

PREPS VOLLEYBALL STATE FINALS

CLASS 3A MARSHALL 3, KASSON-MANTORVILLE 0

Marshall wins No. 1-vs.-2 battle for crown

Challenged early, the Tigers then hit their dominant stride.

By HEATHER RULE Special to the Star Tribune

After the first set of the Class 3A volleyball championship match, Marshall assistant coach Alex Boddie leaned over to head coach Dan Westly and said, "The best thing about that set is it's over and we won."

That really was true, Westly said. "It took us while to get going."

But once Marshall gets going, it's tough to stop. The top-seeded Tigers finished off a dominant state tournament performance with a 3-0, 25-12, 25-10 victory over No. 2 seed Kasson-Mantorville on Sunday at Xcel Energy Center.

Marshall (13-2) didn't drop a set of the state tournament. However, that streak was threatened when Marshall trailed for much of the first set against the KoMetes, falling behind 21-15 and then hanging in to find them at net.

Marshall senior Treas Guston had a pair of kills in that stretch before adding a block and helping her team take the 1-0 match lead.

"During that first set, I know a lot of us were getting nervous, but Treas came out and pushed really hard," said Marshall senior Megan Wagner. "She really got us that first set."

Guston ended up with 15 kills in the match, while junior Leah Jones and senior Taylor Atkins each had eight.

In the third set, the KoMetes tied the match 16-16. Westly called a timeout, and then watched his team promptly score the next nine points to secure the title. Westly said his team has been redemptive since they lost to Marshall in the state tournament last year.

"I always like to make the comment they have the secret sauce," Westly said. "If I ever figure out what that is, we'll win it over and over again."

"But this group has the secret sauce, and because of that, there was never a doubt in their minds that they were going to get this done."

The KoMetes added another nine service aces — seven from Anya McAdams — and the team finished with 31 total aces in the tournament.

Amelia Larson had four kills, and Elise Adams had eight kills.

KoMetes coach Adam VanOort was happy with how poised his team played, especially a bunch of line.

"It looked like we'd been there a bunch of times," VanOort said. "We were just playing really good volleyball. These kids (first set) they only we tightened up a little bit and kind of gave the court more."

It was Kasson-Mantorville's first state championship since 2002. The KoMetes made the state tournament at times since then but never made it past the semifinals.



Marshall outside hitter Leah Jones leapt to block a ball played by Kasson-Mantorville during the Class 3A volleyball state tournament championship match. Marshall, seeded No. 1 in the tournament, swept the No. 2 KoMetes in three sets.

RESULTS

SATURDAY

HOCKEY - GIRLS

Wadena 1, Casson-Kimball 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0

SOFTBALL

Wadena 1, Casson-Kimball 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0

BASEBALL

Wadena 1, Casson-Kimball 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0

VOLLEYBALL - GIRLS

Wadena 1, Casson-Kimball 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
Casson-Kimball 1, Wadena 0
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Individual state qualifiers

256 volleyball - Assorted (Hendrix)
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Kasson-Mantorville senior Anya McAdams dug for a dig against Jackson County Central during the Class 2A volleyball state final. Sault Ste. Marie.

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Classified advertising

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BASEBALL

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VOLLEYBALL

Wadena 1, Casson-Kimball 0
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