



SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Individual/Team Name: Patrick Henry High School (Ashland), Boys Volleyball

Sport: Volleyball

Connection to Virginia: High School team in Ashland, VA

2023 Achievement(s):

- Won 8th consecutive VHSL State Championship
- 27-0 record
- Team lost only 2 sets all season
- Ranked #1 in Virginia, and #3 Nationally amongst High School Volleyball teams

Will Driscoll

From: Virginia Sports Hall of Fame <info@vasportshof.com>
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Will Driscoll
Subject: Sportsperson of the Year Award Entry

Name of Team

Patrick Henry (Ashland) High School, Boys Volleyball

Sport(s)

Volleyball

Connection to Virginia

High School in Ashland, VA

Significant Athletic Achievement in 2023

won their EIGHTH STRAIGHT state championship; finished the year undefeated at 27-0; lost only 2 sets the entire year

Nominee Contact Information (email or phone)

Head Coach: Andy Steuart, asteuart@hcps.us

If there are any additional accolades, accomplishments, or comments you would like the Hall of Fame to consider as it reviews your nomination, please list them here (500 words)

or less). Please include links to articles or news stories, and online biographical information in the space provided

state record for consecutive state titles;
in 2023, ranked #3 nationally by MaxPreps, #1 in the state of VA, #1 in the metro Richmond area - rankings include all VHSL division/class levels: 6,5, and 4 (PH is a class 4 school, based on enrollment);

<https://www.maxpreps.com/va/ashland/patrick-henry-patriots/volleyball/boys/fall/rankings/>

https://richmond.com/sports/high-school/volleyball/boys/patrick-henry-wins-eighth-straight-state-title/article_6ca09246-84f5-11ee-a454-e7212d6298c3.html

<https://twitter.com/CBS6SportsSean/status/1725600956199371103>

Please include any documents that details the student's academic and athletic achievements, and community contributions; this includes letters of support/recommendation and student essay.

PH-Volleyball resolution.pdf

2023-PH-boys-volleyball.jpg

Nominator Name

Ross Luck

Nominator Email

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Nominator Phone Number

8043373363

All nomination materials must be received together

Acknowledged

Sent from [Virginia Sports Hall of Fame](#)

11/11/2020 10:11 AM

ALERT TOP STORY

CLASS 4 BOYS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Patrick Henry's boys volleyball dynasty continues with championship win

Melanie Martinez-Lopez

Nov 17, 2023

Melanie Martinez-Lopez

Patrick Henry has won a **Class 4 boys volleyball state championship** every year since 2016. The Patriots extended the streak by sweeping Atlee 3-0 on Thursday night at the Siegel Center.

“In my opinion, there are three certainties in life: death, taxes, and the PH boys volleyball team is going to bring home the state title,” said senior Stephen Matthews, whose twin brother Jason also plays on the team.

The Patriots had their **sights set on their eighth consecutive state championship** long before the season began.

“This was our goal since before our first practice,” PH’s Aaron Steuart said. “It’s what do we need to do to get the next ring.”

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The Patriots (27-0) entered the game in the best position imaginable. Undefeated and having dropped only two sets all season, they were the dominating team during the regular season.

“In the only sets we lost, we came in slow, sluggish, but we hate to lose more than we love to win, so the moment that set drops, we come back with passion and fire and we play,” the Patriots’ Tyler Patton said.

In the previous state-title games, the Patriots played against Maggie Walker, so to meet up with Atlee in the final was a welcome change.

“It was a great thing to not play the same school again,” Jason Matthews said. “With it being a county team, we already played three times, we were confident.”

While the Raiders (16-10) did everything in their power to slow them down, the Patriots took the first set 25-16.

Despite having momentum, the Patriots also knew they could not be overly confident.

“It’s always about winning the next one,” the Patriots’ Duke Flanagan said. “Every play starts at 0-0.”

Patrick Henry continued to capitalize on Atlee’s mistakes and dominated in the second set, winning 25-12 and taking the lead 2-0.

Now all was left to do was to take the third set.

The Raiders were not letting up easy. They tried their best to catch up and close the gap, but they couldn’t break through the dominance of Patrick Henry and lost the last set 25-18.

Patrick Henry players on the sideline stormed the court.

“We came out and played one of our best games of the season,” PH coach Andy Steuart said. “We were focused, we were driven and (the players) knew what was at stake and they went after it.”

Many of the seniors had been playing together since middle school, which is credited with creating the chemistry to help them win.

“This is what happens when you play together for a long time, they’re a family with a ‘PH,’” Andy Steuart said.

While a chapter closes for the seniors, they did want to get a message across to the underclassmen: forget the outside noise.

“After winning so many times there not that much motivation but listening to people talk about how its over, you lost this guy and you’re still there, it’s like, ‘What about me?’” Jason Matthews said. “That’s what keeps us motivated.”

The win means the Matthews family will now have 11 championship rings among them — four per twin and three from older brother Timothy.

“It feels great because I know that there isn’t much more of a peak for my volleyball career,” Stephen Matthews said. “There’s nothing more we want to accomplish besides getting our younger guys better.”

Stephen and Jason are joined by teammate Cooper Cobetto as the first players on the team to win four state championships.

Now Patrick Henry’s search for the ninth state championship can begin.

PHOTOS: Patrick Henry Boys Class 4 Volleyball Champs

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Last update: 11/27/2023
Minimum Matches Played: 5
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National Rankings

#	Team	State	Ovr.	Str.	+/-
1	Dorman	SC	29-2	11.3	
2	Episcopal	TX	19-0	8.6	
3	Patrick Henry	VA	27-0	4.8	
4	Midlothian	VA	20-3	9.7	
5	Fairport	NY	25-0	5.5	+1

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2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

Commending the Patrick Henry High School boys' volleyball team.

Patrons—Fowler and Wyatt; Senators: Dunnavant, McClellan and McDougle

WHEREAS, the Patrick Henry High School boys' volleyball team of Hanover County won the Virginia High School League Class 4 state championship on November 18, 2021, at the Siegel Center in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the Patrick Henry High School Patriots defeated the Maggie L. Walker High School Green Dragons of Richmond in three straight sets, 25-10, 25-17, 25-18, to bring home the program's sixth consecutive state championship, extending the state record it set last year with its fifth consecutive title; and

WHEREAS, the Patrick Henry Patriots dropped three matches in the first half of the season, at which point retired head coach Michael Townsend rejoined the team and steered it toward an undefeated second half; and

WHEREAS, the Patrick Henry Patriots were carried in their final match by strong performances from Davis Luck, Class 4 Western Region Player of the Year, who had 13 kills, and Jason Matthews, who had 30 assists; and

WHEREAS, the recurring success of the Patrick Henry Patriots is the result of the hard work and dedication of the student-athletes, the leadership and guidance of their coaches and teachers, and the unwavering support of the entire Patrick Henry High School community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Patrick Henry High School boys' volleyball team for winning the Virginia High School League Class 4 state championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Michael Townsend, head coach of the Patrick Henry High School boys' volleyball team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's achievement.

INTRODUCED

HJ67