



HUSKIES MAKE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY AT HOME

December 6, 2022

KELOWNA, BC – The Okanagan Mission Secondary (OKM) Huskies AAAA Girls team won Gold in their home gym on Saturday, where they hosted the AAAA High School Girls BC Championships.

The top ranked OKM team did not lose a match during the three-day tournament, going 20-1 in set wins, with their only loss coming to Mount Boucherie Secondary (MBSS) in the final. This marks the first time in school history that OKM won a provincial banner in volleyball and only the second time in school history their volleyball program competed in a final, with the last time in 1999 when OKM was a small AA school and earned a Silver medal in Girls' Volleyball.

"What an experience of a lifetime for OKM athletes to win our first provincial volleyball title in our own gym, in front of our family, friends, and community," said Head Coach for OKM Rob Steciuk, who also was the tournament director. "The gym was absolutely packed, and it was insanity when Shea [Berisoff] got the winning kill from a great backset from Grace [Blaskovits]. It was special to have an all-Okanagan final - MBSS are well coached, their athletes are talented, and they are just nice kids. Many of the OKM and MBSS athletes are friends. It was a privilege to be able to host and showcase all the great volleyball happening in the valley."

In the end, MBSS took home Silver and École Kelowna Secondary (KSS) finished 6th.

The Provincial all-stars awards boasted many local athletes with OKM's Grace Blaskovits and Shea Berisoff and MBSS's Marija Josipovic getting first team all-star awards. OKM's Anna von Krosigk, MBSS's Sarah Henriksen, and KSS's Ryenn Schutz got second team all-star awards. Only six first team all-star awards and six second team all-star awards were awarded among more than 240 athletes who attend the Provincials. The tournament MVP was OKM's Kylie Taylor.

A tournament recap follows on page 2.

For comments, please contact:

Rob Steciuk, OKM Head Coach, 250-870-5108 ext 7445



Tournament Recap:

Day one pool play saw the Huskies go up against the top three teams in the Province, Dover Bay Secondary (#4), Riverside Secondary (#3), and the last match of the day, cross-town rivals Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary (#2). OKM finished day one pool play with a record of 3-0. The highlight was a set played between OKM and Riverside, with OKM coming out on top 30-28. The second set, OKM woke up and won the second set handily on play that was consistent, error free, and with big hits off the arms of sophomore Kylie Taylor, junior Grace Blaskovits and seniors Shea Berisoff and Anna Von Krosigk; a common theme throughout the weekend.

Day two-playoff play began with the Huskies playing #16 ranked Mount Baker in a best of five set game, which saw OKM win in a quick 3 set match. The same day saw OKM play their quarterfinal match against #5 ranked Seaquam Secondary. Again, the girls were firing on all cylinders with strong serving and consistent defense led by defensive specialist Payton Friesen, and outside hitter Kylie Taylor. The girls won the match, again in a quick three-set match and advanced the Huskies to the semi-final match against perennial powerhouse South Delta Senior Secondary (SDSS), who they had played at the Best of the West semi-finals in mid-October and again in the finals at the Red Surge tournament. The Huskies won both matches but it was a see-saw battle between the squads.

Saturday's semi-final game against SDSS began with an epic first set battle that the two teams had all season, with the Huskies storming back from 22-18 in the first set to win 28-26. The second set also was very tight, with OKM edging the Devils 25-23 but OKM proved to be too consistent with a commanding third set win, which advanced OKM to their first every Provincial final in school history vs a strong and consistent Mount Boucherie squad.