

By Christy Sheets

Sports Writer

It was a real battle for the Lady Cats in their season opener. They faced the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos in Wauneta on Thursday, Aug. 31. The Broncos were tough, but the Wildcat team refused to give up, and put up a great fight. Unfortunately, the Broncos defeated the Lady Cats, but it took them five sets 25-23, 9-25, 25-23, 10-25, and 8-15.

This year the Lady Cats are running a six-two offense, so the starting line up for the Wildcats include senior, Anna Griffiths (setter), freshman Abbey Rohde (outside hitter), senior, Chelsea Sowle (middle blocker/hitter), senior, Rachel Marquardt (right side hitter), sophomore, Mickayla Sheets (defensive specialist), sophomore, Christina Daniels (middle blocker/hitter), and rotating into the lineup are senior, Katelyn Melton (outside hitter), junior, Alex Lundvall (setter), and junior, Sara Hubbard (right side hitter).



In the first set the Lady Cats struggled to get something going. Youth and inexperience help feed the Wildcats' nervous tension. As the set progressed, however, the Wildcats really seemed to settle down and play with confidence. The Wildcat battled hard to win the first set 25 to 23.

In the second set, the Tigers struck first, and the Cats seemed a bit deflated after rallying back in the first set. The Tigers took the early lead, and refused to relinquish it. The Tigers' lead was too great, and they were able to close the set, 9 to 25.

In the third set, the Wildcats began to show a renewed strength. The Lady Cats took the early lead, and never let the Broncos build any momentum. The set was once again a battle, but the Wildcats dug in their heels and pushed hard to win the third set, 25 to 23.

The fourth set was a bit of a repeat of the second. The Broncos came roaring in, forcing the Wildcats to regroup. The Lady Cats worked hard to try and get something going, but the Broncos were relentless. The Broncos won the fourth set 10 to 25.

The fifth set saw both teams ready to fight. They exchanged points back and forth, both teams refusing to let the ball hit the floor, until they were tied at eight. It was then that the Lady Broncos began to find the chinks in the Lady Cats armor. The Wildcats tried to claw their way back into the set, but nothing would go their way. The Lady Cats lost the fifth set of a tough battle 8 to 15.

The Broncos are a talented hard hitting team who were determined to defend their home court, but the Lady Cats showed that they have a lot of talent, determination, and promise, and look forward to meeting the Broncos again this season.

Due to technological difficulties, statistics for Thursday's game are unavailable.

Offensively, Abbey Rohde led the Cats scoring 12 points, followed by Chelsea Sowle who

scored 7 points. Anna Griffiths had 5 points, Mickayla Sheets had 4 points, and Alex Lundvall had 2 points.

Next Game

The Lady Cats traveled to Grant to play in the Perkins County Triangular on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Playing both Perkins Co. and Hitchcock Co.

On Friday, Sept. 7, the Wildcats will host the Paxton Tigers with JV starting at 5:30 p.m. Because Friday will be the first home game of the season, it will also be parents' night.