

QUEENS of the COURT

Long weekends and practices propel team all the way to State

For the Lady Warriors, talent and success does not come easy. Every player's complete commitment is required for the team.

"In total, including the summer, we've spent 278 hours practicing. It pays off in the sense that your team becomes your family," Katie Mary, 12, said.

For the Lady Warriors, the 2016 season success stemmed from the team and their coaches' fierce dedication to the game. The team kept the phrase "stay hungry" in their minds throughout the season. Players looked to their leaders who enforced strong leadership roles in them.

"Being a leader is a big role to fill, I have to keep the team unified through ups and downs. I also have to think about what is best for the team rather than myself," Mary said.

Karsen Motter, 12, agreed with her teammate in that the countless hours of preparation was definitely beneficial.

"The majority of our days are spent together, and a lot of the time we are all competing against each other for positions. However, it's not a catty competitiveness. These teammates become your best friends, and we are all so close that it's just pure fun. That's what makes it all worth it," Motter said.

First-year head coach, Celeste Vial, led the team to a 33-9 record, finishing second in the state.



AMERICAN HUSTLE

Breleigh Favre, 12, outside hitter, spiked the ball to score a point against Our Lady Academy on senior night. This year, Favre committed to further her volleyball career at the University of Southern Mississippi. Favre played a vital role in the Warriors' success with her signature kills and spikes. "I feel very fortunate to be continuing my volleyball career on to the next level. I couldn't have done it without the support of my friends, family and teammates," Favre said. Over the course of her volleyball career, Favre played 86 sets and attained 165 kills. // Avery Stephan photo

LEAVING A LEGACY

Seniors set great examples through hard work, positivity, and leadership



BIG HEARTS AND LITTLE SHORTS

Seniors: Presley Davis, Mary Claire Whitehead, Grace Sanders, Rhyann Plumlee, Karsen Motter, Katie Mary, Sinclair Green, Anna Kathryn Andy, and Breleigh Favre celebrate their last season to play volleyball as an Oak Grove Warrior on Senior night. // Avery Stephan photo

SEE YOU ON THE COURT

Rhyann Plumlee, 12, middle hitter for Oak Grove, greets the fans with her trademark smile and excitement to play. // Avery Stephan photo

a PIÑATA party

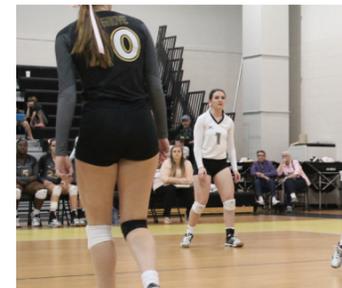
Before every home game, the Lady Warriors all participate in an attempt to bust a piñata. They go at it with full force. The catch is that whoever busts the piñata has to buy the next one. They have kept a collection of all the busted piñatas and keep them in the locker room. The team hopes this becomes a yearly tradition.



Sinclair Green, 12

Rhyann Plumlee, 12

Breleigh Favre, 12



1. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Before every game, the team spends time warming up in order to prepare. Chloe Davison, 11, practices her pass to her fellow teammate. // Avery Stephan photo

2. Blocks For Days

Loree Howell, 11, and Bethany McCain, 9, go up for a block to gain a point. // Caroline Simpson photo

3. Shank, Boom, Reload Yip-Yip

Junior Varsity volleyball players do their cheer after a spike which causes the other team to lose the ball. // Avery Stephan photo

4. YOU JUST GOT SERVED

Katie Mary, 12, uses her powerful serving skills to assist the team into victory. // Emily Grace Edwards photo

5. AHFFF ACE

Kalli Cox, 11, makes a perfect set for senior, Sinclair Green. Cox is so devoted to her team that she avoided moving in spite of her father's job to remain at Oak Grove and finish out the season. // photo Avery Stephan

6. BEEN THERE, DUG THAT

Grace Sanders, 12, captures a dig to forward the team to score a point against Our Lady Academy on senior night. // Avery Stephan photo

7. WE ARE FAMILY

Teammates celebrate a point during the Brandon game. "Supporting one another and celebrating on the court is a tradition for us on the court," Grace Sanders, 12, said. // McKenzie Woodard photo



TEACH ME HOW TO DUG-IE

Karsen Motter, 12, outside hitter, passes the ball to her teammate after a serve in an attempt to score a point. // Avery Stephan photo



TEAMWORK

Presley Davis, 12, saves the ball by catching a low dig under the net. // Emily Grace Edwards photo



IT'S AN AIR AFFAIR

Rhyann Plumlee, 12, middle hitter, spikes the ball down to achieve a point against Our Lady Academy on Senior night. // Avery Stephan photo



"GOOD GAME"

Alden Parsons, 9, congratulates Petal on a good game. Parsons helped bring her team to a victory with her incredible digs. // Emily Grace Edwards photo