

Dana Markol

Girls Volleyball ★ Archbishop Wood

Bringing star quality to an obscure position

By **JOE JONES**
STAFF WRITER

Dana Markol can play anywhere and be more than quite effective on the volleyball court. In reality, she does and she is.

She used to play outside hitter, one of the sport's glory positions where eye-dazzling stats can be accumulated by those who can play the position at a high level.

But two seasons ago, during Markol's sophomore campaign at Archbishop Wood, coach Susan Kim decided that her team's best chance at success would be with Markol at libero.

"I didn't want to be one," Markol acknowledged. "But when I started playing there, I started to love it."

And as, Kim had hoped, Wood flourished with Markol at her new position.

During the 2008 season, the Vikings won the Philadelphia Catholic League championship and, this past season, they had

another solid fall that included a win at Pennsbury, then the defending Suburban One League National Conference champions. The Falcons finished second in the SOL National this year, a game behind state-ranked Council Rock North.

Kim also credits Markol for aiding an all-state season for teammate outside hitter Sarah Brady.

Markol has been named The Intelligencer Girls Volleyball Player of the Year for the 2009 season.

"It's always hitters who get the recognition," Kim said.

"Dana was a libero who played all six rotations and served. She was a defensive leader and a solid serve receiver. Without her, Sarah (Brady) and others would not get the same opportunities in the game to attack."

From a statistical standpoint, Markol did record 281 digs. She was named first-team All-Catholic and first-team District 12 Class AAA.

"You have control of the defense," Markol said of playing libero. "You don't get a lot of acknowledgment, but I like being in charge."

Markol was hoping that the Vikings would repeat as PCL champions, but that did not happen. She said she didn't think that Wood had as good a season as it was capable of having, but said that the win at Pennsbury was a highlight.

"I think it was one of our biggest matches of the year," Markol said. "We were connecting well that whole night. We played well as a team. In the first game, they had a big lead and we came back. We really had the momentum all three games."

Very capable of playing at the Division I level in college, Markol said she is going to bypass that to hopefully fulfill a dream she has had since she's been very young.

"I'm looking at West Chester and waiting for an acceptance letter," Markol said of a university where volleyball is an NCAA Division II sport. "I talked to the coach and I'm pretty sure she wants me to play there."

"But West Chester is my only option. I always wanted to go there. I like the town. My grandmother lives in the town."

"I really don't want to play volleyball at Division I. I don't want all that pressure in college. It's a little bit more laidback there. And it has my major, exercise science and strength conditioning."

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STEVE GENGLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FIRST-TEAM BIOS

SARAH BRADY

School: Archbishop Wood (junior)
Position: outside hitter

Key facts: Had 269 kills, .341 hitting efficiency, 259 digs; First-team All-Philadelphia Catholic League; First-team District 12 Class AAA; PVCA AAA all-state team.

COURTNEY CYR

School: Central Bucks West (senior)
Position: middle hitter

Key facts: Three-year varsity starter; Two-year captain; Voted Suburban One League Continental Conference Player of the Year.

DANA MARKOL

School: Archbishop Wood (senior)
Position: libero

Key facts: Tallied 281 digs; First-team All-Philadelphia Catholic League; First-team District 12 Class AAA.

ASHLEY MORGAN

School: Hatboro-Horsham (senior)
Position: outside hitter

Key facts: Amassed 172 kills, 76 aces, 136 digs; PVCA all-state selection; First-team All-Suburban One League American Conference.

BRITTANY O'HARA

School: Pennridge (senior)
Position: middle hitter

Key facts: Totaled 208 kills, 34 blocks, 55 aces; First-team All-Suburban One League Continental Conference.

DEVON REDILLA

School: North Penn (junior)
Position: outside hitter

Key facts: Tallied 266 kills, 35 aces, 146 digs; First-team All-Suburban One League Continental Conference; Team MVP and captain.

LAUREN SCHMICKLE

School: Hatboro-Horsham (senior)
Position: setter

Key facts: Totaled 643 assists, 73 digs, 25 solo blocks; PVCA all-state selection; First-team All-Suburban One League American Conference.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL ★ FIRST TEAM

Position	Name	School	Year
Outside hitter	Sarah Brady	Archbishop Wood	Junior
Outside hitter	Courtney Cyr	CB West	Senior
Libero	Dana Markol	Archbishop Wood	Senior
Outside hitter	Ashley Morgan	Hatboro-Horsham	Senior
Middle hitter	Brittany O'Hara	Pennridge	Senior
Outside hitter	Devon Redilla	North Penn	Junior
Setter	Lauren Schmickle	Hatboro-Horsham	Senior

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL ★ SECOND TEAM

Position	Name	School	Year
Outside hitter	Liz Crompton	William Tennent	Senior
Setter	Kelsi Halliwell	Central Bucks East	Senior
Middle hitter	Julie Harvey	Hatboro-Horsham	Junior
Middle hitter	Jen Moyer	Pennridge	Senior
Outside hitter	Corey Miller	CB South	Senior
Opposite hitter	Stephanie Fararra	North Penn	Senior
Outside hitter	Jennie Mariani	Souderton	Senior



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