



## The Saint Francis Herald

# At the Game

## Varsity volleyball team wins home games

By Betty Jean Winston  
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St. Francis successfully defeated Golden Plains and Hoxie to open the varsity volleyball season with a 2-0 record.

Coach Talley Morrow gave credit to the girls attitude and enthusiasm as they began the new season.

Lady Indians playing for the varsity included Jodie Hilt, Kaycee Williams, Dale Northrup, Mikaela Grace, Aubree Schlepp, Alyssa Lee, Shayla Hilt, Christina Hilt, Aly Marin, Kaitlin Figgins and Sarah Trembly.

"The team worked really hard all summer, attending camps and working out in the weight room, and now they are off to a great start with their season," said Coach Morrow. "We have some tough matches ahead of us and I pray that the momentum created by this night will keep them alive when they have any little off-moments in the future."

"This group of girls plays so well together and their individual strengths complement one another. They love each other and they love the game...there's no better winning combination than that! I am so proud of them!"

The Ladies defeated Golden Plains by scores of 25-21 and 25-14.

"What a terrific night!" Coach Morrow said. "The Lady Indians came 'out of the gate' ready to win and they did!! I thought we played with heart and passion and the rewards were great."

C. Hilt led the team in aces with a total of five. Schlepp and Marin contributed three apiece and Figgins had two.

Coach Morrow uses a 3, 2, 1, 0

rating for the players' passing during the match with "3" being the best. She said an excellent pass to the setter, which allows for many attack options, gets a "3" rating while a poor pass/untouched pass get a "0".

Against Golden Plains, J. Hilt had nine passes which earned a "3" rating and thus outdistanced other members in this area.

Out of a total of 12 kills, Figgins led the team with three, while S. Hilt and C. Hilt had two each. Others contributing were Williams, Grace, Schlepp, Marin and Trembly. Figgins and Grace each had a block and J. Hilt had 10 digs/saves.

### vs Hoxie 25-22, 25-21

The win against Hoxie was also a two game match.

"We haven't beaten Hoxie in 'who knows how long' and this was an awesome way to get the season going!" Coach Morrow said.

**Marin had three aces in with match with Grace and Schlepp having two each and C. Hilt one.**

J. Hilt again led in team with the number of excellent passes. In this match she had 12.

Grace had the best pass percentage with 5"3s" out of seven attempts. C. Hilt was 3-of-4.

Figgins had eight kills in this game while Figgins and Grace each had three blocks and H. Hilt 12 digs/saves to led the team.

### Next action

Tonight the team will be on the road to Wauneta/Palisade.

On Saturday, the Lady Indians will attend the Gove County Tournament at Grinnell. St. Francis will play six matches with the first one starting about 10:30 a.m. in the Wheatland High School gym.



**JUNIOR VARSITY ACTION - (l to r) Jacquelyn Ketzner, Christina Schoenrogge, Trista Orth, Hayley Brown and Lexi Hilt (8) saw action against Golden Plains and Hoxie in St. Francis on opening night.**

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## St. Francis scores exciting victory

By Betty Jean Winston  
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The last few minutes of the football game on Friday night had the Indian fans on their feet. St. Francis went into the final half of the fourth quarter down by two points (22-20) and both the offense and defense were going to have to come together for the win.

That is just what they did! Together they earned a 28-22 victory for the Indians.

Earlier in the fourth quarter, the Eagles had scored giving them a 22-14 edge. As had happened throughout the game, Saintry came back with a 47-yard touchdown run with Matt Raile on a quarterback keeper to pull St. Francis within two. Unfortunately the conversion attempt failed and instead of tying the game, they were still two points behind.

The Indian defense stepped forward and accepted the challenge. They stopped Colby's next offensive series and forced them to punt to St. Francis, thus giving the Indians another offensive series to score before the final buzzer.

Coach Nathan Smith said St. Francis received the ball on the 35-yard line and had a typical St. Francis drive, three plays and move the chains, for a first down.

St. Francis was also using the clock to their advantage during this time.

With 2:49 on the clock, Trent Raile went in for the touchdown from 2-yards out, and also made the conversion run for a 28-22 advantage.

The game was not over yet,

though. Colby still had time on the clock and only the Indian defense stood between the Eagles and a possible win.

"Late in the fourth quarter the defense stopped them when they had to," Coach Smith said.

Although St. Francis only led on the scoreboard during the last few minutes of the game, they always kept the Eagles within reach.

Colby was the only team which scored in the first period and they added eight points on a 50-yard run and a good conversion attempt midway through the period.

St. Francis tied the score with 6:09 on the clock in the second period. This came about on a 16-yard run by T. Raile and he also had a good conversion attempt.

With the score tied at 8-8, Colby put another touchdown on the board to have the advantage at half time. This took place with less than a minute to go before the buzzer for the break. As the after-touchdown play failed, they were only up by six points, 14-8 as they went in the locker room.

St. Francis didn't let Colby dominate the game though, as they came right back in the third quarter and answered the Eagles touchdown with one of their own. This was a repeat of what they had done earlier to tie the score at 8-8 but now the scoreboard stood at 14-14. This time T. Raile went in from 4-yards out. The St. Francis conversion attempt, like Colby's, was no good.

Colby was also playing for the win and they didn't let the score stand tied for very long. Later in

the third period they scored on a 3-yard run to again take the lead.

This time, with the additional six points plus two extra after-touchdown points, the score was Colby 22, St. Francis 14.

There was that one touchdown difference again which St. Francis didn't want to let stand. This was when M. Raile had his 47-yard run to pull within two points.

This was all leading up to the 28-22 St. Francis win.

"Our offensive line had some struggles early in the game, which I feel was due to being the first game of the year," Coach Smith said. "After that they settled in and opened up some holes."

The coach mentioned that the offensive line figured out what they needed to change early in the game and they made the adjustments on their own.



**DREW ZWEYGARDT (5) carries the ball for the Indians while teammates open a hole for him to run through. Saintry defeated Colby 28-22 on Friday night.**

Herald staff photo by Leslie McCormick.

Another aspect that Coach Smith commented on was that St. Francis managed to not have a single turnover in the game. This is one of the things he mentioned last week as an important key to the season. Saintry did help force some Colby turnovers but was unable to recover any of the fumbles.

"We had some chances," the coach said. "We just didn't recover any of them."

As for the defense, the coach felt that they did pretty well early in the game but stepped it up later when the game was on the line.

"Colby had two big plays early in the game that hurt us but the defense stopped them later in the game when we had to."

"This was a good starting point for the year," he said. "We have lots of things we will be working on both offensively and defensive-

ly. One thing he plans on working on is having the backfield run harder through the hole.

Four players carried the ball for the Indians. T. Raile earned 149 yards on 27 carries. He had three touchdowns and two successful point-after touchdown attempts; M. Raile had 105 yards on five carries; Drew Zwegardt had 48 yards on 10 carries, and Cody Sherlock had 18 yards on 10 carries.

Defensively 19 players had either an unassisted tackle, an assisted tackle, a knocked down pass or a sack. They defensive were as follows: Adam Guthmiller, eight solo tackles, four assists; T. Raile, three solo tackles, five assists, one knocked-down pass; Terence Lamb, three solo tackles, four assists, one knocked-down pass; Alex Long, four solo tackles, three assists; M. Raile, three tackles,

three assists, one knocked-down pass; Drew Zwegardt, three tackles, three assists, two sacks; Garrett Figgins, two tackles, one assist; Freddy Pacheco, one tackle, one assist, one knocked-down pass; Cody Sherlock, four assists; Tyler Lauer, four assists; Darris Keller, one tackle, one assist; Brooks Hobbrock, one tackle, one assist; Grady Brunk, one tackle, one assist; Ty Zwegardt, one knocked-down pass; Braden Schmid, one tackle; Cody Killingsworth, one assist; Nate Lamb, one assist; Thomas Dounhit, one assist; Brett Lampe, one assist.

### Next action

The Indians will have their home opener on Friday night at Greene Field in St. Francis. The Phillipsburg Panthers will be the opponent. Starting time is 7 p.m.

## Junior high girls begin new season

By Betty Jean Winston  
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Volleyball action took place in St. Francis on Thursday night when the junior high teams faced Decatur Community.

Decatur Community was the winner of the A-team match by scores of 8-25 and 28-30.

The St. Francis team came back in the second game forcing the match into overtime. Unfortunately, the Lady Indians were not rewarded for their effort, as they fell

28-30, thus losing the match.

"The first set of the season is always the hardest when it comes to everyone's nerves," Coach Tina Elliott said. "Once we made it through the first set we became more energetic and confident."

"I think we did some good things and I see a lot of potential in these young athletes. We definitely have some things to work on but I know it will continue to improve as our season continues."

Good Serves: Justice Wiley 8,

Randee Grover 7, Aly Schlepp 4, Dallas Reed 3, Valerie Wurm 1.

### B-Team

The final scores in the three game B-team match were 21-25, 25-13, 15-9, good enough for a St. Francis win.

The girls came back after losing the first game for a win to force a third game which Saintry also won. This was a match win for the team. Several of these players, seventh graders, were on the court for St. Francis for the first time.

"These girls did an awesome job for the first match of the season," Coach Elliott said. "They worked hard and I think they now realize how important serves are in a game. We have things to work on, no doubt about that, but this is definitely a good way to start out the season."

Good serves: Kyla Bandel 10, Brianna Cooks 9, Wurm 8, McKayla Taylor 6, Wiley 4, Bailey Merklin 3, Schlepp 2, Reed 2, Grover 1.

## Junior high football

The junior high football team took to the field for the first time this year on Thursday afternoon. Their opponent, Decatur Community/Oberlin, scored a 12-6 victory.

"It is always tough to lose coming out of the gate, but the upside is you have time to improve and correct your mistakes," Coach Jeff Beims said.

"I thought our defense played fair after figuring out Oberlin's offense, but early on Oberlin's turnovers kind of

saved us.

"Offensively, we are really young up front, and some of the kids got a baptism by fire. We are big, but so is everybody else."

"I think we took some important lessons from this game and it should make us better in the long run,

The St. Francis score came in the third period when Derek Queen had a 73-yard kick return. The point-after attempt failed.