

## **The Heart of a Champion: DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team's Journey to Bacolod – It's Either You Win or You Learn**

**Congratulations to the DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team for clinching the 1st Runner-Up in the Gwapo Sports 2024 Silver Minuluan Volleyball Invitation held last September 5, 2024 in Talisay City, Negros.**

*By Axzielle Mari Lino Hernando (DLSZ 2030)*

Each game teaches us something new, even the ones that don't go our way. But when victory comes, not as a trophy, but as lessons and growth, will the DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team still embrace it with open arms? How does a young team handle the thrill of competition and the sting of defeat?

### **A New Adventure**

We, the DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team took to the skies on an exciting journey to Bacolod, ready to face the challenges of the Gwapo Sports 2024 Silver Minuluan Volleyball Invitation. Over two grueling days, we participated in intense games and tune-ups in Talisay City, Negros, sharpening our skills and building our teamwork for the season ahead.

### **Testing Our Limits**

The trip began on September 5, 2024, landing in Bacolod, a new territory for us. Setting off on a new adventure, we started with a tune-up game against Tay Tung Thunderbolts, a team renowned for its competitiveness in the country. The match offered a chance to learn, adapt, and be exposed to new playing styles. Facing the Palarong Pambansa Champion players brought both excitement and nerves, but we met the challenge head-on.

The match was intense, with neither side giving away a single point easily. Despite the pressure of only winning a single set in the five-set game, we left the court with renewed vigor for the tournament ahead.

### **More To Gain, Nothing To Lose**

The Gwapo Sports 2024 Silver Minuluan Volleyball Invitation kicked off the following day. With confidence, willpower to win, and the privilege of representing our school's high standards, we dominated the first day earning crucial victories and celebrating our progress as a team over dinner.

On the second day, fueled by an inspiring pep talk from Coach Ff, we fought tooth and nail, earning our spot in the championship! However, the road to victory was anything but easy.

### **Struggles Arise, Confidence Falters**

We entered the games with full confidence, feeling like victory was already in our grasp. At the time, we never really felt what it was like to lose. In the face of defeat, a newly-found challenge — how will the team react? Will we crumble under pressure or prevail and prove to still be bulletproof, ricocheting all the challenges off us and onto our opponents?

The game finally commenced. Everything seemed to be going our way —at first. The more we played, the more attempts it took to score. We were exhausted and frustrated. Why couldn't we score?

As the game slipped further from our grasp, confusion set in—how had things unraveled so quickly? Could we find a way back, or was this the lesson we were meant to learn today? The pressure started to catch up, slowly chipping away at our confidence. Miscommunications and mistakes crept in, compounded by the fatigue of back-to-back games. Yet, despite the hurdles, we poured every ounce of heart and energy into the match.

In the end, we fell short of victory placing 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up. *"It hurts, it really did. If I could, I would've pushed harder."* one player shared. *"Instead of dwelling on it, I think the team should work harder together to redeem ourselves next time,"* another player uttered.

We lost, and beneath the pain and tears lay something deeper—evident in our locked arms and steady gazes.

The 3R’s: Reflection, Relationships, Recovery

The journey to Bacolod wasn’t just about competition—it was a time of growth, connection, and resilience. Through reflection, relationships, and recovery, the DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team discovered what it truly means to be champions.

Reflection

Two of our players were recognized for their outstanding performances: Kylie Celada as Second-Best Spiker and Jte Galimba as Best Libero. While we faced defeat as a team, their accolades brought a glimmer of pride and hope, reminding us that even in loss, there is victory. At a celebratory dinner, the team reflected on our journey, recognizing that our success wasn’t just built on talent, but on the unwavering support of our parents and supporters.

Relations

Even through our hard times, our Lasallian community still found a way to show their appreciation for us. *“Personally, I think the team showed determination and incredible teamwork in Bacolod league. It was such a nice experience for them,”* said Mrs. and Mr. Ignacio, our dear Parent Representatives who ensured everything ran smoothly along with Mr. and Mrs. Cenizal, and with the assistance of Mr. & Mrs. Rivera.

Recovery

As a final hurrah, we graced Bacolod Trinity Christian School, Inc. a friendly tune-up match before heading back home. This trip left us with lasting memories and an unbreakable camaraderie—a bond forged under pressure and polished through shared experiences. Not to mention, a new-found thirst to work harder as a team with one shared goal. With this eye-opener, we concluded that no matter who we play against, we will play with all our might.



Beyond the Medals: The Beginning of a Greater Journey

We may have left Bacolod without the gold, but we’re bringing home something far more valuable — the lessons that shape true champions.

Because champions aren’t made by trophies alone — they’re built by grit, resilience, and the relentless will to fight through every set, every point, and every challenge.

Did we lose the battle? Maybe. But can those losses pave the way to victory? That’s a story we’ll write together. Our journey in Bacolod has ended, but our story as a team is just beginning. Animo La Salle!



PLAYERS IN PHOTO (BACOLOD) First row (from left to right) Ayya Villanueva (2031), Zyan Sonza (2030), Anree Ignacio (2031), Brianna Corvera (2030), Lexi Ongpin (2030), Ayen Cenizal (2030) Second row (from left to right) PT Cha, Natalia Alaras (2030), Coach Feliciano, Ax

Hernando (2030), Rocio Valdez (2031), Jte Galimba (2030), Mika Mendoza (2030), Yohan Rivera (2029), Sofia Tuala (2030), Chelley Ayangco (2031), Ms. Laarni, Coach Jeremiah





*PLAYERS IN PHOTO: First row (from left to right) Ayen Cenizal (2030), Ayya Villanueva (2031), Brianna Corvera (2030), Lexi Ongpin (2030), Natalia Alaras (2030) Second row (from left to right) Chelley Ayangco (2031), Zyan Sonza (2030), Anree Ignacio (2031), Rocio Valdez (2031), Jte Galimba (2030),Yohan Rivera (2029), Ax Hernando (2030), Mika Mendoza (2030), Sofia Tuala (2030), Coach Feliciano Pantaleon*

**DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Bacolod Line-up:**

Feliciano Felix Gonzales Pantaleon	DLSZ 13U	Girls Volleyball	Head Coach
1 Andi Ayessa delos Santos Cenizal	DLSZ 2030	Setter	
2 Rocio Pellicer Valdez	DLSZ 2031	Outside Spiker	
3 Brianna Adriene de Galicia Corvera	DLSZ 2030	Opposite Spiker	
6 Natalia Padilla Alaras	DLSZ 2030	Opposite Spiker	
7 Sienna Gabryelle Ortiz Sonza	DLSZ 2030	Outside Spiker	
8 Yohan Danielle Oreta Rivera	DLSZ 2029	Opposite Spiker   Team Captain	
9 Jte Ginete Galimba	DLSZ 2030	Libero	
10 Anree Milli Gacutan Ignacio	DLSZ 2031	Outside Spiker	
11 Alexis Victoria Gatchalian Ongpin	DLSZ 2030	Opposite Spiker	
12 Axzielle Mari Lino Hernando	DLSZ 2030	Middle Blocker   Team Co-Captain	
14 Maria Sofia Gabrielle Tuala	DLSZ 2030	Middle Blocker	
15 Kylie Rianzhel Pilar Celada	DLSZ 2029	Outside Spiker	
16 Mary Ayya Bonafe Villanueva	DLSZ 2031	Libero	
19 Ma. Angelica Carla Baltasar Mendoza	DLSZ 2030	Middle Blocker	
20 Chelley Mehri Flores Ayangco	DLSZ 2031	Outside Spiker	