



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

News Release

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LAKEVIEW LADY BULLDOGS MEET OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST KERRI WALSH

Columbus, Ohio – The Lakeview Lady Bulldogs volleyball team from Youngstown, Ohio had a special treat on Saturday, September 5, 2009, as they were recognized at the AVP Crocs Tour Tournament of Champions in Mason, Ohio. The team, led by Head Coach Scott Taylor, was acknowledged on the main court for their outstanding service event as part of their participation in OHSAA Foundation Service Week. The team also had an exclusive one-on-one meet and greet with Gold Medalist, Kerri Walsh.

OHSAA Foundation Volleyball Service Week took place August 14, 2009 through August 29, 2009 and is part of the Foundation's mission to provide service opportunities for Ohio's student-athletes. Foundation Service Week is an exciting way to tie together the leadership of student-athletes and the service needed in our communities.

The volleyball team was recognized for their outstanding threefold service event, "Rally for the Valley." The team first helped a local church prepare, serve, and clean up a free meal to the community. Then, they had a Can War during their Foundation Match where fans competed to see who could bring in the most canned foods. Lastly, they took the canned foods they collected and stocked their local food bank, Cortland Area Cares.

The team spent nearly an hour with Kerri Walsh, gold medalist in beach volleyball at both the 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympics with her teammate Misty May-Treanor. Kerri spoke to the Lakeview Lady Bulldogs about volleyball and the importance of service. According to Coach Taylor, "She told us about how we can all give back – not just with money, but with our time helping others. She urged us to keep giving back to our community and to 'Dream Big.'"

The team said they were amazed at how Kerri took the time to talk with them, sign anything they wanted and took pictures. One of the coaches said she is a true professional in the way she handles herself and how she gives of her time to inspire others. After an awe-inspiring day Coach Taylor summed it up nicely, "I came out of that tent floating. I don't think my feet touched the ground for the next hour."

According to OHSAA Commissioner Dan Ross, "The Foundation's partnership with UGive made this opportunity possible for our student-athletes and we are most appreciative of their continued support of our community service initiative." UGIVE is a non-profit organization on a mission to catalyze, excite and empower the next generation of volunteers. They make philanthropy relevant to students, guiding them to give their time and talents to build communities in hopes of creating life-long givers. UGIVE is 100% free for students, schools and charities. To learn more, visit www.UGIVE.org.

The OHSAA Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide scholarship, leadership and service opportunities for Ohio's student-athletes. To learn more, visit www.ohsaafoundation.org.