



By Christy Sheets

Sports Writer

It was a battle for the Lady Cats in their season opener. They faced the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos in Wauneta on Thursday, Sept. 5. The Broncos were tough, but the Wildcat team refused to give up, and put up a great fight.

Unfortunately, the Broncos defeated the Lady Cats, but every set was a fight 20-25, 23-25, and 21-25.

In the first set the Lady Cats struggled to get something going. Youth and inexperience help feed the Wildcats' nervous tension.

As the set progressed, however, the Wildcats really seemed to settle down, and play with confidence. The Wildcats battled hard, but fell short in the first set 20 to 25.

In the second set, the Wildcats begin to show a renewed strength. The Lady Cats took the early lead, and tried not to let the Broncos build any momentum.

The set was once again a battle, but the Wildcats dug in their heels. Unfortunately, the Lady



Broncos pushed just hard enough to win the third set, 25 to 23.

The third set saw both teams ready to fight. They exchanged points back and forth, both teams refusing to let the ball hit the floor. It was then that the Lady Broncos began to find the chinks in the Lady Cats armor. The Wildcats tried to claw their way back into the set, but nothing would

go their way. The Lady Cats lost the third set of a tough battle 21 to 25.

The Broncos are a talented hard-hitting team who were determined to defend their home court, but the Lady Cats showed that they have a lot of talent, determination, and promise.

When asked about the match, Lady Cat coach Elizabeth Strand said, "It was a good start."

She added, "We will see Wauneta-Palisade many times, and we look forward to playing them again."

Leading the team offensively against Wauneta-Palisade was junior Hayley Storm with seven points, followed closely by senior Sara Hubbard (one ace) and freshman Maggie May, each with six points.

Senior Alexandria Lundvall (one ace) and freshman Myah McConnell (one ace) each had three points, junior Christina Daniels had two points, and senior Paige Aylward and junior Morgan Messersmith each had one point.

Leading the team with set assists was Lundvall with 12, and junior Mickayla Sheets with one.

Defensively, Daniels led the team with 12 kills and two blocks. Aylward had three kills, Hubbard and Storm both had two kills, and Sheets had one kill.

The Lady Cats traveled to Trenton to play in the Hitchcock County Triangular on Tuesday, Sept, 10. On Friday, Sept. 13, the Wildcats will travel to face the Paxton Tigers with JV starting at 5:30 p.m.