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City Championship Volleyball Falcons Go The Distance For 2nd Title

By Katie Carrera Washington Post Staff Writer Tuesday, November 4, 2008; Page E04

During each timeout of yesterday's City Championship volleyball game at Elizabeth Seton, the Flint Hill supporters did their best to get under the skin of Good Counsel by singing like so many crowds at soccer games often do: "Olé! Olé! Olé! Olé! Olé! Olé! Olé!"

When Good Counsel called timeout in the fifth game of the hotly contested match, leading by a 14-13 margin, the crowd sang even louder. But Falcons libero Stephanie Minite didn't mind the serenade and started dancing in the middle of her huddled teammates.

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Good Counsel's Meagan Donohoe (No. 6) and teammates celebrate a big point in the City Championship match against Flint Hill. The Falcons prevailed in five games. (By Michael Temchine For The Washington Post)

"I love loud crowds even when they're not for us," Minite said. "So I just started dancing and jumping up and down. It keeps me ready to go."

It was Independent School League champion Flint Hill's serve when play resumed. Minite dug the ball, then watched as teammate Lawryn Fowler stretched out for a tip to one of the few open spaces on the Flint Hill side of the court to give the Falcons a five-game victory over the Huskies, 28-26, 25-19, 28-30, 17-25, 15-13, for their second straight City Championship title.

The teams faced each other in a preseason scrimmage that Flint Hill won in four games, but the thought of playing the eighth-ranked Huskies in a real match excited and intrigued No. 1 Good Counsel, which rolled to its third consecutive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title on Saturday.

The first two games yesterday were closer than most that the Falcons had played all season, but they still came away with victories. Then, in the third game, with the score tied at 22, the teams began trading points.

Advertisement Players on both sides were stretching to dig seemingly irretrievable balls and muscling over the toughest shots they could muster, until Flint Hill recorded three straight points to win the game.

"I knew we weren't going to be able to win in three games," Good Counsel outside hitter Becky West said. "It would have been too easy, and Flint Hill's just too good. They really took the momentum from us in the third and fourth games."

Flint Hill put together a dominating run to win the fourth game as well, which was only the

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third game Good Counsel had lost out of 80 all season. Huskies outside hitters Marilyn Peizer and Chelsea Overholt were making the sophomore Minite run around the court more than she had all season.

But from the first game on, Minite had promised herself to not let Flint Hill record any aces against her. Her mantra, combined with encouragement from senior hitters West and Fowler and senior setter [Brighid Casey](#), helped her find the extra energy for the final game.

No. 1 Good Counsel 3 No. 8 Flint Hill 2

Hitter's Ball: Good Counsel All-Met Becky West recorded a team-high 28 kills and added 13 digs against Flint Hill, while junior Jenna Campbell added 14 kills for the Falcons. *Déjà Vu:* It was the second time in as many years that the Falcons won a hard-fought, five-game match to win the City Championship. In 2007, they defeated Maret, 21-25, 24-26, 25-21, 25-17, 16-14.

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