



Making

# PIRATE HISTORY



Your souvenir edition of the  
**Galena Pirate Volleyball**  
team's state run

The  
**Galena**  
Gazette





## CONGRATULATIONS



to Lizzy and  
all the Galena  
Pirates on  
a terrific  
season!

Love, Dad,  
Mom, Emma,  
Sam and all  
your family

# ACE MCKENNA



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# Congratulations to our Pirates!



From the Kiwanis Club of Galena  
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Dave Duff  
Mike Sotak  
Richard D. [unclear]  
Brandon Bellke  
Samh Neutz  
Bryce Collins  
Mike [unclear]  
Jay Breed



# Making history

**T**he 2018 Galena varsity volleyball team was not what you would call big. With a starting lineup of Samantha Stoffregen (5'4"), Morgan Wills (5'6"), Sophia Heisler (5'6"), McKenna Curran (5'7"), Sami Wasmund (5'10") and Mackenzie Muehleip (5'11"), the Pirates throughout the state tournament series would meet and beat teams with multiple players at 5'10" or taller. Height is a big factor in the front row of a volleyball match for both blocking and attacking.



**Sports Column**  
**Brian McLane**

Muehleip and Wasmund were skilled blockers and hitters, but they were constantly battling bigger players. Wills and Curran as outside hitters almost constantly had two big blockers across the net. They learned to hit hard through the block, cut the ball around the block, and hit the ball off the blockers hands, causing it to careen out of bounds or into the court and remain in play.

Coach Dennis Wills would often speak of playing "in system." The meaning is quite simple. Pass the first ball accurately to the setter, give the attacker a hittable set, and swing away when possible to get a kill. The Pirates were able to do that all through the state tournament series with the exception of the championship match when the Pleasant Plains Cardinals were able to keep The Pirates out of system with their blocking and attacking due to their size at the net.

The Pirates had marched through Regionals, Sectionals, Super Sectionals, and the State Semifinal without losing a set in the six matches they played to get to the State Final. The loss to Pleasant Plains in the championship was the fourth time in the Pirates' six season losses that the match went two sets. And in the semifinal win over Nashville, the Pirates set a state record for least points allowed/biggest margin of victory when they won the second set 25-2.

This was an impressive feat, and an impressive season, for these young women. Please join me—and the staff of The Galena Gazette—in celebrating this history-making Pirate volleyball team!



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Celebrating coach Dennis Wills' 500th career win are, from left, Deb, Hailey, Dennis and Chance Wills.

Looking back on an

# Epic season

**C**an you imagine having the same dream every year for 13 years then waking up one morning and realizing it actually came true? That was my morning on Nov. 3, the day after we won our very first Super Sectional match in Galena.



Best volleyball coach in Galena history, Dennis Wills talks to fans at the rally before state competition. He has 500 career wins as of this season.

**By Dennis Wills**  
Galena Head Volleyball Coach

Pirate volleyball history! Not that I got much sleep that night anyway, but I clearly remember waking up and my first thought was, "this is real—we are going to state!" Those words are still so exciting to me. What an absolutely great experience; it truly was a dream come true! Wait—not so fast, let's take a look at how these awesome girls and this great team reached this amazing place.

**The Off Season**

It was so cool to see how focused these girls were when they walked into the gym last June. I contribute a big part of their attitude to the varsity team of 2017. Never have I seen a team that absolutely loved to play volleyball like the 2017 team. We have video of countless times they are celebrating small milestones on the court.

You might say it's no big deal, right? How about in some cases when they were losing - or in one of my favorite clips the score is 2-1 and it just wasn't a few of them, it was all of them celebrating! 2017 was such a great year that it really made it easy for a smooth transition to the girls of the fall, 2018 version, to take over and keep it going. And boy did they ever!

**The Season**

We had an early indication that this team could be something very special. It was at our own Galena tournament where we played pretty well throughout the day. I remember saying to them, "Let's keep getting better all

<b>Dennis Wills: Career record at Galena</b>	2006	31-3	2013	25-8-2
	2007	25-10	2014	29-6-2
	2008	26-9-2	2015	33-6
	2009	22-12-2	2016	32-5
	2010	32-4	2017	34-6
	2011	33-4-1	2018	36-6
	2012	28-9	13 yrs. 385-87-9	

day," and they did just that. The championship match put us against Durand.

We knew Durand was good as they had been to state the year before and had returned many key players. Let's be honest, the first game they whipped us. We could not keep up with them. However, as they did all year, our girls came back! We started playing faster and in system and all of a sudden it was Durand struggling to keep up with us. We won game two and were able to finish them off 15-11 in the third game which was a really great volleyball match. That match seemed to launch us into the season and conference play.

I remember at one point looking at our record and we were 22-0, beating some very good teams along the way. Yes, we knew then we had something special!

**Injuries #1**

I don't believe I have ever seen a team with more bad breaks than this one endured the last two weeks of the season. It all started when we were at the Latin Tournament in Chicago; taking on schools with enrollments

as big as our town.

Everything was going great, on Friday night we had the first match in control and were 3 points away from winning when an opposing player came under the net and our starting outside hitter, Morgan Wills, landed on her foot thus spraining her own ankle. From that point on she would be unable to play at the level she is accustomed to and we elected to not play her at all on Saturday.

We ended up winning that first match, but that would be the only one for the weekend. It certainly wasn't for lack of effort, but in volleyball making a change on the spot is tough, and combining that with losing one of your best players, it proved to be quite challenging.

**Injuries #2**

Then came that dreadful night at Warren, the last regular season conference game and the title on the line. Things got all turned around when a similar situation happened. We had the match in control. It was late in the second game when Sophia Heisler, our starting right side hitter, went up for a block

# I remember telling the girls after that match, 'Do you realize that we are now playing in the state championship game?'

**That was crazy!**

and twisted her ankle on the landing. Instantly she knew something was wrong. By the time we got her from the court to the bench her ankle had ballooned three times its normal size.

I knew immediately that was not a good sign. We were able to finish the match and win the conference title at 13-0, but the injury took all the excitement out of the win. I felt bad for Sophia, the team and our fans who I think were expecting a celebration for the championship.

### Injuries #3

It was our last practice before the state tournament; we were running a seemingly harmless defensive drill when two of our players got tangled up resulting in McKenna Curran, our other starting outside hitter, turning her ankle.

This had now reached the unbelievable stage! We had been healthy all year—why now? A lot of people don't realize McKenna toughed this injury out. While nowhere near 100 percent, she actually played the next night.

### Injury Updates

Morgan healed and came back to play some of her best volleyball ever. Sophia was unable to return to the court and needed surgery to repair her ankle. She is now well on her way to recovery. McKenna continued to play and had some huge moments for us down the stretch.

Injuries can be absolutely dismantling both physically and mentally to a team, especially when they happen at the most important time of the year as these did. The last thing a coach wants to do is change the line up as the team enters the state tournament. That thought is doubled when you have a team that has had the success this one had throughout the season. I am so proud of how each and every one of these girls handled these difficult situations. They were incredibly awesome!

### The State Tournament

We entered the state tournament unhealthy and with a brand new line up. Our first match was against West Carroll, a conference opponent, on their home court—a team we had handled earlier in the season. In that game almost everything we expected to happen did. We were out of sync the whole night and struggled in all aspects of the game. Fortunately for us we had enough sheer talent on the floor to finish with a win. I remember talking in the locker room after that match and telling the girls that this was expected, stay focused, remain positive and we will be just fine.

Then came the regional championship match against an unknown opponent, Fulton. This team had four girls on the roster six feet tall or taller. Wow! I have coached one six foot girl in my 18 years at Galena! We were familiar with being the smaller team throughout the season and while we



started a little sluggish, it was easy to see we were much improved from the West Carroll match. We cruised to our fifth straight regional championship, something of which we are very proud!

Then came the Sectionals and our first opponent was a very strong Forreston team. By now we had gotten more practice time in and that was good, as Forreston was a very tough opponent. Again, we played solid ball but the first game came down to the wire. After holding them off from game point five times (yes five!) and the score tied at 27-27 we recorded two straight aces to give us the victory at 29-27. That was a huge win for us!

We went on to win the match in two games and that would set up the much awaited rematch with Lena. There was no way we were going to lose to Lena; our team was so focused and ready to play. The first game was nothing short of amazing. We committed only one error the whole game - yes only one! That is unheard of in this sport. While the second game was closer, the girls did it again coming from behind to win the Sectional title. How about that?

We had reached our goal to make it back to the Super Sectional game—now let's get ready for it!

For the Super Sectional game we would be going back to Oregon where we had won sectionals the year before and facing the same opponent (Elgin Harvest Christian) who we had lost to in Super Sectionals on their home court in 2017. The revenge card was easy to play and man we played it! Again our Pirates were nothing short of amazing that night winning the match with a dominating performance!

People ask me what I remember most about the Super Sectional match and the feeling of finally punching our ticket to state. Two things stand out in my mind—the fan support that night was absolutely tremendous; to see all the pure emotion from them was just incredible. And seeing the excitement in the girls' eyes as they realized we were going to state.

Those are two things I will never forget!

The state experience was so cool! Walking into Redbird arena that first day and realizing we were going to play volleyball there was truly amazing and something I will never forget. Then came our first match against Nashville. Nerves were definitely a hindrance as we started the match, and it showed getting down 6-1. During the time out I talked about putting the nerves away, we were done with that and it was time to light the fire. Boy, did they respond!

What happened after that time out I have never seen before and probably will never see again, certainly at that level.

It was absolutely a totally dominating performance by our lady Pirates. Coming back to win the first game 25-14 and then to win the next game 25-2,

to this day is still unbelievable. I remember telling the girls after that match, "Do you realize that we are now playing in the state championship game?" That was crazy! In the championship match we would again be out-sized and in this case the opponents were big and athletic. Looking back now there are obviously some things we would have tried to do differently, however, we need to give Plains credit as they were the better team that day. We left it on the floor with absolutely no regrets.

As we walked out of the stadium a very good friend said to me, "At the beginning of the year if someone had told you that you would finish 13-0 and win conference again and then go onto to finish as runner up in the 2A state tournament, would you have believed it?"

That put everything in perspective and really helped me deal with the loss. It is tremendously difficult to get to state in volleyball in Illinois, and now I can say how special it is and how much it means.

The state does a fantastic job promoting girls at this tournament. They really made our entire team feel special. To me that is awesome because they are right, it is all about the girls!

### Thank You

Where do I start? I think I will just say "Thank You!" to everyone and that will need to cover it! Deb (my wife) is telling me this article is getting too long! To my family, these girls, the coaches, parents, all school personnel, our amazing fans, all our sponsors, the fantastic Galena community and anyone else who had a part in this amazing experience—from the bottom of my heart, thank you!

I am so proud of what we have accomplished and now we have a new goal—can't wait!



**Congratulations to  
Coach Wills and the  
Lady Pirates! Thank  
you for a memorable  
volleyball season!**

Love,  
The Wills Family

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# PIRATE PRIDE!



**Congratulations!**  
The hard work & dedication of the entire team and Coach Wills inspired us all!



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# Looking back on the Best. Season. Ever.

by Brian McLane  
sports@galgazette.com

It was a season of bests. Best in the conference at 13-0. Best in the West Carroll 2A Regional. Best in the Port Byron 2A Sectional. Best in the Oregon 2A Super Sectional. Best record in school history at 36-6.

Best ever finish in the state tournament series as Runner Up in class 2A in Illinois.

It was a season of winning. Only five teams took the Pirates to a third set in a match: Durand, Stockton, Wilmette Regina Dominican, Lena-Winslow (twice) and Eastland. Of those six matches,

Galena won four. Two of the losses (Regina Dominican and Le-Win) came at the highly competitive Chicago Latin Tournament where senior outside hitter Morgan Wills was injured. As a matter of fact, five of Galena's six losses came in highly-touted tournaments during the season. The sixth came, of course, in the state championship match.

So in almost every win, Galena needed only two sets to beat the opponent. Wins that were exceptions were victories over Durand, Stockton, Eastland, and Le-Win (the conference game) that went three sets.

Even with an undefeated record late in the season, the outright conference championship came

down to the last game of the season. Le-Win had one loss (to Galena), so the Pirates needed to beat Warren in the last game of the season to remain undefeated and win the conference championship outright. A loss would put them in a tie with Le-Win.

But win the Pirates did. They defeated Warren 25-12, 25-6, but at a heavy cost. Senior starting right side hitter Sophia Heisler went down with a broken ankle just as regionals were approaching in less than a week. Coach Wills had to scramble to come up with a new lineup at the most crucial point in the season.

Wills settled on freshman Maggie Furlong and

sophomore Abby Soppe to fill the hole left by Heisler. Furlong would take her spot in the front row while Soppe would handle the back row duties. With the four main hitters (juniors Sami Wasmund, Mackenzie Muehleip and McKenna Curran and senior Morgan Wills) all intact, the Pirates still had a good chance for success in the state tournament series.

And we all know what the result of Coach Wills's new lineup was—a sparkling success. While they hit some peaks and valleys along the way, and confusion may have set in a few times, the Pirates were able to hold it together and push on to their best season ever.

## Highlighting the road to state



Above: Morgan Wills leads the team across the new Petey Pirate logo floor after the match against Milledgeville, Aug. 30. Right: Sami Wasmund (13), Sophia Heisler (18) and Drew Wasson (20) watch McKenna Curran (5) receive the serve from East Dubuque during Fight Night, Sept. 26.



### Tuesday, Aug. 21

Galena battled East Dubuque on Tuesday, Aug. 21. In the first varsity match of the night, Galena handed Southwestern a 2-0 loss (25-9, 25-20). Morgan Wills hammered 13 kills to lead Galena in hitting. She was also 10 of 10 in serving with 3 aces. Drew Wasson was 16 of 16 from the service line and added 20 assists in the setting department.

Samantha Stoffregen had nine digs, and Wills added 10 more. Sami Wasmund, McKenna Curran, and Mackenzie Muehleip each put down four kills.

### Thursday, Aug. 20

The Galena Pirates volleyball squad dismantled the Milledgeville Missiles 25-11, 25-10 on Thursday, Aug. 30. The Missiles had a tough time getting off the ground as Morgan Wills killed 11 balls, followed by Mackenzie Muehleip with six and McKenna Curran with three. Drew Wasson and Wills added three aces each. Wasson was once again perfect from the service line, going 13 of 13.

Sami Wasmund and Muehleip controlled the net, totaling seven blocks with four and three, respectively. Curran had eight digs and Samantha Stoffregen added seven. Wasson dished out 23 assists in a game that saw several of Galena's bench players get in on the action.

### Thursday, Sept. 6

The East Dubuque Warriors put up a battle on their home floor against the Pirate volleyball team on Sept. 6, but in the end it was the relentless pounding of the ball by Galena that made the difference.

In the first set the Pirates went up 10-2 before the Warriors called a time out to catch their breath. Galena's outside hitters, Morgan Wills and McKenna Curran, found openings down the line in attack after attack.

Two Galena missed serves, an attack error, and a block by East Dubuque's Caitlyn Mai brought the Warriors to within four at 12-8, but that's as close as they would get even with a rowdy student body urging them on.

Missed serves and hitting errors by Galena kept the Warriors hopes alive, but it wasn't enough as



Galena's Sawyer Quick (15) and Mackenzie Muehleip (22) attempt to block an attack by Southwestern on Tuesday, Aug. 21 at East Dubuque's gym. Brian McLane photos

the Pirates won the first set 25-16.

With the East Dubuque students chanting "Rattled!" in set two, the Pirates did indeed appear flustered at times in the early going. The Warriors took a short-lived 6-5 lead but would keep the game close until a Morgan Wills kill and a Mackenzie Muehleip block gave Galena a 13-12 lead and the momentum. A few hitting errors and a net violation by the Warriors soon made the score 19-13 in favor of the Pirates.

And then the Wills kill machine took over. Wills hammered three straight kills to score points 20-22. East Dubuque's Chloe Oberman then got a kill of her own to bring East Dubuque within seven at 22-15.

Then Wills smacked a quick set out of the middle and a Curran kill gave the Pirates 24. An ace serve by Wills ended the second set and the match 25-15.

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Sami Wasmund (13) returns a serve as libero Samantha Stoffregen (21) watches on during the home victory Sept. 11. Right: Drew Wasson and Mackenzie Muehleip (22) leap during the Sept. 11 victory against Scales Mound.



## Team makes big plays throughout regular season

Blocking was also the name of the game as both teams rejected multiple attack attempts on the night, some of which remained in play making for several exciting long rallies.

Muehleip had three blocks and Sami Wasmund added two. Wills led in kills with 10 followed by Curran with four and Wasmund and Muehleip with three each. Wills had two service aces on nine of 11 serving and Samantha Stoffregen was perfect in serving at nine of nine. Stoffregen had 17 digs; Wills and Curran added nine each. Setter Drew Wasson handed out 22 assists.

### Tuesday, Sept. 11

The Galena Pirates continued their undefeated season, beating Scales Mound 25-17, 25-11 on Sept. 11 in the Galena gym. The Pirates are 12-0 overall and 5-0 in the conference.

Morgan Wills slammed 12 kills to lead the Pirates. Drew Wasson and Sami Wasmund were both perfect in serving with two aces each. Wasmund and Mackenzie Muehleip each had four blocks. Wasson distributed 18 assists and McKenna Curran and Wasmund had 10 and nine digs, respectively.

### Thursday, Sept. 20

After a quick 25-8 set one victory, the Pirates had to fend off a pesky Wildcat team in a close back-and-forth second set. But Galena was able to rally and close out the second set 25-17 in the homecoming-week match.

Morgan Wills led in kills with eight. McKenna Curran added seven and Mackenzie Muehleip had five. Sophia Heisler was nine of 10 in serving with three aces. Curran served in nine of nine attempts. Samantha Stoffregen put 19 digs in play followed by Sami Wasmund with 15. Drew Wasson handed out 22 assists to her hitters.

### Wednesday, Sept. 26

Not only was Sept. 26 Fight Night for cancer at Galena High School; it was also Fight Night on the volleyball court. The annual Fight Night raises funds to support local residents battling cancer. A chili feed, silent auction, and 50/50 drawing benefited Becky Spillane and Evan Berning as they battle cancer.

In the varsity volleyball game, the Pirates battled the East Dubuque Warriors. In set one the Pirates grabbed a 7-4 edge in the early going that East Dubuque could never seem to overcome. The Warriors stayed within five points for most of the game and cut the lead back to three at 17-14 on a Paige Middendorf kill. But they scored only two more points in the match as Galena went on to win 25-16.

But the second set was a totally different story. In a game with multiple lead changes and back-and-

forth scoring, the Warriors tied the game at 23 when an overpass by Galena was tipped onto the Pirates' floor by Caitlyn Mai.

Then as so often happens in a Galena volleyball match, Morgan Wills made two big plays to save the day for the Pirates. Her first match-saving play came on a kill, followed immediately by an ace jump serve that gave Galena the set and the match.

Wills had 10 kills on the night, followed by Sami Wasmund with eight and McKenna Curran with five. Sophia Heisler served up three aces on 12 of 13 serves, and Samantha Stoffregen was perfect in serving with 11 of 11 and two aces.

Wasmund and Mackenzie Muehleip combined for three blocks, although both teams got their hands on the ball for many deflections throughout the match. Setter Drew Wasson handed out 24 assists. Libero Stoffregen had 19 digs followed by 14 by Wasmund.

Galena remains undefeated for the season.

### Tuesday, Oct. 2

October 2 at Galena High School—oh, what a night! The senior volleyball girls and their parents were recognized. The boys golf team was awarded the IHSA Class 1A Regional Championship plaque they had won earlier that day. The volleyball team defeated the West Carroll Thunder 25-19, 25-7. And Dennis Wills got his 500th win as head coach of the Galena Pirates.

### Tuesday, Oct. 9

The Galena Pirates remained undefeated in the

Northwest Upstate Illini Conference as they narrowly defeated Eastland 25-18, 23-25, 25-21 in the Pirates' final home game of the season on Oct. 9.

Galena's Morgan Wills led in kills with 16, followed by Sami Wasmund with 12. Wasmund had five blocks and Mackenzie Muehleip added four. McKenna Curran was perfect in serving (12/12) and scored two aces. Drew Wasson distributed 33 assists. Samantha Stoffregen had 26 digs and Wills added 24.

After going into a ball-handling funk in set two, the Pirates were able to come back and take set three to win the match. Eastland fell to 6-4 in the NUIC and 17-10 overall.

With a win over previously undefeated Lena-Winslow on Oct. 11, the Pirates were assured at least a tie with Le-Win in the conference. The Pirates needed to win their final conference match at Warren on Oct.

Le-Win took Galena to three sets, winning the first 25-21. The Pirates came back to take sets two and three 25-14, 25-16.

Sami Wasmund pounded 12 kills followed by Morgan Wills (nine), Mackenzie Muehleip (nine) and McKenna Curran (eight). Sophia Heisler was perfect in serving (17/17) along with Samantha Stoffregen (11/11). Drew Wasson tossed up 36 assists and Stoffregen made 32 digs on the night.

### Thursday, Oct. 18

After defeating the Warren Warriors 25-12, 25-6 on Thursday, Oct. 18, the Galena Pirates are the NUIC volleyball conference champions with a

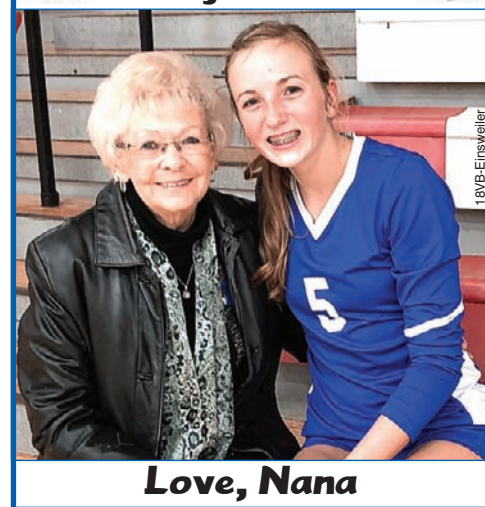
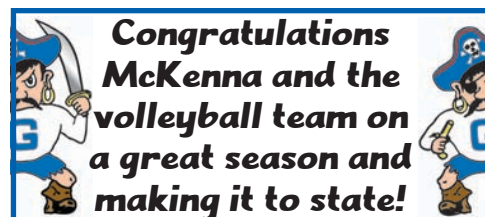


While playing against East Dubuque, McKenna Curran slams the ball over the net.

record of 13-0. Overall the Pirates are 30-5, their third consecutive 30-win season.

Morgan Wills had 12 kills and McKenna Curran added eight. Samantha Stoffregen was perfect in serving (18/18) with two aces. Sami Wasmund served seven of seven and had three blocks. Drew Wasson chipped in 25 assists and Stoffregen had 29 digs.

Key player Sophia Heisler injured her ankle during the match. This marked the end of season play for the senior.



# Regional Champs; Sectional Champs; Super Sectional Champs Nearing Normal



For Galena fans, life's a beach during the playoffs! Maggie Furlong (16) receives a serve as Libero Samantha Stoffregen watches.



The team celebrates as a dream becomes a reality: They're going to state!



Like a scene from an action movie, the team arrives at Redbird Arena. From front to back, Samantha Stoffregen, Morgan Wills, Drew Wasson, Maggie Furlong and Maddie Miller.



Pirate fans traveled to Normal, signs at the ready.



McKenna Curran spikes the ball in the state semifinal.

## Post-season highlights

### Regionals: Thursday, Oct. 25

It was business casual dress-up night for the Galena student body, and they watched their Pirate volleyball team take care of business on the court by winning their fifth consecutive Regional Championship at the IHSA Class 1A West Carroll Regional Final on Thursday, Oct. 25.

The Pirates defeated a much taller Fulton team 25-16, 25-15 to advance to Sectional play without starter Sophia Heisler, who broke an ankle during the last regular season game at Warren and is lost for the remainder of the state tournament series. McKenna Curran was hobbled by a twisted ankle as well but was able to play.

Each set went practically point-for-point until midway through the games when Galena was able to pull away. To fight off the Steamers' blocking, the Pirates had to pound the ball through the block, around the block, off the hands of the blockers or tip the ball just out of their reach.

"We handled their height well," Coach Dennis Wills said.

Sami Wasmund went 10 for 10 serving with five aces on the night. But the highlight of set one was Abby Soppe's six consecutive serves with two aces to help the Pirates pull away.

Her serving "certainly turned that game and possibly the whole match," Wills said.

Morgan Wills led in kills with eight followed by McKenna Curran (seven) and Wasmund (four). Mackenzie Muehleip had three blocks and Wasmund had two. Samantha Stoffregen had 26 digs and Wills contributed 18. Drew Wasson dealt 20 assists in the victory, which pushed the Pirates' record to 32-5.

### Sectionals: Wednesday, Oct. 31

The Pirates kept pounding away at the blockers, moving the ball around to various locations along the net to keep the blockers guessing. And they came away as the Class 2A Port Byron Sectional champions 25-16, 25-21.

Galena seemed outmatched at the net, but they had played and defeated Le-Win earlier in the season and knew what to expect.

"We try to play in-system and move the ball around," said Coach Dennis Wills. "We know we've got to get them the ball and try to keep defenses guessing."

"We had a game plan going in," said senior outside hitter Morgan Wills. "We knew they had some good blockers. We knew when we should hit or tip and we had the ball covered in case it was blocked."

Dennis Wills was happy to report that this year in the Super Sectionals, they will not have to travel three hours to the home court of the team they will face—and who eliminated them in Super Sectionals last year—Harvest Christian Academy of Elgin. The Super Sectionals were to be played in Oregon—a neutral site.

Morgan Wills once again led the Pirates in kills with 12, followed by Sami Wasmund with eight and Mackenzie Muehleip with seven. Wasmund (10 for 10, two aces) and Samantha Stoffregen (nine for nine, one ace) were perfect from the service line.

Stoffregen also had 31 digs along with 16 by Wills. Drew Wasson had 27 assists.

In set one the Pirates took a nine-point tie and made an 8-2 run to make the score 17-11. They cruised to the 25-16 win from there.

Set two included ties at 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 points before the Pirates were able to pull away to the 25-21 win on an 8-4 run.

The Pirates improved to 34-5 for the season.

### Super Sectionals: Friday, Nov. 2

It was sweet revenge. In the 2017 Super Sectionals, the Pirates were eliminated by Elgin Harvest Christian Academy. The game was on HCA's home court, about a three-hour drive from Galena. Under coach Wills, the Pirates had never been to Super Sectionals.

This year the Pirates knew what to expect at the Supers. They were familiar with their opponent—Harvest Christian Academy once again. And they were familiar with the gym at Oregon, the site of the this year's Super Sectional.

"We were comfortable coming into this gym," Coach Dennis Wills said. "We were 2-0 here [in 2017 Sectionals] and I pitched it to the girls that way."

Wills added that the girls responded, and it helped that the Pirates didn't have to take a three-hour bus ride to Elgin to play HCA on their home court.

"The team from last year kind of paved the way for this team," Wills said. "That was a goal we set from day one—to get back to this game [Super Sectionals]."

Senior setter Drew Wasson said this year the team was much more motivated and "we knew what we were getting into."

"We were a lot more prepared," she added.

"This year we had a lot more intensity to win because we wanted revenge from the previous year," said senior libero Samantha Stoffregen.

A highlight of the match was the play of Galena's junior middle hitters—the blocking of Mackenzie Muehleip and the all around play of Sami Wasmund. Muehleip blocked 10 balls and Wasmund added four.



Drew Wasson and Mackenzie Muehleip block an attack by Le-Win's Ana Zinke during Sectional finals.



The victory over Harvest Christian School sent the Pirates to state. Celebrating are Sami Wasmund (13), Drew Wasson (20) and Morgan Wills (8).

Wasmund also had 18 digs and was 14 of 14 serving with one ace.

Stoffregen put up 23 digs as the Pirate defense was once again outstanding.

Morgan Wills led in kills with 17 followed by

McKenna Curran (eight) and Muehleip (three). Wasson delivered 25 assists and was nine of 10 in serving.

The Pirates improved to 35-5 for the season.

**Five-peat!**

**Pirates are 5-time Regional champions!**

**Going to state!**

**Pirates defeat Harvest Christian in Super Sectional 25-16, 25-19**

**Galena advances to first-ever state finals**

**Galena Pirates are Great at state!**

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# State runner-up

### State Semifinal! Friday, Nov. 9

In the semifinals of the IHSA Class 2A State Tournament, the Galena Pirates came from behind to win set one 25-14 and then absolutely pounded the Nashville Hornettes in set two 25-2 to advance to the state final.

After falling behind 6-1 in the first set, the Pirates were able to shake off the nervousness and get down to business. They worked their way back to a 10-10 tie on a kill by Mackenzie Muehleip and after battling point-for-point to another tie at 13, the Pirates went on a 10-point run behind the serving of Morgan Wills (3 aces in 10 of 10 serves during the run) and kills by Sami Wasmund (2), McKenna Curran (1) and Wills (1) along with a flood of errors by Nashville.

"I just wanted to keep it [the serve] in," said Wills about her powerful top-spin jump serving.

If set one ended badly for the Hornets, set two was total devastation. Drew Wasson opened the set going 10-for-10 serving and giving the Pirates a 9-1 lead. With the score at 10-1, Samantha Stoffregen decided to get in on the act, serving 13 straight with 4 aces to make the score 23-1.

On Stoffregen's 14th consecutive serve, Nashville was able to score its second point, but Sami Wasmund put the match away with a kill on the next possession.

Wasmund led the Pirates in kills with 10, followed by Wills with nine. Maggie Furlong and Wasmund had two blocks each. Drew Wasson put up 24 assists and Stoffregen had 13 digs.

"You don't get to the state finals by being a bad team," Coach Dennis Wills said in defense of the Nashville team. "We had a lot of respect for them."

Wills certainly didn't expect such a lopsided score in set two. He felt nerves got the better of the Hornets as the Galena lead grew.

Wasmund pointed out that playing in a "great, tough conference" helped prepare the Pirates for the state finals.

The Pirates also faced five tough (and usually taller) teams throughout their state tournament series, and they would have to face once again a taller team in



The team celebrates during the semifinal victory. From left, Maggie Furlong, Grace Wilhelm, Corrina Noble, Maddie Miller, Lizzy Eaton and Grace Wubbien.

### Pleasant Plains in the championship.

### State Championship! Saturday, Nov. 10

The 2018 goal for the Pirate volleyball team was to get back to the super sectional game where they were eliminated in 2017. They did that and more. Galena finished as the IHSA 2A state runner up at Redbird Arena in Normal on Nov. 10 after dropping the championship match to Pleasant Plains 18-25, 20-25.

According to Coach Dennis Wills, the new goal for the future is simple—get back to the state championship match.

"Really that should always be the goal," said Wills. "We have some quality players returning."

Galena finished the season with the best record in school history (36-6) in a strong program that Wills has built over the last 13 years as head coach. The Pirates have won five regional titles in a row, and just keep going deeper and deeper into the playoffs each year.

But in the championship match, the Pirates just couldn't seem to get their aggressive offense going as they had done all season.

With four players 5'10" or taller, Pleasant Plains finally controlled the net against a Galena team that had beaten taller teams all through the state tournament series.

"They took us out of system," Wills said. "They attacked us in the right positions. They kept us out of system most of the game."

Against the Pleasant Plains size at the net, the Pirates needed to play in system to compete with them, according to Wills.

"It's a big stage. It affects young people and coaches and you tend to overplay a little bit," Wills said of the state tournament.

Morgan Wills summed up the state experience.

"We're not necessarily hanging our heads. We played amazing throughout the whole season, breaking school records again. And how we played yesterday [in the

semifinal]—we're not ashamed; it's how we played the whole season."

"We're proud," said Sami Wasmund. "None of us thought we'd get this far."

And according to the team, the season has been great for the community.

"Everybody's super proud that we got this far," Mackenzie Muehleip said. "We broke history three years in a row."

Samantha Stoffregen said it was special that they had so many fans come to see them play and support them at state.

Coach Wills called his girls a "team of over achievers" who accomplished every goal they set and "reached new heights for the school and the program."

The Pirates battled to stay alive in the second set, holding several small leads, but could never get a run going to get some separation from the Cardinals. Wills led in kills with nine followed by Wasmund with seven and McKenna Curran with four.

Drew Wasson had 18 assists. Stoffregen had 15 digs and Wasmund tallied 10.





With the state runner-up trophy are, back, from left, athletic director Brett Noble, principal Beth Murphy, trainer Megan Weber, coach Taylor Ozee, coach Abby Wills, Maggie Furlong, Corrina Noble, Grace Wilhelm, Abby Soppe, coach Dennis Wills, coach Kelsie Hillard and Supt. Greg Herbst; middle, McKenna Curran, Maddie Miller, Lizzy Eaton, Gracie Wubben, Sami Wasmund, Mackenzie Muehleip; and front, Sophia Heisler, Addison Soat, Morgan Wills, Samantha Stoffregen, Sawyer Quick and Drew Wasson.

# Best in school history!

Name	Season Totals					Single-Match High				
	Kill	Blk	Ace	Ast	Dig	Kill	Blk	Ace	Ast	Dig
McKenna Curran	195	22	20	0	350	10	2	0	0	14
Lizzy Eaton	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	0
Maggie Furlong	1	3	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0
Sophia Heisler	10	19	21	0	195	0	0	0	0	13
Maddie Miller	2	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Mackenzie Muehleip	164	111	0	1	29	8	10	0	0	0
Corrina Noble	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawyer Quick	3	2	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Addison Soat	0	0	1	0	22	0	0	0	0	0
Abby Soppe	0	0	7	3	31	0	0	0	0	0
Samantha Stoffregen	9	0	16	34	660	0	0	2	4	43
Sami Wasmund	208	87	28	9	422	12	6	3	0	22
Drew Wasson	3	30	53	804	202	0	3	4	25	12
Grace Wilhelm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan Wills	337	22	49	0	400	18	3	4	0	27
Gracie Wubben	4	1	1	2	10	0	0	0	0	0



Addison Soat and Morgan Wills proudly display the Super Sectional Champion plaque: The first in school history.

## Message from athletic department

The Galena High School Athletic Department and Pirate Volleyball program would like to thank the following businesses, organizations, families, and individuals for supporting the girls during their historic postseason run:

- GHS Booster Club
- Deb Wills
- Sandy Ropp
- Scales Mound School District
- Orangeville School District
- Warren High School Volleyball
- Eastland High School Volleyball
- Galena Police and Fire departments for the celebrations and escorts
- Elizabeth Fire Department for the escort through town

- Brian McLane and the Galena Gazette
- Culver's of Galena
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- Galena High School faculty
- Galena High School kitchen staff
- Superintendent Greg Herbst
- Principal Beth Murphy
- Ben Soat
- Jill Muehleip
- Lynn Heller
- Mike Hyland
- Jim Cox
- Sandy Zink
- Katie McIntyre

- Sarah Rosenthal
- Greg Tancrell
- Dave Phillips
- AJ Soat
- Chris and Jodi Curran
- Mickey and Jake Hefel
- Jen Montgomery and family
- Tammy Wills and family
- Jenny Stoffregen and family
- Nikki Soppe and family
- Jill Wubben and family
- Susan Bookless and the GHS Communications Class for live streaming games
- Steve Holland and the GHS band
- Countless other individuals who donated items or lent a hand in making the last few weeks an amazing experience for the team.

Finally, we'd like to thank the fans and community members that supported the team throughout the season and followed the Pirates all the way to state! What an experience it was for all of us!



State runners-up! Morgan Wills and Samantha Stoffregen return from state.

# Pirate Volleyball Season Scores

Date	Opponent	W/L	1st	2nd	3rd
8/21	Hazel Green (Southwestern), WI	W	25-9	25-20	
8/23	Warren	W	25-7	25-12	
<b>Galena Tourney</b>					
8/25	Durand	W	15-25	25-18	15-12
8/25	Morrison	W	21-11	21-4	
8/25	Winnebago	W	21-12	21-12	
8/25	Orangeville	W	21-14	21-10	
8/25	Scales Mound	W	21-9	21-16	
8/28	Scales Mound	W	25-13	25-8	
8/30	Milledgeville	W	25-11	25-10	
9/4	Hanover (River Ridge)	W	25-17	25-12	
9/6	East Dubuque	W	25-16	25-15	
9/11	Scales Mound	W	25-17	25-11	
9/13	Pearl City	W	25-21	25-15	
<b>Pearl City Tournament</b>					
9/15	East Dubuque	W	21-11	21-15	
9/15	Milledgeville	W	21-9	21-6	
9/15	Marengo	W	21-12	21-15	
9/15	Prophetstown/Erie	W	21-9	21-9	
<b>Pearl City Championship</b>					
9/15	Marengo	W	21-14	21-12	
9/20	Hanover (River Ridge)	W	25-8	25-17	
9/26	East Dubuque	W	25-16	25-23	
10/2	Savanna (West Carroll)	W	25-19	25-7	
10/4	Stockton	W	25-13	19-25	25-16
<b>Latin Invitational</b>					
10/5	Wilmette (Regina Dominican)	L	25-23	19-25	4-15
10/6	Chicago (Latin)	L	14-25	22-25	
10/6	Lombard (Montini)	L	20-25	18-25	
10/6	Lena (L.-Winslow)	L	25-20	15-25	11-15
10/6	Chicago (Jones)	W	26-24	25-23	
10/9	Lanark (Eastland)	W	25-18	23-25	25-21
10/11	Lena (L.-Winslow)	W	21-25	25-14	25-16
<b>Morgan Buerkett Invitational</b>					
10/13	Pontiac	W	25-17	25-17	
10/13	Warrensburg (W.-Latham)	W	25-19	25-15	
10/13	Cerro Gordo	W	25-22	25-19	
10/13	Mahomet (M.-Seymour)	W	25-23	25-22	
10/13	River Forest (Trinity)	L	25-27	22-25	
10/18	Warren	W	25-12	25-6	
<b>Savanna (West Carroll) Regional</b>					
10/23	Savanna (West Carroll)	W	25-18	25-16	
10/25	Fulton (H.S.)	W	25-16	25-15	
<b>Port Byron (Riverdale) Sectional</b>					
10/29	Forreston	W	29-27	25-21	
10/31	Lena (L.-Winslow)	W	25-16	25-21	
<b>Oregon Super-Sectional</b>					
11/2	Elgin (Harvest Christian Academy)	W	25-16	25-19	
<b>State Semifinal</b>					
11/9	Nashville	W	25-14	25-2	
<b>State Championship</b>					
11/10	Pleasant Plains	L	18-25	20-25	

**Victory is in having done your best. If you've done your best, you've won.**



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**Maddie, Congratulations on your historic season!**



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*Congratulations Addison!*

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Will, Meme, Papa,  
Grandma and  
Grandpa*

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Sophia Heisler leaps during the Oct. 10 match against West Carroll. A week later, she would injure her ankle, ending her season. She writes about the experience below.

## An untimely injury: **Sitting on the bench during the state series**

**S**enior year. I never thought this time would come, and so quickly. Senior year is a year of lasts, and this year was a big one for me: my last high school volleyball season.

There was always a lot of excitement and energy in our gym. At the beginning of the school year, we were all looking forward to a new beginning and a great volleyball season.

**By Sophia Heisler, Senior**

The team last year was the most successful team in Galena volleyball history, and I wondered if we could live up to that standard or not. I remember in open gyms this summer, wondering how our team would be this year; where we would go, what we would do.

I remember coach telling me to start competing in the front row, and this was a shocker for me, because never in my years as a volleyball player had I ever played a front row position.

I knew it was going to take a lot of work to secure that position, but I was determined to push myself to earn it. When I found out I would be starting in the right side position, I was absolutely ecstatic. I was very excited for the season and ready to see how far the Pirates could take it this year.

We started off strong, holding an undefeated record for a while (22-0), and were undefeated through the conference.

Walking into the Warren High School gym on October 18, I was ready to compete in our last conference game of the season. The whole

team was hyped to claim our third conference title in a row. Little did I know, this would be my last game ever suiting up in a Galena Pirate volleyball uniform.

The game started. I was in the air for a block during the second set, and when I came down, I landed on my ankle. I instantly felt pain through my entire ankle. Thinking it was just the typical ankle sprain, I tried to quickly walk it off and get back to playing. Unfortunately, that was not the case. I was subbed out and took a seat on the bench, trying to deal with the significant pain.

The next morning, I decided a trip to the doctor was necessary. I went to Midwest Medical Center in Galena, and there I was referred to a foot and ankle surgeon at Finley Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa. After looking over my x-rays, it was determined that I had a talar dome lesion that would require surgery. This is when I knew my volleyball days were over.

Receiving this news was really hard for me. I was sad, frustrated, angry. It is truly a difficult feeling to put in to words. Overall, it was definitely difficult to take in, especially since it is my senior year.

All of the big hopes I had for the rest of the season were taken away in an instant. I don't like to admit it, but some days it was hard to sit through practices and games. I

had worked really hard to earn my position, and knowing that there was no way I could get back out on the court again was difficult. Even though the news was hard to deal with, I felt a lot of support from my family, friends, teammates, coaches and our wonderful community. Their constant help and support did not go unnoticed.

My recovery after surgery was going well and the girls were still practicing every day. Even though I couldn't play, I knew I still had to be there to push my teammates to be their best, especially during the postseason.

After months of hard work, we finally made it to the super sectional championship game versus Harvest Christian Academy, who beat us last year. The feeling of winning that game was absolutely insane. The Pirates volleyball team was going to state for the first time ever.

As a team, we had surpassed our goals. Now we were the most successful team in Galena volleyball history. Winning was really exciting for me, but honestly, at the same time, it was disappointing.

The experience of going to state was absolutely amazing, however not getting the opportunity to play was disheartening. Regardless, going to state was awesome, even if I couldn't be on the court.

The atmosphere and everything that came

**It was hard to watch my team play and not be able to help them.**

with it was unreal. It was hard to watch my team play and not be able to help them.

However, I knew that I couldn't feel sorry for myself. I had to put my disappointment aside and be a part of the team in the only way I could—by cheering them on and supporting them from the sideline.

I'm happy to say that I learned a lot through all of this. I learned how to persevere in times of adversity. I learned how to push myself and my team. I learned to be a better person and an even better teammate. Most importantly, I learned to focus more on the positive aspects of my life, rather than the negative.

I feel as though everything I went through has changed my outlook on life and will be something I will never forget.

If anyone learns anything from my story, I think it should be that there's always something good in the bad, and that's what you should put above all else.



**We are all so proud of you Gracie!**

**Keep working hard!**

**Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Hannah and John**



**We are so proud of you Sami Jo!!!  
Congrats on a great Season!!**

**Love Mom, Dad,  
Dominic, Hunter,  
and Chloe**

### McKenna Curran



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Chris & Jodi Curran  
**Position(s):** Outside Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 5  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** Working hard will pay off.  
**Coach's comments:** One of these days Kenna is going to realize just how good she is. Once she gains that confidence-watch out-she will be a force!



### Lizzy Eaton



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Leigh Ann & David Eaton  
**Position(s):** Defensive Specialist  
**Uniform Number:** 10  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents and teammates-mostly Samantha Stoffregen because she wants to make you get better and better.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** Hard work can get you anywhere and being a good teammate is the most important thing. Always put others before yourself.  
**Coach's comments:** Lizzy was a tremendous asset to our team this year! Her versatility and knowledge were second to none each and every day at practice. Include with that her focus and work ethic-now you have an athlete.



### Maggie Furlong



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Tom & Julie Furlong  
**Position(s):** Right Side Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 16  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents and my big sister Katie.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** Execution and mental focus are a big part of playing your game.  
**Coach's comments:** Coming back from a severe ankle injury was not easy for this girl. Maggie did a great job of improving while she was with the varsity team and she will be an exciting part of our future!

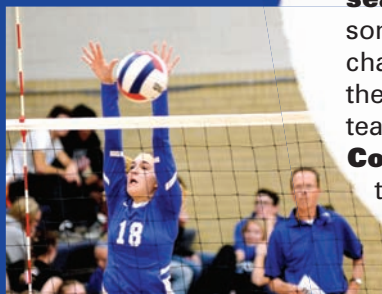


### Sophia Heisler



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Stacey & Jason Heisler  
**Position(s):** Right Side Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 18  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My teammates, coaches, and parents all push each other to be the best versions of ourselves, which I think contributed to our success.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** This year I played in the front row, something I have never done in my life. I learned to challenge myself. With an ankle injury at the end of the season I learned a lot about what being a real team is and how to push through adversity.  
**Coach's comments:** The transition Sophia made this year was nothing short of amazing! Having never played front row to becoming a starter on a 36-win team-you certainly don't see that very often in this sport!



### Maddie Miller



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Andy and Kim Miller  
**Position(s):** Right Side Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 6  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents and grandparents have always inspired me to keep pushing to do my best. My friends/teammates have inspired me to always have fun and make the best of the season while it lasts. My coaches have inspired me to always get better.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** You don't always have to play a lot to still feel like a big part of the team.  
**Coach's comments:** Maddie is a tremendously hard worker, stays positive all the time and is a great teammate to all!

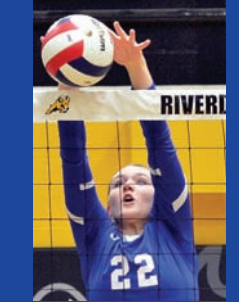


### Mackenzie Muehleip



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Jill & Damon Muehleip  
**Position(s):** Middle Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 22  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents and coaches because they have pushed me to always do my best. When I was younger, upperclassmen inspired me to work hard and become a better player, like they were.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** If you work really hard, exciting things can happen. Our community, fans, and conference are so supportive.  
**Coach's comments:** Mackenzie is an amazing young lady! She has a great drive to get better and she really accomplished that this year. Mack also has a great attitude to go with her work ethic. Watch out for this one next year!



### Corrina Noble



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Rose & Brett Noble  
**Position(s):** Middle & Right Side Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 9  
**Who's inspired you most?:** Morgan Wills and Sam Stoffregen-they both work so hard and show their dedication to the sport 24/7.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** Hard work definitely pays off, and you can go far with that work. People and their support can really boost your confidence and can make you feel like a winning team no matter what.  
**Coach's comments:** I truly believe Corrina's time with the varsity will give her an opportunity to take her game to the next level. She is another one of our younger players that we will be looking for big things from next season.



### Sawyer Quick



## PIRATE FACTS

**Parents:** Jennifer Montgomery & Charlie Quick  
**Position(s):** Right Side Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 15  
**Who's inspired you most?:** The girls who graduated last year inspired me to become a great team player. My teachers and coaches have taught me how to be a better person.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** You should enjoy everything while you have it because the minute it is over, you're going to wish you had it back.  
**Coach's comments:** Sawyer has absolutely a great attitude! She was always willing to do whatever it took to make the team better. Great job, Sawyer!



**Addison Soat**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Erin & Tom Soat  
**Position(s):** Defensive Specialist  
**Uniform Number:** 3  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My family, friends, and coaches have all constantly encouraged and pushed me to continue to get better. My parents have supported me throughout the whole season.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** That every point matters, that a team really becomes your family and that these moments will last a lifetime.  
**Coach's comments:** Addy is just one of those girls who makes a team better! She has a true love for the game and it shows when she is on the court.



**Abby Soppe**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Nikki & Matt Soppe  
**Position(s):** Setter/Defensive Specialist  
**Uniform Number:** 2  
**Who's inspired you most?:** Sydney Schuler and Sam Stoffregen have inspired me because I strive to be an amazing setter like Syd. Sam is always determined and positive, even when we are down.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** It isn't always about playing because you are there to support one another and have fun. You should strive to be the best you can be.  
**Coach's comments:** Abby is crazy talented. We will look for her to play a huge role on our team next year.



**Samantha Stoffregen**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Jenny & Stewart Stoffregen  
**Position(s):** Libero  
**Uniform Number:** 21  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My family—they are constantly helping me out and are very supportive.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** I have especially learned that hard work and dedication does pay off and that it takes a whole team to succeed, not just one individual player.  
**Coach's comments:** What can you say about Sam? Simply a great volleyball player and an even better young lady! We will miss her.



**Sami Wasmund**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Todd & Sadie Wasmund  
**Position(s):** Middle Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 13  
**Who's inspired you most?:** The upperclassmen and what they had started when they left.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** No matter what happens, our community will always be there for us. I also learned that dedication can get you a long way.  
**Coach's comments:** Let's see: incredible work ethic, incredible athlete, incredible volleyball player, incredible young lady. Any questions? Sami will be a handful for any team next year!



**Drew Wasson**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Rhonda & Barry Wasson  
**Position(s):** Setter  
**Uniform Number:** 20  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My teammates, coaches and parents.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** Every point matters.  
**Coach's comments:** Drew grew tremendously well into her role on the team. She did a good job at learning our offense and brought it to the court every night. Setting in a 5-1 offense to a team that got 36 wins—wow!



**Grace Wilhelm**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Ed & Christine Wilhelm  
**Position(s):** Defensive Specialist  
**Uniform Number:** 19  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My family—because they always motivate me to be the best version of myself, and they are great role models! They are always encouraging and supporting me!  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** I learned how to contribute to the team, whether on or off the court and how important it is to work as one and have each other's backs. Always believe!  
**Coach's comments:** Grace is another one of our up-and-coming players. Her work ethic and a huge desire to get better is a great combination that this young lady possesses.



**Morgan Wills**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Mike & Tammy Wills  
**Position(s):** Outside Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 8  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My parents have inspired me to be a good leader and to be responsible. They taught me to be encouraging and how to be confident on the court.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** I learned how to be a good leader and how to appreciate every point like it's the last.  
**Coach's comments:** I'm so proud of what Morgan was able to accomplish this year. After her junior season she really wanted to take her game to the next level and set a goal to do that. After a lot of hard work—goal accomplished!



**Gracie Wubben**



**PIRATE FACTS**

**Parents:** Jill & Brian Wubben  
**Position(s):** Setter/Outside Hitter  
**Uniform Number:** 14  
**Who's inspired you most?:** My friends, teammates and family have inspired me the most.  
**What lessons did you learn from this season?:** I learned that setting goals and working hard contribute to a successful and great year.  
**Coach's comments:** Gracie is simply a great all around athlete: great attitude, great work ethic, great teammate to everyone. She is always willing to do whatever is needed for the team—and did!





**Congratulations to the GHS Girls Volleyball Team on your fantastic year and your awesome achievement as Class 2A Runner Up!**

**Maddie, we look forward to another great year as a Senior – You have our love and support – ALWAYS.**

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