

Lady Indians lose

By Nathan Fiala
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The Lady Indians' volleyball team hosted the Chase County Lady Longhorns and Dundy County Stratton Lady Tigers last Thursday, Sept. 20.

Against the Lady Longhorns from Imperial, Neb., Sainty lost in two sets, 25-13 both times. They were simply defeated by a better team.

Against the Lady Tigers from Benkelman, Sainty lost in two sets, 25-13 and 25-17. The Lady Indians fared better against the Lady Tigers, even taking the lead early in the first game thanks to a dump set by Clarice Neitzel and kill by Aly Schlepp. But errors allowed Dundy County Stratton to catch up and take the lead, which they never gave back.

The Lady Tigers took the lead early in the second set, and thanks to a serving ace by McKayla Taylor, Sainty took the lead at one point. But setting and hitting mistakes again plagued the team and allowed their opponent to create a comfortable lead that Sainty wasn't able to overcome.

"Overall, I think we played as well as we could against Chase County," Coach Talley Morrow said. "Many things went well for us, but we just couldn't come out on top of them. I feel that we are more 'level' with Dundy County, but our offense just isn't getting set up well enough for us to be able to score off attacks."

"We can't expect to win matches off of our opponents' mistakes, so it's time for us to make some changes in our lineup and try to get things working more in our direction," Coach Morrow said. "We have great personnel and some of us can do many things, but something isn't clicking right so I'm going to be installing some different options. We'll see if that can help us out."

Junior Varsity

The junior varsity squad had one win on the night, beating Dundy County Stratton in three matches 24-26, 25-18, 15-8. But the team lost to Chase County in two sets, 25-10 and 25-18.

"The young Lady Indians had a good outing tonight," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "We played a competitive set against Chase County and we got a win against Dundy County."

"The first set against Chase County started out very slowly for St. Francis," Coach Olofson said. "We have yet to find the recipe for preparing to play. Once the match starts to flow we usually play well



JUSTICE WILEY sets up for bump while teammate Laura Brunk looks on in last Thursday's home game.

but we give up too many early points to win.

"Chase County had several excellent servers and at times our serve receive was very good, other times we failed to get a good pass. Our serving continues to improve but we need to use the serve to disrupt our opponent's offense."

"The Dundy County match was the first JV victory this season," Coach Olofson said. "I was very proud of the young Lady Indians as they lost the first set and we

have had trouble getting refocused for the second set.

"We then played an excellent second and third set. Our serving was consistent and we passed as well as we have all season. This gave us the opportunity to attack and we did this repeatedly."

"It was nice to look across a net and see the other team scrambling and then sending us a free ball. Another positive tonight was that every team member contributed to the victory and they did a great job of helping each other when things were not going well."

"We only have a couple of weeks of competition left for the junior varsity so we need to work hard to improve our skills and become more competitive," Coach Olofson said.

The Lady Indians will play again on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Oberlin Invitational, starting at 9 a.m.

Indians lose close game to second-ranked Wray Eagles

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St. Francis lost a close football battle with the Wray Eagles on Greene Field on Friday night – the final score was 26-18.

The Indians scored first on a Mikey Leibbrandt run for 73-yards in the first two minutes of the game. The conversion attempt was denied.

Shortly after the Eagles took possession, a tackle by Thomas Douthit caused a fumble that was recovered by Zach Gienger. But Sainty was unable to break through Wray's defense and had to return possession shortly. Deep in their own territory, Wray relied on a strong passing game to move the ball down the field, but the Indian defense was able to keep them from scoring and forced them to punt.

Wray also proved themselves to be formidable defensively, forcing a fumble that St. Francis recovered, and also forcing a punt that was snapped over the punter's head. Wray recovered the ball on the Indian's 13-yard line. On offense, Wray took to the air again and soon scored. They kicked for the extra point and took the lead 7-6.

After regaining possession, Leibbrandt again had a big run that took the Indians to the 14-yard line, and Lane Hoffman ran into the end-zone with a quarterback keeper. The extra point was unsuccessful but the Indians again took the lead 12-7.

After an unsuccessful series by both teams that ended in a punt, the Eagles were able to gain some ground by taking to the air again, but the Indian defense was strong and able to regain possession on downs.

With one minute left in the first half and the ball in Indian possession, Dylan Wolaver broke free on a 91-yard sprint and was pulled down six yards from the goal line. Douthit got the ball closer to paydirt and Wolaver put it in the end zone. The conversion was stopped but Sainty had a good lead 18-7 with 18 seconds left in the half.

After the kickoff, Wray's passing game was sharp, covering a lot of ground and landing in the endzone again after two passes as the clock reached zero. The conversion failed and both teams ran into their locker rooms, the halftime score 18-13 for the Indians.

After the homecoming ceremonies, Sainty kicked to Wray to start the second half. Again relying heavily on their passing game, Wray approached the end zone but was unable to score when a fourth down pass went uncaught.

Most of the third quarter went scoreless, both teams gaining ground but were ultimately forced to punt. Wray was finally able to score late in the quarter, and took the lead 19-18.

Sainty was forced to punt again in the next series and Wray, despite mistakes, was able to advance the ball to the end zone



FOSTER GRANT runs for yardage in last Friday's game against the Wray Eagles.

Herald photos by Kristi Guthmiller

once again, but a holding penalty Wray again had a penalty to move the ball back even further and an incomplete pass allowed the Indians to take the ball back, but again on the next set of downs, the Indians were forced to punt.

Wray was able to advance the ball and scored again on a pass with 28 seconds left in the game. The extra point kick was good to make the score 26-18.

Short on time after the Wray kick, Clay Cassaw passed, only to have it intercepted. The game all but over, the Eagles ran down the clock. The final score 26-18.

"This week's game with Wray was our toughest opponent yet," Coach Kyle Buffington said. "We came out of the gate firing on all cylinders and basically won the first half. We allowed the top ranked Wray Eagles to go into halftime with some momentum scoring with just 11 seconds left before half. As the game continued on they just hung around long enough to win the game. We really played a pretty decent game. We once again hurt ourselves on a few plays that gave them a short field that they were able to get quick scores on the board."

"We are continuing to get better as the season goes on, however,"

Coach Buffington said. "We certainly have things to work on yet like being able to chew up the clock with our offense and getting a better handle on pass defense, but it is only a matter of time before we can start turning these tough games in our favor. I know these young men will continue to press on with the pride and passion in their hearts it's going to take to put themselves in a position to achieve a higher level of success."

Individual stats were: Mikey Leibbrandt with eight carries for 151 yards, one touchdown and one kickoff return for 10 yards. Dylan Wolaver with 13 carries for 124 yards and one touchdown. Thomas Douthit with 11 carries for 12 yards. Lane Hoffman with two carries for 12 yards and one touchdown. Clay Cassaw with two carries. Cade Bracelin had five punts for 117-yards total and four kickoffs for 160 yards total. Foster Grant had one kickoff return for 25 yards.

Team stats were: 291 total rushing yards, compared to Wray's 155. Sainty had zero passing yards, compared to Wray's 197. St. Francis had four first downs, compared to Wray's 13.

Sainty will host the Decatur Community Red Devils this Friday at 7 p.m.

Golfer ties for first at Colby Invitational

Kayla Bandel, St. Francis high school student, played in the Colby Invitational Girls' Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 17, tying for first place with Karly

Kriss of Colby. Bandel shot a 46 in nine holes. She plans to participate in the Syracuse Invitational Tournament on Sept. 27.

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