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Photos by Tracy Dreslinski
 The Southfield High volleyball team celebrates a point against Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day Oct. 5 at DCD. The Blue Jays believe their team chemistry has them in line for a postseason run.

The winning edge

Southfield High volleyball soaring with chemistry and talent

By Christian Davis
 C & G Sports Writer

SOUTHFIELD — Even with just three girls back from last year’s Oakland Activities Association Blue Division championship squad, Southfield High volleyball coach Alisha Love sees a bright future.

The coach believes that even though the Blue Jays lack experience, they make up for it with an element that’s even more important in her eyes.

“The thing that makes me most proud is the chemistry. I’ve talked to coaches that have coached for so long and they say, ‘Wow, we have a state championship team but we can’t get our chemistry. We just can’t jell.’

“We jell so well that it’s not even funny, and I think that alone gives us that edge that most teams don’t have. We do have talent; we do have skill. But with that component, it solidifies our team. Now we just have to grow in other areas.”

At press time, the Blue Jays were proving their coach right, posting an 11-4 overall mark, 5-0 in the OAA Blue.

Last season, Southfield finished 24-13 and lost in a Class A regional final. The season before that, it won its first regional title before losing in the quarterfinals.

“Honestly — not counting my chickens before they hatch — I really see us winning quarterfinals,” Love said. “I think we’re very much in contention.

“This year’s team, they beat to a different drum. They’re all athletically gifted, they work hard and they’re committed to each other and each other’s success.”

For Southfield to continue its dominance in the Blue and make another postseason run,

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junior Amanda Love said the young squad needs to continue improving.

“The offense is pretty good, but we need to still work on our defense,” she said.

“We have the talent, we just need to work on it to perfect it more,” junior Kristal Woodard added.

For now, Southfield will continue to try and stay perfect in the Blue. Catch the Blue Jays against Pontiac High at 7:15 p.m. Oct. 8 at home.

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