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Out Bracket Game – 11/23 – 2PM; Semifinals 3:30PM & 5PM
Championship Match – 11/24 – 2PM
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Mission Statement

The NJSIAA, a private, voluntary Association is committed to serving all types of student-athletes, its member schools and related professional organizations by the administration of education-based interscholastic athletics, which support academic achievement, good citizenship, and fair and equitable opportunities.

We believe that member schools, along with their leagues and conferences, share these convictions:

- A safe and healthy playing environment is essential to our mission.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics enhances the educational experience of all students.
- Interscholastic athletics is a privilege.
- Excellence in both academics and athletics is pursued by all.
- Interscholastic participation develops good citizenship and healthy lifestyles, fosters involvement of a diverse population and promotes positive school/community relations.
- Rules promote fair play and minimizes risks.
- Cooperation among members advances their individual and collective well-being.
- Training of administrators and coaches promotes the educational mission of the Interscholastic Experiences.
- Properly trained official/judges enhances interscholastic competition.
- The NJSIAA is the recognized state authority on interscholastic athletic programs.
- Support Unified Sports to offer opportunities for student with and without disabilities to train and compete alongside their peers in NJSIAA sanctioned activities.

The NJSIAA is composed of 434 member high schools. It provides more than 282,000 student-athletes opportunities to participate in nearly 3,000 games, workshops, clinics and other NJSIAA-sponsored activities within a given year. The NJSIAA offers more championships for its student-athletes than any other state in the nation:

**For Boys:** Cross-Country, Football, Soccer, Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Ice Hockey, Swimming, Diving, Indoor Track Relay Championships, Indoor Track Individual Championships, Wrestling, Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Outdoor Track Championships, Tennis, and Volleyball.

**For Girls:** Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Swimming, Diving, Indoor Track Relay Championships, Indoor Track Individual Championships, Wrestling, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, and Outdoor Track Championships.

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### 2018 - 2019 Final Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group IV</th>
<th>Group III</th>
<th>Group II</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ridgewood High School</td>
<td>Moorestown High School 95</td>
<td>Haddonfield Memorial High School 133</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mountain Lakes High School 100</td>
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<td>Ridge High School</td>
<td>Delsea Regional High School 61</td>
<td>Rumson-Fair Haven Regional 66</td>
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<td>Montgomery High School</td>
<td>Chatham High School 56</td>
<td>Holmdel High School 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgewater-Raritan High School</td>
<td>Northern Highlands Regional 53</td>
<td>Manasquan High School 42</td>
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<tr>
<th>Group I</th>
<th>Non-Public A</th>
<th>Non-Public B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Willingboro High School</td>
<td>Christian Brothers Academy ** 179</td>
<td>Trinity Hall ** 95</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Providence High School</td>
<td>Delbarton School ** 128</td>
<td>Newark Academy 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulsboro High School</td>
<td>Immaculate Heart Academy ** 121</td>
<td>Villa Walsh Academy ** 58</td>
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<td>Highland Park High School</td>
<td>Saint Augustine Prep School ** 101</td>
<td>Saint Dominic Academy ** 57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haddon Township High School</td>
<td>Saint Peter's Prep High School ** 94</td>
<td>Saint Rose High School 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Grove High School</td>
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</table>

** Points doubled for single gender school.
NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130 North PO Box 487 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

THE SCHOOLS LISTED BELOW WERE DISQUALIFICATION FREE FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Congratulations to the following schools, including their Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Fans and Players for their fine efforts in this important area of sportsmanship.

Continued...

Morris Cty School of Technology
Mother Seton High School
Mount Olive High School
Mount Saint Dominic Academy
Mount Saint Mary Academy
Mountain Lakes High School
New Milford High School
New Providence High School
Newton High School
North Warren Regional HS
Northern Burlington High School
No. Valley Reg HS—Old Tappan
Oak Knoll School
Orange High School
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Palmyra High School
Park Ridge High School
Parsippany High School
Parsippany Hills High School
Pascack Hills High School
Passaic Arts and Science Charter
The Patrick School
Penns Grove High School
Pennsville Memorial High School
People’s Prep Charter School
Perth Amboy Technical School
Phillipsburg High School
Pingry School
Pleasantville High School
Pompton Lakes High School
Rahway High School
Randolph High School
Ridgewood High School
Riverside High School
Roselle Catholic High School
Roselle Park High School
Roxbury High School
Rutgers Prep School
Rutherford High School
Saddle River Day School
Saint Dominic Academy
Saint Mary of the Assumption
Saint Peter’s Prep (Jersey City)
Saint Rose High School
Saint Vincent Academy
Salem High School
Science Park High School
Shore Regional High School
Somerville High School
Somerset County Vo-Tech HS
South Amboy High School
STEMCIVICS Charter School
Sterling High School
Teaneck High School
Technology High School (Newark)
Timothy Christian School
Trinity Hall
Union Catholic Regional HS
University Academy Charter
University High School
Verona High School
Villa Walsh Academy
Wall Township High School
Wallkill Valley Regional HS
Wardlaw-Hartridge School
Warren County Technical School
Wellsahic High School
West Deptford Township HS
West Morris Central High School
West Orange High School
West Windsor-Plainsboro North
Whippany Park High School
The Wilberforce School
Wildwood Catholic High School
Winslow Township High School
Wood-Ridge High School
Woodbridge Academy

THE SCHOOLS LISTED BELOW WERE DISQUALIFICATION
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Congratulations to the following schools including the Administration, Athletic Director, Coaches and players for their fine efforts in this important area of sportsmanship for the 1991-2017 school years.

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MORRIS COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF FORMER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
NEW JERSEY DEVILS
NEW JERSEY INTERSCHOLASTIC ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE
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NORTH JERSEY SUPER FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
NORTHWEST DESIGNS
NORTWEST JERSEY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
OLYMPIC CONFERENCE
PARISI SCHOOL OF SPEED, POWER & STRENGTH
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2019 LEGENDS

PLAYER

Jenn Bronowich Cannan - Secaucus High School

Jenn Cannan was an integral part of Secaucus High School’s rich volleyball tradition. Playing for Legend Award winner, Maria Nolan, Jenn was a three year starter. As a freshman, she moved up from the JV to become the starting varsity setter. For the state tournament that year, she started as a defensive specialist. From that point on, through her senior season, Jenn was the starting varsity setter and middle hitter. During those years, Secaucus High school won three BCSL League Championships, three Hudson County Championships, and three Group I State Championships. For her hard work and great contribution to the sport Jenn was named All-BCSL and All-Hudson County. Her greatest memory, other than playing for Coach Nolan, was the fact that during those three seasons, Secaucus lost only one match. Jenn continued her volleyball career at Kean University where she started as a freshman and was named First Team All-Conference and Rookie of the Year. Continuing her run of recognition, she was named to the First Team All-Conference each year and her career culminated with being named conference Player of the Year.

Jenn is a teacher in the Union City school district. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Sean. They are the proud parents of two daughters, both of whom are three sport athletes.

COACH

Barbara McBrearty - Washington Township High School

Coach Barbara McBrearty has been the face of volleyball at Washington Township High School for over twenty years. In fact, up until this season, she has been the only coach of the girls’ program. In 1996 she started with the new program and as volleyball grew in the South, she was able to grow the program with it. As a Health and Physical Education teacher at WTHS, Barb set the example for education-based athletics in the interscholastic arena. Barb has continued to play an important role in growing the sport of volleyball in our community. Each year the township has almost doubled the number of roster spots available to students trying out for the sport. Her teams’ successes (240 wins including Olympic Conference Champs 2018 and Gloucester County Champs 2018) as well as numerous state tournament appearances provide only a sample of her accomplishments. She was also recognized as Coach of the Year in two separate seasons. Barbara has developed lasting bonds with her teams over the years and continues to stay in touch with many of her former players. She remains as Head Coach of the Township boys program. Barbara has been married for 43 years to Rich McBrearty (a volleyball official) and they have two daughters and 4 grandchildren.
COACH

Nancy Saggio - Union Catholic High School

The Union Catholic High School Volleyball Team has been led for 25 years by Coach Nancy Saggio. Her career record has passed the coveted 500 wins mark this season. Her program is considered one of the top powerhouses in New Jersey, and a look at the teams’ accomplishments confirms that. Starting in 1995, Nancy’s teams have won 19 Conference Championships; Union County Team of the Year 10 times, Union County Champions 12 times; State Tournament Non-Public Runner-Up in: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2018; State Championship Runner-Up in: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003; and 2005 State Non-Public Tournament Champions.

During her career, Nancy has had the privilege of coaching some outstanding players, including eleven Union County Players of the Year. She has been named as Union County Coach of the Year twice as well as New Jersey State Coach of the Year two times. In 2011 Nancy was selected as the New Jersey Volleyball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High Schools.

Nancy is the proud mother of four children and is married to Ed Saggio, a previous Legend Award winner in his own right.

CONTRIBUTOR

Susan Paskas Downey - William Paterson University

Anyone who has attended any of the state tournaments or the Tournament of Champions matches held at William Paterson University has noticed the hard working Sue Downey. As the right hand to Head Coach Sandy Ferrarella, Sue is charged with the task of guaranteeing that the tournament is run with the professionalism and efficiency that it deserves. She makes sure that all of the working parts mesh together. Everyone involved in the events, including the ticket sellers, the ball retrievers, the table assistants, scorers, and trackers are all under Sue’s watchful and demanding eye. Her contributions to the success of the tournaments cannot be understated.

Sue is a graduate of Rutherford High School where she was a three sport/ four-year varsity letter winner. She then went on to play at William Paterson University from 1993-1996. While there, she was named “Player of the Week” multiple times and was Captain/MVP and All Conference. She was inducted into the WPU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Following her playing career, she began as the student/undergraduate coach. From there Sue was named as the assistant coach and she has served in that position for the past 21 years. She has been an integral part of a staff that has 350 wins during that period. A highlight of the WPU program is the Mary Ann Collura High School Tournament held to honor the memory of a fallen Police Officer. She also teaches volleyball, works at camps and clinics, and volunteers in her community.

Sue is married to T.J. Downey. They are the proud parents of LeeAnn and Jaxon.
## VOLLEYBALL LEGENDS PROGRAM

### 2019

**Player**
Jenn Bronowich Cannan, Secaucus HS

**Coach**
Barbara McBrearty, Washington Twp HS

**Coach**
Nancy Saggio, Union Catholic HS

**Contributor**
Susan Paskas Downey – William Paterson University

### 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Stephen Fenton, Madison HS</td>
<td>Morgan Halbrunner, Eastern HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Chris Sheppard, Williamstown HS</td>
<td>Ariel Scott, IHA</td>
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### 2017

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Andrea Marino, Hawthorne/Wood Ridge</td>
<td>Jamie Marzocchi,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Melissa Landeck, Old Tappan HS</td>
<td>Scott Scragg</td>
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### 2014

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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Laurel Johnson</td>
<td>Cory Roesing</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Andrea Marino, Hawthorne/Wood Ridge</td>
<td>Allison O’Neill</td>
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### 2012

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Christine Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Joy Conover Shannon, Eastern HS</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Beth Powell</td>
<td>Beth Powell</td>
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### 2010

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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Karen Finn Edwards, Fair Lawn HS</td>
<td>Lauren Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Jennifer Cosco, Pascack Hills HS</td>
<td>Allison O’Neill</td>
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### 2008

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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Gina Campanile, Paramus Catholic HS</td>
<td>Lisa Furusawa, River Dell HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Elkie Tatulli (Voight)</td>
<td>Yvette Lozanski</td>
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### 2007

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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Christine Saco, Old Tappan HS</td>
<td>Christine Saco, Old Tappan HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Brenda Canal, River Dell HS</td>
<td>Sheila Ulrich Rivera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Special Contributors

- 2019: Sharon Hughes
- 2008: Joseph Battaglia
- 2007: Sandy Ferrarella

### Officials

- 2018: Paul Calocino
- 2017: Jack Tsikitas
- 2016: Denise Scragg
- 2015: Dr. Edward Meier
- 2014: Scott Scragg
- 2013: Neil Donohue
- 2012: Bob Jaworski
- 2011 – Program Discontinued
- 2010: Donna Devito Guilbert
- 2009: Anna J. Pelosi-Adams
- 2008: Robert Root
- 2007: Pete Lukach
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Linda Bianchi, AL Johnson</td>
<td>Janet Duch, Paramus Catholic HS</td>
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<td>Player</td>
<td>Gabrielle Tacuri, Memorial HS</td>
<td>Maria E. DiPasquale-Bellinger, Paramus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Player</td>
<td>Stacey Maat, Hackensack HS</td>
<td>Coach John English, Old Tappan HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Player</td>
<td>Karja Tamulevich, Paramus HS</td>
<td>Official Nancy Mueller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Frank Bernardo, Hackensack HS</td>
<td>Official Pat Huber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Dean Klutkowski, Johnson/Old Tappan HS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>Joe Kuti</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Player</td>
<td>Lauren Cacciamani, Paramus HS</td>
<td>Rene Duflon Elsman, Ridgewood HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Maria Nolan, Secaucus HS</td>
<td>Theresa Meani, Paramus HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Don Guide, Paramus Catholic HS</td>
<td>Coach Kitty Baterson, Ridgewood HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>Doris Grassini</td>
<td>Official Connie Story, Paramus HS</td>
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1st State Volleyball Champions

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Gene Chyzowych</td>
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<td>Kathy Weiss Hallam</td>
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<td>Jennifer Hartung Bartsh</td>
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<td>Jeanne Gainsberg</td>
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<td>Laura Bermingham</td>
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<td>Missy Young</td>
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<td>Jeanne Francis</td>
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<td>Melanie Panko Naef</td>
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<td>Meghan Guthrie Vanderbeck</td>
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<td>Karen Reitzel</td>
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<td>Beth Caskey Golosiewski</td>
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Group I Champions
Bogota High School

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By Brian Bobal | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

With how often Bogota has made it to the Group 1 final, a slow start was a surprise. A few hitting errors and a solid start from second-seeded Kinnelon (22-7) put Bogota down 9-5 but a few key kills from a freshman calmed the nerves. Ashanna Caviness picked up five kills and four blocks to spark the turnaround and the top-seeded Buccaneers (29-4) used an 8-0 run to take control of the opening set en route to a 25-18 victory. The nerves were there being a freshman playing in the biggest stage New Jersey girls volleyball has to offer, but they didn’t last long. “I got over it,” Caviness said. “It was better once I got into the flow of hitting.” The freshman has 69 kills and 66 blocks on the season. “She’s too young to be nervous,” said Bogota coach Brad DiRupo. “She just went out there and played. For us, Nylene had two errors and all of a sudden this freshman gets set and she’s scoring. It put us at ease. Nylene Mateo and Kiara Polanco then took over and Bogota rolled on a 24-8 run to take the second set 25-11 and win its second consecutive Group 1 title at William Paterson University in Wayne. “In the beginning we were kind of slow,” said Mateo. “I guess we were a little nervous and then it all came out in the second game.” Mateo recorded 16 kills in the win, sending her season total to 504. Polanco had six, extending her total in the Group 1 tournament to 42. “This is the Kiara that we expect and we didn’t get until the last few weeks of the season,” DiRupo said. “When she scores and Nylene scores we’re a tough team, a dangerous team.” This dangerous team has now won eight of the last 10 Group 1 titles and earned the fourth seed in the Tournament of Champions, where it will play fifth-seeded Demarest in the play-in game Nov. 23. The team will have a week to get ready and knows what areas it needs to improve. “If we want to compete against the big boys, we have to serve tougher, which we started doing in the second set,” DiRupo said. “If we can keep the other team’s passers off balance we can hang with anybody.” Amber Vazquez recorded two kills along with 25 assists and Gianna Estevez had 10 digs.
Despite graduating nearly the entire lineup from last season’s Group 2 championship team, Demarest head coach Beth Powell refused to use this fall as a rebuilding season for her squad. “I don’t believe in rebuilding because it’s telling your seniors they don’t matter and also, it gives your team an excuse,” Powell said. “I always figured we could find a way to win.”

Instead, of rebuild, they’ll be using a different ‘R’ word to describe the run used by Demarest, repeat.

Relying heavily on contributions from all over the court, third-seeded Darmest, No. 9 in the NJ.com Top 20, defeated top-seeded and No. 4 Rutherford, 25-15, 25-23, in the NJSIAA/Wilson Sporting Goods Group 2 final at William Paterson University. It is the 11th state title in program history for Demarest (21-4) and the second year in a row it defeated Rutherford (31-2) in the final. Rutherford was seeking its first state championship since 1994.

“They feel so much more gratifying because we were doubted towards the beginning of the season and some people talked about it as a rebuilding year,” sophomore Niki Woods said. “We lost a lot of seniors from last year. I don’t think anybody really thought we were going to make the state finals, much less win.”

Woods admitted that the team’s loss to Tenafly in the second round of the Bergen County Tournament was a “low moment” for this young group. But Demarest has responded with seven consecutive wins since. Like so many other times during this streak, Demarest relied heavily on its defense, especially when faced with the daunting task of slowing down Rutherford’s Jenna Rogers.

Rogers, who was held to just three kills in the first set, took over in the second, getting four of the Bulldogs’ first seven points in the second set. Both DeMartini and Woods, the only two players to see the court in each final, cited its Bergen County Tournament lost to Tenafly on Oct. 19. Demarest hasn’t lost since.

“In the second set, Jenna started to swing and she’s just tough,” Powell said. “When someone like Jenna is swinging, swinging, swinging, you start to lose your confidence. But we were able to hold it together.”

Trailing by as many as five in the second and down 20-16 after Rogers’ sixth kill of the set, Demarest reeled off six points in a row. Back-to-back kills from Gretchen Haray evened the score at 20. Dorothy Pak’s ace put Demarest in front for good and Haray’s third kill of the rally pushed the lead to 22-20. A Rogers kill and Demarest fault evened it up at 22-22 and another Haray kill broke that tie. Demarest, then Rutherford each made an error before Demarest got the winning point.

“Our goal was to keep our cool and play volleyball,” said senior libero Madison DeMartini, who had 24 of her 31 digs in the second set. “I think we had to be reminded of that (in the second set) because it can get chaotic and it’s very easy to fall into that with the crowd, the refs and everyone else. But we looked at each other and said we believe in each other, and got it done.”

Woods and Noa Shuminer recorded 10 kills apiece, while Haray had six, five of them coming in the second set. Sophomore Olivia Cammalleri, a converted outside hitter, had 22 assists in the win. Woods and Cammalleri added 19 and 17 digs respectively.

Rogers paced Rutherford with 10 kills and eight digs. Emilia McCarthy had 17 digs and Mia Capobianco chipped in 13 assists and nine digs.
With a run to a Morris County Tournament title, Mendham really started to find more reasons to believe that it was in the midst of something special.

The team continued to gain steam with each passing round of the Group 3 tournament and it all culminated into a dominant performance at William Paterson University in Wayne on Saturday.

Lauren Wilcock collected 13 kills and Lauren Castignetti was stellar defensively to power sixth-seeded Mendham, No. 10 in the NJ.com Top 20, to a 25-9, 25-16 win over fourth-seeded and No. 11 Wayne Valley to win the program’s first-ever NJSIAA/Wilsons Sporting Goods Group 3 Tournament title.

Mendham’s only other appearance in the group final was in 2007 when it lost to Fair Lawn.

“As we got closer to the end, we had a joke that we were breaking records and making history,” We got it done today. It feels amazing. The whole team has worked so hard.

From the get-go, Mendham was rolling behind its massive student section and Wayne Valley had a hard time slowing down Wilcock and Cat Holtz, who had five kills. The team had a hard time solving Wayne Valley’s defense at times, especially the play of libero Alex Calello.

“Theyir libero was amazing,” Wilcock said. “I had to figure out a way I was going to get the hits around her. She played a great game.” For Mendham, Castignetti came up big, had a block but more importantly helped minimize the damage from Julianna Lavner and Milicia Rodic. That duo combined for 23 kills in Wayne Valley’s semifinal win against West Morris. Tonight, they combined for nine.

“Throughout this run she’s been fantastic,” Mendham coach Eric Heditsch said. “Her blocking has picked up. She gets the occasional kill and she’s a very soft-spoken, mild-mannered kid. The other kids just gravitate to her and loves it when she makes a big play.”

Michelle Kifyak also had an impact on the defensive end with 11 digs.

Nora Mulligan picked up 10 assists and Sarah Wilcock had 12 in what continues to be a solid debut season.

“As a freshman coming in, it’s been amazing,” said Sarah Wilcock. “We’ve been working so hard. The team has clicked so well. We all help each other learn and grow.”

The win sends the team into the Tournament of Champions next weekend as the No. 3 seed, where it will have to play second-seeded Williamstown.

With a county tournament title under its belt and now a state title, Mendham has plenty of big-game experience, not to mention a wealth of confidence, entering the final week of the season.
Group IV Champions
Williamstown High School

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By Brian Bobal | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
Williamstown was able to keep its cool when it needed to most. The Braves squandered two match points, one with a service error, but fought off five set points for North Hunterdon before a big block from Jasmine Rolle put the team back on top 29-28. They wouldn’t let a third match point slip away. Raina Hughes got the kill to seal a wild 30-28 set victory and give third-seeded Williamstown (30-2), No. 7 in the NJ.com Top 20, its first NJSIAA/Wilsons Sporting Goods Group 4 title since 2012 with a 25-17, 30-28 win over top-seeded and reigning champ North Hunterdon (27-3) at William Paterson University in Wayne. “That was probably the best feeling ever,” said Summer Wroniuk. “It’s just all our hard work going into it. All of us played so good.” While Williamstown controlled the first set, winning it 25-17 and never trailed after going ahead 10-9 on an ace from Isabella Tamburrino, the second set was heart-stopping. The two teams were tied 13 times in that second set. Hughes came up with a number of clutch kills in that second set, as North Hunterdon’s defense was able to slow down McKenzie Melvin and Lilyanna Martucci. “She was incredible today,” said Williamstown coach Chris Sheppard. “Raina’s playing volleyball for the second year ever. For her to carry that in that environment, wow.” It was a big response from the junior after a stern chat at practice the day before with her coach. “I may have just done the dumbest thing ever,” Sheppard said of the exchange. “I may have mentally cooked this kid right before our biggest match of the year or maybe she comes out and responds.” Hughes’ response was to rack up a game-high of 16 kills, setting a new season-high. “I wanted it really bad, not just for me but for my team,” Hughes said. “I worked really hard and I knew that I was going to do something good.” Defensively, Wroniuk and Melvin were busy and recorded a total of 28 digs. Nina Alcaro had six of her own. “I would put Summer up with any libero we’ve had or any libero in the state,” Sheppard said. “McKenzie Melvin didn’t have a lot of kills today but she’s a lightning-quick defender. Nina Alcaro is an unsung hero for us. She got a couple big digs today.” The win sends Williamstown to the Tournament of Champions for the first time since 2012, a solid reward for having to be at their school at 6:45 am for a two-hour bus ride north. “I don’t think any words could tell how excited we are,” Wroniuk said. “We’re happy and can’t wait to spend seven more days together.”
Immaculate Heart Academy setter Olivia Coughlin knew that a lot of Union Catholic’s defensive focus would be dedicated towards stopping star middle Anna Morris. Rather than be frustrated, for Coughlin and fellow setter Maeve Duffin, it merely created the opportunity for other ready and able hitters to capitalize.

Using its depth to its fullest advantage, top-seeded Immaculate Heart, No. 1 in the NJ.com Top 20, got key points from multiple hitters to pull away in the first set, before completing seizing control in the second as it defeated No. 2 Union Catholic, 25-18, 25-11, in the NJSIAA/Wilson Sporting Goods Non-Public final at William Paterson University.

Five different girls recorded at least two kills for Immaculate Heart (33-4), which captured its 13th consecutive Non-Public title.

“It was great to move the offense around,” Coughlin said. “They were expecting our main hitter to be Anna and we kinda threw them off a bit by setting it to everybody. She’s our main hitter, but everyone behind her did their job and was able to execute, which made Union Catholic’s job much harder.”

“We always work together as a team and we focus on that,” said junior outside hitter Gianna Grigalunas. “There’s no individuals on the court, all of us working together is the key to our success.

“Anna alone is an amazing player, but we’re a team that’s able to spread the ball around.”

Elizabeth Paterson’s kill ignited a 15-5 IHA run to close out the first set. Four different Blue Eagles got kills in the surge. Three were from Paterson, two by Grigalunas and two from freshman Brookelyn Talmadge, including the clinching point.

“Being able to spread things out is not something not a lot of teams can do,” said Morris. “Once they started getting kills, then it forces their players to really change (their focus on defense).”

For Morris the reigning Statewide Player of the Year, that meant more opportunities for her take control. The Northwestern basketball commit, who didn’t have any kills during the close stretch in the first set, took over in the second with seven.

Four of those kills came in an eye-popping 15-1 stretch for Immaculate Heart. Morris, who finished with a match-high 11 kills delivered the exclamation point on her team’s dominant second set with an ace.

Patterson added six kills and 13 digs and Grigalunas chipped in with four kills and nine digs. Coughlin and Duffin contributed 13 assists for an IHA squad, which won 10-straight sets in the state tournament after being upset by Old Tappan in the Bergen County final on Nov. 3. “We learned a big lesson from it and we’ve been working really hard since then,” Coughlin said. “We want redemption and we want more.”

For Immaculate Heart, that more is a third-straight Tournament of Champions title, which will begin next week.

Union Catholic (30-2), which saw it’s 17-match winning streak come to an end, got five four kills and five blocks from middle Alexandra Kwasnik. Najiaa Williams had 14 digs and Aiyah Thomas added three kills. Union Catholic’s only other loss this season was a 25-17, 25-15 defeat to Immaculate Heart on Sept. 28.
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REGION 19
XIX
### NJSIAA Girls Volleyball History

#### Tournament of Champions

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#### 2018 Tournament of Champions - Immaculate Heart Academy
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