

Disappointing end, bright future for Lady Broncos volleyball team

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Coming off a 7-17 season in 2011, the Lady Broncos improved to 13-11 in 2012.

Senior Emma Skelton led the team in assists with 333 and also had 338 kills.

Coach Michelle Harchelroad said she appreciates all Skelton has contributed to the team.

“Emma was such a coachable kid,” said Harchelroad. “She did a great job of setting this season.”

Also playing her final season was Tayler Nordhausen.

“Tayler did a great job of coming off the bench. She knew her role was just to come in for a few plays and always did a great job,” said Harchelroad.

Perhaps the Lady Broncos most consistent player, junior Abbie Fanning played through the season with a sore shoulder.

Even though she wasn't 100 percent, Fanning led the team in serve receive and finished third

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in overall passing.

Harchelroad said, "Even with a sore shoulder Abbie still did a great job at the net and in the back row."

One of three juniors, Brooklyn Nordhausen turned her game up a notch at the end of the season, according to Harchelroad.

"Brooklyn had some very nice blocks that were so key during our tight matches," added Harchelroad.

Blocking was Nordhausen's strong suit. She led the team with 38 solo blocks.

Junior Tailor Lee was the Lady Broncos heavy hitter. Though she finished second on the team with 165 kills, Lee had the heaviest hand on the team.

Harchelroad said, "Tailor could really put the ball down and we needed that at times. She did a nice job all season and really improved her serving from last season."

Defensively, Lee led the team in digs.

In her first season as libero, sophomore Brianna Einspahr improved throughout the season.

"Brianna did a great job at the Libero spot. It is a thankless job," said Harchelroad. "She also was a very strong server for the team and that was very important."

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Einspahr's 0.067 serving percentage led the team.

Fellow sophomore Sydnee Harchelroad was dominant from the service line throughout the season.

S. Harchelroad led the team with an amazing 81 aces and led the team with points on serve, 2.65. She was second on the team with 158 kills.

"Sydnee did an outstanding job of serving this season," said coach Harchelroad. "She is super competitive and always brought that never quit attitude to the court."

Junior Cassidy Rathe and sophomore Leiauna Alberts shared time at the outside hitter position.

"Cassidy did a great job serving. Sometimes she was coming off the bench cold and would get an ace serve just at the right time," said coach Harchelroad. She added, "Leiauna can really put the ball down in practice. I just need to get her to translate that to game time because she could really be a threat next season."

Coach Harchelroad said she knows the team didn't like the way things ended with the five set loss to Wallace in the subdistrict finals.

"I was super proud of the kind of fight they showed throughout the season and the improvements they made, she said.

The JV team finished 8-3.

"I will be looking to several of the JV girls like Christie Christner, Ellie Lee, Nicole Strand, Hannah Nordhausen and Cameo Rector to step it up next season. They will see more varsity

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time if they keep improving. Stephanie Acosta was my other freshman who really improved her volleyball skills as the season went on," said coach Harchelroad.