Mullen wins tournament championship.

The Brady volleyball team added a piece of hardware to the trophy case on Saturday, it just wasn't the piece they'd hoped.

The Eagles cruised through the first round and semi-finals in the first year of the eight-team Brady tournament to meet Mullen in the championship.

When the Eagles faced Mullen earlier this fall at Callaway, Brady came out on top.

This time, the Broncos prevailed to take the tournament title with a 25-17, 25-19 victory.

"We just weren't playing as well as we have been," said coach Lynne Johnson. "We had some kids in other activities earlier in the day and I think maybe the day wore on us a little."

That's not an excuse, she said, just a possible explanation for why the setters weren't as accurate and the serves were missing their mark.

"We had them frustrated last time," Johnson said of the 11-2 Broncos. "I think they were getting to us on Saturday."

Brady made it to the finals with straight-set wins over Arnold and Maxwell.

In the first round, the Eagles handled the Cardinals easily 25-7, 25-15.

In the semi-finals, Brady had a little tougher time but defeated Maxwell 25-21, 25-19.

“We were playing pretty well but not our best,” Johnson said.

After a 25-7, 25-19, 25-7 win over Eustis-Farnam earlier in the week, the Eagles move to 12-3 on the season.

Now Brady has a bit of a break in schedule as the Eagles won’t play again until they face Medicine Valley and Maywood at a triangular at Curtis on Tuesday.

TOURNEY RESULTS

First Round
Brady def. Arnold
25-7, 25-15
Maxwell def. Wauneta-Palisade
15-25, 25-24, 25-15
Mullen def. Anselmo-Merna
25-12, 25-19
SMC def. Eustis-Farnam
25-10, 25-7
Cambridge
E-F def. A-M
25-20, 25-21
W-P def. Arnold
25-21, 25-19
Semi-final
Brady def. Maxwell
25-21, 25-19
SMC def. Mullen
24-26, 25-15, 25-17
Third Place
Maxwell def. SMC
25-16, 27-25
Fifth Place
W-P def. E-F
25-25, 25-6, 25-20
Seventh Place
A-M def. Arnold
25-23, 25-19
Championship
Mullen def. Brady
25-17, 25-19

“The girls are ready to play games so this week off comes at a tough time,” Johnson said. “We just have to be a little more creative in practice and hope they’re ready to hit it hard again in a week.”

Johnson said she’d like the chance to play Mullen again.

“We could see them again in the (Sandhills) Conference tournament,” she said. “I guess you’d call that a grudge match.”

Individual statistics were not available.