



By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

After injuries changed the face of the Perkins County volleyball team even before the season began, a shift to the strengths of the team moved to the front line.

Three starters were lost to injuries, one to a shoulder injury and two to knee injuries, giving a focus on seniors Courtney McClenahan and Rebecca Johnson.

“Courtney started last year for us as an outside hitter and Rebecca Johnson was strong in the middle for us,” said Perkins County head volleyball coach Penny Hite.

The team will key on a 6-2 offense, using McClenahan up front more and plans are to turn up the intensity on defense.

“We will be working on defense, on getting quicker and more aggressive this year,” Hite said.

Of the 19 out this season, there are six seniors, including Johnson and McClenahan. The other seniors include Kylie Hanson, Allison Kiolbasa, Alyssa Young and Elizabeth Krajewski.

Perkins County will have five home volleyball games this season with some tough road games ahead, according to Hite, including match-ups in Kimball, Bridgeport, Bayard, Gothenburg and Culbertson.

Keeping the team injury-free is a goal for Hite as the road games can take a toll on a squad.

“My goal is to keep the team healthy and strong because they will be on the road a lot. We need to make sure we have our strength out there and keep people healthy,” Hite said.

A focus on conditioning has been prevalent during the beginning of the season.

“We have been doing a lot of conditioning and lifting,” Hite confirmed.

The team was 8-21 last year and by the end of this season Hite hopes to improve not only every game, but be at the top of their game when districts roll around in November.