

Volleyball takes one game off three-time defending champs

The Bulldogs split games with Winthrop and High Point

By Sarah Ingle
STAFF WRITER

The volleyball team lost their match against the Winthrop University Eagles on Oct. 7 with a score of 3-1.

They won their match against the High Point University Panthers on Oct. 8 with a score of 1-3.

In game one against the Eagles, Rose Butler, senior middle-blocker, made 10 kills and Elif Unlu, junior outside hitter, recorded 15.

In their game against the Panthers the Bulldogs made 11 team blocks.

"One of our goals going into Winthrop was to take a game off of them," said Julie Torbett, volleyball head coach. "That was a definite goal and we almost took two games off of them so we almost pushed it to five which would have been really nice."

The Bulldogs won the first game against the Eagles with a score of 28-30 but the Eagles won the next three.

"Even though we lost and we did not play our best I think that one of the highlights was that we saw that there is an ability to beat them," said Megan Murphy, senior defensive specialist. "The most encouraging part is that the team now knows that Winthrop is beatable and we can place third in conference."

The Eagles took game two 30-17, game three 30-28 and game four 30-19.

"Losing to the No. 1 team in the conference and three-time defending champions did not have a negative affect on the team's morale, we were the only team that has taken a game off of them at this point in conference," Torbett said. "We did that without one of our starters. We hate to lose, but in a lot of respects we look at it like we can beat them and that is really important for the team to have that mental confidence that any given night we can beat Winthrop because they are a very strong team."

The highlight of this match was winning the first game, according to Ashley Wrihtenberry, sophomore middle-blocker.

"They were not expecting it and it showed that we could play them," Wrihtenberry said. "A game is normally supposed to end at 30, but you must

win by two and this game kept going on and on and we finally pulled out the victory."

In their game against the Panthers, Butler reorded 10 kills, Allison Lambert, senior outside hitter, made five blocks and 11 kills.

Wrihtenberry made five blocks and 12 kills and Unlu recorded 10 digs and 19 kills.

The Bulldogs won the first game with a score of 19-30

they lost the second 30-28 and won the last two 37-39 and 22-30.

"The win against High Point was important to bounce back because we have lost two matches in a row which is the first time that that has happened all season," Torbett said.

The win against the Panthers got the team back to winning games in the conference, according to Wrihtenberry.

"It helped to get that winning feeling back," Wrihtenberry said. "On Saturday we stuck together as a team and the outcome was a win."

The team's mental state going into the two matches played a part in them losing to the Eagles and then winning against the Panthers, according to Murphy.

"It is also a different kind of mental thing, we felt more

pressure playing Winthrop even though the real pressure was playing against High Point," Murphy said. "I think that after losing two matches in a row from Coastal to Winthrop that going into High Point we were really determined to go in and get the win. I really think that we were looking more at the final outcome, seating in a conference tournament."

Getting the team chemistry

back is something the team needs to work on for the next game, according to Torbett.

"We have had a player out with injuries so I think that getting back the chemistry out on the court that we had prior to that injury is really going to be important for our next game" Torbett said.

The Bulldogs will play their next game against Liberty University Flames on Oct. 14.



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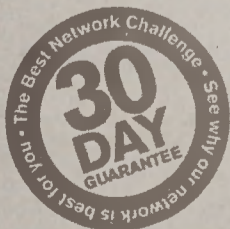


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