

Post-Season Report
Section 6 Boys Volleyball 2008
Chairperson: Walt R. Stefani (Orchard Park H.S.)

- 1.) 2008 was a great year for Boys Volleyball in Western New York. The competition level was very good and many boys are looking to continue their playing career at the next level.
- 2.) An effort is continuing to recruit graduating seniors into the ranks of refereeing. Coaches and officials are working to develop interest and increase the pool of available referees.
- 3.) The Regional Intersectionals developing into a true State Championship is still a goal of many coaches in Section VI. There has been some dialog with other regions concerning a state title but progress is painstakingly slow. I am planning to attend the State Meeting in Albany in April 2009 to represent our Section and support the continuance of the Intersectional program for boy's volleyball and vote on any new rule proposals.
- 4.) Financially, the matches created a positive cash flow.
- 5.) I am glad to report that Boys Volleyball experienced **NO** sportsmanship violations during the season (at least none were reported).

6.)	Financial Data:	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Actual 2006</u>	<u>Actual 2007</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>
	Gross Income	\$5632	\$3432	\$5188	\$3664
	Admin. Expense	\$580	\$652	\$1439	\$736
	Officials Expense	\$1080	\$1082	\$1210	\$1114
	NET TOTAL	\$3972	\$2768	\$2539	\$1764

- 7.) The Section 6 Sectionals will **tentatively** be hosted at the following high schools for the 2008 season. Both schools are seeking administrative approval before final commitment:

Sectional Semifinals	TBA	Times TBA
	(November 7, 2009)	
Sectional Finals	Hamburg HS	6:00 pm - Class B
	(November 11, 2009)	8:00 pm - Class A
Regional Intersectional	Section V - Rochester	Times TBA
	(November 14, 2009)	

- 8.) Sectional Champions for 2008 were **Orchard Park in Class A** and **Cheektowaga in Class B**. Regional Intersectional Champions were **Orchard Park - Class A (Section 6)** and **Victor Class B (Section 5)**. Section 3 hosted the Regional Intersectionals. **** Please see attached press release from Orchard Park HS.**
- 9.) Again, I would like to look into the possibility of changing the lack of financial support that has been provided for our representatives to the Regional Intersectional Championship. They receive very little to attend despite being full supporting members of Section VI. It seems that since there is always a positive cash flow generated by boy's sectional volleyball, funds should be used to support the volleyball programs that are advancing to the Regionals.

- 10.) REPORT: Regional State Intersectional Championship – Section 3 - 2008:
Section 3 put on a nice show for the Regional State Championship. competition was excellent and the site was clean and receptive. All of Cicero Norths' support staff was great creating an excellent competitive site coupled with behind the scenes amenities.

PRESS RELEASE

Orchard Park High School Boys Volleyball Team posts undefeated (34-0) season and clinches the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Boys Volleyball Regional Championship

The undefeated (34-0) Orchard Park High School Boys Volleyball Team clinched the New York State Regional Championship, held in Syracuse, New York on November 8, 2008. They played against top teams in New York State: Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School, Suffern High School, Cicero-North Syracuse High School, and Penfield High School.

Orchard Park High School's boy's volleyball team, coached by Walt Stefani and Matt Lexner, went 8-0 in pool play to qualify for the Regional State Final against Burnt Hills. The intensity of the final match could be felt in the first game as Burnt Hills poured it on but couldn't match the fire power of Orchard Park, ending at 26-24. During the next two games (best of five), Orchard Park put on a solid display of hitting power and defensive skills that thwarted the Burnt Hills offense, winning by 25-17 and 25-18. Burnt Hills could not answer the multi-faceted attack from Orchard Park, nor the extreme jump serving that pounded them relentlessly. Many in attendance felt that the 2008 Orchard Park team was one of the finest high school volleyball teams that have played in the history of the State Regional Championships.

Team captains, Mike Stefani (Ohio State recruit), Pat Schwagler (Princeton University recruit), and Tom Comfort (undecided), led the team to the state regional title. Tom Comfort received the "Sportsmanship" award from the NYSPHSAA for Orchard Park High School – the second year in a row. The captains received tremendous support from Shane Cassell (libero), Jake Breindel and Kevin Brouillard (middle blockers), and Troy Nowak (setter). The team played an inspired, focused match to overcome the strong challenge from Burnt Hills, who had won the title in 2007 against Orchard Park.

Prior to the match, Coach Stefani addressed his team with a statement, "... boys take what is given to them; men take what they want... now go get what you want – the State Title!" Throughout the final match, Coach Stefani quoted Buffalo Bills' Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy, "Where would you rather be than right here, right now?" Coach Lexner did an excellent job scouting the Burnt Hills team, and keeping the Orchard Park boys focused on a game plan that attacked Burnt Hills' vulnerable rotations.

Looking back at the 2008 year, the Orchard Park team has had many distinctions:

- Clarence Tournament Champions
- Eden Tournament Champions
- Webster Tournament Champions
- Orchard Park Tournament Champions
- ECIC Division I Champions
- Section VI Class A Champions
- New York State Regional Volleyball Champions
- Western New York No 1 Ranking in the Coaches Bowl
- Undefeated Season: Divisional Record 12-0; Overall Record 34-0

This is the second time in which Orchard Park High School has had an undefeated volleyball season. In 1991, Orchard Park posted an undefeated season (25-0), winning every divisional and non divisional game, all the western New York tournaments, the Section VI Class A Championship, the ECIC Division I Championship, and the New York State Regional Volleyball Championship.

Today, the Orchard Park Volleyball Team has an unusual distinction in western New York. Not only are they State Regional Champions in 2008, their varsity coaches, Walt Stefani and Matt Lexner were named 2008 Western New York Varsity Coach of the Year, and the school's J.V. coach, Chris Clark, was named 2008 Western New York Junior Varsity Coach of the Year. This is Coach Stefani's 7th time (since 1978) and Coach Lexner's 2nd time (since 2001) receiving the award.