



Good News

GCHS Volleyball News

Cleveland advances without two best players

By MARC RAIMONDI

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For Anna Dawidowska right now, it's about who is on her team and not who isn't. Without its two best players, No. 19 Grover Cleveland beat No. 14 Stuyvesant, 25-18, 25-19, in the PSAL boys volleyball first round Saturday at York College.

"I couldn't ask for anything else," the first-year coach said. "They did an amazing job. They didn't get heartbroken and beat up over it."

In mid-April, Tigers star outside hitters Piotrek Borkowski and Przemek Walus left the team due to a dispute with Dawidowska over the presence of their girlfriends at tournaments and matches.

"They chose their girlfriends over volleyball, basically," Dawidowska said. "Young, unwise teenagers making bad decisions. I hope they regret it."

Cleveland (10-2) has moved on without them. Dawidowska is thrilled with how her inexperienced players – four had not played volleyball before March – have come along. Senior Rezlind Bushati was one of those four, but has made a seamless transition from libero to outside hitter in a short amount of time.

"I can't believe the transformation," Dawidowska said. "I've never seen a student improve that much in such a short amount of time."

Bushati had 16 digs and his replacement at libero, Martin Galleguillos, had 16 digs. Cezary Wolczek had nine kills, Ryszard Galej had seven kills and Patryk Rozalski added 19 assists.

"I'm just really proud of them," Dawidowska.

Wolczek said he was somewhat surprised Cleveland was able to pull off the upset. But, he said, the Tigers have worked very hard in the absence of their two star players and they're relishing the opportunity to play No. 3 Cardozo, a team they beat twice with Borkowski and Walus in the lineup, in the second round Tuesday at Hunter College.

"I'm excited about it," Wolczek said.



Grover Cleveland's coach Anna Dawidowska is pleased that her team has persevered despite the loss of stars Piotrek Borkowski and Przemek Walus.

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