



### By Tim Linscott

*Managing Editor*

Teams can sometimes have trouble getting the loss monkey off their back, but the Perkins County volleyball team easily shrugged the bad luck primate off in a three set win over Hitchcock County on Tuesday, Sept. 10 on the road.

The team played a triangular against Hitchcock County and Wallace.

#### **PCS vs. Hitchcock County**

Aggressive play proved to be the key to the win against Hitchcock County, but in the first set proved to be a detriment.

PCS lost the first set 25-18 after being too aggressive with serves, according to Penny Hite, head PCS volleyball coach.

“We served really aggressive, meeting and exceeding our team goal for ace serves and 57 of 64 from the line in the first game. This cost us our first set against them,” Hite said, adding, ‘serving is something we can take care of.’

The team dominated in the second set, winning 25-14.

“I was pleased with how well we got our offense going,” Hite said.

The team had 41 kills, which Hite explained was made possible by the team’s passing being spot on in the game.

“Our passes were such that we could run it (the offense),” she said.

Hitchcock County put up a bit more of a fight in the third set, but succumbed to the superior passing and offense of the Lady Plainsmen.

PCS won the third set 25-17.

“It is always a relief to get that first win in the books. As we play more, the idea of where they

need to be on the court becomes more vivid and so we continue to strive to get better,” Hite said.

Lila Konecky led the team in kills with 10 while Courtney Ostermiller had nine and Rebecca Johnson eight. Courtney McClenahan ended with seven kills. Konecky had one ace block and one ace serve.

Johnson led the team in blocks with four while the tandem of Steph Schrotberger and McClenahan led the team in assists with 16 and 12 respectively.

Allison Kiolbasa had four ace serves for the Lady Plainsmen while Johnson had three, Konecky and McClenahan each had one. Kaitlynn Heinemann was perfect passing, going 9 for 9 in the game.

### **PCS vs. Wallace**

The domino affect happened to the team in the next game against Wallace. The Lady Plainsmen let the mental part of the game lead to bad plays and a two-set loss to the Lady Wildcats, 9-25, 20-25.

“We had trouble containing our serve receive and again stressed out about trying to make something happen,” Hite said. “When that happens it is like a chain reaction of events that make it hard to recover. The team is making an effort to try to get it figured out.”

The team had nine kills against Wallace with Johnson leading PCS with three. Johnson had the lone ace block for the squad while McClenahan ended the game with four blocks and had six assists. Johnson picked up the only ace serve against Wallace.

Freshman Claire Maaliao and sophomore Josie Osler made their debut this season in the line up.

“We seem to be setting in to a rotation that works, now we just need to build a chemistry that works,” Hite said. “Overall, in the second set the girls did a good job of fighting back and not giving up.”

### **Cozad Invite**

The team traveled to Cozad on Saturday, Sept. 14, for an invitational and faced Gothenburg in the first game.

“Disappointing first game. Our serve receive was much improved today, which is good to see, but we lacked the confidence to stay with them,” Hite said.

### **PCS vs. Gothenburg**

Gothenburg won in straight sets, 25-10, 25-4.

Ostermiller led the team with two kills and had two ace serves. Schrotberger had three assists to lead PCS.

The Lady Plainsmen gained some confidence against Cozad and nearly pulled off the upset, but dropped the game in two sets, 19-25, 15-25.

“Saw so much more from the defense than in our first game. We just continue to rally through,” Hite said. “They have it in them to be really good players and when they come together as a team they can do great things. We just need to be consistent and a solid all-around team.”

Konecky led the team with eight kills while Ostermiller had two kills, one ace block and one ace serve. Schrotberger had seven assists while McClenahan had five.

### **PCS vs. Ainsworth**

Ainsworth was able to defeat PCS in two sets, 25-15, 25-11.

McClenahan had four kills and Ostermiller three. McClenahan had five blocks, three assists and one ace serve while going 8 for 8 on passes.

The team was 22 of 26 serving but just 12 of 42 serve receive.

“But 12-42 on serve receive continues to gnaw at us,” Hite said. “When we decide to not let it be an issue is when we will make a complete turn around. They have the potential, they just need to take care of themselves and do their jobs.”