

Brady girls return loads of experience

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Eagles are quick and confident.

Brady volleyball coach Lynne Johnson might feel a bit of a deja vu this fall.

All but one player from last year's 21-9 Eagle team returns to the court this season.

The departure of graduate Tiffany Hoaglund leaves a bit of a hole in the net offense for the Eagles.

Johnson said experience gained last fall by young players will make it seem less like filling in and more like filling out.

"We don't have any one phenomenal player," Johnson said, "but we've got good, solid players with a ton of experience. That should make a difference on the court."

It also creates a new dynamic for the team.

"You will see a broader distribution of the ball at the net," the coach said. "Our setters will have to determine who is hot each game and get her the ball instead of always relying on one person."

That makes for a more effective team both offensively and defensively, the coach said. With multiple weapons, the Eagles have plenty of options.

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It's a tight-knit team, too, with girls who have learned to win together.

"I think they have tasted winning enough that they don't like losing at all," Johnson said. "They're not going to be complacent and they won't settle for just showing up. They want victory."

The Eagles are not an overall tall team but Johnson said they are quick and they are confident.

"They brought back an attitude," she said. "It's a good kind of attitude and it will be fun to see how they progress through the year."

BHS VOLLEYBALL	
Sept. 3	—at Maxwell, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	—at Hyannis, 6 p.m.
Sept. 8	—BRADY TRIANGULAR, 4 p.m.
Sept. 10	—Stapleton/McPherson County at Tryon, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	—at Callaway Tournament, TBA
Sept. 16	—at Arnold triangular, 6 p.m.
Sept. 18	—CALLAWAY, 4 p.m.
Sept. 24	—at Eustis-Farnam, 5 p.m.
Sept. 26	—BRADY BOOSTER TOURNAMENT, TBA
Sept. 28	—at Wallace Quad, 4 p.m.
Oct. 6	—at Medicine Valley triangular, 5 p.m.
Oct. 12	—at Arthur, 5 p.m.
Oct. 18	—SEM, 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 20-24	—Sandhills Conference at Thedford, TBA
Oct. 27	—at Ansley triangular, 5 p.m.
Oct. 30	—at Hitchcock County, 5 p.m.
Nov. 5	—D1-11 sub-district at North Platte, TBA

The Eagles finished second in the Sandhills Conference tournament last October, losing to state-ranked Sandhills/Thedford.

The Knights will be back to give Brady a challenge and moving up to D-1 gives the Eagles new opponents at the sub-district level.

Brady will compete in the D-1 11 sub-district this year against Eustis-Farnam, Maxwell, Medicine Valley and Stapleton/McPherson County.

"We can't worry about districts now," Johnson said. "We'll just take one game at a time."

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Brady opens the season at Maxwell Thursday beginning at 5:30 p.m. and then travels to Hyannis on Friday for a 6 p.m. matchup.

Most of the Eagles' games are on the road but Brady did take over the former Maxwell Booster tournament on Sept. 26, giving the Eagles a chance at home tournament play.

"This is a really good group of girls," Johnson said. "They should be fun to watch."

Members of the 2009 Brady volleyball team are (*denotes letter winners):

Senior—Danielle Guth-erless*, Megan Pfeifer*, Shaunna Scarrow*, Shelby Widick*.

Juniors—Kaiti Black*, Steph Finnell, Ashley Frederickson, Amanda Lunkwitz, Jessica Schrad*, Erin Smith, Taina Taullie, Natasha Walter.

Sophomores—Megan Polt*, Courtney Widick*.

Freshmen—Brittney Christophersen, Mikaela Eckholt, Haley Frederickson, Molly Hannon, Krystan Hood, Dakota Terry.