

Eagles give all against Wallace

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Wildcats win D2-5 district.

NORTH PLATTE—In all her years involved with volleyball, Brady coach Lynne Johnson has never seen a high school set score past 30 points—until last week.

The Eagles pushed the first set of the D2-5 district final to a score of 33-31.

“I’m sure it was a fun set to watch as a fan,” Johnson said. “I think it was probably pretty fun to play too.”

But in the end, Johnson said her girls left everything they had on the floor and still came up short with a three-set loss to the undefeated Wildcats 33-31, 25-19, 25-13.

“If we had won that first set it would have been a huge momentum boost for us,” the coach said. “But with a loss like that, there’s a pretty big mountain to climb when you know you have to come back and win three sets.”

Brady started strong, taking a 5-1 lead to open the match. The Eagles held the advantage and pushed ahead 17-10.

Then with a Wallace sideout, 6-foot-2 middle hitter Makayla Gardner took over serving and led

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the Wildcats on a 7-0 run to go ahead 18-17.

The score went back and forth from there.

“We were serving aggressive,” Johnson said, “and that kept Wallace a little out of their system.”

Deflated after losing such a long, intense set, Johnson tried to keep her team fired up between sets.

“I told them to get some oxygen and some water because we still had a long way to go,” she said.

Wallace’s five-person defense kept Brady from scoring more points at the net, Johnson said.

“That’s just a lot harder to get past,” she said.

In the second set, Brady again started with a lead but

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