

# serving a new SET

With only three returning members, the Varsity Volleyball team relies heavily on underclassman

The last day of tryouts ended, and the three returning players – one senior, one junior and one sophomore – congratulated the seven new players on making the team.

All seven were new to varsity. “I stepped in a really big leadership role on the team,” senior Brittan Lee said. “Especially being one of the seniors on the court with other girls being injured, I had to step up and be the leader they needed.”

The varsity team faced challenges – a new group and one senior injured. This left older girls on the team helping out.

One of the other players – junior Payten Bush – had a concussion and a rolled ankle. She was out for about a week and missed two games of the season.

Lee and Maddie Romary were the only seniors on the court because the other senior – Alicia Jimenez – sprained her ankle after three weeks going into the season.

Practices meant the older girls had to help the new girls with ball handling and improve their communication skills. In addition, the older players had to organize lots

of team-bonding activities, like team dinners and team breakfasts and even team swim parties.

“They would pick different themes to do for practice,” coach Crystal Foss-Rampy said. “They would bond by talking about what they were gonna wear.”

The new sophomore – Maddie Telger – and all the new juniors Payten Bush, Claire Nash, Jessica Brown, Emma Bier and the new seniors Romary, Alicia Jimenez – felt part of the team.

“They were all super nice and they were very welcoming,” sophomore Maddie Telger said. “They were always encouraging to do the best you can.”

The girls’ win against SM South was their start to a strong season.

“Our win against Shawnee Mission West was a good win,” Foss-Rampy said. “Our win against Shawnee Mission South the second time we beat them already, but it was in three sets so that was nice.”

The varsity team played 30 matches and in three tournaments this season, and the girls won 10 of those games. | *story by nicole mendez*

**Taking the shot,** senior Brittan Lee hits a line shot from the outside. “In a volleyball game you can’t really be upset or you won’t play as well,” Lee said. “So we focus on having the best attitude.” | *photo by alexis kelly*



**Tipping around the block,** sophomore Maddie Telger tries to keep her opponent from getting the ball. Telger had been playing volleyball since she was in 6th grade. “I love feeling the improvement and knowing that I’m getting better,” Telger said. | *photo by alexis kelly*

**Preparing the ball,** junior Claire Nash sets the ball for her teammate. “I like the competitive part of games, as well as serving the ball,” Nash said. “I also like how much team bonding we have throughout the season.” | *photo by alexis kelly*



**After making the point,** junior Mia Olsen celebrates with her team after getting a kill. “My favorite part in the games is the excitement, getting kills like that make our energy get high,” Olsen said. “It gives us a higher chance of winning the games when our attitudes are positive.” | *photo by alexis kelly*