

At the Game

St. Francis preparing for district play

By Betty Jean Winston
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The first four football games of the season were completed on Friday night when St. Francis lost to Wray by the score of 43-20. During the early part of the season, the Indians defeated Holyoke, Colo., and were defeated by Colby, Norton and now Wray giving the Indians a 1-3 pre-district record. None of these teams are members of the Northwest Kansas League or are in District 7 with the Indians.

The first four games of the season are in preparation for district play.

Because there are five district games this year instead of three like in previous years, district play begins earlier in the season. Actually it begins this Friday when St. Francis meets Decatur Community/Oberlin at Greene Field.

The six teams in District 7 are Rawlins County/Atwood, Decatur Community/Oberlin, Ellis, Oakley, Wichita County/Leoti and St. Francis. Just as a guide to these teams, only Wichita County/Leoti and Oakley have .500 records in pre-district games, the rest are under .500. Each team begins district play with a 0-0 record.

When the regular season is completed, the two teams with the best district record will qualify for regional play.

In the Wray/St. Francis game on Friday night, the Indians and Eagles were only one point apart at the end of the first quarter (Wray 15, St. Francis 14) and only one touchdown different at half time (Wray with three touchdowns and

22 points and St. Francis with two touchdowns and 14 points) but the second half told the final story.

This half decided the winner as Wray dominated the scoring with three touchdowns and 21 additional points to the Indians one touchdown and six additional points. The final score ended with Wray 43, St. Francis 20.

Wray entered the game with a 3-0 record and a definite team advantage in height which was very important in their passing game. The Eagles finished the contest with 209-yards passing.

"Wray is a really, really good football team," Coach Nate Smith said. "They are not just tall but good sized, older, experienced and executed well."

The first quarter was one of the most exciting periods the Indians have played this year.

Wray won the toss and chose to receive the ball to begin play. They took over on the 39-yard line following the Indian kickoff, but before they had a chance to gain a first down, the Indian's defensive style put an end to their possession.

Thomas Douthit positioned himself well when the Eagles tried a pass and he pulled the ball down for the Indians.

Taking advantage of turnovers is so important in a game and in this instance the Indians did just that. Ty Zwegardt moved the ball down to the 8-yard line on a nice run and two plays later Garrett Figgins entered the end zone for the first score of the game. An unsuccessful conversion attempt left the Indians with a 6-0 advantage.



CODY SHERLOCK (24) carries the ball for the Indians while Dylan Peter (43) provides blocking. The Indians met Wray in the Homecoming game on Friday.

Harold staff photo by Casey McCormick

"Our kids came out ready to play," Coach Smith said. "We had the momentum and the enthusiasm of the crowd. We started well."

This lead lasted until 6:40 following an Eagle drive in which they used both passing and rushing to complete their way to the goal line. The series ended with a pass and within minutes they scored two after-touchdown points for an 8-6 lead.

St. Francis came up with another exciting play immediately. Zwegardt, playing in the backfield, grabbed the ball on the Wray kickoff and raced 80-yard to give the Indians the advantage again. This time Cody Sherlock added two points on a rushing play.

An Indian fumble, with a Wray recovery, resulted in the final touchdown of the quarter and also gave the lead back to Wray as they scored on a 30 yard run and had a successful after-touchdown kick. The period ended 15-14 in favor of Wray.

The Indians ended their next series looking at a fourth-and-17, so they decided to punt. A

Wray player jumped forward and blocked the punt, giving them a better field position. They could not take advantage of the blocked punt though and after a Dylan Peter sack, and an incomplete pass, they were in a position to punt.

"Our special teams played well," Coach Smith said. "We made some changes in our defensive play, in formation and defensive alignment, this week and the players made the changes well."

With this Wray punt, the ball rolled back to the 18-yard line and the Indians could not get anything going. They ended up with another fourth down, this time a fourth-and-14 and another punt took place.

This was one of the series where the Wray passing game did not work at well. First a penalty put them back on the 21-yard line. This was followed by three incomplete passes and on the fourth attempt, Adam Guthmiller stopped the pass, giving the ball to Sainty.

With 1:32 on the clock, Wray managed the only score of the quarter and by having a successful

conversion kick, moved the score to Wray 22, St. Francis 14.

The third quarter saw Wray add two more touchdowns to their total, one at 6:07 on a 6-yard run and one near the end of the quarter at 1:25 on a 13-yard pass. Both kicks were good giving the Eagles 36 points to the Indians 14.

The final Wray touchdown came halfway through the final quarter and again the kick was good. This touchdown was on a 23-yard run.

Sainty ended the scoring when they took the ball over on a fumble with 1:37 on the clock. With the clock winding down, Figgins went into the end zone with 32 seconds remaining.

This made the final score 43-20 in a hard-fought game.

The Indian had a total of 113 yards on the ground for the evening with Sherlock having 50 yards and Figgins close behind with 48.

The Indian defense was on the field for a lot of plays during the evening and collected a total of 61 tackles. Brett Lampe accounted for 13 of them to lead the team.

The remaining tackles were divided among 12 other players.

Peter had the only Indian sack for the evening, Douthit the only interception and Brooks Hobrock the only fumble recovery. Figgins punted for a total of 187 yards on six attempts for an average of 31.17 yards per attempt.

"We will be working hard this week on things like open-field tackling, blocking assignments, a lot of basic blocking and tackling fundamentals," Coach Smith said.

"We have had a tough go but we will keep working."

"We have kids hurt, so we need some younger kids to step up and someone always does."

Oberlin has played some strong teams early in the season like Norton, La Crosse and Cambridge, Neb., who is rated high in Nebraska.

Greene Field will be the place to be Friday night when the Indians play their first of five district games, with the aim to be one of the two teams making into post-season action of the season.

Ladies win three

By Betty Jean Winston
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Tuesday night, Sept. 21, the Lady Indians had a sweep against Weskan, Granada and Greeley County when they traveled to Tribune for a rescheduled quad.

The evening opened with a 25-22, 25-21, victory over Weskan; progressed to a 25-7, 25-3, win over Granada and finished with a 25-3, 25-14, victory over Greeley County.

"I am so very proud of the Lady Indians and hope that you will support them at their upcoming three home match dates. You don't want to miss out!" Coach Talley Morrow said.

The Lady Indians will be at home on Sept. 30, Oct. 9, and Oct. 12.

The victory over Weskan came in two sets, 25-22, 25-21.

This was another contest in which the Lady Indians had a better serving percentage, 94 percent, compared to their goal of 90 percent. They had four aces, two by Aubree Schlepp and one each by Mikaela Grace and Shayla Hilt. S. Hilt was 13-of-13 for the match while Grace was 6-of-6 and Christina Hilt 5-of-5.

"Going into this night, we did not know anything about our opponents, except that Weskan has traditionally been tough and that they took Decatur Community to two sets in the championship match at the Gove County Classic on the 11th," Coach Morrow said. "We knew we would have to play at our highest level to beat them and that's exactly what we did. We couldn't ace them easily, but we did not have but three errors in our serving."

"Our serve reception was incredible tonight, having four passers exceed the rating target. Twenty of our 57 attacks were kills, and we kept the ball off the floor on the defense with 72 team digs and only 15 errors in the back court," added Coach Morrow.

Using the team criteria of P3 being the best serve receive (com-

pared to P2, P1 and P0) the four players having a P3 in this match were Jodie Hilt with 17, C. Hilt with 4 and Aly Marin and Kaitlin Figgins, two each. Schlepp and Grace had two kills each with Schlepp having the best percentage.

The team was 93 percent on assists with their goal being 90 percent.

"Weskan definitely had the toughest blockers we've seen all season, but we have the tricks to get past them and come out on top," Coach Morrow said.

Against Granada and Greeley County, I think the scores speak for themselves. We have an excellent serving team and neither one of them could handle it."

The scores against Granada were 25-7, 25-3.

Grace had six aces in this match with three of them jump serves. Leading in good assists were Schlepp with 12-of-12, S. Hilt with 7-of-7, Lexi Hilt with 2-of-2 and Sarah Trembly 1-of-1.

Grace had five kills with Figgins having three and Schlepp, C. Hilt and Trista Orth having one each.

The serving percentage was 88 percent and Grace was 18-of-18 and L. Hilt 01-of-01 for 100 percent.

J. Hilt (3/3) Grace (8/8) Schlepp (4/4) and Figgins (6/6) were leaders on the attack. Orth accounted for one stuff.

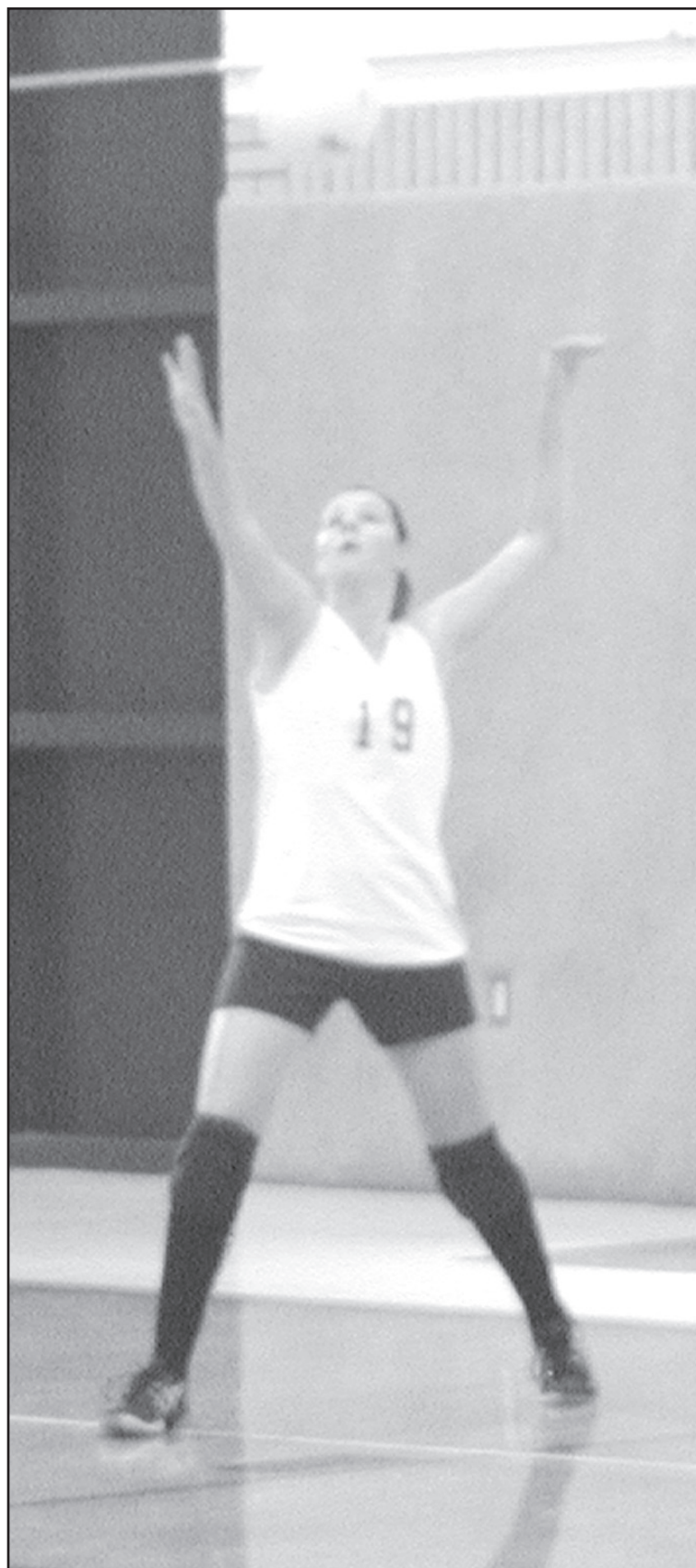
The Greeley County match ended with St. Francis winning 25-3, 25-14.

Trembly (18/18) and S. Hilt (6/6) each served 100 percent for this match with the team being 90 percent.

J. Hilt led in serve receives and Schlepp, S. Hilt and L. Hilt were 100 percent on their assists.

Figgins and C. Hilt had three kills apiece and J. Hilt was 7of-7 on her digs/saves.

Having kills besides Figgins and C. Hilt were Grace with two and Schlepp, Jacquelyn Ketzner and Orth each having one apiece.



THE LADY INDIANS had a good evening of serving at Tribune. Shayla Hilt also helped the Lady Indians with aces during the evening.

Harold staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

Coach proud of junior varsity play

"I was very proud of the junior varsity squad," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "Year in and year out these are two of the best volleyball programs we face. To come out with two victories was great."

"We served well and this helped our offense and defense. Dundy County was able to attack a few times but we had fairly good blocking and good defensive coverage," said Coach Olofson. "We still leave holes but the young ladies are getting smarter about where they need to be."

The Ladies defeated Dundy County 25-23, 25-20.

"The Chase County match was much like the first match," Coach Olofson said. "They had some successful attacks but we outplayed them defensively."

"Again, serving was key as we did not miss serves at the wrong times."

St. Francis won this match 25-22, 25-21.

"The junior varsity is now entering the heart of their season as we have several matches and a tournament in the next two weeks. I hope they keep playing hard," Coach Olofson said.

C-team see action twice this week

The high school volleyball C-team does not have a lot of action many weeks due to opponents not having enough players, but they competed with Dundy County on Thursday night in Benkelman. The action resulted in a 13-25, 20-25 /St. Francis loss.

"This was the first outing for the C team in several weeks," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "It took them awhile to get their volleyball legs under them."

"They did not serve well or communicate well in the first set. In the second set they played much better volleyball. Several members of the team worked very hard to keep the ball off the floor. The young Lady Indians still have things to work on and they showed improvement during the match."

Tournament action

The St. Francis volleyball C-team played in the Oberlin C-team tournament held on Saturday. The Lady Indians were in

action with Colby, McCook and Decatur Community and finished the day with a 1-2 record.

The day included a loss to Colby (18-25, 21-25), a victory over McCook (25-20, 25-16) and a loss to Decatur Community/Oberlin (13-25, 21-25). There were several other teams involved in the competition.

"Although the scores may not reflect it, this was a fairly good day for the young Lady Indians," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "They have had very limited court time and as a result they often struggle to make the right decisions."

"In all the matches we served well. We still struggle getting good attacks because we often don't pass to the setter. It is still good to see the improvement in this team. We finished in sixth place at the tournament. With more time this team will keep getting better."