Eagles handle Potter-Dix in district final.

Even when the sets became close, Brady's volleyball team was in complete control of Potter-Dix beating the Coyotes in straight games 25-17, 25-16 and 25-17. The Eagles advance to the D1 state volleyball tournament in Grand Island.

Valerie Most and Alexis Mann began the game serving strong and giving the Coyotes problems as the Eagles jumped out to a 20-3 lead.

The Coyotes came back scoring 10 straight points to get back into the game.

All the while, head coach Lynne Johnson smiled watching her team to send a message that she wasn't worried.

"I try and stay calm to keep them even keeled," Johnson said. "The more emotional swings girls have during the game, the more momentum swings that are likely to happen."

An overwhelmed Potter-Dix squad settled down and competed with Brady the next two sets but only led once in the second set, 9-8.

Brady had a two kills from Alexis Franzen and one from Tara Callahan and kept the lead for the remainder of the match.

“We made some errors in the second set but the girls kept their minds positive,” Johnson said. “Errors are going to happen and we’ve worked on moving to the next play all year.”

The Eagle netters again jumped ahead 7-1 and rolled to win the third set and secure a state berth.

Brady was led by Josie Palmer, Madison Elliott and Callahan with five kills each.

From the service line, Mann and Most combined for 33 serves and four aces.

Brady takes on a 28-3 Bruning-Davenport/Shickley team on Thursday at Grand Island Central Catholic High School with first serve at 6:30 p.m.

Johnson said the team knows BDS has a good outside hitter but she isn’t their only threat.

“The rest of the team is pretty good I’m sure or they wouldn’t be where they are at state,” Johnson said.

She noted that the Eagles will continue to work on their side of the net and have some defensive things to tune up before their first match.

“We need to make sure blocks are where they need to be and are higher,” Johnson said. “With their outside hitter, if you can’t stop her you have to slow her down with getting hands on balls.”

Johnson said the girls have experience at state which should calm the nerves a little bit.

“This team has quite a few girls that have played at state before,” Johnson said. “That should allow us to focus on the task at hand.”

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