

Lady Mustangs hold their own in district race

mark williams | staff reporter

Work in progress. That's how the lady Mustangs describe themselves as they continue to fight for the district title.

Although the team beat Austin last Friday in three straight sets, the young district season has yielded mixed results.

"We are playing very good volleyball," all-around player Arielle Mack said. "We do what we have to get a win. We're starting to look less like individuals and more like a team. That's what we were lacking in previous matches."

The team was tested early in the season when it traveled to Lubbock for the Frenship tournament. The girls came away with a win in the Silver bracket.

"We had so many obstacles to overcome," middle blocker Victoria Navarro said. "We played with heart and as a team. We were definitely overlooked and not taken seriously, but we proved just how powerful we are."

The Mustangs got off to a fast start in district action winning the first two matches against Irvin and Bowie, but lost some momentum when they were defeated by Chapin and El Paso High. The team has since rebounded with wins against Jefferson, Canutillo, Andress and Austin.

In a match the girls felt they should have won against Chapin, Mack said nerves were the problem.

"We either play our game or we overestimate them," Mack said. "We weren't as efficient as we could have been. We have a very well-rounded team and we are capable, but we just have to play the way we know we can."

The team is 21-10 overall and 6-2 in district. The team played Irvin last night, but the score was unavailable at press time.

With seven returnees, experience is not lacking, but what is lacking is consistency



As right-sider Marissa Castillo passes the ball to setter Olivia Zubia for a kill against El Paso High, teammates Savannah Marengo and Sunnie Feria get in position to score. The team lost to the Tigers in five sets. "It was an emotional roller coaster the whole time," Castillo said. "We fell apart in the end when we should have been trying to stay together." The team hosts Bowie Friday. The game starts at 6:30

according to head coach Connie Vaughan.

"All you can do is put one foot in front of the other and do as best you can," Vaughan said. "We let other teams dictate what they are going to do to us. We have to play the same every time we go out. If you don't execute your plays, there's nothing you can do because in the end you're playing a game."

Players agree that Chapin and El Paso High are the teams to beat, but defensive specialist Isabella Gonzales said that everyone is a rival.

"All the teams want the glory, but only one team wins," Gonzalez said. "We don't want to be just another average team, we want to be remembered at Burges. We are

determined, and as long as we play smart and with heart we can beat any team that we play."

The team is loaded with talent, according to team captain Olivia Zubia.

"When we play as a unit we're solid, but we tend to be too hard on ourselves," Zubia said. "We have to take it one game at a time and play as if it is our last. No game will be given to us. We just need to remain relaxed and focused."

The team hosts Bowie Friday.

"No game is going to be easy," Zubia said. "Our season has always been a work in progress, and we are working hard to improve because we can never be satisfied by anything less than success."



Wrestlers await new coaches

Members of the wrestling team continue to get ready for the season but without a coach or assistant coach.

After coaching for 17 years, Jeff Himelspace resigned head coaching duties in June. His assistant for the past 10 years, Jeremy Wolf also resigned. Both remain on campus as teachers.

"We can't get ahead now," junior Michael Dominguez said. "We've been going to other schools for open mat. We hope to get a coach before our season starts."

Principal Randall Woods said that will happen, as the application process closed Sept. 18. Interviews take place this week, and a new coach should be chosen by the end of the week.

Players vying for title




Now in his first full year coaching the tennis team, head coach Mark Gonzalez said that the team plans to advance to regionals.

The team beat the Jefferson Silver Foxes Friday 12-6.

The team is now 4-1 in district play.

"Everyone is the team to beat," Gonzalez said. "El Paso High is no longer our rival. With every team we look to go out and do our best."

The went up against Canutillo last night. The score was not available at press time.

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So, what's the question?	Isaac Ortiz-11 Golf	Elizama Montes- 11 Tennis	Seth Van Matre- 11 Cross Country
What do you love most about your sport?	"I love that it is a relatively easy-going sport, and that you can have fun playing with a group of people."	"I love being able to play with my friends, and I like the coaches because they try to keep everything fun."	"I love that it is the simplest yet most challenging sport there is."
What would you do if you won the lottery?	"I would drop out of school and travel the world. I would donate some of the money to charity."	"I would keep the amount I needed and donate the rest to kids who cannot afford college."	"I would put 92 percent in the bank, invest 4 percent, give my family 3 percent, and keep 1 percent for myself."
Who is your role model?	"My uncle. He grew up in poverty. He worked hard to become successful, so he could provide for his family."	"Mr. [Eric] Olszewski. He is very intelligent and he always tries to keep it real."	"My parents. They are the most loving, caring, and rational individuals I know."
