

HOPEDALE 3, SMITH VOKE 0

Hopedale girls' volleyball found its Patch and stayed patient before snatching the Division 5 championship

By **Julianna Schwindt** Globe correspondent, Updated November 15, 2025, 8:48 p.m.



Hopedale players erupt in elation after winning the program's first state championship. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

BILLERICA — When Gary Patch took over the Hopedale girls' volleyball team this year, he told his players to accept that it would take time for them to adapt to a new coaching

style and new systems.

Then they went out and won the Division 5 championship Saturday at Billerica, 3-0, over Smith Vocational.

“Everybody had to be a piece of it. In our new system, as long as they did their jobs and were committed, it wasn’t about the execution right away,” Patch said. “It was about doing the right thing at first. And then the other stuff would come.”

Top-seeded Hopedale (18-6) won the first and second sets handily, 25-11 and 25-16. The seventh-seeded Vikings (16-4) put up a fight in the third set, led by junior Leah Franklin, who had six kills in the set and 10 overall.

Ultimately, Hopedale captured the third set and the championship, 25-23.

“We remind ourselves in the huddle before we go out to just stay contained, like it’s not going to be that easy, they’re going to want to come back and beat us,” said Hopedale senior Mia Casey (5 kills, 2 aces).



Hopedale first-year coach Gary Patch preached patience early in the season and it paid in at the end. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Senior Phoebe Carroll (6 kills, 2 serving aces) and freshman Amelia Barrose both played large roles for a Hopedale team graduating six seniors. Still, Patch and his players have high hopes for the future.

“I honestly really liked when one of our freshmen [Barrose] was serving and had a couple aces in a row,” Casey said. “That was really good to see for the future of the program.”

It was also Smith’s first trip to the final.

“This was a great team to coach, and they all put forth so much effort,” said Smith head coach Ashley Clark. “I’m just proud of their showing. Especially in the third set they really showed that they belong on this floor with the best teams in D5.”



Hopedale senior Trevor Lachiatto pumped up his classmates against Smith Vocational. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF



Hopedale's Josalyn Moyer eyes her serve. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF



Hopedale's Olivia Barroso goes full extension in the Division 5 final. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

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