

By Christy Sheets

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The Wallace Wildcats competed in the Hitchcock County Triangular in Trenton on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Wallace vs. Perkins Co.

The Cats first opponent was the Plainsmen of Perkins County. The Cats stepped up and played well, and won their first match of the night in straight sets, 25-9, 25-20.

In the first set the Plainsmen struggled with nerves, and seemed to be lacking in communication. The Lady Cats took the early lead, and took advantage of the Plainsmen's struggle. The Wildcats won the first set 25-9.

The Wildcats started the set strong, but the Plainsmen rallied. The Plainsmen made some good plays, but really seemed to struggle to build any momentum, and the Lady Cats were relentless. Even though the second set was closer the Wildcats won the second set and the match 25-20.

Leading the team offensively against Perkins County was senior Alexandria Lundvall (three aces) with 12 points. Junior Christina Daniels (four aces) and senior Sara Hubbard (three aces) each had five points, freshman Myah McConnell (one ace) had four points, freshman Maggie May (one ace) had three points, and junior Hayley Storm had two points.

Leading the team with set assists were Lundvall with 10, McConnell with three, and Hubbard and May each with one.

Defensively, Daniels led the team with six kills and one block, followed closely by Storm with six kills. Hubbard had three kills, and senior Paige Aylward had two kills and one block.

Wallace vs. Hitchcock Co.

The Lady Cats then had to face the hard-hitting Hitchcock County Falcons. The Wildcats again stepped up, and defeated the Falcons in two sets 25-19, 25-19.

In the first set the Wildcats seemed energized after their recent win, but they struggled to really build any momentum. The Wildcats didn't give up and continued to battle and won the first set 25-19.

In the second set, the Falcons rallied back, forcing the Cats to take a time out to settle down. After the time out the Lady Cats seemed to build momentum as the Falcons struggled serving. The Lady Cats rallied to finish off the set and match 25-19.

Leading the team offensively against Hitchcock County was Lundvall with 10 points (five aces). May (three aces) had five points, Hubbard (three aces) had four points, Storm and McConnell each had three points (one ace), and Daniels (one ace) and junior Morgan Messersmith each had one point. Leading the team with set assists was Lundvall with 17, followed by McConnell with four.

Defensively, Daniels led the team with 12 kills and one block. Storm had three kills and one block, Hubbard had three kills and Aylward had two kills.

When asked about the triangular, coach Elizabeth Strand said, "It was a good team effort." She added, "Its always nice to get the first wins of the season. We know we have things to work on, but I'm very pleased with our start."

Wallace vs. Paxton

It was a real battle for the Lady Cats on Friday night, Sept. 13. The Wildcats traveled to Paxton to face the Tigers for their homecoming. The Tigers are always tough, but the Lady Cats rose to the challenge. After a well-fought battle the Lady Cats defeated the Tigers in four sets 26-24,

18-25, 26-24, and 25-15.



In the first set the Lady Cats started the match with unbridled determination. Their passing and communication were the best they have had all season. The Tigers are tough, and battled to take the lead. Coach Strand made a quick substitution to change the momentum, and Wildcats won a tough first set 26 to 24.

In the second set the Tigers struck first. The Tigers took the early lead, but the Cats started to build some momentum. They refused to let the Tigers simply take over, and they battled hard to stay in the set.

Unfortunately, the Tigers lead was too great, and they were able to close the set, 18-25.

The third set was a bit of a repeat of the first. The Tigers came roaring in, forcing the Wildcats to claw their way through. The Lady Cats worked hard to try to build momentum, but the Tigers were relentless. It was a close set, but the Cats struggled to take the lead. The Lady Cats won a close third set 26-24.

In the fourth set, the Wildcats struck first, and the Tigers seemed a bit deflated after losing two close sets. Emotions and frustration plagued the Tigers, who just couldn't find an answer for the Wildcats in the fourth set. The Wildcats were able to close the set and the match, 25-15.

The Wildcat team showed a lot of talent and promise, and really had their opponent on the ropes throughout most of the match. When asked about the match, Strand said, "The girls played well tonight against a solid Paxton squad."

Leading the cats defensively Friday night was Daniels with 27 kills and three blocks. Storm had six kills and four blocks, Aylward had three kills, Hubbard had two kills and one block, and Lundvall had one block.

Offensively, Storm (three aces) and Lundvall led the Cats each scoring 12 points, followed closely by McConnell (five aces) with 10 points. Daniels had eight points, and Hubbard (one ace) and May each had three points.

The Lady Cats traveled to Hayes Center to play in their varsity and junior varsity triangular on Tuesday, Sept. 17. The Cats faced Hayes Center and Dundy County.