

## 2023 Varsity Volleyball Season Recap

The 2023 Varsity Volleyball Season has officially ended. Coach Matt expresses heartfelt gratitude to all the parents for their invaluable help and unwavering support throughout the season. A special shout-out goes to Mary Catherine Leigh for her exceptional assistance in coordinating parents and ensuring the Eagles were well-fed and cared for.

Our 2023 Eagles Varsity Volleyball squad had quite an eventful season, to say the least. These young ladies were an absolute joy to coach. Their camaraderie, mutual support, and positive attitudes made every day on the court a pleasure. Week after week, they dedicated themselves to honing their skills and growing as a cohesive unit.

Stratford was fortunate to have exceptional senior leadership from Maliyah Lyder and Makenzie Reynolds. Alongside our seasoned players, there was a fantastic mix of juniors, sophomores, and freshmen to round out the team. Over the course of the season, these remarkable young women played a total of 87 sets of Volleyball, experiencing their fair share of ups and downs.

From the very first scrimmage to the GIAA State Playoff match against Valwood, the Eagles have come a long way. There were moments when the odds seemed against Stratford, but time and time again, these ladies displayed tenacity and determination, fighting for victory when giving up would have been the easier path.

Front-row players, Maliyah Lyder, Kelly Grace Perrin, and Makenzie Reynolds, stood out with their impressive blocks and kills, continuously fueling team spirit. Laila Harvey and Reynolds Hefner, outside hitters, delivered excitement with their kills and well-placed tips. Setters and right-side hitters, Sophie Leigh and Hana Dodd, were the leaders on the court, providing strategic guidance and boosting offensive plays with their right-side attacks.

In the back row, junior libero Ginny Jorgensen led the way with a staggering 328 digs, demonstrating remarkable defensive prowess. She was ably supported by Virginia Wilkin, Ava Jeshuran, and Mia Bhasin. Our serving prowess also played a pivotal role in many of our victories, as our girls frequently went on impressive five-plus point runs. Throughout the season, this group of young athletes continued to amaze everyone with their dedication and resilience. As we bid farewell to our seniors, Maliyah Lyder and Makenzie Reynolds, who are moving on to new adventures in their lives, the future of Stratford Volleyball is exciting.

While this season has come to an end, the enthusiasm for what lies ahead burns brighter than ever. Thank you to everyone involved in making the 2023 Varsity volleyball season a memorable one.