By Ken Wunderley

Tri-State Sports & News Service

Johnstown - Marian Catholic girls volleyball coach John Fallabel thought he had the best Class 1A player in the state.

That changed after watching Greensburg Central Catholic senior Mikayla against his squad in the PIAA Class 1A title match, held Nov. 19 at Richland High School in Johnstown.

Bisignani, a 6-1 middle hitter who has been voted to the PVCA All-State Team the past two years, recorded 22 kills and 3 aces to lead the Centurions to a 3-0 sweep of District 11 champion Marian Catholic.

"I thought my girl was the best Class A player in the state until I saw her [Bisignani] play," Fallabel said. "She [Bisignani] is a fantastic volleyball player and Greensburg Central was the better team today."

The title is the second in three years for Greensburg Central, and is the third consecutive Class 1A title won by a WPIAL team. Bishop Canevin won last year's title.

"Mikayla is our guardian angel," Centurions outside hitter Kennedy Johnston said. "She's the person we go to when we are down. She knows exactly how to get us going."

Greensburg Central (26-1) actually struggled early in the first set, as Marion Catholic held a 10-8 advantage. At that point, the Centurions took over and scored 17 of the last 20 points to record a 25-13 victory.

"The wheels came off the bus," Fallabel said. "Our serving was off, our passing was inconsistent, and they overpowered us in the middle. They were the better team."

The Centurions dominated the second set, scoring the first eight points and finishing with an impressive 25-11 victory. Bisignani recorded nine kills in the set.

"Every girl's dream is ending in that game," said Bisignani, who plans on swimming in college. "Being able to do that is such an honor. Winning another title is so neat. I'm blessed to have such a great team surrounding me. I contributed, but I didn't do it by myself."

Marian Catholic (20-3) turned in a solid performance in the third set, but Greensburg Central pulled out a 25-19 victory. The Centurions final three points came on kills by Bisignani.

"I was really surprised we won in three," Centurions setter Haley Moore said. "It was a tough run to get here, especially in the semifinals, so I was surprised we won so easily."

Greensburg Central coach Kate McCauley had the good fortune of winning WPIAL and PIAA titles in her head coaching debut.

"It's crazy being this young and going this far," said McCauley, who at 24 is one of the youngest coaches in the WPIAL. "I'm speechless. It's an incredible experience."

Marian Catholic was led by Jasmine Mooney, a 6-0 junior middle hitter who was recognized on last year's PVCA All-State Team. Mooney had 16 kills.

Marian Catholic was making its third title appearance in four years.

"We got a good program and talented girls," Fallabel said. "I'm going to be bold. I'm guaranteeing we're going to be back here next year. Seven of my top nine players will be back along with a couple talented freshmen coming up."

But Fallabel would prefer another site.

"I'm 0-2 in Johnstown. I want to go somewhere else next season."