



**By Jan Rahn**  
**Managing Editor**

The goal of the Lady Plainsmen—getting back to state. With four seniors leading the way, Coach Penny Hite said the Perkins County volleyball team “should be a team to reckon with this season.”

The girls won a berth to state in 2007, but ended their season last year with a second round loss at sub-districts. They are all planning to reverse things this fall.

“We have a lot of height up front and power to go with it,” Hite said.

Returning starters include seniors Mackenzie Hite and Jenni Sis, junior Jessica Day, and sophomores Tanya Metcalf and Shalee Pollard.

They join returning letterwinners Candace Lee and Leslie Burge as seniors, and sophomores Kristin Beck, Tori Osler and Gabrielle Patrick.

Hite names sophomore Tori Osler and freshmen newcomers Madisyn Humphrey and Shania Metcalf as top players rounding out the team whose goal is to get back to state.

She predicts Perkins County as the top finisher in the South Platte Valley Association Conference (SPVA) ahead of Hershey, St. Pat’s, Maxwell, Sutherland and Chase County.

The girls are experienced and quick on defense, with a lot of height up front.

“I’d say our weakness will be in our blocking, but they are working hard to improve this area,” said Hite. “The girls looked really good this summer at Kearney.”

The team won the B division there, losing only four sets the entire weekend.

“They are a determined group and just want to get back to the state tournament,” she said.

“They know what they have to do and are not afraid to make sacrifices to accomplish their goals.”

Completing the 2009 season roster are junior Debbie Dahlkoetter, sophomores Casey Lake, Mindee Hausman, Emma Friedel, and freshmen Jessie Woodmancy, Kimberly Cook, Michi Prante, Katie Rowley and Rachel Patrick.

### First Competition

The Lady Plainsmen volleyball team will travel to North Platte (today) Thursday, Sept. 3 to play the St. Pat’s Lady Irish beginning at 5:30 MDT.

Next week they host two games—a triangular on Tuesday with Hitchcock County and Wallace at 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday the Holyoke Lady Dragons come to Grant at 6:30 p.m.