



## The Saint Francis Herald

# At the Game

## Ladies play triangular at Sharon Springs

By Betty Jean Winston  
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The Lady Indians traveled to Sharon Springs on Tuesday, Oct. 13, for the final triangular of the season. St. Francis was defeated by Wallace County 20-25 and 13-25 in the opening match and scored a 25-19, 25-17 win over Triplains in the second match. Following this outing, St. Francis had an 11-17 record.

**vs Wallace County 20-25, 13-25**

"Unfortunately, we did not

show up in Sharon Springs ready to play," Coach Talley Morrow said. "Our biggest problem came in our lack of defense. We missed block after block and just had a total defensive breakdown. It was really hard to watch and became one of those matches that we were ready to be done with.

Aly Marin, Christina Hilt and Kaycee Williams each collected an ace in this 20-25, 13-25 loss with the team having 30-of-35 successful attempts at the serving line. This came out at 86 percent. Four

squad members were 100 percent and of this group, Williams had the most attempts (5) and was the team leader in this area

Jodie Hilt had by far the most serve-receive attempts with 29. Coach Talley Morrow uses a 3, 2, 1, 0 rating for the players' passing with "3" being an excellent pass to the setter. Hilt had 15 serve receives earning a "3."

The team had 46 assists out of 48 for 96 percent. Marin had 32-of-33 attempts.

The team leaders in kills were

Mikaela Grace and Marin, who had three each out of the total of 13. Seven players had at least one.

Aubree Schlepp had the only stuff in the match.

"We have to learn to be prepared for every opponent, no matter great or small, ready to fight for every point," Coach Morrow said. "It's where we are and we're going to keep working on that."

**vs Triplains 25-19, 25-17.**

This win over Triplains gave the Sainty Ladies their 11th win of the

season, and it was a two-set win.

"We were just fortunate to win this match," Coach Morrow said. "We still weren't playing well when we played Triplains, but we are just better than them overall."

Sainty had 48 serves and were successful 39 times for 81 percent, one of their lowest this season. Marin was 10-of-10 for a good night.

The team was 92 percent for assists, which was a little under their goal of 95, but Marin was 22-of-22 for 100 percent.

Many kills were collected, a total of 20 with six players contributing. Grace was the leader with nine.

No stuffs were recorded but J. Hilt had 17 dig/saves and C. Hilt had 12.

"We missed nine serves this match and had very few blocks, which shows that our defense was still on the outs," Coach Morrow said. "We will be focusing on our defense intensively and making sure this doesn't happen again."

## St. Francis defeats Colby at league

By Betty Jean Winston  
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Volleyball squads from Northwest Kansas League schools met in Goodland on Oct. 17 for the league tournament. Decatur Community, who entered the day as the number one seed, with a 28-1 season record, won the championship. The Lady Red Devils defeated Goodland in the match for first place.

St. Francis was seeded number seven with their 11-17 record. Seedings for other teams include (2) Oakley 16-10; (3) Hoxie 13-14, (4) Goodland 12-14; (5) Rawlins County 10-13; (6) Colby 12-18; (8) Quinter 7-19.

The Lady Indians were matched up with Oakley in the first set and lost 16-25, 26-28, with the second game being very close. This put the Lady Indians in the consolation bracket.

The second opponent for St. Francis was Hoxie. The score in both matches went back and forth with Hoxie winning the first set 25-22. The second set was tied at 24 before Hoxie took the set, and the match 26-24.

The Sainty victory came over Colby in the final match of the day. Colby won the first set of the match but St. Francis came back and won the next two. The final scores were 23-25, 26-24 and 25-22.

The Sainty Ladies played close in most of the matches of the day.

**vs Oakley 16-25, 26-28**

"We didn't know what to expect out of Oakley because we hadn't seen them during regular season play," Coach Morrow said. "They were quite powerful, but the Lady Indians' defense was back on track."

The leaders in this match were Aly Marin, Aubree Schlepp, Mikaela Grace and Kaycee Williams with one ace each; Marin with 8-of-8 good serves and Grace with 9-of-10 led in that area; Christina Hilt with four kills and Grace with 16-of-16 on the attack also paced the team.

Coach Talley Morrow said,

"wow," about Grace's attack percentage.

The team was 90 percent on serving which reached their goal; 95 percent on assists which was over their goal of 93 percent and 86 percent on their attack, a little lower than their goal of 90 percent.

Twelve kills were recorded with C. Hilt having four and Grace three to lead the team. Schlepp, Marin and Kaitlin Figgins each had a stuff.

"We didn't have a huge number of successful blocks, but we were digging their hits up in the back court like animals," Coach Morrow said.

"It was a very exciting match that we wish we could have won, but we're looking forward to next year and playing them again at some point."

**vs Hoxie 22-25, 24-26**

Coach Morrow said the team had an awesome defense in the match with Hoxie.

"Ah...another close match with Hoxie," she said. "We played some of our best ball this round and came very close to beating them."

Thirty-nine of the 46 attempted serves were successful for 85 percent, a little below the goal of 90 percent.

Marin had three aces out of a total of six for the team. Figgins led the team in serve attempts with 11 and had 10 good ones while Jodie Hilt had 20 good "3" serve receives out of 26. A number three is given to the best receives.

The team was right on target in assists with 95 percent, which is the team's goal.

A large number of kills were recorded, 25 in all. Seven players contributed in this area including Figgins 7, Grace 5, Marin 5, Williams 4, Schlepp 2, Shayla Hilt 1, C. Hilt 1.

Figgins was also the leader in attack percentage (those having more than one attempt) with 16-of-17 for 94 percent.

Having stuffs were Schlepp and Figgins with two each.

"Since we beat them our first out-



LADY INDIANS COMPETE – Aubree Schlepp (16) and Kaitlin Figgins (33) protect the net at a tournament held in Oberlin earlier this year.

Photo courtesy of Robert Grace

ing (early in the season), they are always ready for us," Coach Morrow said. "Next year...next year."

**vs Colby 23-25, 26-24, 25-22**

This was a nice three-set win for the Lady Indians to finish the day.

"Wow!!! What a way to end the regular season!," Coach Morrow said. "This win was so exciting and so well-deserved. Colby likes to look over us and we crept

in on them and beat them in a close match. The Lady Indians trailed in a 10-point deficit in the first set and we all thought the match was predictable...but the Lady Indians fought for every point, played excellent defense (138 digs for the team!), served 90 percent, and had 33 kill!!"

Serving percent: Grace 17-of-17, 100 percent; Schlepp 10-of-10,

100 percent; Figgins 8-of-8, 100 percent; S. Hilt 1-of-1, 100 percent; Figgins 8-of-9, 89 percent; C. Hilt 11-of-13, 85 percent; Marin 11-of-15, 73 percent.

Kills: Figgins 9, Grace 8, C. Hilt 5, Marin 4, Williams 3, Schlepp 3, S. Hilt 1.

Stuffs: Figgins 2, Marin 1.

Attack percentage: S. Hilt 1-of-1, 100 percent; Schlepp 13-of-15,

87 percent; Williams 10-of-12, 83 percent; Marin 10-of-12, 83 percent; Figgins 27-of-3, 82 percent; Grace 24-of-31, 77 percent; C. Hilt 10-of-14, 71 percent.

Blocks: Figgins 2, Marin 1.

"It was awesome and a huge turning point for the team," Coach Morrow said. She told the girls, "We Can Do It, Green!!!!"

## Junior high team places first in final tourney of the year

By Betty Jean Winston  
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"This was an exciting day for us," said Coach Tina Elliott.

She was referring to the especially good outing which the junior high volleyball team had at the Northwest Kansas League B-team tournament held Thursday in St. Francis. The Lady Indians finished the day as the champions, defeating Goodland, Oakley and Hoxie to be the only undefeated tournament team.

Not only did the team win the event, but they did it at home in front of Sainty fans, who offered them encouragement as the day progressed.

The complete St. Francis squad took part in the B-team event. With only 12 players, most of them seventh graders, St. Francis did not divide their squad into two teams. This was due partly to the possibility of a player being sick or unable to attend the A or B-team tournament and Sainty would have to forfeit for not having enough players.

The only three eighth graders on the St. Francis squad were Randee Grover, Bailey Merklin and Aly Schlepp.

Other teams attending the St. Francis competition traveled from

Colby, Decatur Community, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter and Rawlins County.

The young Lady Indians defeated Hoxie in the championship game by scores of 25-11, 21-25 and 15-11. Earlier in the day they outscored the Goodland squad 25-21, 22-25 and 15-13 and the Oakley squad 25-16 and 25-21.

**vs Goodland**

"The first match against Goodland was intense because we knew we had to win to have a chance at the championship," Coach Elliott said. "We did very well and took the win in three sets.

Sainty won with scores of 25-21, 22-25 and 15-13. Having good serves in this match were Merklin 14, Schlepp 10, Echo Jones 7, Justice Wiley 5, McKayla Taylor 4, Kyla Bandel 4, Valerie Wurm 4, Grover 4, Ashlee Orth 2, Brianna Cooks 2.

**vs Oakley**

"We played hard against Oakley and won in two sets," Coach Elliott said.

The final scores were 25-16, 25-21.

Wiley, with 16, led the good serves in this match. She was fol-

lowed by Jones 7, Cooks 6, Schlepp 4, Merklin 4, Wurm 3, Dallas Reed 3, Grover 2, Taylor 1.

"We were so excited to be going for the championship and we were ready for Hoxie," Coach Elliott said.

**vs Hoxie**

It took St. Francis three sets to be named champions but they did it with scores of 25-11, 21-25 and 15-11.

St. Francis won the first set and came close to winning the second but ended up taking it to the third set to win the championship.

Good serves came from Taylor 10, Grover 9, Jones 5, Wiley 4, Merklin 4, Cooks 4, Wurm 3, Schlepp 3, Reed 1, Orth 1, Mariah Beikman 1. "The girls made me very proud and they have improved so much throughout the year," Coach Elliott said. "They were very confident, worked together, had good serves and showed a lot of hustle. I feel they gave it all they had.

"I have enjoyed watching them learn, grow and improve throughout the year and I look forward to what they will be able to accomplish in years to come."

## Ladies travel to Plainville for substate competition

By Betty Jean Winston  
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St. Francis was assigned to play in the Plainville 2A tournament on Saturday. There were seven other 2A tournament sites in the state.

Because there were nine teams in contention for the Plainville Substate title, a play-in match was held between the two bottom-seeded teams to see which team would enter the tournament as the eighth seed.

Plainville had been seeded eighth and St. Francis ninth prior to the tournament so these were the two teams involved. Unfortunately, St. Francis fell to Plainville in three sets.

"Most teams' seasons end with a loss and ours ended just a little bit early," Coach Talley Morrow said. "We were upset to be seeded No. 9 (with the best record (12-19) Sainty has seen in a while) and have to be part of a play-in match.

Decatur Community won the tournament by defeating Plainville, Trego County/WaKeeney

and then Hill City in the championship match.

Thus Decatur Community with their 36-1 record will travel to Hays to play in the state 2A tournament this weekend. They enter the state playoffs with the best record of any 2A team. Other teams who qualified for state include Lebo (35-4) Uniontown (33-5), Valley Heights (32-9) Spearville (31-7), Moundridge (31-9) Oskaloosa (30-10) and Sacred Heart (25-12).

**vs Plainville**

"We traveled to Plainville and played the home team (record 13-18), who was just about our equal. We didn't play as well as we could have, but we hung in there enough to make them play three sets with us," Coach Morrow said.

"We missed a few blocks and they found our open court, but we did our best to swing at them and do the same. We didn't take this one, but we are well on our way to doing better next season and finding ourselves closer to the top.



Coach Morrow said the stats were not available for part of the substate play-in match with Plainville as she did not have filming for part of the day. What was on film was from the end of set two and all of set three. Therefore the stats below only apply to this period.

Kaycee Williams had one ace; Mikaela Grace and Kaitlin Figgins each had four kills with Figgins having the best attack percentage during this shortened period and Aubree Schlepp had two stuffs.

"Congratulations, Lady Indians, for a terrific season," Coach Morrow said. "I'm proud to be part of your team!! Hoo-Rah!!"