

SBC SENIOR
VOLLEYBALL
SEASON 2021

TESSA & NEV



THE OPENING CEREMONY!





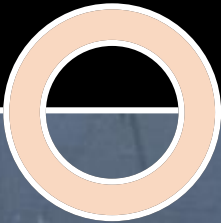












ST BERNARDS SENIOR VOLLEYBALL PREMIERES TEAM 2021

No one was more surprised when we made the final at Senior Regional Champs this year at the ASB Sports Centre. Surprised, not because I didn't think my team was good enough, but surprised that the boys chose that moment to rise to the occasion and take out St Pats town in the semi final! Something no one in that whole gym expected. Made even more awesome in that our sister school and the other team we coach; Sacred Heart also made the final at the same time. Unfortunately, the boys went down to St Patrick's Silverstream in what was a nail biting, intense and very exciting final. And after coaching this sport for quite some years – if you're going to go down, then that's how you want to do it, fighting with every bit of knowledge and experience you have, however limited – and this very young team will be the one to watch over the next couple of years.

I was honored to then further their learning and development by taking them to Senior Secondary Nationals this year in Palmerston North – even more so than any other team I have coached, because this was the 'first' for St Bernards in quite some years. As any coach knows, unless you expose them to the levels in which you want them to perform, they will never truly know until they step outside their own little pond into the ocean and so too was the experience for this very young team from St Bernards College. I can't say it was an easy experience as a coach, but I know it was a worthwhile experience seeing the realization and the 'why' of what is expected if you truly want to compete, win or learn!

We lose two players from this team for next year – and I need to give special mention to them: Semisi Tatafu, who was instrumental in both aggression and readiness to fight for his team. It wasn't an easy journey, but I hope as he ventures out into the world next year, he can pull on some of the many lessons learnt. The other player Junior Leleisiuao who is my MVP for 2021. An unsung hero in one of the most underrated but most crucial positions in our team in helping us secure our semi final at Regionals and also the backbone of our humble foundation throughout the season. Ever the voice of reason. Ever ready to support the juniors with coaching or refereeing and always ready to push the boys when they don't want to be pushed. But as we farewell the senior season in Term 1 and these two fine young men – we also welcome those the equally amazing potential that will take their place to uphold the mana of Sagato Pelenato Volleyball for many more years yet.

A heartfelt thank you to the parents who dropped their boys off, fundraised and ever supportive. A huge thankyou to St Bernards and Andrew Cavill whose willingness to work with us, provide for us and support our volleyball visions. A