

# At the Game

## Sainty Ladies host quad; lost all four with close sets

By Nathan Fiala  
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The Lady Indians' volleyball team hosted a quad with Brunk, McKayla Taylor, Aly Schlepp and Justice Wiley to take the lead 8-5. More kills by Wiley and Ashlee Orth furthered Sainty's lead to 14-9. More work by Wiley and Brunk extended Sainty's lead to 17-10, but consecutive errors by Sainty and a strong kill by Dighton tied it up 21-all. The match continued back and fourth into extended play, with Sainty finally winning 30-28 on a Wiley kill.

Dighton quickly took the lead in the second game, taking a 10 point lead early on. Sainty caught up and cut the lead down to six points, but could not dig themselves out of the hole and the set ended 25-14.

Sainty then played the Hayes Center, Neb. Lady Cardinals. Sainty lost the first set 25-13 and played back in the second, but still lost 25-21. A string of eight errors set the Lady Indians behind early in the first set and were trailing the rest of the time. The second set was much closer. A kill by Laura Brunk let Sainty take the lead, but the Lady Cardinals quickly took it back with an ace serve. Work done by Echo Jones and Brunk let Sainty take the lead again 14-12, but errors allowed Hayes Center to take the lead again, and they never gave it back.

Before Sainty's third match, a drawing for funds to be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research was held as part of the teams' 'Dig for a Cure' event. The Lady Indians played

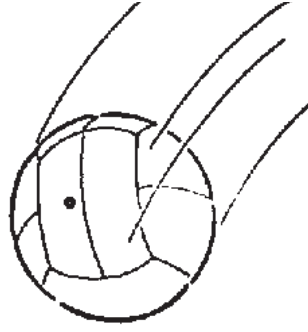
Dighton in their final match of the day. St. Francis started the game strong with kills by Brunk, McKayla Taylor, Aly Schlepp and Justice Wiley to take the lead 8-5. More kills by Wiley and Ashlee Orth furthered Sainty's lead to 14-9. More work by Wiley and Brunk extended Sainty's lead to 17-10, but consecutive errors by Sainty and a strong kill by Dighton tied it up 21-all. The match continued back and fourth into extended play, with Sainty finally winning 30-28 on a Wiley kill.

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Sainty jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the final set, including two ace serves by McKayla Taylor. The lead increased to six points when Dighton received a four-hits call, but Dighton cut it to 8-5 with three kills in a row. A Schlepp ace and kill increased Sainty's lead to 10-5, but errors allowed Dighton to catch up 11-10. Both teams battled back and forth for the rest of the game but lost in the end 25-22.

### Junior Varsity

The junior varsity Lady Indians first beat Holyoke in three sets, losing the first 25-8, but winning the next two 25-21 and 15-13. The team also won over Dighton in three sets, losing the first 25-21, and winning the next two 25-19 and 15-11.



"This was a very exciting day for the young Lady Indians," junior varsity coach Jeff Olofson said. "The first set against Holyoke was painful to watch. We played like we were half asleep. Holyoke did a good job of serving and we did a terrible job of passing. In the second and third sets our play improved dramatically and we served and passed well enough to win the match. Equally importantly the young ladies did not give up; they fought back after the ugly first set and played with passion."

"The Dighton match was competitive throughout and either team could have won any of the sets," Coach Olofson said. "Again our serving game was good and we played steady defense to get the win. The season is winding down for the junior varsity and it is good to see them improve their play and their understanding of the game."

The team will travel to Oakley on Saturday to participate in the Northwest Kansas League Tournament, beginning at 10 a.m.



SAINTY VOLLEYBALL players set themselves while waiting on the ball during last Saturday's match against the Holyoke Lady Dragons.  
Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

## Lady Indians volleyball team continues to struggle

By Nathan Fiala  
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The Lady Indians traveled to Oberlin on Saturday, Sept. 29 to compete in their Invitational volleyball tournament. Teams also competing in the tournament were Norton, Hoxie and Rawlins County.

Sainty was beaten by Norton in their first match of the day in two sets, 25-8 and 25-12.

Against Hoxie, Sainty started the game with the lead with an ace by Kyla Bandel, but Hoxie quickly took the lead and kept it the rest of the game, winning 25-16. In the second set, Hoxie took a 0-3 lead, but Sainty was able to take the lead 6-5 with help from McKayla Taylor and Aly Schlepp. The teams were tied for a little while until Hoxie took the lead 13-10 with a stuff. Sainty trailed the rest of the game, usually by just a point, and lost the set 25-23.

Decatur Community won over the Lady Indians in two sets, 25-

20 and 25-18.

In their final match of the day, Sainty lost to Rawlins County in three sets, Sainty taking the second set 25-19, but losing the first set 25-23 and the third 25-18.

Hoxie won all four of their matches and the tournament. Decatur Community came in second with a 3-1 record, Rawlins County was third with a 2-2 record, Norton was fourth with three losses and Sainty came in fifth place after losing all four matches.

### Junior Varsity

The junior varsity Lady Indians also lost all four matches on the day. They lost to Decatur Community 25-16 and 25-14, Hoxie 25-19 and 26-24, Norton 25-9 and 25-16, and Rawlins County 25-21 and 25-8.

"This was a very long day for the young Lady Indians," junior varsity coach Jeff Olofson said. "With the exception of the Hoxie match we played uninspired volleyball all

day. Against Decatur Community we made mental errors and missed serves. The Hoxie match was exciting but we were out played at crucial points in the sets. We were so close and I was proud of how they kept battling but it was not enough to win the match. The first set of the Norton match may have been as painful to watch as any set I have ever coached. We could not get anything to work and at one point I was not sure if we would break five points in a 25 point set. In the second set we played better but the damage was done to our confidence and Norton won. We immediately played Rawlins County and we did not recover."

"Tournaments have a way of revealing team weaknesses and our youth and inexperience were on full display on Saturday," Coach Olofson said. "The good news is that time allows for growth and they got a lot of playing time which will help in the future."

## Junior high volleyball wins

We had a great night of volleyball last Thursday against the Goodland junior high, winning both the A and B-team matches, Coach David Morrow said. Overall, we showed marked improvement from the last competition date in Hoxie.

The A-team is beginning to understand the 6-2 offense we've been working over the last several weeks. We still have a few kinks to work out with regard to getting our setters in the correct position every time, but they did a great job considering we're still somewhat new to the scheme. Hannah Bracelin started us off with a very nice kill in the first set. After that point, however, our difficulties in the offense and rotation started to give us fits. We were down at one point in the first set by five points. Our girls showed some toughness, however, in

coming back to win the set 25-23. In the second set, the ladies served much better and won easily by a set score of 25-17. For the entire match, the A-team served 73 percent. These girls have demonstrated that they are learning well and have the ability to create some excitement in the league tournament. They all do some things very well, and more experience will allow this team to develop nicely in the seasons to come.

For the first time this season, the B-team was able to put a lot of things together that we had been working on each day in practice. Most importantly, we were able to serve well! For the evening, we were successful with 75 percent of our serves, which is at least 40 percentage points better than we had been at any point this season. The girls have been working very

hard on serving in the last three weeks or so, and many of them are becoming very effective with their overhand serves. Reagan Beims was our best server of the night, serving 15 of 16 and 7 aces. Her effort in the second set really helped us to out-pace Goodland and win easily with a 25-13 score. Emily Dinkel also had her best serving night. But other girls also played well. Every player on the the B-team seemed to have their best in at least one phase of the game. It is very exciting to see these ladies play so well toward the end of the season.

The next competition for both squads will be in the league tournament next Tuesday. The B-team will be hosted in Sharon Springs and will begin at 9 a.m. The A-team will be traveling to Dighton; their start time will also be 9 a.m.

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