



**TEAM SPRIT** The Westhill Girls Volleyball team poses for photo on bench. Photo by Byron Casado ('26)

## Girls' Volleyball Success

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Staff Writer

“What does it take to stop the Vikings this season?” That’s the question buzzing around Stamford as the Westhill High School Girls Volleyball team continues another season of dominating the court. With energy, teamwork, and some standout plays, the Vikings are showing that they belong at the top of the FCIAC standings.

The Vikings kicked off their season with a hard-fought 3-1 victory against Darien: their first win over the team in seven years. This victory was a huge confidence-booster for the players, and a clear sign that the program is on a rise.

“This win was huge for us,” senior captain Ava Homicki ('25) said. “Watching how good we can be when we play together makes me really excited for the future of our program.”

The team kept this momentum going with several clean sweeps, including 3-0 wins over Bridgeport Central, Danbury, Norwalk, Wilton, and St. Joseph. These victories demonstrated the team’s depth, coordination and grow-

ing confidence.

Homicki believes the younger players have played a strong role in the team’s success.

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“This volleyball season has been amazing, especially because of the young talent on our team. Stepping up as captain has been a lot of fun, and it’s been inspiring to see how these younger girls bring so much energy and potential,” Homicki said. Her comments highlight the balance between experienced leadership and fresh talent that has fueled the team’s strong season.

“Competing against strong teams and giving it our all showed how much determination this team has. Playing alongside such an amazing group of girls has pushed me to grow as a

player and person,” Alexandra “Mimi” Smeriglio ('27) said.

Despite their impressive record, the Vikings have faced challenges. Losses against Stamford High, New Caanan, Warde, and Ludlowe tested the team’s resilience and revealed areas for improvement.

The players focused on longterm goals, using every match as motivation to grow stronger.

They “competed with pride and determination,” Coach Jamue Russo said.

This season, the Vikings have been defined not just by wins and losses, but by teamwork, growth, and the strong culture of the program. The team has shown that success comes from trust, hard work, and commitment to one another. Their energy, dedication, and cohesion on the court have set a high standard for future teams, and the Vikings remain one of the most exciting teams to watch in the FCIAC this year.



Addison Bartlett ('27) takes the spike mid-game. Photo by Johnathan Berisha ('26)



Angela Russell ('26) goes for a bump during game. Photo by Johnathan Berisha ('26)