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The Bethany College Connection

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Bethany College Elite Volleyball Camp Back in Action

Last week, July 8th to the 12th, started off the first of four Bethany Sports Camps of 2013. The **Elite Volleyball Camp** was back in action as thirty-six athletes from grades 9-12, and ten coaches took to the volleyball court with anticipation at the thought of spending the next five days playing their hearts out.



BSC Elite Volleyball 2013 Campers

Derek Zacharias, well-known in the area for his experience and expertise in coaching volleyball, came back once again as the Head Coach. Three times a day the athletes participated in skill sessions he designed for those who already excel at the game in order to push the players even further in their skills.

Of course, it wasn't all hard work for the campers. This year's Program Director, **Sarah Braun**, brought fun, fresh ideas to the camp by introducing an 80's theme night with Minute-to-Win-It, and a formal awards banquet and Coach Trivia Time. Campers were divided into teams with points awarded for participation, skill, attitude, and team spirit, and then arranged into an all-camp tournament. The tournament ended in an exciting neck-in-neck final in which the winning team "The Tenacious Turtles and the Sloth" managed to snag the victory from "The Mennonite Mafia" who had been in the lead for the majority of the week. They also won the grand prize for receiving the most cumulative points, showing that "slow and steady" was the way to win this race!



Setter Ashley Zacharias on Elite Volleyball team

This year's theme for all of the Sports Camps is *Sacrifice*, a theme created to mix sports with issues of real life and faith. **Alvin Thielmann**, Bethany's Athletic Director, received his inspiration for this while listening to a sermon this spring. "I don't even remember what the sermon was about," says Thielmann, "but God spoke to me and the theme of sacrifice has grown since then."

All four of this week's guest speakers, **Jesse Nokinsky, Dani Klassen, Leanne Schellenberg, and Greg Klassen**, wove this theme throughout each day's Courtside Chapel, relating true-life stories of faith together with their experience as athletes. Each session fed off the others to create a cohesive picture of the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf,

capped off with a challenge for campers to commit difficult areas in their lives to Jesus, the one who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Campers were also treated to hearing the coaches talk openly about their life stories in the daily hour of Coaches Corner. Each day, new stories emerged of how God had been working in their lives and how sacrifice had played a positive role in their faith journey. For one athlete these testimonies were the most important part of their time here at BSC: "Seeing the strength that it takes to share honestly what things have gone on in their lives...is more important than the volleyball part.... Their strength in sharing has really spoken to me."



Campers gather to hear instructions

After this first week, campers are not only coming away with more skill and a better understanding of the game, but have also been challenged to think about their own faith walk. Next up is the **Attack Volleyball Camp** and **On the Pitch Soccer Camp**; we anticipate another great week of sports, fun, and sacrifice here at Bethany College.

Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders to Serve

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