

Wildcats catch Brady off-guard

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Loss to Wallace puts record at 12-4

Brady volleyball coach Lynne Johnson would like to blame Brady's sub-par play against Wallace Friday night on homecoming distractions.

Unfortunately, she's not sure that was the cause of the Eagles' 17-25, 25-18, 18-25, 27-25, 15-11 loss to the Wildcats.

It was the first five-set match the Eagles have played this season.

"We didn't play as well as we could have and they played out of their minds," Johnson said of Wallace. "We were not precise, not on at all."

The loss wouldn't have been so difficult for Johnson to swallow had the Eagles not handled Wallace easily earlier in the week at a triangular there.

Brady beat Wallace 25-12, 25-18 on Sept. 25, as well as downing Maywood 25-13, 25-14.

"I did some substituting," Johnson said, "but I feel like I've got 11 or 12 girls I can put in the game and still play pretty level ball."

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But Friday night, passes fell short, sets weren't making it to the net and hits kept going out of bounds.

At the same time, Johnson said Wallace played a solid defensive game.

The biggest struggle, she said, is that no one has settled solidly into the right front position.

"We've got to find some consistency there," she said. "I think if we can do that, we might be able to settle into a rhythm."

No statistics were available.

The two wins and a loss move the Eagles to 12-4 on the year and with five matches in the seven days ahead, Johnson hopes the Eagles find a fix quickly.

After a Tuesday night triangular at Curtis, Brady will host state-rated and unbeaten North Platte St. Pat's on Thursday before traveling to Hayes Center Friday and hosting Arthur County Monday.

"We just have to take it one game at a time, not looking past anyone," Johnson said.

Thursday's head-to-head match with St. Pat's is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.