

Queen Margaret's School Royals Take First Place at Mid-Island Volleyball Championship

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Hosted by Brentwood College School, the Royals were eager to show their skills on Thursday. "This QMS team has been really consistent all season," explains QMS Coach and Senior Athletic Director, Marlene Donaldson. "What stood out for me was their strong bond, positivity and passion to constantly improve. They went undefeated during regular season play, so they entered the tournament with confidence and excitement."

In tournament pool play, the Royals faced off first against Brentwood "C", defeating them in straight sets 25-2 and 25-17. Their second game against Queen of Angels started with a loss in the first set 19-25, briefly unsettling the team. "The girls were rattled," shares Donaldson. "So we refocused on the fun of the game and made it a priority to reconnect as a unit." It worked, as QMS battled back to win the next two sets 25-8 and 15-7. Their final pool game win against Chemainus (25-11 and 25-16) secured their spot in the finals against host Brentwood "B."

"We knew the other team was going to be good," says team captain *Ana Paola Bres Martinez* (Grade 9). "So we knew our team had to be a talkative, positive group on the court if we wanted to win. We reminded ourselves that it was only a game, to have fun and prove we deserved to be there. I think we did that."

"The girls fully embraced our volleyball philosophy and executed it well," says Donaldson. "Good passing and strong teamwork resulted in their victory in straight sets. I'm really proud of every person on this team."

The QMS Royals Midget team will also be heading into the Mid-Island Championships undefeated in regular season play. The tournament will be hosted by Lake Cowichan School on **Tuesday, November 22.**

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