

Wallace revenges losses to W-P in subdistrict finals

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 14 November 2013 00:00 -



In the subdistrict finals, Abbie Fanning led the Broncos with 15 kills and 37 digs. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Despite Wallace not winning a set against the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos in three regular season matches this year, the Wildcats topped the Broncos 3-2 in the subdistrict finals.

It was a different team than W-P easily handled the week before.

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W-P was never able to get any traction in game one, losing 14-25. Wallace dominated the game at the net, outhitting and outblocking the Broncos. W-P only had eight kills to Wallace's 15. Wallace also had four blocks.

Going down 3-5 in game two, W-P responded. A block and kill by Brooklyn Nordhausen put the Broncos up 10-9. Following an ace by Sydnee Harchelroad, a kill and ace by Abbie Fanning gave W-P a 14-10 lead.

Wallace narrowed the gap to 16-15 but kills by Tailor Lee, Harchelroad and Fanning, plus an ace by Cassidy Rathe, carried the Broncos to a 25-21 win.

W-P kept the momentum going in the third game.

Lee had four kills early in the game, when the Broncos opened up a 6-3 lead.

Wallace was able to pull within one, 16-15, but the Broncos responded. Harchelroad reeled off three straight kills and an ace by Leiauna Alberts put W-P up 20-15.

Two kills by Fanning and one by Nordhausen helped give W-P a 25-20 win.

As the 14-25 score would indicate, game four was much like game one with the Wallace offense in high gear.

Coasting to the 10-point win, the Wildcats carried the momentum into the fifth set.

Wallace had 11 kills in the deciding game while W-P could only manage three kills.

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“Momentum is huge,” said Coach Michelle Harchelroad. “ I really thought in the 5th set when it was 12 to 8 the momentum was changing and we had two very questionable calls that just took the wind out of our sail. It is something that is out of our control.”

The refs called a replay late in the game and overturned a Wallace attack error, calling a tip instead.

Fanning led the Broncos with 15 kills, hitting .350. She also had a team high 37 digs.

S. Harchelroad had 14 kills and 19 assists.

Lee had 10 kills on 45 swings while still hobbled by an ankle injury.

Leiauna Alberts had two service aces and 17 assists.

Nordhausen had three blocks and four kills.

“I can’t really put into words how hard it was to walk into that locker room,” said Coach Michelle Harchelroad. “Those girls were so sad. We knew this was the year we could be at state and with a lot of adversity I thought we were still ready to get the job done.”

Coach Harchelroad said she feels Wallace played its best volleyball that week.

“Just last week we dominated them because they couldn’t dig our balls. Tuesday their back row was getting more balls up than the last three times we played them,” Coach Harchelroad said.

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“It is a challenge everyweek to get the girls to work together, I guess that is why I love volleyball,” said Coach Harchelroad.

The Broncos season ends at 18-8.

State Tournament Info

Wauneta alumnus Jodi (Smith) Craig will lead Leyton in Grand Island this week.

The Warriors are 30-2 and seeded seventh. Leyton will face Giltner, 28-2, Thursday morning at 8 a.m. MT/9 p.m. CT at Grand Island Central Catholic High School.

Wallace will be the eighth seed at the state tournament and take on RPAC foe and number one seed Bertrand Thursday.

Bertrand and Wallace will play at Grand Island Northwest Thursday at 5:30 p.m. MT/6:30 p.m.CT.

In other D2 games, Sterling will face Mead and Falls City Sacred Heart plays Stuart.