



### **By Christy Sheets**

#### *Sports Writer*

The Wallace Lady Cats volleyball team enters the 2012 season with expectation under new leadership. Long time head coach Kory Rohde made a tough decision to step down after a very successful career, so that he could focus on his athletic director position.

The Lady Cats former assistant coach Elizabeth Strand, who has worked side by side with Rohde for many seasons, was the logical choice to fill the vacant head position.

Joining Coach Strand will be a newcomer to the Wallace School District and recent UNK graduate, Adam Wright. Student managers Maggie May, Myah McConnell, Madisen Pinkal, and Hannah Nelson will also be assisting the ladies through-out the season.

Over the summer the Lady Cats, who have 15 members this year, were able to attend two summer team camps. Strand feels the team gained a great deal of experience and team unity. Recall that the Cats posted an 11-11 record last year.

The lady cats have seven letter-winners returning from last year's squad—Anna Griffiths (5 foot 3 senior), Rachel Marquardt (5 foot 5 senior), Katelyn Melton (5 foot 8 senior), Chelsea Sowle (6 foot 0 senior), Sara Hubbard (5 foot 5 junior), Morgan Messersmith (5 foot 0 sophomore), and Mickayla Sheets (5 foot 3 sophomore).

Strand is looking forward to the season, and is excited to see who will fill the leadership roles.

“There will be adjustments that will need to be made, but we should have a successful season.” said Strand. “We have a great bunch of girls who work well together. They are excited for the season, and with competition for every spot, they know that they will not be able to let down.”

#### **Scrimmage Set**

The Lady Cats will have a scrimmage on Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. The Wildcats will be collecting items for the Rape and Domestic Abuse Center in North Platte. Those attending are asked to bring either paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, laundry detergent, dish soap, or conditioner.

### First Season Game

The Lady Cats' first game will be contested on Thursday, Aug. 30 against the Broncos of Wauneta-Palisade, 5 p.m. in Wauneta.

