

Fourth time a charm for Wallace versus Lady Broncos

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 08 November 2012 17:15 -



Leiauna Alberts gets a pancake dig as Sydnee Harchelroad and Emma Skelton also dive for the ball.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Following a five-set defeat of Hayes Center in its first game of subdistrict play, the Wauneta-Palisade volleyball team lost to Wallace in the subdistrict finals, 15-25, 25-10, 25-16, 21-25, 17-19.

It was the third time the teams had played in the past three weeks and the fourth time this season.

The Lady Broncos beat Wallace in four sets in the RPAC tournament Oct. 15 and Oct. 23 at Wallace.

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The Lady Wildcats came out aggressive Oct. 30.

Wauneta-Palisade opened up an early 8-4 lead behind ace serves from Sydnee Harchelroad and Tailor Lee and kills from Abbie Fanning, Brooklyn Nordhausen and Harchelroad, Wallace came roaring back. The Lady Broncos had three attack errors and couldn't find an answer for the Wallace offensive attack during a 10-point swing.

The Lady Broncos couldn't cut into the 10-point deficit and lost the game 15-25.

"I think the excitement of the game got to the girls the first set," said Coach Michelle Harchelroad. "I knew once they settled down they would be OK and the second and third sets showed that."

Wauneta-Palisade was a different team in the second and third sets.

With Lee and Nordhausen picking up multiple kills, the Lady Broncos jumped ahead 14-4. The dominance continued with back-to-back aces by Leiauna Alberts and Cassidy Rathe. Rathe served three points and Harchelroad four points down the stretch as Wauneta-Palisade earned the 25-10 win.

Knowing that Wallace likes to attack from the middle, coach Harchelroad said her team had worked on several defensive strategies the week before the game.

"Wallace was dumping a lot more than hitting in the first set, so I told the girls to bring the defense in and guard the middle. They did an excellent job of adjusting," said coach Harchelroad.

Set three featured much of the same.

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Wallace made errors on six straight plays to help the Lady Broncos gain a 9-1 lead.

Three consecutive aces by Harchelroad increased the lead to 21-7.

Wallace started gaining momentum down the stretch of game three.

The Lady Broncos won the game 25-16, but were outscored 9-4 late.

“Momentum is so important even if you lose a set,” said coach Harchelroad. “I think the girls relaxed too much after two easy sets in set two and three.”

Wauneta-Palisade struggled early in the fourth set, letting Wallace build a 14-5 lead before the Lady Broncos could try and rally.

WP closed the gap to 16-15, but watched Wallace take the set 25-21.

The Lady Broncos started the fifth set with a Nordhausen kill. Wallace had two kills before an attack error gave the serve back to Wauneta-Palisade. Tied at two, Wallace picked up a kill and was matched by one from Emma Skelton.

Another Wallace attack error and a block by Lee put WP ahead 5-3.

The teams again traded points on a Wauneta-Palisade service error and another Wallace attack error.

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Lee earned a kill on an overpass, but was stuffed on the next play. The teams then traded points on a lift by Wallace and a two-hit call on the Lady Broncos.

A kill by Fanning put WP up 9-6, but another Lady Bronco service error, Wallace kill and Wallace block tied the game at nine.

The teams traded errors to make the score 13-10. A Wallace kill and two WP attack errors tied the game at 13.

Lee's kill gave the Lady Broncos match point, but back-to-back attack errors gave Wallace a chance for the win.

Another kill by Lee kept the Lady Broncos alive, but a kill by Wallace gave the Lady Wildcats another match point.

Wallace's service error tied the match at 16 and a block by Rathe gave the Lady Broncos another match point.

Wauneta-Palisade was unable to capitalize and Wallace finished the match off with three kills.

Coach Harchelroad said her team knew playing Wallace a fourth time was going to be difficult, but the team "started playing not to lose instead of hammering away at them."

With the loss, Wauneta-Palisade finishes its season 13-11.

Wallace (10-12) lost to Brady (23-7) three sets to one in the district final.