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DMS Volleyball Struggles In Win At Advance

MARCH 23RD 2012 BY UNKNOWN

DMS Volleyball Struggles In Win At Advance

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

ADVANCE - The Lady Bearcats continued their winning ways in a SCAA matchup against the Advance Hornets on Thursday night. The eighth grade squad went to three sets for the first time, but ultimately came out on top to stay a perfect 3-0 on the season.

The seventh graders were able to pick up a win in two easy sets. After a close 25-21 win in the first set, the Lady 'Cats pummeled the Hornets in a lopsided 25-4 second set.

In eighth grade action, the Lady 'Cats picked up a 25-17 win in the first set. Ashlyn Werneck and Julia Hahn both served seven points, and as a team, the Lady 'Cats only missed one serve. In the second set, the Lady Bearcats struggled from the service line, missing five serves in a two-point, 23-25 loss. Dexter's serving woes continued in the third set, but the Lady Bearcats were able to tough out a 25-21 victory to take the match.

Head coach Melissa Hahn was disappointed in her team's performance in the eighth grade contest, noting the game as the worst serving performance to date.

"[I was] disappointed in our serving. The eighth grade team missed a record-high 12 serves," Hahn said. "That was the biggest difference in the game and what kept us from ever gaining momentum. We lost the second set by two points. We missed 5 serves compared to Advance's one missed serve; that cost us the set."

"We would have some great plays then follow it up with a missed serve," Hahn continued. "Advance did a great job of picking up everything we hit over. They are a great defensive team. We pulled out the third set to win the game, but I was not pleased with my team's performance. It just wasn't the same team that was on the floor when we played Bernie."

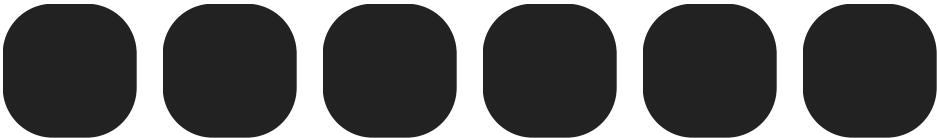
The seventh grade squad will be back in action on Saturday (March 23), when they compete in the Poplar Bluff Seventh Grade Tournament. The eighth grade squad will have a rematch with the Hornets on Monday, when they face off in the eighth grade only Bernie Tournament.

Photo Above:
Head coach Melissa Hahn (right) instructs Lexi May (No. 18) during the Lady Bearcats' preseason scrimmage at T.S. Hill Middle School. SMT File Photo by Andrew Cato

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By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

Despite wet courts early in the day, the Dexter Bearcats were able to play their season-opening match against Poplar Bluff on Thursday afternoon.

The Mules and Bearcats split the close match, with Poplar Bluff taking a 4-5 win on the Varsity level and DHS winning 7-6 in JV.

Kyle Willis, a junior, had one of the best Varsity singles matches, winning a 7-2 tie break to claim a 9-8 victory over Poplar Bluff's Dylan Page.

"Kyle came from being down 4-6 to win in a tie break," head coach Leanne Dooley said of her number three Varsity player.

Sam Ward, the Varsity number two, was able to pick up 8-2 wins in both his singles and doubles matches. After downing Cody Hillis and Devin Allison with doubles partner Tyler Miller, Ward again defeated Allison on his own.

In JV action, senior Dalton Putnam started off his tennis career with a 7-5 victory over Collin Gullett in singles. Brooks Propst picked up a dominating 6-1 victory over Poplar Bluff's Ethan Griffith.

The Bearcats will be back in action on Saturday, when they travel to Farmington for an all-day tournament.

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DMS Track Has Record-Setting Day

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DMS Track Has Record-Setting Day

The DMS Track team opened the season at East Prairie on Wednesday afternoon, and team members broke several records on the day. (From left) MaKayla Waldner, Melanie McKuin, Karaline Keirse and Dakota Reynolds broke the school record in the 4x100 and the 4x200 meter relays with the times of :56 and 1:58, respectively. Waldner also broke the school's triple jump record, which she set last season, with a 33'4" jump. Thanks to coach Kim Waldner for the photo!

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Bearcats Drop Close Contest At Kennett

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Bearcats Drop Close Contest At Kennett

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

KENNETT - The Kennett Indians played host to the Bearcats on Wednesday afternoon; the 'Cats put their 1-0 record on the line in their first District contest of the season, but ultimately fell short with a 4-3 Indian victory.

Jordan Miller took to the mound for the 'Cats, lasting 3 and 1/3 innings, with five K's, two walks, and one earned run. Head coach Brian Becker was pleased with his team's effort against the Tribe.

"I thought our pitchers did a good job. Jordan Miller went out there and got off to a very good start. He threw strikes, but got in a little bit of trouble in the fourth, so I put [Brad] Potts in. Brad was able to get a few strikeouts to get us out of the inning," Becker said. "The next inning, he struggled a little bit, so [Alex] Cliff came in the last inning. He got the first two outs, walked a guy, and then their number two hitter, Smith, hit a ball just down the third base line and a kid scored from first base - that sealed the deal for them there."

Potts, in one and 2/3 innings of work, struck out three, walked two, and gave up two earned runs. Cliff, who picked up the loss, walked one and gave up one earned run.

The Bearcats did an excellent job of keeping Adam Grantham in check at the plate; the senior has already signed to play for the NCAA Division I Arkansas State University Red Wolves next season.

"Grantham is a good ball player; we held him in check for the most part," Becker noted. "The only hit he had on us was against a drawn-in infield; they had a runner on third late in the game, and we had to draw our infield in with less than two outs. He snuck one up the middle for a base hit and an RBI."

The Bearcat offense was limited in the contest, with no players coming up with multiple hits at the plate. Becker credited the Tribe's pitching staff for the low production.

"Offensively, we're just not swinging the bat well right now. You have to credit a lot of that to Kennett's pitching; Lockhart started, threw the first three innings, and then Grantham came in for the final four," he said. "We were able to scratch a few runs off Grantham, but he's a great pitcher. D.J. [Dowdy] was able to come through with a base hit there in the second, and Overall put down a squeeze bunt to tie the game in the sixth, but we just never could push that final run across in the last two innings."

The Bearcats stand at 1-1 on the season heading into another District 1 matchup with Doniphan on Friday. Becker indicated junior Logan Northern would be on the mound for the Bearcats. First pitch is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.

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DHS Tennis Opens Season Thursday

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The DHS Tennis team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming season; the Bearcats advanced one player to State last season, and are extremely young in 2012.

Head coach Leanne Dooley noted the double-edged sword of youth on her squad; she doesn't have much experience coming back, but will only lose two players (one with no experience on the Varsity level) to graduation this year.

"I've got three experienced Varsity players returning; the bottom part of the Varsity will be kids that played JV last year and have little to no Varsity experience," Dooley said. "I only had two seniors last year, and we only have two seniors this year: Tyler Miller and Dalton Putnam, who played baseball until this year. I've got a couple juniors who are showing great promise; Kyle Willis played on varsity all season last year."

Miller, the lone returning senior and a 2011 State qualifier, is expected to be the Number One player this spring. Dooley noted that there was still some speculation on the team's doubles pairings for the year.

"Tyler will be my one, Sam Ward my two, and Kyle [Willis] my three; I don't see that changing," she said. "We haven't decided what we're going to do on doubles yet - three games out of the match have to be doubles, and I've only got one solid set of doubles in Tyler and Sam. It may not stay that way, and I might just let them play with who they want to play with. It will make them happier, but they won't win as much. We'll have to

wait and see - we have a long way to go and a short time to get there."

Dooley noted that two of the Bearcats'

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tougher opponents, Kennett and Charleston, were unable to field teams this season. The 'Cats have a nine day layoff in April, but were able to fill the other hole with an additional match against the Sikeston Bulldogs on May 1. The Bearcats also picked up Notre Dame as an annual opponent, after facing them twice last season.

"We picked up Notre Dame this year; we played them twice last year and beat them, but their program is just starting out," she said. "They have beautiful facilities and a wonderful coach, so they'll come along fast. I like going over there and playing - I like their coach and the way he teaches the game."

The Bearcats are set to open the 2012 season on Thursday (March 22) afternoon, when they host the Poplar Bluff Mules in a JV and Varsity match. Things are set to get underway with doubles matches at 4:00 p.m., and singles matches immediately following.

Click here to download the 2012 Tennis schedule.

Photos above:

Top: Tyler Miller returns a serve during practice on Monday afternoon. The senior looks to return to the MSHSAA State Tournament in 2012.

Bottom: Joseph Greer (left) and Dalton Putnam (right) learn proper technique from assistant coach Roy Dooley.

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