

Boys' volleyball has high hopes for season

Not yet an IHSAA sport, the team enters its fourth season with high expectations for yet another successful year



JUNIOR HARRISON SPRIGLER hits a ball back over the net during preseason boys' volleyball practice.

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The loud sound of a spiked ball still rings in the air while refs blow their whistles. The crowd cheers for the team, yet the boys on the court, led by junior Scott Meyer, out scream them all. Meyer joins the huddle and the team talks over the gameplan for the next play. FC boys' volleyball has begun and they are making a statement.

For the past four years, FC has

been creating a "dream team" of boys' volleyball stars that are recognized by students as super athletes. The only issue is that according to the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), boys' volleyball is not considered an actual sport. It is because of this rule that the team cannot be a varsity sport to the school.

"We have so many kids playing and getting involved, especially this year, and we aren't getting any funding from the school," said Meyer. "Being on the team is a lot of fun, but I would love to have it seen as a varsity sport. We're getting a lot

of attention but we're still labeled a club sport because of the rules."

In the eyes of IHSAA, there must be an equal number between boys' and girls' sports at FC, and to add a male sport to the spring roster, an additional female sport must also enlist. As no other girls' club teams have begun at FC, the boys' volleyball team cannot qualify to become a varsity sport.

"We're an equally competitive sport compared to any other and we work just as hard," said sophomore Logan Gamero. "Girls' volleyball is considered a sport and I think that just because we're boys doesn't mean we shouldn't have the same opportunity to play on a varsity team."

Gamero brings a compelling argument to the table. He follows up by saying that in the fall, the other sport that evens out the boy to girl sport ratio is the exclusively male football team with the exclusively girls' volleyball team. The IHSAA rule, named Title IX, prevents the uneven number to occur by placing in gender standards for each varsity team.

"The school has to balance male and female sport teams and since there is already a balance, then they can't add a male volleyball team without adding another sport for females," said sophomore Kye Johnson.

While the boys do support the push to make volleyball an official sport, it does not affect how hard they work or change their love of the game.

"Although we would like to see boys' volleyball be considered an actual sport, we are great as a club team," said junior Ethan Watson. "The atmosphere is great and all the guys are fun to play with. I enjoy being on the team whether or not

we are an official sport."

Other members on the team agree; even without a varsity letter, volleyball is their passion. They work day in and day out to achieve success, just as any other sport, and strive for nothing less than greatness.

"I love the sport, it's engaging to watch and feeling myself get better every year is awesome. Home games with my team are the best," said junior Luke Gilland.

Their focus and drive sets them apart from other teams and gives them an edge. Although boys' volleyball is a relatively new sport, it is becoming more and more popular in schools. They play other boys' club teams in the area along with private schools that have varsity teams in Louisville.

"Teams we play are either club teams like us or school teams, where volleyball is considered a varsity sport. My first year, we were limited to competition over in Louisville, schools like Saint Xavier High School and Trinity High School. However, each year more teams are created in southern Indiana, like Charlestown and Silver Creek," said Gilland. "It's great to see schools creating new programs, the competition continues to get better which is just awesome for the sport."

As popularity of boys' volleyball grows, FC's program expands with it. This season, 33 athletes tried out for a spot on the team. Coaches were so intent on growing the program that no cuts were made. Head coach Kerrie Owens is no stranger to the court, and is the head coach of the girls' volleyball team at FC as well.

"I got involved because I needed a new challenge. I've been a women's volleyball coach for 25 years and the men's team brought new excitement and enthusiasm to FC," said Owens. "I love teaching the game and I love winning."

Although it is early in the season, Owens has high expectations for the

team. The boys are motivated by her energy and excitement to win. They continue to work day in and day out to compete and succeed.

“My hopes are that we have a winning season and we can beat our rival team, Saint Xavier. Then, we have a good showing in the Indiana State Tournament for our first year,” said Owens.

The boys’ volleyball team will travel to the state tournament for the first time at the end of their season. Competing at a state level is new and exciting for everyone on the team. Each athlete trains and practices every day for their competitions and meets, and yet Title IX still prevents them from receiving the varsity letter they all hope to achieve.

“I believe my boys should be able to earn a varsity letter. If you play a varsity sport, you deserve a letter. Period,” said Owens.

Nevertheless, each member of the team is thrilled to be there. The boys and Owens herself have been very successful in recruiting and gaining new members onto the court. With

each new athlete, a new energy is brought to the game. Students from all ends of FC come together for a common interest and reason: they love to win and have fun.

“It’s competitive but not enough people know how much fun volleyball really is. I’m relatively new to it and I’m so glad I got involved because

“I love the sport, it’s engaging to watch and feeling myself get better every year is awesome. It’s competitive but not enough people know how much fun volleyball really is.”

Luke Gilland

junior

I’m having so much fun with it,” said Gilland.

The team still aspires to add new members and bring diversity onto the court. New members from each and

every grade appear as the seasons go by. Every year the team numbers increase dramatically and they only hope to continue growing in as a team. They continue to take home wins and have a good time.

“I love my teammates,” said junior Grant Gibson. “It’s my first year playing volleyball and I feel great about this upcoming year. Everyone’s a lot of fun and we all push each other to be our best.”

With the season approaching quickly, the team is excited and ready to play. Their passion for the sport outweighs and sort of varsity letter. The boys continue to break gender standards on sports and their only focus is on the excitement and fun of the game. Their drive is unbreakable and they will not be held back by Title IX.

“The passion that players grow for it, because men’s volleyball was practically unheard of not too long ago, it’s something that players love to tell people about and playing with close friends is just an amazing feeling,” said Gilland. “Beating teams like Trinity that have had a team for over a decade is a feeling that can’t be matched.”

What other sports should the IHSAA consider adding?



sophomore
**Caroline
Woertz**

“I think we should have a girls’ gymnastics team as a good option to even our girls and boys sports.”



junior
**Connor
Mason**

“We should add girls’ ping-pong because it’s really inexpensive and could open up more winter opportunities.”



freshman
**Grant
Coleman**

“I think they should add girls’ flag football to open up more opportunity to girls in different sports as well.”



sophomore
**Hunter
Griffin**

“We could add girls’ field hockey because it’s a fun sport and lots of people are interested in it.”



senior
**Kamryn
Plaiss**

“I think lacrosse should be added to Floyd Central because it’s really grown in local places like Louisville.”



senior
**Blake
Barrett**

“I think Dazzlers should be a sport because they put in so much work and time and are a club.”

SCORECARD

Editor’s Note: All scores and records are as of the morning of Tuesday, March 12.

BASEBALL

Previous record: 6-12
Next game- March 26 vs.
Brownstown Central

SOFTBALL

Previous record: 21-7
Next game- March 19 vs. Pleasure
Ridge Park

BOYS’ TRACK AND FIELD

Previous finish: Sectional
champions
First meet- April 2 @ New Albany
Dual Meet

GIRLS’ TRACK AND FIELD

Previous finish: Sectional
champions
First meet- April 2 @ New Albany
Dual Meet

BOYS’ VOLLEYBALL

First match- April 2 @
Silver Creek

BOYS’ GOLF

Previous record: Undefeated regular
season; lost in final four of State
Championship
First match- March 30; Fuzzy
Zoeller Invitational @ Covered
Bridge
Golf Course

Sam Haney / *The Bagpiper*