

## Dragon volleyball ends 2009 season with one win, one loss

Written by Darci Tomky

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Holyoke Lady Dragon volleyball concluded its 2009 season with a win over Sedgwick County and a loss to Merino at the district volleyball tournament Friday, Oct. 30 at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling.

“I am proud of the way the girls fought throughout the day,” said coach Sandra Rahe. “We had moments of brilliance when everything was going well.”

HHS won their first game at districts, taking Sedgwick County in four games 25-10, 19-25, 25-19 and 25-20.

Dragon volleyball took on the Merino Rams in their second match at the district tournament Friday. They lost the first game 21-25, won the second 27-25 but could not find another win with 16-25 and 15-25 losses in the third and fourth games.

Rahe said she was hoping this team would have the experience of making it further than districts, but they unfortunately couldn't pull off the win against Merino. They just had too many hitting, serving and net call mistakes in the match, she said.

Even though the team will not be advancing to regionals, Rahe noted several areas the senior athletes excelled in during district action.

Setter Chasity Pelle did a great job of setting up and controlling the offense, she said. “She always had options and made good decisions on who to send the ball to.” Several HHS hitters had lots of kills in both matches with the assisted sets by Pelle. “Her leadership and work ethic will be missed next year,” said Rahe.

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HHS hitter Kendra Timm had a total of 31 kills in the two matches—each with four games—for an average of 3.9 kills per game.

Rahe added Marissa Smith also had a great day of hitting. “She used her speed well defensively and hustled after several balls.”

Nora Roth had a great day, according to Rahe, as she played very smart defensively and was able to read the defense and place the ball well.

She said Elise Nelson, Kimberly Peña and Megan Colglazier all did well in passing and covering the backcourt on defense. Colglazier also had several aces and serving points in the match against Sedgwick County.

For team stats with Sedgwick County, Kendra Timm had 28 attacks with 15 kills, 49 digs and 15 serve receives. Chasity Pelle totaled 23 serves for 14 points including four aces and 67 sets including 36 assists for kills. Marissa Smith had 23 hits including 10 kills, and Mallory Bennett had 12 assisted blocks.

In competition against the Rams, Timm had 29 attacks including 16 kills, 18 serves for 11 points with two aces, two solo blocks, eight assisted blocks, 19 digs and 18 serve receives. Smith had three ace serves, and Bennett had one solo block and six assisted blocks. Dragon setter Pelle had 38 assists for kills.