

## Eagles title run clipped by BDS

Written by Austin Benson

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Things go downhill after 1st-set win.

Brady's volleyball season came to end in the first round of the state championship last Thursday against eventual state runner-up Bruning-Davenport/Shickley.

The Eagles jumped out to an early 1-0 lead beating BDS 25-16 in the first set but lost the next three 25-17, 25-12 and 25-16, ending Brady's season at 23-7

"In the first set we pretty much did everything well," head coach Lynne Johnson said. "We were getting the ball to our setters and they were sending it where it needed to be."

In the second set however, the Eagles play lacked precision and it cost them the set and the momentum.

The Eagles lost the set 25-17 and that was all the Eagles of BDS needed for fuel.

"Our offense fell apart," Johnson said. "The poor passing and setting led to us just hitting the ball over instead of putting it places and attacking with power."

Brady fought back the next two sets but couldn't quite get over the hump in either one losing 25-12 and 25-16.

Johnson said in the last two sets the girls weren't playing well and BDS did, which kept the

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momentum in their favor.

“We could’ve played with them but you can’t play bad against a team like that,” Johnson said.

She added that volleyball is not like other sports where momentum stops at the end of each quarter.



“Once a team has it, you have to take it back. You have to go all out to 25 points.”

With all that said, don’t take away the fact the Brady Eagles made it to the state tournament, again.

Johnson said the girls accomplished a lot this season with having to rebuild a right side and play girls where they hadn’t had experience.

That is what the Eagles netters lose, experience.

Valerie Most, Carissa Rayburn and Madison Elliott each have three state tournament appearances under their belt.

“Those girls were the core of our serve receive and passing,” Johnson said. “We are forced to rebuild that area for next year.”

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Fortunately for Johnson, she returns a 6-1 freshman in Tara Callahan, along with Josie Palmer who has played in three state tournaments and Autumn Hild.

“Next year’s team has two very good middles coming back with some younger kids coming up that will help make another run,” Johnson said.

Autumn Hild will be a good all around player, Johnson added, but it will be a challenge replacing seven rotating seniors.

Next year’s girls will have to mature more for us to make the best possible run, Johnson said.

“We have good possibilities.”

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