

William Tennent's Jake Milnazik set for senior season

By Drew Markol, staff writer | Posted: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:59 pm

The classic "big brother, little brother" story line fits Jake Milnazik perfectly.

The William Tennent senior, one of the state's best volleyball players, remembers fondly how he got started with the sport.

"My older brother (Jeff) would come home from practice and we would pass the ball around and he would teach me what he was learning," Milnazik said. "He was a freshman in high school and I was in third grade. He introduced me to the sport and got me playing. The game was new to him then and he took the time to get me started."

From there, Milnazik joined a club team — the Panther Volleyball Club, a club he still plays for — and before he knew it he was starting for the Panthers as a freshman.

"I remember being a freshman on varsity and shaking because I was so scared during my first home game," Milnazik said. "Then as a sophomore I got more comfortable and last year was fun, but the season didn't end the way we wanted it to."

Their season came to an end in the PIAA District One Class AAA consolation finals against North Penn, which cost Tennent a spot in the PIAA playoffs.

"Obviously, we want to do the best we can do," said Milnazik, who will play college volleyball at Division III power Kean University in Union, New Jersey. "Right now, we're striving to get back to the final four like last year. Our team is mostly seniors and we want to go as far as we can."

Last year, Milnazik, an outside hitter who was a Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association all-state pick and a first-team all-Intelligencer selection, truly started to show just how good he is.

"Jake has just gotten better and better every year and every team we play knows how offensively dominant he is," Tennent coach Jim Creighton said. "We all think he's going to have an outstanding senior season. He's already in the mix of the best players we've ever had at the school."

"His brother played for me back when I first started coaching and Jake got the chance to see what it was like from an early age. Jeff is helping us coach this season and it's good to have him back."

Having his brother back on the coaching staff kind of closes the circle for Milnazik.



William Tennent's Jake Milnazik, a returning all-state player for the Panthers, is hoping the team can improve on its 14-4 mark and make a run at the SOL Continental Conference title this season.

"It's nice," said Milnazik, who plans to major in education at Kean in hopes of becoming a Social Studies teacher. "He knows what it's like and the kind of things we go through because he's done it. And I know we're all anxious to get the season started and that we play as well as we can."