

LADY VIKING VOLLEYBALL

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

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As we start a new chapter in Upper Merion Lady Viking Volleyball, we must close an old chapter. That “old chapter” just so happens to span 22 years!! Upper Merion has played in the American Conference of the Suburban One League for the past 22 seasons, winning 17 league titles, including the last 9. The Lady Vikings have had 12 undefeated seasons and league winning streaks of 107 and 68. UM’s final American Conference record is an astounding 295-23. In fact, Upper Merion has so dominated the American Conference in volleyball that there is no longer an American Conference for volleyball in Suburban One.

During their 22 years of volleyball, the Lady Vikings have reached the “Sweet 16” of the District One Tournament all 22 seasons. UM has played in 9 District One finals, winning 6 times. The volleyball team has been to the state tournament 10 times, losing in the finals once, losing in the semifinals once, and losing in the quarterfinals 6 times. I hope that you are impressed with the accomplishments of the Lady Viking volleyball program – I know that we are very proud of them.

The new chapter that I was referring to is the move to the Pioneer Athletic Conference – the PAC 12. In this new league only 8 of the 12 schools have volleyball, namely, Pope John Paul, Perkiomen Valley, Spring Ford, Methacton, Phoenixville, Owen J. Roberts, Norristown and of course Upper Merion. PJP is the favorite to not only win the league title but also the AAA state title. PV is coming off an outstanding season in which they tied PJP for the PAC title and also made the state tournament. Methacton and Spring Ford always have talented and competitive teams. OJR and Phoenixville are both relatively new programs and are building programs. Norristown we know well from moving from the SOL with us.

On this past Friday, the Lady Vikings opened their PAC season with a straight set victory over a talented Spring Ford team by scores of 25-16, 25-12 and 25-17. Outside hitters Tori Wright and Emma Andraka led the way with 18 and 14 kills respectively. Danielle Chung added 7 kills. Kelly Moore contributed 31 assists. Katelyn O'Brien had a team high 7 aces.

UM carried that momentum over to a Saturday tournament in Bethlehem, finishing pool play with an impressive 9-3 record. This mark was good enough to finish in second place to Bethlehem Liberty, currently ranked 4th in the state. The Lady Vikings then won their crossover match with 2nd place Unionville, 25-22, 23-25 & 15-11.

Tonight's match brings North Penn from the SOL into the friendly confines of Upper Merion. North Penn is coming off a dramatic comeback win in 5 sets at home on Friday against a tough Abington team. North Penn is a talented team with a lot of weapons so there should be a number of good rallies. North Penn and UM have never met in a regular or post season match, so there is no history to guide us as what to expect. What you can be sure of is the Superfans will be noisy and the Lady Vikings will be ready.

What's new in scheduling this year is that JV plays at 5:30 not 5:45 and the varsity match will start 20 minutes after the end of the JV match. What this means is that if the JV match finishes early, then the varsity match will also start early. Our usual 7 pm starts could be earlier than that.

The new version of the VIKING VOLLEYBALL t-shirt is available at the reasonable price of just \$10/shirt. We will be selling them at early season games or you can put your order in with any player or Mr. Funsten.

Don't forget to catch the Lady Vikings on the Viking channel as all home matches are taped and aired about 2-3 days after being played.

And remember,

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS!!!

