointing loss in the state title semifinal match last November, Bailey is happy with the team's performance this season. "We definitely don't have

the same basic talent, but we are working well together as a team and we do have some good players so I think it is going well," she said.

In Monday's match, islander and senior Jess Bucklin was the final player on the service line for North where she had five powerful serves to help North take

the win. Garrepy said, "Bucklin works her tail off. You saw her come in the third game and look what she can do."

Bucklin said, "I usually get in the later games and I wish I played more, but I am really happy with how the season is going."

While South was ahead for a

short time in game three, Garrepy was confident in his team. "It was just a matter of time. I am a person that likes to let them stick with it and work out of their hole. The only match where that did not work was against East Providence. We had only been playing together for about four days and it was the first match of the season."

Garrepy looks forward to the rest of the season and sees his team growing together with each game.

"Against Cranston East we didn't play efficiently. Tonight we played a lot more efficiently and in the Pilgrim match we played very efficiently. To keep that consistency, that is what we are looking to do."

Garrepy speaks highly of Bailey and Bucklin, two of his seniors. "When this team collectively can buy into what we do every day, they will get to achieve their goals. They (Bailey and Bucklin) both come in every day and work hard to make everybody better. They're awesome."

Garrepy looks forward to the rest of the season, particularly what he describes as a big match against LaSalle tomorrow night. "They have not lost a game yet so we are looking forward to playing them." North will take on LaSalle at home tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 p.m.

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— Julie Bailey, Jamestown

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