



1981 Girls Volleyball Team

Seven players returned from the 1980 State Finalist team to make the 1981 team one of the most experienced and strongest volleyball teams ever at Milford High School. Joining captains Eloise DeSantis and Keri Collette were Gail Acquafresca, Michele Barys, Kelly Boldy, Stacy Brogioli, Lisa Evangelista, Patrice Evers, Barbara Landini, Paula Lemieux, Mary O'Neil, Lisa Romagnoli and Lisa Shaner.

Due to the returning talent, Milford was primed to win its first state championship. Unfortunately, due to the passage of Proposition 2 1/2, local budgets were cut. Sports schedules were adjusted to allow for fewer matches, and the MIAA decided not to sponsor state tournaments for the next two years, ending competition at the Sectional Championship level.

Faced with the disappointment of not being able to compete for a state title, the team took its frustration out on its opponents.

They rolled to their second straight undefeated regular season, finishing at 16-0 and winning the Midland League Championship.

At the final tournament of the year, Milford and Holliston finished with identical 5-1 records in Pool Play, forcing a one game play-off to determine the top seed for the semi-final round. Milford beat Framingham South in straight sets (15-6, 15-7) for its 17th victory, setting up another nail-biter against Holliston in the finals. Milford rallied from a 2-1 deficit (14-16, 15-10, 7-15) to win the final two sets (16-14 and 15-9) to clinch the Sectional Championship and an 18-0 undefeated season.

Eloise DeSantis, Keri Collette and Michele Barys were named to the All-District, All-State and Boston Globe All-Scholastic teams, while Coach Linda Zacchilli garnered Coach of the Year honors for both the Central Sections and The Boston Globe.