



By Christy Sheets
Sports Writer

The Wallace Lady Cats volleyball team enters the 2009 season with purpose under the leadership of head coach Kory Rohde and assistant coach Elizabeth Strand.

Student managers, Alexandria Lundvall, Sara Hubbard, Mickayla Sheets, Abbey Rohde, and Morgan Messersmith will also be assisting the ladies throughout the season.

Over the summer the Lady Cats, who have 22 members this year, were able to attend summer team camps. Rohde feels a great deal of experience was gained.

In his words, "We went, we played, and we are a better team for it." Recall that the Cats posted a 16 to five record last year, and they hope to reach Lincoln this year.

The Lady Cats have nine letter-winners returning from last year's squad—Jena Aylward (5' 10" senior), Katie West (5' 11" senior), Tarassa Swedberg (5' 7" senior), Shanice Harris (5' 8" junior), Katelynn Hild (5' 3" junior), Paige Kerchal (5' 7" junior), Laura O'Brien (5' 4" junior), Whitney Smith (5' 7" junior), and Brooke Hochstetler (5' 11" sophomore).

These ladies provided significant contributions to the 2008 season and Rohde expects their leadership to continue.

Rohde anticipates a successful season for the Lady Cats, as they have some good height and athletic ability. "I am really looking forward to the season," said Rohde. "The girls are working hard so far, and they all have good attitudes."

This year the Lady Cats will have plenty of quality opponents in their conference. According to Rohde, "Paxton is always tough, and no team really stands out more than the rest. They are always quality opponents. Our conference is always loaded with talent. Our district looks better this year without the Paxton Tigers, but we expect it to still be tough."

The Lady Cats will scrimmage this Thursday, Aug. 27 at 5:30pm. Fans who wish to attend are asked to bring toilet paper, paper towels, or diapers in sizes larger than 4. These items will be donated to Rape and Domestic Abuse Center in North Platte.

The Lady Cats first game will be contested on Friday, Sept. 4, against Maywood.