

# Lamorinda volleyball teams are works in progress

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“The team has been improving and coming together, but it’s going to be a little while before we really gel; but every week, we’re getting better and better,” Passalacqua said. “We’re playing with a lot of heart. The newer guys are doing well, but they’re still building up their instincts and I’m very happy in the way that have improved the last several months.”

Leading the offense on the front line have been Eric Moen, Liam Bodner and Tommy Biekert. “Moen has been equally good on the front and back row,” Passalacqua said. “Bodner is also a great passer and Biekert has been solid and will be playing for

Concordia in Irvine next year. Aaron Alvira and Joe Castelli have shown great vertical as well.” The setters have been freshman Avyn Morales and senior Cole Regan, who are still getting up to speed.

The defense is still improving, according to Passalacqua: “Our blocking is getting there. We have good diggers and we’re working on a back row attack. Liam Hill has been everywhere on our defense along with Liam Stancik.”

Passalacqua attributed the large numbers that turned out for the team this year to “lots of open gyms and our players telling their friends about the team. We’re trying to bring players from other sports to come out for the team. Right

now, we have four freshmen basketball players playing for us. This has been a real opportunity for the players to play as soon as possible and learn that it’s a fun sport.”

The captains on the team are Bieker, Moen and Bodner. “They, along with seniors like Grant Silveri have done a good job in picking things up and helping to keep the players in line,” Passalacqua said. “My assistant coaches Alan Go, who is a great technical coach, and Lexi Hammer have done a great job with the players.”

### Miramonte

For the Matadors and Coach Sami, it’s been a work in progress. Despite the lack of success on the court, Sami remains optimistic and looks

forward to improvement in the future. “We have a lot of potential and should be much improved the next couple of years,” Sami said. “The season has been going by quickly.”

With the coronavirus wreaking such havoc, it has really limited the development of the players, Sami said: “Some of the players are still learning the concepts of volleyball.”

There are not a lot of players with real game experience on the team. Senior, Kian Sami, a co-captain and the coach’s son is one of the returners to the team, playing both as an outside hitter and setter and has been a solid player along with middle blocker Colin Morris-McDermott who has also been

a force on the front line along with Emiliano Boyd.

Sami is looking forward to the development of junior Jon Marc Mosher as he continues to get more playing time. “Jon-Marc is new to the game,” Sami said. “He has good height and should be very effective next season.”

Seniors Ethan Lee and Yuji Watanabe have consistent players on the Matador’s defense.

With four freshmen and four sophomores on the JV team, there is cause for future optimism. It’s going to take a large commitment after the season for the team to take the next step. “Most of the players will need to play a lot more in the off-season to improve,” Sami said.

# Vibe Volleyball competes at Northern California Volleyball Association

Submitted by Jenifer Lamken Paul



The Vibe Volleyball 17 Black team placed in the Gold Division at the Northern California Volleyball Association (NCVA) Power League Championships held in Reno, Nev., March 5-6. Vibe 17 Black was the only 17s team to have started playing this year in Bronze, moving through Silver, and ending their impressive season as No. 7 in the Gold Division. This cohesive team, led by their excellent coach, Kevin Ishizu, is full of camaraderie on and off the court and has players from high schools in the greater Lamorinda area: Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, Miramonte, and Northgate.

Photo provided

From left, back row: Kaylin Ishizu, Bella Yun, Mara Korzeniowska, Brittany Soun, Hanna Hageboeck, Madison Preciado, Ryann Jones, Coach Kevin Ishizu; front row: Maya Paul, Kylie Choi, Lauren Philips, Kalena King; not pictured: Sofie Foster, Chloe Stemmerich

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