Heathfield Heads Held High at Warrnambool Volleyball Tournament

A narrow semi-final loss for the Open Honour boys team, two MVP awards and a runner up MVP award marked a successful outing for Heathfield High School at the tough Warrnambool Seaside Volleyball Tournament over the March long weekend.

The Open Honour boys, unbeaten during the round robin stages in Division 1, came up against Monash University in the semi-final and looked on course for a grand final spot after taking the first set comfortably. The University students, however, hit back strongly to take the second to level the match and when the buzzer sounded to mark the end of the hour-long game, they’d nudged ahead 20-18 to win the match.

A measure of consolation saw Heathfield’s star hitter Regan Fathers voted the most valuable player in Division 1, while fellow Heathfield student and Open Honour girls setter, Elsie Dawes, took out the most valuable player award in the women’s Div. 1 competition. At the same time Heathfield’s Tyson Neale was awarded the runner up MVP in division 2.

Heathfield took five teams – two Open boys and three Open girls – to the tournament and given that they were the only junior participants up against seasoned seniors, they can be justifiably proud of their achievements.

As mentioned earlier, the Div. 1 boys won all their games leading up to the semi-final loss, with Simon Gray, Damian Nicholls, Sam Coldwell and Regan Fathers playing particularly well throughout.

The second boys team, led by George Giannes, finished mid-table in Division 2 having won three and lost three of their matches.

It was pretty much the identical scenario for the Open Honour girls team as they recorded three hard-fought victories and put in gallant displays in narrowly losing their other three fixtures in Division 1. Captain Mary Shaw led from the front and was supported by an all-round team effort.

The remaining two Heathfield girls sides played in Division 2, where the ‘Red’ team narrowly missed finals and the ‘Blue’ team failed to record a victory but won praise aplenty for lots of gutsy performances. The Red team got off to a slow start and lost both games on the Saturday before bouncing back to win four straight on the Sunday. Tahlie Jones, Keana Lamming-Slade and Lucy Ambagtsheer deserve special mention for solid performances.

For Heathfield Blue, Lauren Green, Scarlett Doherty and Chelsea Walters enjoyed particularly good weekends and all will be better players for the experience.

Heathfield Volleyball Program head Stuart Scott said the competition is viewed as a valuable part of the players’ development and provides a good yardstick of where they’re at in their development as players.

“The quality of the competition and the timing of the event in the calendar is extremely valuable for our senior players who are in the early preparation stage for the highest level of competition in the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup that is held in December” he said.