


By JEREMIAH WILSON

• Leader & Times

Liberal won their third straight match against rival Southwestern Heights in Kismet, Tuesday, to open the 2013 season. 

The Lady Skins were a bit slow at the start as Heights jumped out to an early lead in the first set. Liberal grabbed the momentum midway through the opening set though.

The Lady Skins outscored the Lady Mustangs 12-6 over the final 18 points of the set for a 25-19 win. Senior Jai Chapman and freshman Jada Mickens led Liberal with six kills each.

The second set was all Liberal, as the Lady Skins jumped out to an 11-7 lead early. Liberal rolled the rest of the way, and took the set 25-14

Chapman again lead the way for Liberal with four kills at the net. Junior Megan Besecker also had four kills. The Lady Skins recorded 10 aces as a team, including three by both Chapman and senior Katie Garcia.

Liberal's dominance of the match continued in the third set.

Heights tied the set at 6-6 early, and Liberal coach Thais Baziquetto-Allen called a timeout. The Lady Skins scored the next five points, and finished match off in three straight sets, by taking

the set, 25-14.

Liberal outscored the Lady Mustangs 19-8 following that time out.

Chapman led the Lady Skins with 14 kills, while Besecker added 11. Mickens chipped in with 10 kills, and led Liberal with a .714 hitting percentage in her first varsity match.

“Our serve receive killed us,” Heights coach Julie Tucker said. “We spend a ton of time on it, but we’ve got to spend more. I was very pleased with our effort most of the time. Even though the score doesn’t reflect it, we put up a good fight much of the time. We will spend a lot of time working on serve receive, and we’ll be a much better team next week.”

Liberal will be back in action on Thursday in Garden City, as they take on WAC teams Garden City and Great Bend.

The Lady Mustangs will host Ingalls, Stanton County and Satanta at 5 p.m. Tuesday night.