

By ROY ALLEN

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All good things must come to an end, and unfortunately for the Seward County Lady Saints, their undefeated run to start the 2014 season did just that Friday afternoon in Vernon, Texas, as they fell 3-1 to the Jayhawk East's Fort Scott to drop their overall record to 5-1 on the early season.

After watching his team lose their first game of the 2014 season earlier in the afternoon, Seward County head coach Bert Luallen decided to let his youth loose on the Richland Thunderducks in the Lady Saints second match of the day, starting all five of his freshmen on the roster. The youth got the job done and more, hammering Dallas-based Richland 3-0 in a less-than-an-hour sweep and improved Seward to 6-1.

There was no hangover effect from their earlier loss when the Lady Saints took the court against Richland in the first set Friday night. Four different players recorded kills to push Seward out to an early 6-1 lead on the Thunderducks, and another kill later from Megan Sharratt put the Lady Saints up 10-2.

A kill from Alex Wood and an ace from Sharratt continued to build on Seward's lead, and they went up 17-4 before finally going on to win 25-10. Seward hit .650 as a team in the set, recording 13 kills without an error in 20 total attacks.

In the second set it was again all Lady Saints early against the struggling Thunderducks.

Two kills from Angelina Minor gave Seward a 6-2 lead, and the Lady Saints pushed their lead to 17-8 as Wood found the line on an attack. Back-to-back aces from Minor put Seward close to the win, and a block from Wood and Lindsey Schwab sealed the deal as the Lady Saints took the second 25-16.

Seward was right back at it in the third as they continued to hammer away at the Richland defense.

Two early kills from Taryn Bedore and two more from Minor gave the Lady Saints a quick 8-2 lead. Seward turned back to Wood in the middle of the set, and the Lady Saints freshman responded with four kills in six points to put them up double digits at 17-7, and after four aces from Sharratt the score was blown open to 22-7.

Richland never made a push, and the Lady Saints closed out the Thunderducks by a final score of 25-8 to sweep the match 3-0.

Sharratt had a big match for Seward, finishing with a season high 10 kills and five aces while hitting an even .500. Wood and Minor each finished with nine kills and the duo just missed double-doubles. Wood had a team best 14 digs and Minor nine digs. Bedore dished out a team-best 17 assists in the win while the lone sophomore to contribute for Seward was Nacole Miller who ended the match with 11 helpers.

Seward improved to 6-1 with the win while Richland remains in search of their first win of the season at 0-5.