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VOLLEYBALL CLINCHES TRIP TO MHSAA FINAL FOUR; GIRLS SWIM TAKES SMISL LEAGUE MEET TITLE



The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team advanced to the MHSAA Final Four for the fifth straight season with a straight set win over Country Day.



Aly Borellis sets Bianca Giglio for a kill against Country Day

VOLLEYBALL ADVANCES TO FIFTH STRAIGHT FINAL FOUR

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team advanced to the MHSAA Final Four for the fifth straight season with a straight set 25-15, 25-23, 25-18 win over Country Day. The Irish defense was once again anchored by Miss Volleyball finalist Josie Bloom, who had 32 service receptions without an error and 17 digs. It was Bloom's serves in the final set that allowed the Irish to take a commanding lead that the Yellow Jackets could not cut in to. In all, Bloom scored 19 points from the line, including 5 aces. Ally Berent was also strong on defense collecting 13 receptions and nine digs to go with six service points. Offensively, Aly Borellis returned to the lineup and dished out 23 assists and connected for 21 kills. Sophia Sudzina chipped in 11 kills while Bianca Giglio had 16 kills and three blocks. Margo Sudzina also collected 20 assists and six points from the line.

GIRLS SWIM TAKES SECOND STRAIGHT SMISL MEET

The Notre Dame Girls Varsity Swim team claimed the SMISL League Championship for second consecutive season, besting Country Day, Temperance Bedford, and Adrian. The Irish finished with 408 team points, with Country Day and Temperance Bedford tying for second with 366 each. Event winners for Notre Dame were Elizabeth Gruden in the 200 Free, Emma Ciesla in the 100 Butterfly, and 100 Breaststroke, Alina Stanczak in the 100 Free and 100 Backstroke, and Grace Linenfelser in the 500 Free. Notre Dame also won the 400 Freestyle Relay with a team of Olivia Powell, Rita Hajjar, Gruden and Stanczak. The meet started off with points for the Irish with a second and sixth place wins in

the 200 Medley relay. Taking second were Powell, Ciesla, Tessa Boehme and Stanczak while sixth place point scorers were Aria Kim, Hannah Hutchinson, Mariana Spada, and Lauren Chojnacki. Along with Gruden in the 200 Free, Linenfelser and Powell scored points with third and fourth place finishes while both swimming personal bests. In addition, Chojnacki dropped three seconds, Mia Palizzi dropped nine seconds and Grace Simon dropped 11 seconds. The 200 IM came down to the final touch with Tessa Boehme hitting the pad second, but giving the Irish much needed points. Boehme was backed up by fellow teammates Spada (eighth) and Kim (ninth), and Caterina Zaleski swimming exhibition. Spada, Kim and Zaleski dropped seven, two, and 10 seconds, respectively. The 50 Free showcased a number of sprinters finishing with personal bests. Point scorers were Hajjar, and Tori Devine with seventh and 10th place finishes. Ruthie Evans and Ella Warner both had personal bests with times of 28.76 and 29.98. Remaining 50 yard Freestylers with personal bests were Mary LaRocca, Hallie Fox, and Chanel Issa. The 100 Butterfly saw Notre Dame put on more points with a win by Ciesla, who was not tapered for the meet, with a time of 58.84 that was still close to her personal best. Third place went to Kim, who swam a 1:08.24, and fifth place went to Spada with a time of 1:08.62. Both girls swam best times. Stanczak took top honors in the 100 Free while Devine (eighth) and Hajjar (ninth) also added points. Hutchinson, Palizzi, LaRocca, Simon, Issa, Fox and Katie Schmidt also swam the event. The 500 Free was dominated by Notre Dame with a one-two finish by Linenfelser and Gruden. Linenfelser dropped 25 seconds from her season best to qualify her for the State Meet. Chojnacki took fifth and Lexi Hunter took sixth place

with a drop of 23 seconds. The 100 Backstroke was won by Stanczak with point contributions from Boehme (fourth) and Powell (sixth). The 100 Breaststroke proved to be an exciting event for Ciesla. Seeded second, Ciesla pulled out all the stops for a win and a six second drop with a time of 1:08.66 to qualify her for the State Meet. The 200 Freestyle Relays gave the Irish points for second and fifth place. Second place winners were Hajjar, Devine, Gruden and Ciesla, while fifth place point makers were Linenfelser, Hunter, Hutchinson, and Kim. The last swim event of the day saw the Irish take first in the 400 Free Relay. Powell, Hajjar, Gruden and Stanczak sealed a win while Devine, Boehme, Linenfelser and Spada took points for fifth place. Notre Dame also took sixth place in Diving from newcomer Allison Voto. Voto has been a strong addition to the team in scoring throughout the season. Notre Dame will send nine swimmers in Stanczak, Gruden, Alex Williams, Linenfelser, Powell, Ciesla, Devine, and Hajjar to the MHSAA DIII State Championship at Calvin College this upcoming weekend.



The Notre Dame Girls Varsity Swim team celebrates after taking the SMISL League Championship for second consecutive season