

At the Game

Lady Indians attend Gove County tourney

By Betty Jean Winston
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The Gove County Volleyball Tournament was held on Saturday, Sept. 11, and the St. Francis Ladies had a full day of volleyball.

The opening round was pool play and St. Francis was matched with teams from Trego, Decatur Community, Hoxie and Wallace County. St. Francis finished this early competition with a 2-2 record. The other pool consisted of Wheatland/Grinnell, Quinter, Weskan, Northern Valley and Lakin.

St. Francis finished pool play with a 2-2 record. The Lady Indians moved into the consolation bracket by defeating Trego and Wallace County and losing to Decatur Community and Wallace County. They finished the day in sixth place.

Decatur Community defeated Weskan for the championship of the tournament.

At the end of the tournament, the Lady Indians had a 5-6 record for the season.

Pool play vs Trego

The final scores in the Trego win were 25-18, 19-25, 25-22.

"I enjoyed playing Trego for the first time," said Coach Talley Morrow. "I'm very thankful we won this match because it immediately ensured us of six matches for the day. Trego was very good at some things, like pancaking the ball, that most teams we play are not good at."

Sainty as a team served right at 90 percent with Aubree Schlepp (15/15) and Shayla Hilt (10/10) being 100 percent. Kaitlin Figgins had two aces and S. Hilt, one.

Other leading stats had Jodie Hilt with 17 excellent (3.0 on a scale of 3.0 to 0.0) serve receptions, Aly Marin had 55 good assists out of 57 attempts while S. Hilt was 94 percent with 30-of-32; Mikaela Grace had 12 kills while Figgins was 92 percent on attacks (23/25), had three stuffs and eight blocks. Grace also had five blocks and S. Hilt was 19-of-22 in digs/saves.

"I was very proud of my girls in that they 'got off the bus ready to play' and did a fantastic job serving, receiving, setting, striking and stuffing the ball," Coach Morrow said.

vs Decatur Community

St. Francis lost to Decatur

Community in two sets. The final scores were 18-25, 16-25.

Leaders in this set included: aces: S. Hilt, one; serve receptions: J. Hilt, 12 3.0 receptions; assists, Schlepp, 41-of-42, S. Hilt, 17-of-18; kills: Grace, Marin and Figgins, 3 each; stuffs: Schlepp and Marin, two each; digs/saves, Figgins, 12-of-12.

"This was an excellent match, one of those where the statistics nor the scoreboard tell the whole story," Coach Morrow said. "We only had one ace against them, but we made our serving percent goal (90 percent). We didn't quite reach our serve-receive goal, but we had 78 digs to keep the ball off the floor defensively. We had our two big hitters (Grace, Figgins) reach their kill percent goal, though they only had three kills each against Decatur's defense. It was an exciting match and we weren't disappointed in our play."

Also having kills in this set besides the three by Grace, Marin and Figgins were two by Christina Hilt, and one by Schlepp.

vs Hoxie

In St. Francis vs Hoxie the final scores were 19-25, 25-23 and 20-25, giving Hoxie the win.

"This was our second outing with Hoxie for the season, and we came up short once again," Coach Morrow said. "Hoxie is determined to keep us at bay, but I think we'll get them before this season is over."

The team was 94 percent on their serving with five players being 100 percent including Marin, 15/15; Grace, 10/10, S. Hilt, 9/9, C. Hilt, 6/6 and Sarah Trembly 2/2. Nine aces were recorded with Marin and Figgins each having three and C. Hilt with two and S. Hilt with one.

Having kills in this contest were Grace 11, Figgins 7, Schlepp 3, Marin 3, C. Hilt 2.

Again the team had a number of good digs, 78, with Marin having 25 of them.

"Our offensive line was amazing, Grace and Figgins leading the pack with kills," Coach Morrow said. "As a team, we had 14 stuffs for points, which I'm very proud of."

"At this point in the season, I think serve receive is our weakest link and we will keep working to improve that."

J. Hilt led the serve receive with 20 earning a grade of 3.0.

There were seven other serve receives with an excellent rating but the team also had 17 service receives rated 2.0, 10 rated 1.0 and 12 rated 0.0.

vs Wallace County

This win over Wallace County came with scores of 25-21, 23-25, 25-23.

"To end pool play with two wins (which is one better than last season) was exhilarating," Coach Morrow said. "We lost to Wallace County at least twice last year, and always by only two or three points in the third set. To take this one, even though it was close still, really built a fire underneath us."

The serving was 87 percent in this match, a little below their goal of 90 percent but Schlepp stood out with 19-of-19.

J. Hilt had 19-of-27 serve receives with a 3.0 rating to lead the team.

Grace led in kills with 10 while Marin was 43-of-45 in assists and had three stuffs.

Both Grace and Figgins were 88 percent on the attack with Grace being 23-of-26 and Figgins 22-of-25.

The girls played strong both physically and mentally and I am very proud of them.

Consolation bracket vs Lakin

St. Francis won the first game of the consolation bracket in two games 25-18, 25-17.

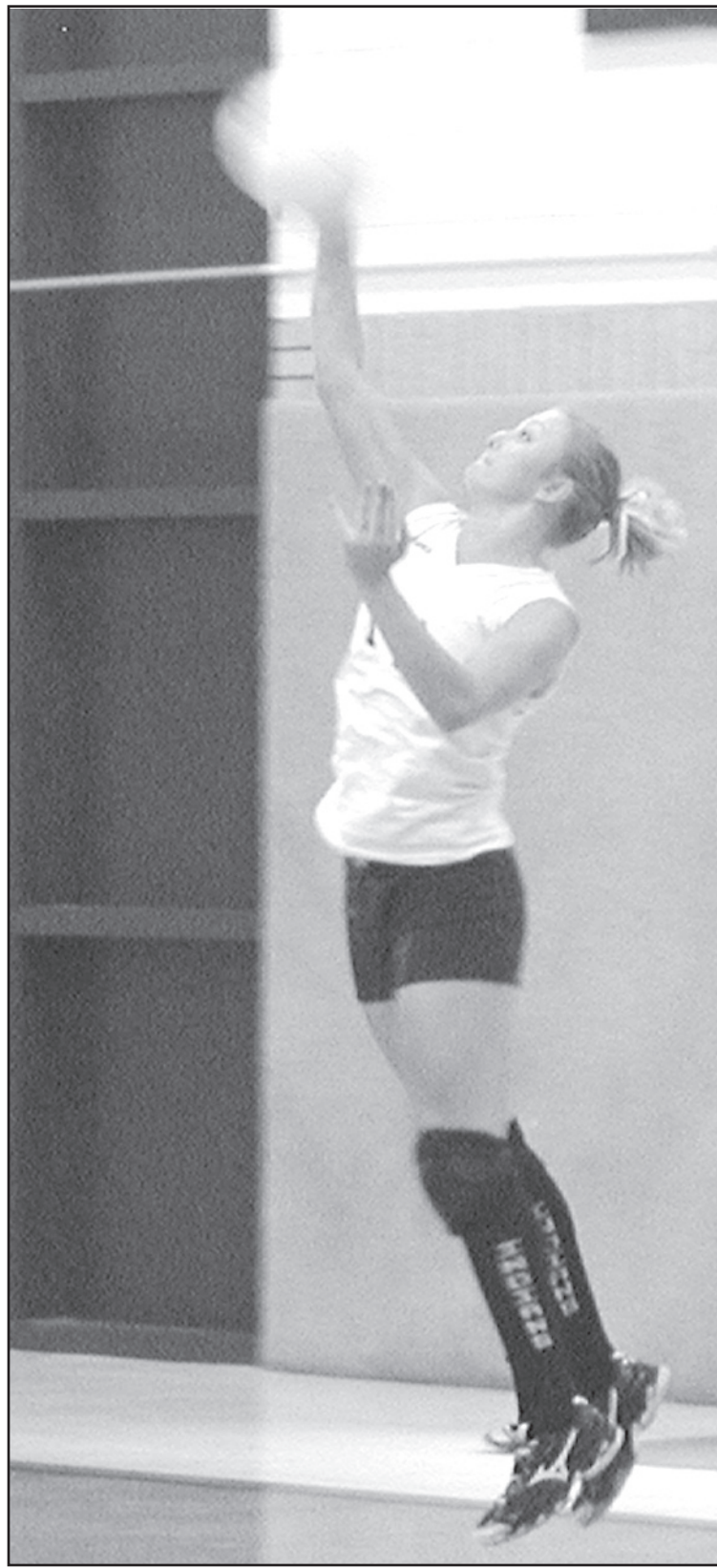
"Once again, the Lady Indians came out tough and ready to play," Coach Morrow said. "Our setters were spot-on with their assists and they helped our attackers find an 89 percent attack rate for the match."

"Every member of this team has a strength to contribute and we try to use those to the best of our ability. This match helped us even out our win-loss record (5-5 at the time) and it is our goal to end with a winning record for the year."

The team was 90 percent on their serves in this match. Marin and S. Hilt were both 100 percent on their assists with Marin being 38-of-38 and S. Hilt, 22-of-22. Grace had eight kills and was 93 percent on the attack with 25-of-27 while Figgins had five stuffs for the day and ended 7-of-13 on blocks.

vs Quinter

The tournament ended with a two set loss to Quinter, who won fifth place with the Lady Indians



VOLLEYBALL ACTION – Mikaela Grace serves the ball for the Lady Indians. The Ladies have a busy schedule as they reach the midpoint of their season.

Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

in sixth place. The scores were 23-25, 23-25.

"Well, if you have ever attended the infamous Gove Classic, you know that when we get to play past our pool, we play until at least 11 at night," said Coach Morrow. "Well, this year, since we made it to the fifth place match, we didn't even start this sixth match until 10:40 p.m. "We had sat out two matches before and when we hit the floor, all of our offensive power was gone."

"We ended up with 18 kills for the match, but 15 attack errors counter-balanced the points scored by our kills. It was really

hard to watch happen, but we had an amazing group of fun-loving and dedicated supporters there to share the loss with us.

"Each team only had one ace serve, but in the end, Quinter was able to keep the ball off the floor better than we were and we lost both sets by only 2."

Five Lady Indians were 100 percent on their serves with Marin, 6-of-6; C. Hilt, 5-of-5; S. Hilt, 5-of-5; Grace, 4-of-4; and Trembly 3-of-3.

Marin was 36-of-36 in assists, Grace had seven kills and C. Hilt was 12-of-15 in digs/saves.

Teams win all matches

By Betty Jean Winston
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The junior high Lady Indian volleyball team just keeps moving along in a winning style this year. Saturday, the A-team and the B-team each added three wins at the Oakley tournament.

The scores of the A-team matches were Quinter 25-13, 25-21; Oakley 27-29, 25-16, 15-11 and Rawlins County 25-22, 25-18.

The scores of the B-team matches were Quinter 25-16, 25-20; Oakley 25-18, 20-25, 15-11 and Rawlins County 25-13, 25-16.

"We were ready to play at this tournament," said Coach Tina Elliott. "We did very well and we won every match."

"Oakley was our hardest opponent of the day as we played them on Thursday and the eighth won in three sets and seventh lost in three sets, so the seventh grade team was determined to show them that we have what it takes to win plus the eighth was determined to keep their undefeated status."

"Both seventh and eighth beat Atwood and Quinter in two sets but we took Oakley into three sets."

A-team vs Quinter, there were a number of good serves: Justice Wiley 17; Valerie Wurm 8; McKayla Taylor 5; Echo Jones 4; Kyla Bandel 2.

B-team vs Quinter: Kattie Jenik 20; Kylie Sherlock 5; Journey Lee 4; Carol Eve Harris 3; McKenzie Taylor 2; Sydney Sundstrom 2; Emily Elfers 1.

A-team vs Oakley: Wiley 13; Wurm 13; McKayla Taylor 8; Jones 8; Abby Fernandez 3; Bandel 3.

B-team vs Oakley: McKenzie Taylor 12; Jenik 11; Sundstrom 8; Lee 8; Sherlock 6; Harris 2; Hannah Stafford 1.

"As we played the set we lost (against Oakley), it seemed to bring our spirits down but I'm very proud of the fight and determination in these great young girls. They picked themselves up and came back with a total winning day," Coach Elliott said.

A-team vs Rawlins County/Atwood: Wiley 11; Bandel 8; Fernandez 7; Jones 6; McKayla Taylor 5; Wurm 4; Mariah Beikman 1, Ashley Orth 1.

B-team vs Rawlins County/Atwood: Jenik 11; Lee 7; Sherlock 6; McKenzie Taylor 4; Sundstrom 3.

"I couldn't be more proud and it's great to have winning records at this point in the season."

Indians score 36-16 victory over the Holyoke Dragons

By Betty Jean Winston
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The St. Francis Indian football team earned a victory over Holyoke, Colo., on Friday. In the game, played in Holyoke, the final score was St. Francis 36, Holyoke 16.

"We did a lot of good things," said Coach Nate Smith. "The defense is coming around and contained Holyoke and the offense worked well for us especially in the first half."

The Indians will take their 1-2 record into the Homecoming game with Wray on Friday evening at Greene Field.

Coach Smith said Wray has a 3-0 record and has defeated some good teams, including Brush, who is ranked, and Burlington.

"They are big in the skilled positions with two big receivers."

Coach Smith emphasized that St. Francis has a bunch of players with athletic ability and the guys will be ready.

"The kids always have a different special attitude when it comes to a Homecoming game," he said.

This Wray game is the final pre-district game of the season. Beginning Oct. 1, the Indians will be involved in district action.

The St. Francis scoring action against Holyoke all took place in the first half of the game. They had two touchdowns in the first quarter and two in the second to earn the victory. Holyoke had their two

scores, one in the second quarter and one in the fourth.

In this game, it was St. Francis who stung the Dragons early. Actually it was on the opening play from scrimmage.

The clock said 9:49 when Ty Zweygardt took the handoff and went down the field for 67 yards and the first touchdown. This gave the Dragons warning of things to come.

"Ty's big play got the kids going," Coach Smith said.

Cody Sherlock had a successful conversion run to up the score to 8-0.

The other Indian score was later in same period and this time it was the quarterback, Brett Lampe, who kept the ball and advanced the final 12 yards to the goal line. Sherlock again had a two-point conversion.

The Indians finished the quarter with a 16-0 advantage.

Midway through the second period, Zweygardt struck again. This time it was on a 28-yard run.

"Ty is a special athlete and was on the field more in this game due to injuries," Coach Smith said. "We need to find a way to keep him on the field more."

A pass from Lampe to Zweygardt score the after-touchdown points to give the Indians 24 points.

The next touchdown shows how important a good defense is

to the offense. The Holyoke Dragons were in possession of the ball with the Indians applying a lot of pressure on their offense. Dillion Straub got the quarterback and the ball popped out to Brooks Hobrock. Hobrock broke a tackle and ran 39-yard for the score.

"Brooks is a great athlete," Coach Smith said.

Zweygardt had one more scoring run with 3:12 left on the clock. This time it was for 49 yards. No conversion points were scored, making the final Indian offensive effort total 36 points.

Holyoke scored their first touchdown with seconds left in the first half. They completed a 36-yard pass play for the six points and then added two points on the conversion play.

The two teams retired to the locker rooms for the half-time break with the score reading 36-8.

The only score recorded in the second half was by the Dragons, who, early in the fourth quarter, went in from 3-yards out and also had a successful points-after-touchdown play to add eight points to their effort.

The teams exchanged the ball during the remaining time with no sustained drive ending in pay dirt.

The Indians had win number one for the new season.

St. Francis gained a total of 360 yards on the ground with Zweygardt having 167 yards.

Cody Sherlock finished with 76 yards and Cody Killingsworth, 75 yards.

Sixteen athletes had at least one tackle during the action with Adam Guthmiller accounting for 19 of the 72 recorded.

Hobrock had his interception, while Zweygardt and Killingsworth each recovered one fumble.

Handling the punting duties in this contest was Matt Tygart, who had one punt for 29 yards.

When planning for Friday night, Coach Smith said they always have things they can work on.

"We need to play a little lower and we have some more conditioning to do. The additional conditioning will help them play well for a whole game."

Results for the teams in District Seven show St. Francis (1-2) winning over Holyoke and Wichita County (2-1) winning over Syracuse while Oakley (2-1) lost to Phillipsburg, Decatur Community/Oberlin (1-2) lost to La Crosse, Ellis (1-2) lost to Smith Center and Rawlins County (0-3) lost to Stanton County. Each of these team will begin district play with a 0-0 district record when district action begins on Oct. 1. St. Francis plays Decatur Community/Oberlin, Oakley, Ellis, Wichita County and Rawlins County/Atwood in the following order.



TY ZWEYGARDT scores!

Photo courtesy of Kristi Guthmiller