

Brady girls split in final regular-season matches

Written by Deb Egenberger
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ANSLEY—With all that has transpired over the past week affecting the students in Brady, volleyball seems quite insignificant, said Eagle coach Lynne Johnson.

“It certainly puts life in perspective for us all,” she said.

Two students and a parent were killed in an auto accident before school Thursday morning. Another parent was critically injured.

Preparing for D2-9 sub-district action has been difficult.

“There are so many emotions,” Johnson said. “And each of them is different. Corralling those emotions and focusing on volleyball might be what some of them need to do.”

Brady finished out its regular-season schedule on Oct. 23 with a triangular at Ansley.

“They’re a couple of good teams,” Johnson said of Class D-1’s No. 5-ranked Ansley-Litchfield (28-1) and Sandhills/Theford, which gave the Eagles a tough match in the conference finals.

The coach said her team started slow against the Knights in the first match of the triangular and fell behind early.

After losing the first set, Brady came back to get the victory 22-25, 25-23, 25-21.

The Eagles then pushed Ansley-Litchfield to the limit in the nightcap.

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The Warriors are a co-op team for the first time this fall with a core of good athletes back for Ansley playing with a bunch of solid youngsters returning for Litchfield.

“They’re good,” Johnson said. “Very good.”

But Brady (20-7) put up a solid fight against the top-notch team, pressing the Warriors to three long sets.

“We played well,” Johnson said. “It ended up being really good conditioning for us.”

Ansley-Litchfield defeated the Eagles 25-16, 18-25, 25-21.

Since the sub-district entries had already been made, the outcome of the match didn’t count in seeding, only in confidence.

“We were right with them the whole time,” Johnson said. “If they set their minds to it, we can play with just about anyone.”

After the emotional weekend and funeral on Tuesday for the boys killed in the accident, Johnson said she didn’t know where the girls’ focus might be for the D-2 sub-district at Gothenburg Tuesday night.

“We will do what we can do at the moment,” she said. “If we come out successful, that’s great. If not, it’s not the worst that could happen.”

The Eagles played Eustis-Farnam (14-10) in the first round. Bertrand, state-ranked at No. 8, faced Anslemo-Merna in the other half of the bracket.

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Complete results will be available in next week's issue of The Times.