

●●● SPIKING DOWN THE COURT

Reaching for the Sky

By Feana Krimerman

Go Figure

6

practices in
one week

12

hours of
practice a
week

10

JV team
members

12

Freshman team
members

Open your eyes and ears, and get ready for action. The girls JV and freshman volleyball team is here to spike the fun into any competition. The team had great confidence in their performance and enthusiasm for their teamwork.

"My hopes for our team were that we would be able to play as a team on the court, not as six separate individuals," said **Rima Takieddine, 9**.

Takieddine got her wish because the team demonstrated awesome teamwork and cooperation.

There is a gloomy side to the season beyond its success: budget cuts. Who could possibly forget?

"Buses were overcrowded. We did not even have enough balls to practice with," said **Takieddine**.

Challenges, however, did not decrease the confidence level on the team. The girls' confidence was full blast even before the season began. Their self-belief

during tryouts seemed to not only guarantee them a place on the team, but encourage them to work even harder for victory during matches.

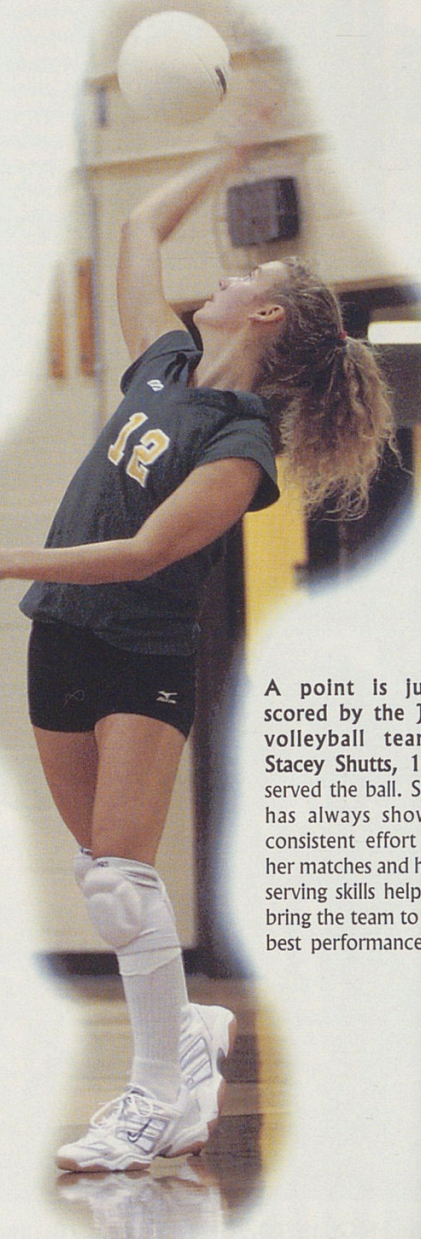
"I felt confident because I had improved so much from last season through Junior Olympic [this is a club team that girls play on after the volleyball season is over]," said **Anna Hulett, 10**.

Confidence, although vital for competitions, was not the only thing on these team members' minds. There came the stress of winning and pressure to show the best effort.

Hard work and belief in one's ability aside, not all of the teammates agreed on futures, but all agreed on the importance of loving the game.

"I love volleyball, but I don't think I'd want to play in college because then it becomes a job you have to do, not a sport you love to do," said **Hulett**.

Either path the girls choose, whether it is playing volleyball in college or playing it for fun, fortune, or enjoyment purposes, their love for volleyball will surely remain.



A point is just scored by the JV volleyball team! Stacey Shutts, 10, served the ball. She has always shown consistent effort in her matches and her serving skills helped bring the team to its best performance.

Most Memorable Moment



"There are so many funny things that happened this season, and that is one of the things I love the most; the bond our team shares." -**Anna Hulett, 10**.

"We were on our way from Lakota West and it was raining-pouring! Our busdriver made a bad turn and got stuck." -**Rima Takieddine, 9**.



Laurie Taragano, 9, bumps the ball at one of the volleyball team's successful matches. It was her first year playing high school volleyball. Her effort and competitiveness helped bring the Freshman team success in their matches.



The JV team is huddling and giving advice to one another before one of its matches. Win or lose, the team is always told to persevere and show consistent effort and support for each other. Clearly, the team has followed their coach's advice as well as their own.