

Season ends with stunning loss

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Maxwell defeats Brady in D1-11 final.

NORTH PLATTE—Brady volleyball coach Lynne Johnson can't minimize the success of a 21-7 season.

The record speaks for itself.

But the hopes and plans the Eagle girls had for the 2009 campaign ended abruptly in the sub-district final last week with a staggering straight-set loss to Maxwell 25-18, 25-23, 25-18.

"Maxwell came in well prepared," Johnson said. "They played much better than we did. It just wasn't happening on our side of the net."

The Eagles had multiple breakdowns especially in passing. Johnson said she hoped when Maxwell got two ace serves to start the match, the girls could gather themselves up and pull together.

"We've had struggles playing as a unit in the last few games," Johnson said. "It was magnified against Maxwell."

Each time it looked as though the Eagles were about to eliminate Maxwell's minimal lead, disaster would strike again in the form of a missed serve or blocked attack.

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Brady got within two points, down 17-15, and that's as close as the Eagles would come in the first set.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second set but the Eagles didn't let the score get away from them.

The score was tied at 12-12 and four more times including 23-23 before Maxwell closed out the second set on a kill by Kassi Schuett and a block from Maggie Burke.

The final set stayed close through a 5-5 tie before Maxwell blew open the score 13-5 and set the tone for the remainder of the match.

"For whatever reason, it just wasn't our night," Johnson said. "We can't change that now."

Unfortunately, Johnson said, the disappointing end to the year overshadowed the success throughout the season.

"At times we played really well," she said. "At other times we played well enough to win. I think a lot of expectations for this team this year hinged on the things that 'could' happen, not on the things that 'did' happen."

Individual statistics were not available.