

**BUILDING BONDS** Hannah Nord '23 enjoys dancing with her teammates during their special Zumba practice. Nord valued how volleyball required a strong team in order to succeed. "I love the sport and the atmosphere that it creates," Nord said. "We are really encouraging and everyone has fun." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**EMOTIONAL PUSH** Hayley Shult '24 celebrates with Hope Schmitz '24 after an intense rally. Shult continued playing volleyball due to the rush of emotions the sport brings. "I like the adrenaline I get when I play," said Shult. "I let it all out on the volleyball court." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**PARENTAL GUIDANCE** Alexa Bennett '23 receives a serve. Bennett's father influenced her to try volleyball, and she hasn't looked back. "My father played when he was a teenager and still plays," said Bennett. "He motivated me. I found the love for it and it stuck with me." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**LOOKING BACK** While watching the end-of-season highlight presentation, Grace Kluver '23 laughs with her teammates. Kluver appreciated how the team depended on each other, especially when faced with challenges. "I rely on my team a lot," Kluver said. "We grew a great bond this year that we haven't seen before." Photo by Matthew Scherber



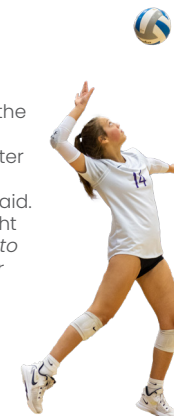
**CLOSE CONNECTIONS** Megan Stendahl '23 sends a perfect pass to her teammate. The team balanced the sport and their friendships throughout the season. "We like to mess around a lot, but when we need to focus, we can," Stendahl said. Photo by Matthew Scherber

## reaching for new heights

Variety of player heights add unique advantages to the team



**6'4"** "I can block on the other side of the net, which someone shorter might not be able to do," Kaia Caffee '24 said. "The middle is the right position for me." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**5'8"** "As a libero, I would say I have a little bit of an advantage," Grace Therrien '24 said. "I can take up more court space, being taller, and I am able to lay out further for balls when diving." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**5'4"** "My height can make playing difficult and can be a disadvantage up at the net," Hope Schmitz '24 said. "It makes me push myself and work harder." Photo by Matthew Scherber



**5'2"** "I have to work harder to have a spot on the team," Olivia Lutz '24 said. "Due to my height, I'm not able to hit, so I have to focus on playing back row." Photo by Matthew Scherber



Kaia Caffee '24 prepares to spike the perfect set. Photo by Matthew Scherber

## setting up for success

Upperclassmen bring leadership and energy to team

As the game is about to begin, players anticipate the first volley while fans in the crowd go wild. The court is a place of pure adrenaline and focus.

The players lean on each other to collect themselves in preparation for the match. The strength of the team relied on the players' relationships throughout the season.

"I've been playing with a lot of them since I started," Grace Kluver '23 said. "I couldn't imagine not playing this year with them."

The group of players formed a unique connection while developing their skills over the years.

"We've gotten a lot closer as the years have gone on because we've been playing against each other in club season," Hayley Shult '24 said. "It brought us together during high school."

The upperclassmen played an essential role in the team's welcoming atmosphere.

"It's more of a team dynamic this year compared to the last three years," said Kluver. "It helps that we have a heavy upperclassmen team. We've all gotten to know each other for a little bit longer."

This year's seniors were instrumental in bringing energy and keeping spirits high on and off the court.

"They're obviously a vital part of the team — not just because of their playing, but also because of their energy," Grace Therrien '24 said.

The seniors' positive energy reflected onto their younger teammates by bringing enthusiasm into the game.

"We always have positive energy," Hope Schmitz '24 said. "And we're always bringing each other up."

Story by Scarlett Peterson & Anna Kugler



"My teammates and my passion for high intensity volleyball keep me motivated." Tatum Kjellberg '23

Photo by Matthew Scherber

