

Lady Pirates defeat Camden in conference match

SUSAN HARRIS

The Lady Pirates knew Camden had sizzling spikers, solid servers and soft-touch setters. They saw them all when the Lady Bruins defeated them 3-1 when the two teams met earlier in the season in Camden.

But last Thursday was Senior Day in Perquimans, the last home game of the regular season — and possibly the last ever in Pirate Country for three 12th graders. To mark the special day, the out-sized, out-numbered Lady Pirates pulled out a weapon of their own: dogged determination.

And with that, the home-standers took down Camden, 3-2 in a showdown that lasted over two hours and featured some of the best high school volleyball any fan will see in many a season.

"I knew they (Lady Pirates) had it in them," said Perquimans head coach Carolyn Rogers. "I just knew that they could beat them (Camden)."

The game plan Rogers designed for her squad was simple: Play together. Don't



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lady Pirates celebrate at mid-court after a nail-biting 3-2 win over visiting Camden last Thursday.

let the ball hit the floor. Make Camden make the mistakes. And, whatever happens, don't get down on yourselves.

Simple, but effective. The Lady Pirates took the first two games 25-19 and 25-19.

But Camden, until last week undefeated in the Albemarle Conference, is much too good a team to roll over and play dead. In what could have been the final game of the outing, they surged after a 16-all tie and pulled ahead 22-19 only to see Perquimans come

charging back with four straight. Camden had game point at 24-23 but a Cassie Noe kill tied it again. Camden scored the next point, and again Perquimans tied it on a bad serve. A floor-shaking Lady Bruin spike made it 26-25 Camden, but Perquimans' Shaqwita Copeland returned the favor and it was 26-26. Another kill, another Camden point, another Copeland kill, another Perquimans point and it's 27-27. A Lady Bruins kill, followed by a Perquimans miscue on the

game-point serve gave Camden a 29-27 win and forced a fourth game.

It was tied at 20 in game four before Camden got the serve on a kill, and then put over four straight for the win.

Camden scored the first three in the tie-breaker on Perquimans' mistakes before the Lady Pirates settled down and went up 7-4. The home team never trailed from there, although Camden cut the lead to one four times before Perquimans sealed it at 15-13.

"Sometimes I'm amazed at my girls, how they can come back," Rogers said. "We were hoping to get it in three ... I feel like my girls just played their hearts out."

Rogers said when Camden forced the fifth game, she told her team that everything was on the line.

"I told them, 'This is it. Whoever gets the jump is going to win.' And I told them to play smart," she said.

Keeping the girls loose and pumped up during the game was the football team. The squad slipped into their game jerseys after

their own practice and cheered for the Lady Pirates throughout the match.

Jenna Lassiter served for 15 points with eight kills, while Noe had a dozen kills and eight points. Heather Perry contributed seven points and eight kills; Brittany Jacot, 13 points; Copeland, 11 kills and three blocks; Candice Nixon, seven points; and Marina Morita, six points.

In addition to outstanding play at the net by Noe, Copeland and Perry, Lassiter, Jacot and Nixon were exceptionally sure-footed on defense and Morita played the full court at setter.

The win puts the two teams tied for first place in the Albemarle Conference as the season winds down.

The Lady Pirates also claimed a 2-0 junior varisty win (25-22, 25-16).

Perquimans jumped out to a 10-3 lead in game one before allowing the Lady Bruins back in, thanks in part to six bad serves. Perquimans would pull ahead, only to see Camden come within a point of a tie, before the Lady Pirates finished it off.

Game two was more of

the same, as Perquimans broke a 12-12 tie, then Stephanie Haase served five straight to go up 18-12. Camden pulled back within three at 19-26 before Perquimans broke the serve and Aerial Schelmeyer served the last five.

Kelsey Copeland served for nine; Schelmeyer, eight; Jordan Copeland, one with six kills; Haase, six; Allison Benton two with two kills; and Kelly Cartwright, two.

Perq. 3, Creswell 0

The Lady Pirates blew past an improved Creswell team 3-0 (25-9, 25-14, 25-8) on Oct. 4.

Jacot had a good day behind the service line, scoring 14 with a run of six in game one and seven in game two.

Noe finished with eight points, four kills and six assists; Lassiter, 11 points (six in a row in game three) and two kills; Perry, eight points and four kills; Morita, three points and six assists; Shaqwita Copeland, five kills; Kelsey Copeland, five points; and Candice Nixon, two points. Morita also had numerous digs in a sharp defensive performance.

Pirates drop homecoming contest

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Perquimans scored first and last, but Roanoke scored most as the Redskins handed the Pirates a 37-14 homecoming loss Monday night in Hertford.

The Pirates received the opening kickoff and capped a 68-yard drive with an Anthony Banks touchdown from the eight at the 4:02 mark. The kick failed.

Roanoke needed only six plays after the ensuing kickoff to go up 8-6.

Perquimans was forced to punt after a penalty and two incomplete passes left them with fourth-and-15.

Roanoke didn't fare much better on its next try, coughing up the ball to the Pirates' Bryan Moore.

Perquimans was again forced to punt after taking too much time on a long snap count on fourth-and-five.

Banks stopped Roanoke's drive with an interception, but Moore threw an interception three

plays later to give it back. The Redskins drove to the Pirates' two and used three time-outs before scoring as Perquimans' defense toughened. The conversion was good.

Another interception gave the ball back to the Redskins, but the Pirates' solid pass coverage kept Roanoke out of the end zone on the hail mary that ended the half.

The visitors added three touchdowns in the second half before Perquimans used a reverse to score Lamar Whidbee from the 17 with just four seconds left and Matt Perry posted the conversion.

Perquimans had chances to move the ball, but nine incomplete passes — catchable tosses, two interceptions and a fumble put them in a hole. The Pirates were inside the 20 twice in the second half, but couldn't punch it in.

Frank Terranova had a strong game on defense, recording a sack and blocking a PAT attempt.

Perry also stepped up, bulling through for 22 yards on six carries in a change from his usual offensive line blocking duties.

Jarmon Overton picked up 66 yards rushing and caught a 24-yard pass from Moore, while Banks added 44 yards.

Lady Tigers remain perfect on season

The Lady Tigers made it 8-0 with wins over Manteo in Dare County last week.

Perquimans claimed the first match 25-22, 25-19 and the second 25-19, 25-10.

Casey Dail served for 26 points during the matches.

"I thought Casey did a good job of placing her serves," said Lady Tigers

coach Kristie Thach. "She was able to find the holes and put the ball there."

Caitlin Sawyer added seven points and five kills and Quinyotta Pettaway, 10 points. Ali Winslow, Sabrina Noe and Hannah White provided solid defense.

Thatch said the team's success comes from teamwork.

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