

SAILORS TAME WOLVERINES IN THREE SETS

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Mapleton d Alsea:
25-18, 25-23, 25-13

Attack. Attack. Attack.

For the visiting Wolverines of Alsea, that must've been their view from the other side of the net against Mapleton Tuesday night as the Sailors went on to sweep the Wolverines in three straight sets.

"It felt really good after losing to them earlier this season," said sophomore Alexis Gierke, who had eight points and three aces Tuesday. "It got a little nervous in the second game when we fell behind, but everyone kept a positive attitude and we kept our pace."

After coming from behind to tie the game at 23 with a kill from Alyssa Richards, the freshman then gave Mapleton the lead on another hard-hit kill from the middle row.

Junior Jewel Roby finished off the Wolverines on the next serve with a thundering ace that went straight to the floor without any chance for the Wolverines to dig it up.

"The girls stayed focused and didn't get rattled," said coach Jesika Crook. "They are beginning to realize the importance of staying positive and focused, which is great to see."

Richards had 17 attacks, 13 kills, 10 digs and four aces. Hannah Rodet had 19 digs, one kill and an ace. Roby had 16 digs and four aces.

Mapleton has a bye Tuesday.



Mapleton's Gabrielle Gibney, Destiny Weber, Hayley Wells and assistant coach Jay Blake react after the Sailors' three-game sweep of Alsea Tuesday night.

NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



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Viks

from 1B

Thursday night.

The Bruins, winless in league, proved to be no challenge for Siuslaw, who scored 31 percent of its points from the service line, including 16 aces.

"Aggressive serving has been a real focus for us the second half of league," said Herring. "That, along with quicker sets to get ahead of their blocking came

together for us."

From the service line, senior setter Hannah Bartlett utilized the opportunity to engage her jump serve, which claimed six points on the serve and a pair of aces.

Junior outside hitter Claire Waggoner was especially effective off the serve, delivering 19 points and four aces against Brookings.

Siuslaw went on to sweep the Bruins quickly, 25-10, 25-12, 25-11.

The win keeps the Vikings in strong contention for second place as the regular season

comes to a close next week, beginning with a home stand Tuesday against Douglas, then a road game at North Bend.

In addition to being senior night on Tuesday, Siuslaw will also have a chance to avenge a loss to the Trojans earlier this season when they were at Douglas.

A win over the Trojans would almost assure them second place and a chance to host the first round of state 4A playoffs at the end of the month.

First serve for both of next week's games is at 6 p.m.

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View

from 1B

This week finds the Buckeyes on top of The Associated Press Top 25 Poll for the 101st time, tied with Oklahoma for the best ever.

Yes, there are other polls.

There's the Coaches Poll. The Coaches Poll is nothing but a council of sanctimonious former bench riders who call in plays until they don't. CNN somehow matters in their equation, so I'm already thinking it's suspect. Like I really care if Wolf Blitzer thinks Ball

State is displaying game control and might crack the top 20 this week if they try.

But I'd take the Coaches Poll over the alternative, that BCS Computer Robot Poll.

Computer polls are the definite worst. It's not that I'm against technology. I am, but it's not that ... it's just that I have scars. It seems like yesterday ... the Nut Swamp Elementary Science Fair.

There I was, a can of baking soda in hand, about to drop it into a glass of orange food-colored 7Up strategically hidden within a mound of clay made up to look like a mountain. It was to be a volcano, a glorious volcano. The teachers came over. It was to be my moment of triumph ... but no.

They stop next to my table and start to study Brad Mascott's display instead. Brad had a shoebox laid on its side, with the top converted into a keyboard. There was a slot cut on top of the box. "It's a computer," he announced.

"Ohhhh!" said the teachers.

They gave him the Best in Show. I cried foul. "He doesn't even have FOOD COLORING! OR BAKING SODA!"

But it was no use. Times had changed at Nut Swamp. Technology — in this case, an empty Reebok box — was here to stay. The volcano era was over.

Anyway, those polls are jokes. If you want a poll you can argue over, you need to leave it to the expert non-experts. Leave it to the AP Poll.

An old-fashioned poll, comprised of 65 full-time sports-writers and broadcasters who drove to the game in a forest-green GMC truck while smoking Swisher Sweets. Those are the guys you want picking a champion, believe me.

And that's the poll that says Ohio State has been the best, for the longest ... or at least since the FDR administration.

Say what you want about THE Ohio State University ... just make sure you talk about them like the winners they most often are.

Who can argue the facts?

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