

## Lady Dragons not to be overlooked this year

Written by Darci Tomky

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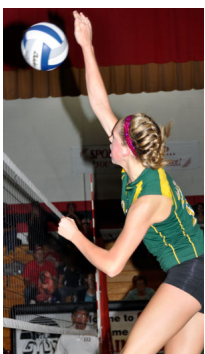
Lady Dragon volleyball players proved they are a force to be reckoned with when they grabbed two huge wins in their first games of the season.

Their heart and spirit took them to a win over Merino—something that hasn't been done by the Lady Dragons since 1994.

They won in three sets in the Tuesday, Sept. 4 game, scoring 25-22, 25-21 and 25-15.

For the first time in eight years, Holyoke beat Perkins County, taking the Grant, Neb. team down in four sets last Friday, Sept. 7. They won the first 28-26, lost the second 17-25 and came back to win the next two 25-20 and 25-16.

Coach Michelle Vieselmeyer was excited to get two wins under their belt. The first one felt great, and then the second one was even better, she said.



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### Maddie King nails a nice hit in Holyoke's win at Grant, Neb. last Friday.☐☐

#### —Enterprise photo

It was encouraging to her to see the girls fight for the win on the court in Merino. They struggled in the first set, trailing the Rams by nine points, but their determination brought them back for the win.

Coach Vieselmeyer said early on they took a time out, took a deep breath and shook out those first-game jitters. After that, they played better and were able to show Merino what they're really made of.

The second and third sets were similar to the first, with the Dragons fighting for the lead but coming out on top in the end.

Coach Vieselmeyer said the team has really great senior leadership and they all communicate and play well together.

In Grant, confidence was the key. "They were really confident going into it," said coach Vieselmeyer.

After an exciting JV game with a Dragon win over Perkins County, the varsity was pumped to take the court for their game.

They gave up the second set, but once they won the third, it gave them a confidence boost to easily win the final game.

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“It’s so encouraging to see them work together,” said coach Vieselmeyer. When one player does poorly, another player will step up their game to make the whole team better.

Looking to the upcoming schedule, she said, “I’m really excited about the future of the league standings.”

If the first games are any indication, this is a volleyball team that certainly shouldn’t be overlooked.

### **Dragons compete in Fort Morgan tournament**

It was a busy first week for the Lady Dragons. Following up their Merino and Perkins County games, they competed in a tournament in Fort Morgan Saturday, Sept. 8.

They lost the two games in their first pool. Holyoke was defeated by the 3A Brush team 15-25 and 20-25. They also fell to Mountain View, a 4A team, 17-25 and 9-25.

Coach Vieselmeyer said going into the tournament the girls knew they were going to have a tough battle. It was a little higher competition than they are used to.

The Lady Dragons ended up winning the consolation bracket, defeating Wray and Strasburg.

“There was no messing around on that one,” said coach Vieselmeyer, noting the team gained a ton of confidence.

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They beat Wray 25-13 and 25-23 and Strasburg 25-16 and 25-11.



**HHS seniors Erin Vieselmeyer, pictured at left, and Lindsay Helgoth are up for the successful block at Perkins County Friday night.□□**

**—Enterprise photo**

### **Stats reported**

The following are HHS stats for Merino, Brush and Mountain View, as reported on the website maxpreps.com.

In Merino, Maddie King led in attacks with six including four kills. King and Lindsay Helgoth led blocking, each with four solo blocks and three block assists.

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For Holyoke serving, Jacinda Krueger had seven serves including one ace. Ashley Humphreys led ball handling with 10 including four set assists for kills.

Erin Vieselmeyer and Helgoth both grabbed four digs, and King had six serve receive passes.

Playing Brush in the Fort Morgan tournament, King led Dragon attacks with eight hits including five kills. She also had three solo block and three block assists.

Erin Vieselmeyer and Krueger both nailed eight serves with one ace apiece. King led in digs and serve receives with three and six, respectively.

For tournament stats in the Mountain View match, King and Helgoth each took five hits including two kills apiece. King had the most blocks with three solo blocks and two block assists.

King served five times, landing one ace for the Dragons.

In passing, Krueger grabbed three digs, and she and King had five serve receives apiece.

## **JV and C teams play**

Holyoke junior varsity won both of their season openers last week. In Merino, they lost their first set 12-25, but they came back to win the next two 25-20 and 15-13.

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In Grant, JV won the first game 25-17, lost the second 20-25 and won the third 17-15.

HHS C team lost their first two games of the season. They fell to Merino 18-25 and 21-25 and to Grant 9-25 and 10-25.

### **Upcoming action**

Tuesday, Sept. 11, HHS traveled to Imperial, Neb. for games against Chase County. Results will be reported in next week's Enterprise.

Their first home match is set for Saturday, Sept. 15 with Wray at noon.

Tuesday, Sept. 18 the Lady Dragons head to Peetz for 4 p.m. games.

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