

A Beautiful Season

December 3, 2010

“I’ve just had the most remarkable season of my 34 year coaching career,” was Gord Pacholko’s response when asked about his Glaslyn team’s bronze medal finish in the 1A Senior Boys Provincial Championships held in Allan this past Friday and Saturday.

After a scrappy and close three game set against host team Allan the boys from Glaslyn dispatched Frontier to win their pool on the Friday. Their play, calm and sure and based on a solid, competent defence, resulted in their being seeded second overall. Winning their pool meant a bye into the quarter-finals.

Good blocking, sound setting from Gary Burgess and a pounding offense founded on the stellar play of hitters Jordan Dmytryshyn and Aaron Allen saw them dispatch Anaheim in two games 25-20 and 26-24.

In the semi-final versus Kincaid the boys came up against a good team who handed them their second loss (in match play) of the season. After a 25-20 win they lost the next two games and the set. This knocked them into the bronze medal match against Allan, who had clawed their way through to the finals with come-from-behind wins over Avonlea. At this point there was a departure from the script, which read ‘pumped up team ready to conquer all (Allan) defeats heartbroken dispirited opponent (Glaslyn).’

“Allan was up and I expected my boys to have a major challenge,” said Coach Palcholko. “But the assistant coach talked to them in my absence. I’m not sure what she said to them but they came out firing and they beat Allan in two straight.”

The bronze medal was the culmination of an outstanding season that began when the boys and the coach made a commitment to one another last March to stay together for one last season. “I stayed out of retirement for one more year to coach these guys, and I had them altogether for three years as a group. It was a very, very good year. They are fantastic gentlemen. They are salt of the earth and we got really, really close. Super kids, total commitment, total devotion, and they came with a very, very strong parent support group.”

By the numbers:

Games played: 99

Games lost: 10

Games won: 89

Days in training: 157

27 inches: the height of a picnic table

7: the number of players who could jump straight up and land on top of that picnic table

186: the number of hours spent in on-court practice

1: great, final season