

Volleyball takes on new Sectional

By Sophia Hignite
entertainment editor

The girls volleyball team with a rough start to the season is holding out hope for a great Sectional run now in the 3A class.

The team faces Bishop Chatard tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

“Against Bishop Chatard, we’re going to do okay. I think we’re going to improve and learn from our last games. We now know what and what not to do,” senior Karissa Harris, outside hitter, said.

There is always room improvement.

“Against Bishop Chatard, I think we will do okay. We definitely have been improving from our last games,” junior Victoria Ortman, outside hitter, said.

Motivating seniors can help.

“We have been working a lot at practice and just trying to build that team leadership and playing skills. We all have been working and preparing on that, and the seniors have been helping us with our skills,” freshman Kylie Sommers, middle hitter, said.

Watching their opponents play ahead of time can help the team know what they are going up against.

“That’s actually a team we haven’t really played before. They came to our tournament last year. I think that we could match up pretty well against them. I feel like we have pretty similar teams. We have different strengths and weaknesses,” Coach Zach Mackie said.

The key is pushing athletes to be their best.

“Based on who comes into the school each year, I feel like since last year they stoked up the roster pretty quickly, but I feel really good about our chances,” Mr. Mike Campbell, athletic director, said.

Nominating captains who encourage players to be their best.

“They’re always staying loud and keeping us motivated because at the end of the day that’s what they are nominated to do. They’re always talking during practices and games. At practices, they

3A Sectional 28

Location: Roncalli

Beech Grove

Indian Creek

Greenwood

New Palestine

Roncalli

Shelbyville

Rushville Consolidated

explain things we were confused about and never leave us hanging on instructions we might not understand,” sophomore Melisa Tefenlili said.

Being an underclassman can stir up different feelings.

“Coming in as a freshman, it’s been nerve wracking yet also exciting. Getting a feel of the high school sports. My sister is also on the team so it’s been fun being around her a lot,” Sommers said.

Harris looks forward to playing Whiteland.

“Our biggest competition would be Whiteland just because they’re on the same playing level as us and they’re right next to us. It’s always a good game to watch and play,” she said.

The most fun games to watch are the most competitive ones.

“Our biggest competition is definitely Whiteland because we are on the same playing level as them and it’s a rough game. There’s not one moment where everyone on the court isn’t giving it 110 percent,” Ortman said.

A team trying their hardest and not winning is not always a loss.

“I think our biggest competition is Franklin Community. We definitely try our hardest in those games. They’re so high in our competition and they’re so good and it makes us very nervous but it’s the best we have played all season because we are trying to get to their level,” Tefenlili said.

Rivalries can last as many years as needed.

“We just played Whiteland, and that was a tough game. I wish we could play them every game just because it’s always competitive. It doesn’t matter which year it is. I think that Whiteland is probably the big game for us,” Coach Mackie said.



Hailey Hargraves photo



Freshman Maddison Judge leaps for a kill against the Pioneers. The Woodmen lost to Mooresville, but Judge recorded three kills for the night. Ethan Lobb photo



The Lady Woodmen meet before the Senior Night matchup against Shelbyville. The Woodmen were led by seniors Karissa Harris, Isabelle Reynolds and Keyara Johnson. Madeline Nichols photo

Freshman Maddison Judge and senior Isabelle Reynolds block a Franklin hit. Although a point was saved, it was not enough to pull out a win. Hailey Hargraves photo

Managers lead from behind scenes

By Kinsley Clark
reporter

Being a manager for sports is one of the most important jobs on the team.

“They handle all the stuff that coaches need done but do not have time to do like laundry, filling up waters, getting sidelines set up on game days, going on the field during timeouts to make sure the players are hydrated and taken care of, quick tape ups, and so much more,” Mr. Chris Faulkens, assistant football coach, said.

Teams are lucky to have managers who carry so much responsibility.

“I love being a manager because I love seeing everyone interact with each other and seeing how the bud-

dies are so loved. What makes me a good manager is showing up to practice and supporting everyone even though I could not be a player,” sophomore Ruby Martin, unified flag football manager, said.

Being a manager is not just about busy work for the team or coaches; more often than not, managers are included as part of the team.

“My favorite part of being a manager is going to game days and FNL, Friday Night Lights. Everyone always has so much school spirit and cheering on our football team even if we are not doing the best,” junior Moriah Ellington, football manager, said.

Nearly every sport has managers. “I love being a volleyball manager because I could not be a player so I am

able to be on the sidelines and cheer on the team. Even though I am not a player on the team, they treat me like a part of the family and do a great job of including me. I love volleyball so I am so grateful for this chance to be a part of the team without playing in the games,” sophomore Gabriella Xochitecatl, volleyball manager, said.

Being a manager enables students to create friendships and memories, just like being members of the team.

“I have not been a manager for Unified Flag football for long, but I have loved every second of it. My favorite part of being a manager for unified is standing on the sidelines with everyone and cheering on everyone,” junior Ameera Hooks, manager, said.

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