

Varsity Girls Volleyball vs Pomperaug, Oct. 21

For the first time in Coach Conti's tenure as Joel Barlow's head volleyball coach, they had a senior day in a playoff game. This created some added anxiety for Coach Conti as she mentioned it is easy for the seniors to lose focus, wrapped up in the emotions of the night. Seniors Julia Miranda, Maddie Furrer, Olivia Sickinger, Claire Rodrigue, and Zoriana Olexy were all honored and played in the game. Val Amador, Sylvie Candee, Mia Roberts, Ripley Robinson, and Genevieve Currie also participated in the game. Despite the pre-game jitters, Coach Conti was very confident.

Coach Conti was pleased with the performance. Barlow defeated Pomperaug in three sets to advance to the next round of the SWC tournament. The plan for Joel Barlow was to simply play their game, and Coach Conti believed they would be successful. "The big thing tonight was to get our middles established early so that their middles stay on our middles, and then when we do set outside, we can get a one-on-one block instead of a double block," said Coach Conti.

Maddie Furrer was impressive in the win. She attempted 24 kills, twice as many as any other Barlow player, converting ten of them. Coach Conti said that Maddie took on a leadership role, which is something she would like to see more of going forward. Olivia Sickinger also played well, contributing 21 of the team's 29 assists. Coach Conti described Olivia Sickinger as a huge reason for the team's success, "When she plays well, we play well. When she plays well, our hitters hit well, so she's a huge, huge key to making all the cogs turn."

The biggest factor in the victory was Barlow's ability to pass and serve well. Joel Barlow served 94.5% in the win. Coach Conti says, "We know we can't win a really big game if we don't serve 93%." The passing allows Barlow to set up an offense. "We were able to have our outsides come in and hit quick sets in the middle, and then our middle would go out and hit a 31, and so we were able to run a quicker offense because we were passing so well," said Coach Conti.

Barlow won all 3 sets convincingly by at least 10 points. Barlow showed no mercy in the third set, winning 25-4. Since this win, Barlow has won the SWC conference championship, defeating Newtown and Masuk.