

Three Times the Glory: DLSZ 13U Volleyball Girls Dominate WNCAA Season 55

By Axzielle Mari Lino Hernando (DLSZ 2030)

Congratulations to the DLSZ 13U Girls Volleyball Team for winning the WNCAA Season 55 Championship held last December 1, 2024 at the Chiang Kai Shek College (CKSC) Main Campus, Tondo Manila.

A Strong Start

The Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) Season 55 officially began with a vibrant and inspiring opening ceremony hosted by Assumption Antipolo (AA) on September 14, 2024. The event marked the start of a highly competitive season across various sports, including volleyball, with seven prestigious schools vying for the championship title.

We kicked off the season with a thrilling match against AA, securing our first victory with set scores of 25-08 and 25-19. This strong start set the tone for the team's remarkable journey, as we went on to dominate top competitors like St. Scholastica's College (SSC), St. Jude Catholic School (SJCS), St. Paul College Pasig (SPCP), San Beda College Alabang (SBCA), and Assumption College (AC).

With an undefeated 7-0 record, we emerged as the leading team in the standings, carrying our momentum into the semi-finals. In a highly anticipated rematch against SPCP, we clinched our spot in the championship with decisive set scores of 25-17 and 25-06.

Under Pressure, Overcoming Doubts during the Final Round

As the championship approached, the pressure mounted. For many players—rookies experiencing their first time in the big leagues—doubts began to creep in. Questions like, *"What if we don't win?"* and *"What if we can't do it?"* loomed over the team.

But instead of letting the pressure overwhelm us, we chose to embrace it. We turned those doubts into motivation, rallying around a new mindset: *"What if we do win?"* and *"What if we can do it?"* With relentless drive, we powered through Game 1 of the championship, finishing with an impressive 25-11 and 25-08.

Even as SBCA pushed to extend the series into a third game, we are prepared to conquer the court with relentless drive and unbreakable will to win.



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The Building Blocks of Victory

Behind our team's success were standout performances from players who brought skill and strategy to the court:

- **Kylie Celada**, the Best Outside Spiker and Back-to-Back MVP, led the scoreboard with powerful attacks.
- **Yohan Rivera**, the team captain, and Best Opposite Spiker, delivered precise cross-court spikes, anchoring the offense.
- **Ayen Cenizal**, the season's Best Setter, orchestrated the offense, distributing the ball to spikers from all angles and keeping opponents guessing.
- **Zyan Sonza**, with newfound strength, earned her title as the Second Best Outside Spiker, breaking through blockers with ease.

Ax Hernando, the team co-captain, and **Mika Mendoza**, dominated as Middle Blockers, combining agility and mental prowess to disrupt opponents' attacks and create surprise and quick offensive plays.

The spikers—**Lexi Ongpin**, **Brianna Corvera**, **Chelley Ayangco**, and **Sofia Tuala**—added brilliance with their calculated drop balls and top-spin spikes.

The service specialists— **Anree Ignacio**, **Rocio Valdez**, and **Natalia Alaras**—mastered float service aces, putting opponents on edge with trajectory, power, and speed.

With fearless dives and pinpoint reads, **Jte Galimba**, the libero, became the team's last line of defense—and our first spark of offense, while rookie **Ayya Villanueva** stepped up with key plays that kept the momentum high.

Underlying Support

The team's success reflected not just our individual and collective talents, but also the guidance of our dynamic coaching trio: **Coach Jeremiah**, **Coach Ff**, and **Coach Justin**. Their strategies sharpened our game, their encouragement fueled our spirit, and their dedication built the resilience to conquer any challenge.

Coach Feliciano's touch of humor and motivational words, inspired by **“Don’t Stop Me Now”** by Queen, lightened the mood and strengthened the team’s focus. Combined with the unwavering support of parents and the Lasallian community, this season became a true testament to the power of unity and faith.

LIST OF PLAYERS IN PHOTO (WNCAA) Credits to @kikomutuc



First row (from left) Coach Justin Alonzo, Ayya Villanueva (2031), Chelley Ayangco (2031), Rocio Valdez (2031), Andi Ayessa Cenizal (2030), Mika Mendoza (2030), JTE Galimba (2030), Natalia Alaras (2030), Yohan Rivera (2029), Coach Feliciano Pantaleon, Anree Ignacio (2031), Zyan Sonza (2030), Brianna Corvera (2030), Kylie Celada (2029), Lexi Ongpin (2030), Sofia Tuala (2030), Ax Hernando (2030), and Coach Jeremiah Monreal



LIST OF PLAYERS IN PHOTO (WNCAA)

First row (from left to right) Chelley Ayangco (2031), Zyan Sonza (2030), Jte Galimba (2030), Ayya Villanueva (2031), Brianna Corvera (2030), Andi Ayessa Cenizal (2030)

Second row (from left to right) Coach Jeremiah Monreal, Mika Mendoza (2030), Sofia Tuala (2030), Rocio Valdez (2031), Kylie Celada (2029), Ax Hernando (2030), Yohan Rivera (2029), Natalia Alaras (2030), Lexi Ongpin (2030), Anree Ignacio (2031), Coach Feliciano Pantaleon

DLSZ WNCAA Midget Division Line-up:

Feliciano Felix Gonzales Pantaleon

DLSZ 13U Girls VT Head Coach

- 1 Andi Ayessa delos Santos Cenizal
- 2 Rocio Pellicer Valdez
- 3 Brianna Adriene de Galicia Corvera
- 6 Natalia Padilla Alaras
- 7 Sienna Gabryelle Ortiz Sonza
- 8 Yohan Danielle Oreta Rivera
- 9 Jte Ginete Galimba
- 10 Anree Milli Gacutan Ignacio
- 11 Alexis Victoria Gatchalian Ongpin
- 12 Axzielle Mari Lino Hernando
- 14 Maria Sofia Gabrielle Tuala
- 16 Mary Ayya Bonafe Villanueva
- 17 Kylie Rianzhel Pilar Celada
- 19 Maria Angelica Carla Baltasar Mendoza
- 20 Chelley Mehri Flores Ayangco

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|-----------|----------------------------------|
| DLSZ 2030 | Setter |
| DLSZ 2031 | Outside Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Opposite Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Opposite Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Outside Spiker |
| DLSZ 2029 | Opposite Spiker Team Captain |
| DLSZ 2030 | Libero |
| DLSZ 2031 | Outside Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Opposite Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Middle Blocker Team Co-Captain |
| DLSZ 2030 | Middle Blocker |
| DLSZ 2031 | Libero |
| DLSZ 2029 | Outside Spiker |
| DLSZ 2030 | Middle Blocker |
| DLSZ 2031 | Outside Spiker |



Animo Spirit Lives On

As Queen's ***"We Are the Champions"*** filled the air, with overwhelming relief and tears of joy streamed down our faces— we knew we had done it. What began as a season filled with hope and the question, *"Would this be the year we claimed the third championship title?"*, ended with a resounding answer: *Yes, it was.*

Finally! We, the DLSZ 13U Volleyball Girls, etched our names in history, claiming another championship title with unwavering grit and Lasallian pride.

To the parents, coaches, and the Lasallian community who never wavered—this victory belongs to all of us. This triumph wasn't just about us on the court; it was a shared moment of pride and joy for everyone who stood by our side.

The legacy of the DLSZ volleyball program continues to grow, and the team is already looking forward to greater glory. Onward to the next chapter! Animo La Salle!