

Volleyball Team Takes Third at Midland Tourney

The 2004 Wildcat Varsity Volleyball team opened their season by traveling to Epworth to face the class 3A Bobcats. The Wildcats fell in 3 games 26-28, 12-25, and 8-25. The match started out fast, the first game went back and forth all the way to the end. Coach Doyle told his team that for the first match of the year they did a lot of good things. The girls played hard and showed improvements in a lot of areas. It was a good learning experience for the team, playing a school over twice their size, in their gym, and in front of a big crowd.

"It was the first varsity game experience for six of the girls, with only two returning senior letter winners and two other seniors who had varsity experience, I thought we showed a lot of heart and potential to improve and compete," commented Coach Drew.

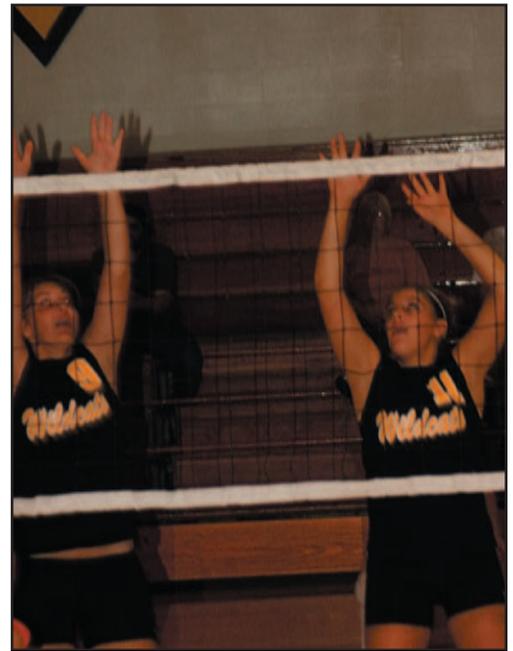
Offensively for the Wildcats, the team was led in kills by seniors. Shelia Wenthold and Kristen Evers both had six kills on 13/17 attacks, senior Michelle Boge and junior Krista Steger each had four kills on 8/11 attacks and sophomore Sarah Stelken

added three kills on 11/12 attacks. Evers and Wenthold led the team in serving with two aces each on 9/10 and 6/7 serves, respectively, and junior Amanda Nefzger added an ace on 12/13 serves. Senior Carrie Goldsmith led the team in setting with 12 assists on 41/44 sets.

Defensively, Boge led the team in digs with 7/9 playable, Wenthold added six on nine attempts, Evers had five on six attempts, Nefzger had four on seven attempts and Goldsmith had three on seven attempts. Junior Allison Evers led the team in blocks with one stuff. Wenthold led the team in serve receptions playable with 11/15, Nefzger had 10 of 16 playable, Boge had 9 of 11 playable, K. Evers and sophomore Jordan Gibbs had seven playable on 8 and 10 attempts.

Western Dubuque swept Fr/So and JV matches 2-0. The Wildcats got off to a good start and carried that momentum for the whole day. In their opener they defeated Springville 21-12 & 21-14.

Coach Doyle noted, "If we serve like we did against Springville with no er-



Allison Evers and Michelle Boge go up for a block. (photo by Pete Temple)

rors and 12 aces, we will be tough to beat."

In their second match against Maquoketa, the Cats continued their solid play defeating the Cardinals 23-21 & 21-19.

Coach Doyle stated, "although we played well, we had to come from behind in both games to get the win. It was good to see the girls handle the pressure. In their final match in pool, the girls again had to come through in the clutch after winning the first game 21-12 and lost the next one 11-21. In the final game the team picked it up and won it 18-16. In the Semifinals, the Cats faced the Eagles of Midland. In a close match throughout games 21-13 & 15-13."

"All in all we had a good day," stated Coach Doyle, "I told the girls that we played well and that we still have a lot of areas to improve on."

For the tournament, offensively the team was led in kills by Boge with 20, Evers had 15, Shelia Wenthold had 11, A. Evers had nine, Goldsmith had seven, and Stelken added six. Wenthold led the team in serving with 12 aces, Nefzger had nine, and Boge added six.

Defensively the team was led in digs by Nefzger with 26, Wenthold had 15, K. Evers had 14, Boge had 12, and Jordan Gibbs had seven. A. Evers led the team in blocks with four, K. Evers had three, Boge and Goldsmith each added two.

The Wildcats record for the season stands at 3-2. You can catch the Wildcats here in Delhi next Thursday against Springville.

Football: The Cats Have Heart

by Miranda Knake

The first game of the season for the Cats was a close one against Marion. The Wildcats struggled through the game and after a very competitive second half were defeated by only five points! The final score of the game was 29-24, Marion. Each team had 13 first downs last Friday night and the Wildcats had zero fumbles against Marion.

"Our football team showed us a lot Friday night," stated Coach Drew, "as a coach you never want to accept a loss, but these guys battled through a very exhausting and frustrating first half, then came back and competed very well in the second half."

Quarterback, Blake Humpal, racked in 40 passing yards for the Cats, also making two touch downs that evening. Jacob Bawek made one reception for nine yards scoring a touch down for the team. Robbie Mohr had two receptions for 13 yards and Travis Klostermann took the ball 18 yards in one pass. Mohr rushed 143 yards at the game and scored a touch down for the team. Following his lead was Nathan Burger who rushed 90 yards and made a touch down.

"Offensively, we moved the ball very well on the ground, racking up 227 rushing yards," commented Coach Drew. "Our passing game must improve at all positions, blocking, running routes, and decisions in throwing the ball. I thought our defensive

line was the most consistent group throughout the ball game. We must play better team defense, including tackling technique and gang tackling. We have to be more consistent on Special Teams as well. On one hand, they created a successful onside kick. On the other, at times we had very poor coverage on punts."

Talking about that consistent defensive team, leading the pack were Jake Norlin, Brian Wegmann and Klostermann, all making eight tackles. Right behind them were Casey Lechtenberg and Burger with seven tackles. Bawek added five tackles to the count and several players added four. They were Chad Ries, Neal Johnson, Mohr, and Humpal. Johnson also had one fumble recovery at the game. Jacob McDowell made three tackles against Marion and he was followed by Brian Sibel, Philip Roling, and Calvin Strum, all making two tackles. Lee Manson and Pete Ries each achieved one tackle and Ries also made a fumble recovery last Friday night.

I'd like to end with some final thoughts of Coach Drew's that sum up this game better than anything. "I am very proud of this football team. They showed mental toughness and a lot of heart."

The first home game for the Wildcats is tonight against Starmont! Fill the stands for our Cats!