

Lady Broncos open season with two wins

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Brianna Einspahr (14) moves into position as Abbie Fanning (7) and Sydnee Harchelroad (2) watch Einspahr's serve clear the net against Wallace Thursday. W-P won the match 25-20, 25-23, 25-21. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade volleyball season got under way Thursday with a three-set sweep of Wallace, 25-20, 25-23, 25-21.

The Lady Broncos defeated Minatare, 25-9, 25-5, 25-13 on Homecoming Friday.

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After an early 5-5 tie, W-P controlled much of set one in the season opener. The Broncos led by six, before winning by five, 25-20.

Brooklyn Nordhausen, Abbie Fanning and Lesley Towery each had two kills in the opening set. Towery had four ace serves.

Tied at one all in the second set, Fanning reeled off four straight points. Wallace nibbled away at the W-P lead and eventually pulled ahead 18-15. The Broncos came back to tie the game, but Wallace took a 23-19 lead.

Following a Taylor Lee block, libero Brianna Einspahr finished the set off from the service line, ending the set with an ace.

Fanning had three more kills and Towery two.

Tied at four in the third set, the Broncos took an 18-11 lead and held on to win 25-21.

Lee had three kills in the set. Nordhausen and Fanning added two kills.

Coach Michelle Harchelroad said she was pleased with the first game.

“There were some nerves and it showed,” she said. “We were still working out some rotations and responsibilities the day before, so I thought they responded as well as could be expected.”

Fanning, Nordhausen and Towery each finished with six kills. Lee added five.

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Leiauna Alberts and Sydnee Harchelroad shared setting duties. Alberts had 10 assists and Harchelroad nine.

Einspahr led the team with 18 digs. Sydnee Harchelroad had 17 and Towery also finished in double figures with 12 digs.

Towery had five service aces. Nordhausen had three blocks.

Minatare never stood a chance against the Broncos Friday.

In set one Minatare stayed close at 6-4. From there the Broncos outscored the Indians 19-5.

In set two the Broncos pulled ahead 14-1 before winning 25-5.

With its starters coming in off the bench to start the third set, the Broncos fell behind 2-5. From there W-P went on to a 25-13 win.

Throughout the match, Minatare had no answer for the Broncos' serves. W-P had 26 service aces in the match.

Towery had six aces, Fanning, five and B. Nordhausen and Harchelroad each had four aces.

With the lopsided win, coach Michelle Harchelroad had plenty of opportunities to get younger players into the game. Sixteen of the team's 17 players saw action.

Sydnee Harchelroad led W-P with five kills. T. Lee, B. Nordhausen and Towery each had three

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kills.

The team hit 0.419 in the match.

The Broncos will host St. Francis, Kan., Thursday night and travel to the Hitchcock County Invitational Saturday.

Harchelroad said she would like to see a solid effort against St. Francis.

“Consistent play is a priority,” she said.