



## **Saint Viator Teams Up With Vernon Hills to Fight Breast Cancer**

September 22, 2010



The Cahill Gym was blanketed in pink as both teams warm-up for the game.

Pink balloons and streamers greeted fans attending Monday's volleyball game between Vernon Hills and the host Saint Viator Lions. But that was just the start of the pink-out that blanketed the gym. Both teams wore pink warm-up shirts and played with a pink volleyball, while their respective coaches had dyed their hair pink.

Fans, classmates, and other school teams filled the stands wearing pink, while even the referees joined in, wearing pink T-shirts designed especially for the day's event, "Volley for the Cure."

For the second straight year, the Lady Lions hosted the event to increase awareness of breast cancer and the benefits of early prevention, while they raise money for a cure through the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

All of teams in Saint Viator's volleyball program participated in the event, including its freshmen, sophomore and varsity levels, or 55 girls. They came away raising \$2,761.50, more than twice as much as last year's event.

"This just really hits home for me," says Varsity Head Coach Charlie Curtin. "My mom passed away from breast cancer 18 years ago on September 9<sup>th</sup>."

His players worked before the game with their opponents from Vernon Hills to sell the T-shirts at both schools. Saint Viator students also designed posters, solicited raffle prizes, silent auction items and baked goods, all in an effort to raise more money.

Before the start of the varsity match, public address announcer Tom Hohenadel asked fans to stand for a moment of silence as players and their fans remembered those who had been touched by the disease.

During time-outs, Hohenadel gave statistics about breast cancer diagnosis, including 10,000 young women under the age of 40 --- about 1,000 between the ages of 20 and 30 --- will be diagnosed with the disease this year. He urged awareness, education and prevention, including undergoing regular mammograms, as ways to beat the disease.

"It was a fantastic event that went beyond the outcome of the games," says Saint Viator Athletic Director Tim Carlson. "It really demonstrates our theme for the athletic department this year, which is "Victory in Service."