

## Provincial Silver Medal for Carpenter High

December 1, 2010

This past weekend the Carpenter High Spartans Senior Boys volleyball team finished their season with a silver medal in the provincial competition in Melfort.

Under coach Dustin Treptow and manager Gerry Varjassy the team had advanced from their third place finish in the northern play downs to the twelve team provincial tournament where they captured their fourth medal in four years.

After finishing first in their pool of four with victories over Swift Current, Melfort and Regina's Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School Collegiate the team was placed second overall, enabling them to advance, with a bye, to the quarterfinals against Yorkton Regional High School. In this match the team played sparkling offensive volleyball, controlling the play and winning in two straight games.

The win sent them to the semifinals where they met their archrival Carlton Comprehensive High School from Prince Albert. Carlton had defeated Carpenter in the Northern Finals, but in a match characterized by strong creative play the boys from Carpenter played stunningly effective defensive volleyball to win in two very close games. "It was the best high school game I've watched in a long time, by both sides," said Coach Treptow. "It was a very exciting game -both sides played so well – earning their points rather than making mistakes to lose points."

"It was a very tense game, the best of the season," said player Nolan Ens. "We blocked their best player a few times, and when he began to try to hit away from our block the ball started going out."

"That was early on," said Treptow, "and a big moment in the game. We'd talked about blocking cross-court before the match. It was a deliberate attempt to make them do something different and it worked."

The final was against St. Mary High School (Prince Albert) who had advanced from the semis after defeating St. Joseph High School (Saskatoon). St. Mary, the number one seed in the tournament, pulled away at the end of each of the two games to win the gold. "They were nice close games," said Treptow, "especially in the middle –tied at 18-even in both - but they crept ahead to win 25-21 in both games."

The silver medal is a remarkable achievement: the fourth medal in four years. When asked how they've managed to be so consistently successful for so long Varjassy simply noted that "we have a long-term strategy, a seasonal strategy and we plan for success." "Yes," added Treptow, "and practising or playing five days a week, every week, all season long, and spending 900 hours together doesn't hurt either."

No, it probably doesn't.

