

by Silver Lake junior Christina Girouard

## Return of the Titans



The Lakers Volleyball team suffered a crushing defeat last Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> delivered by their rivals, the Pembroke Titans. The Lady Lakers could sense the tense atmosphere in the gymnasium when they arrived on Pembroke turf; last year the Lakers Volleyball team, lead by two of Silver Lakes' most prominent women athletes, Sam Ford and Allison Mulvey, battled Pembroke for first place in the Patriot League. At the time, Pembroke was second in the league and bumped Silver Lake out from League title standing. The championship match started out strong with a win by Silver Lake. Then the Titans punched out three victories and snatched away the title for first from the Lakers, forever solidifying the rivalry between the two schools. The grueling matches

from last year's league battle were still fresh in the minds of the rival teams as they faced off last Friday.

The feeling of uncertainty felt by the Lakers contributed to the lack of points in the first game, which was captured by the Titans with a score of 25- 8. With long faces and fire in their hearts, the Lakers managed to gain a lead in the second game. "At one point the game was 9- 14, Lakers. It was an amazing advance in comparison to the first game," says Greg Black, Silver Lake's varsity volleyball coach. Even with the strong plays and digs displayed by the Lakers' chief players, hitter Melissa Brown, setter Collene Black, and libero Alicia Laine, the Titans still pulled out with a 25- 22 win in the second match.

Still unrattled, the Lakers hung in the third game. However, in the end the Titans' notable front row hitters Berkely Hall and sister Megan Hall finished the game with a 25- 18 victory for Pembroke. This is the second game Silver Lake has lost to Pembroke this season.

The Lakers' loss to Pembroke did not affect their game over the long weekend against Plymouth- North, however; they slaughtered the Eagles with amazingly high leads and crushing jump serves delivered by senior Melissa Brown. This pick-me-up game has improved Lady Laker morale, and the girls volleyball team is ready to continue battling for the remainder of the fall season.