



## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Contributed photo

Amara Mavrakis led Bridgman to a district volleyball title this season.

# Amara Mavrakis:

## A special senior volleyball season

By **ADAM KARNIK**  
HP Sports Writer

It was an outstanding season for the Bridgman girls volleyball team. After finishing below .500 a season ago, the Bees finished this season with a record of 31-14-6 and won a Class C District title.

The season was extra special for senior outside hitter Amara Mavrakis, who has played varsity volleyball all four years of high school.

"This season was the best season out of all four years," Mavrakis said. "We won more games this year than in any year that I've played and we finally are district champs! It only took four years to get there, but it was so much fun."

After being used as both a setter and an outside hitter each of the last two seasons, Mavrakis played the outside and back row as a hitter for the Bees this season and responded by leading them in aces and kills and was second on the team in digs.

Mavrakis also plays basketball and softball at Bridgman, and this spring will also be joining the girls' soccer team.

Outside of sports, Mavrakis also was part of the Miss Bridgman pageant this fall, and on Saturday, she was named Miss Congeniality.

Mavrakis will be attending Lake Michigan College next fall to begin her studies toward a career as an ultrasound technician. In school she carries a 3.4 GPA.

Mavrakis is the daughter of Dale and Susan Morrow.

**What's your favorite part of playing volleyball?** It's definitely being with the team. I've had a great year with them. Out of all four

years, this was the best year by far. It's just like being with a group of girls that I love.

**What was your favorite memory of playing volleyball at Bridgman?** Definitely winning districts this year. After we won districts it was the best feeling ever. Everyone filled the floor and cheered us on and screamed. We rode the bus back from Eau Claire and we had sirens going and everything back to the high school.

**What, to you, is the difference between playing an outside hitter and a setter?** The biggest difference for me is the excitement. I get way more excited hitting outside. The adrenaline rush after I get a kill is amazing. As a setter, you're setting the hitter and all the excitement goes towards the hitter than to you. It's more fun to be a hitter than a setter.

**What got you interested in the Miss Bridgman pageant?** My brother's girlfriend Jackie Carranza is the reigning Miss Bridgman. She always talked to me about how cool it was, how much fun it was, how the court was so much fun and that they all got along. I thought 'this sounds really cool' and I really wanted to do it. I went to the meeting and everything and said 'yeah, I'm going to do this.' The group is five guys and five girls and we all get along, we all know each other because we're all seniors at Bridgman so it's so much fun.

**What inspired you to become an ultrasound technician?** My older cousin Kayla is a nurse and I want to be in the medical field. I was doing research one day when I came across this and it sounded super cool.

The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight, sponsored by Whirlpool Corp., will appear weekly on Monday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. Suggestions for Athlete Spotlight are welcome. Email suggestions to sports@TheHP.com. Athletes are limited to one selection per school year.