

Acalanes Dons JV Volleyball team participated in the East County JV Tournament at Pittsburgh High School this past Saturday, October 7th. Lady Dons finished 5th overall out of 12 teams. They played a total of 5 games fighting hard all the way saving their best for last.

#### First Match - Dougherty Valley

Dons went 3 sets. Serving wasn't our friend. They battled all the way. Mackenzie Sauer and Elena Needs crushed hits and Annika Olson playing oppo worked the net along with Olivia Elliott as middle and Aisha Mohanty and Helen Kleinsmith setting. Charlotte Glass ran a half marathon as libero. Lost in third set 18-20. Redemption is coming...in game 5

#### Second Match - Albany

Won first set 25-18. Tate Huisingh assisted with hits playing outside and Mackenzie Sauer served strong. Second set Olivia Anderson assisted with hitting and Jessica Larrick pounded her serves along with Parker Jung's perfect passes and Kleinsmith setting us to the win. Dons win second set 25-9

#### Third Match - Liberty

Dons went 3 sets. First set Needs, Elliott, Sauer and Olson led with strong hitting. Setting by Kleinsmith and Mohanty. Glass cleaned the floor with her blue jersey digging balls as libero. Mohanty served guided missiles getting us close. Dons lose first set 23-25. Second set Glass and Larrick serve us to a small lead. Needs, Moran and Sauer lay down the hammer as outsiders. Olson serving for the win with assists by Kleinsmith setting Elliott for the line kill and winning point! Dons win 29-27. Screaming ensued!! Third set Dons lose 9-15. Bummed but know we fought hard. Day isn't over yet.

#### Fourth Match - Heritage

Dons went 3 sets. First set Kylie Wood and Elena Needs clobbered their hits with perfect passes from Glass and sets by Kleinsmith 5-10. Serving errors continue to plague us. Needs pounds her hit for 8-10. Mohanty serves us 10-13, Olson serves us 14-16. We take the fall 17-25 loss. Second set we take the court with renewed energy. Anderson starts us swinging hard and Sauer makes a kill set by Mohanty 4-4. Sauer and Olson serves us to 11-4. Heritage gets on a serving run. Elliott makes a hit for sideout 13-15. Mohanty serves us to 19-18. Huisingh makes a kill for side out 20-21. Larrick serves us in to the lead 22-21 as Sauer passes to Mohanty runs back outside and crushes her hit - gal is quick! Sideout. Kleinsmith serves us to the win 25-23. Screaming ensues (by parents). Third set Dons dominate and take the win 15-5.

#### Fifth and Final Match - Dougherty (again)

Dons seeking redemption. Take the court with fierceness ready to deliver a slice of "we got this" pie. Sauer serves us to 2-3. Anderson slams her hit for 4-5. Needs makes a kill for 5-5. Sauer makes a kill set by Kleinsmith for sideout. Needs serves us to a lead 12-6. Dons playing their best game of the day. Wood and Elliott work the net on offense and defense. Elliott makes a kill 14-7. Anderson hits for the kill 16-11 and Olson yet again shows why she loves a 1 set - BAM!

Mohanty serves up a storm and closes us out. Dons take the win 25-23. Second set Olson wallops another 1 set by Mohanty to let them know we mean business. Arms and feet are flying as passes lead to great sets by Mohanty and hitters led by Needs, Sauer and Elliot. Elliott blocks a big hitter 8-6. Olson another 1 set drilled the court 12-10. The smack down has started. Who are these girls?! Mohanty, small but mighty, lays down the serving hammer and takes us to 17-12. Sauer lays down a kill for a 18-15 lead. Glass is flying all over the back in a blur of black unearthing balls. Dons are fighting hard! Parents screaming...ok, just me. Time out called but that won't deter us. Elliott pounds a 1 set by Kleinsmith taking us 22-23. Needs serves us to the win with final play led by Glass passing to Kleinsmith who sets Sauer for the "no mercy" kill. Dons win 25-23! Screaming ensues by all.

Submitted by Theresa Needs