Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze

Abbie Fanning attacks the ball with teammates Brooklyn Nordhausen and Emma Skelton in coverage.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade volleyball team had two busy days last week facing St. Francis, Kan., Thursday and three conference foes Saturday in Trenton.

The Lady Broncos returned home from the trip to St. Francis with a three-game sweep under their belts, 25-11, 25-21, 25-15.

Four players hit over .200 for the match. Tailor Lee had eight kills while hitting an even .200. Abbie Fanning hit .222 and Brooklyn Nordhausen .333, with each earning six kills. Cassidy Rathe had one kill in four attacks with no errors.

The team hit .226 and .286 in the first and third sets, but -.027 in the closer second set.

Sydnee Harchelroad had five service aces, Nordhausen had four. The team had 13 service aces in the match.

Hitchcock County Invite

Wauneta-Palisade opened the four-team invitational with a three-set loss to Arapahoe. All matches were best two out of three.

The Lady Broncos came out strong in set one, taking the win 25-22 over the 7-1 Warriors. Emma Skelton opened up a quick 2-0 lead for WP with two service aces.

Arapahoe opened up a 13-10 lead, but six straight points by Skelton gave the Lady Broncos a lead they never relinquished.

Wauneta-Palisade looked like they were headed for a sweep in game two, opening up a six-point lead, 11-5. With the Lady Broncos ahead 16-11, Arapahoe got six straight points from Rochelle Wendland to take a one-point lead.

Three points by Harchelroad put Wauneta-Palisade back on top, but another six-point run behind the serving of Kaylea Watson sealed the win for Arapahoe, 25-21. Brooklyn Nordhausen had four solo blocks.

The Warriors carried the momentum over into the third set, a convincing 25-11 win.

Fanning had seven kills to lead the Lady Broncos. Harchelroad added six. Skelton, Harchelroad and libero Brianna Einspahr each had three service aces.

Wauneta-Palisade played its next two matches without Fanning. Following Arapahoe match Fanning left to attend the dedication of the Cody Fanning Plaza at Doane College in Crete.

Without her services the Lady Broncos fell 25-20, 25-18 to Hitchcock County.

Hitchcock County opened the match with three straight aces by Allyson Cole to put Wauneta-Palisade on its heals. The Lady Broncos hung tough, pulling to within one at 10-9, until Cole returned to the service line again. Three more points by Cole opened up a five- point lead. The Lady Broncos hung tough, pulling back to within two, 17-15. Five attack errors down the stretch doomed Wauneta-Palisade.

The Lady Broncos came out strong in the second set opening up an early four-point lead. With the game tied at 13 Cole put the Falcons up for good with a four-point run. Taylor McCauley finished the Lady Broncos off serving the final six points.

Lee and Skelton each had four kills in the match. Skelton and Harchelroad notched two aces each. Nordhausen had six solo blocks.

The Lady Broncos wrapped up the day falling to Hayes Center 17-25, 25-20, 20-25.

Harchelroad paced the Wauneta-Palisade with seven kills. Skelton added four, Lee and Nordhausen had three each.

Skelton, Harchelroad and Cassidy Rathe each had two service aces.

The next week won’t be any easier on the team.

The Lady Broncos were at 5-3 Southwest. Tonight they will host 4-1 Chase County and tomorrow they will travel to 2-2 Arthur County.