

Liberal wins 3 in 2 sets

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The more the Lady Redskins played Tuesday, the better the results.

Liberal swept the quad Tuesday, scoring victories over Colby, Guymon and Ulysses to move to 8-4.

The Lady Redskins stated the day with a 25-20, 25-15 win over Colby, and the Lady Redskins did not help themselves in the match with four straight faults on serves.

Despite the struggles, Liberal was able to play solid defense and get key sets, and the second chances allowed the Lady Redskins to prevent the Lady Eagles from making a serious run.

In Game 2, the Guymon Lady Tigers and Lady Redskins traded points early, but the Lady Redskins broke a 4-4 tie with a runaway in the first game in a dominating 25-11 win.

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In the second game of the set, The Lady Redskins almost prevented the Lady Tigers from reaching double digits. Liberal jumped out to an early lead, and Jai Chapman and Megan Besecker were able to convert solid sets into kills in the 25-10 win.

The final game of the night was perhaps the Lady Redskins' best performance of the day.

A solid Ulysses team challenged the Lady Redskins early and took a 7-6 lead. But the Lady Redskins responded with a run that gave them a 10-7 advantage. Liberal stretched the lead, but the Lady Tigers were able to string together five straight to make the match closer before the Lady Redskins put the match away late, 25-20.

In the second game of the set a strong string of serves by Besecker allowed the Lady Redskins to extend a lead midway through the set, and the momentum carried all the way through with a 25-12 win.

"I think our defense improved," Liberal coach Thais Baziquetto Allen said after the sweep. "It is something we focused on this year, new defensive players and proving that it is really big for us. We still need to move and read more, but the improvement is really good."

Liberal also has more weapons on the front line, which will not allow defenses to focus on Chapman.

"It's nice to have a lot of players on the front row that can put the shot down," Baziquetto Allen said. "If we had one person, it makes it easier on the defense. It is hard to figure out where the ball is going. That's an advantage we have."

Baziquetto Allen also wanted her team to be able to take free balls and convert them into kills.

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“We need to take more advantage of the free balls,” she said. “We need to put that ball away. Sometimes that ball won’t come back. We need to improve on that as a team.”

As the day progressed, Liberal’s serves improved, but Baziquetto Allen said it was something she planned to use as a focus at practice.

“In the first couple games, the scored were closer because we missed serves,” she said. “Then we get the serve back, get a couple, and then we serve out. You can’t come back when you can’t keep the ball in on their side. Two stretches we missed four serves in a row That can’t happen.”

Liberal will travel to Dodge City Thursday and return to The Big House for the Liberal Tournament Saturday.