



HANDS UP HIGH Senior Kristin McDuffie and freshman Kaitlyn Cross block Sulphur Springs' attempt at a spike.

STARTING THE SEASON AT A DISADVANTAGE, PLAYERS ON VARSITY KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY TO MAKE IT TO PLAYOFFS AS IN RECENT YEARS

Walking into the indoor facility during two-a-day practices, seniors Chealsea Slider, Kristin McDuffie and Jessica Bilimek take their places on the court, seeing they now have six new teammates to fill the void from the previous year.

"Coming into this season I knew that we were going to have to step up and be the leaders," Chealsea said.

Filling these spots would be the upcoming talented, yet inexperienced freshmen. Even though pressure for these freshmen rose, they didn't let that scare them away or get them down.

"I wasn't nervous at all, but I felt inexperienced," freshman Treyaunna Rush said. "The seniors on the team knew what they were doing and knew where to go during the transition on and off the net."

The level of play between a varsity and junior high game overwhelmed some, but with time and hard work, the transition became easier.

"As the season progressed, everyone knew the court a little better," junior Skylar Huddleston said. "Our placement of the ball and knowing what to do and when to do it progressed."

After a tough season, the Lady Tigers fell short of the playoffs. They ended the season with a 5-9 record, but had grown as a team, which seemed more like a winning season than the record let show.

"From where we started this season we have improved tremendously," Kristin said. "We played good, just not good enough to make the playoffs." *spread by b. bledsoe and h. harrell*

one **LAST** time



CHEALSEA SLIDER, 12

Q: What will you miss the most after leaving this year behind?
A: I'll miss playing with such a great group of girls. Nothing can compare to all the memories I've made over the past few years.
Q: What was different about this season, separating it from other seasons?
A: This season, we didn't have the seniors that we depended on last year. We had a lot of freshmen and not a lot of varsity experience.



KRISTIN MCDUFFIE, 12

Q: What was the biggest difficulty for the team this season?
A: The hardest part of the season was trying to bond with our freshmen and getting them to try and be on our level.
Q: Which game this season was the most important win for the team?
A: Senior night was the most important because it meant something to the seniors since it was our last game.



JESSICA BILIMEK, 12

Q: What was the most meaningful bonding moment for the team this year?
A: On Kristin's birthday, we all stayed at her house for a sleepover and went to the haunted house.
Q: How do you think the team has progressed throughout the season?
A: Since we had so many young people, they kind of had to grow up a little bit and needed to step up. But as the season went on, they all got better.

GET SERVED

"The hardest part of being on varsity was the pressure of being a freshman. Every time I messed up, I felt like I was letting the whole team down."
 -Baylie Graves, 9



k. moreland



t. lewis

LOVE AT FIRST SPIKE

"To have a good spike, you need to have a good vertical jump," freshman Unique McBride said. "You have to know where the open spots are on the court, and you have to have the right mindset."

BIG BLOCKS "During the game against Hallsville, blocking was a big part in our defense in order to win the game," junior Takeba Dowden said.



k. moreland

JUST BUMP IT

Freshman Tirzah Bailey prepares to pass the ball to a teammate.

ACE ACE BABY In an attempt to get an ace, junior Keiuna Jackson readies herself to serve the ball.



all out all SEASON

Junior varsity, freshman teams work on developing skills



SLAM 'EM DOWN

Freshman Alyssa Higgins jumps with effort to block the ball.



r. lewis

AIR AFFAIR

Sophomore Starrdaya Randle tries to block the ball with help from freshman Shysha Williams.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD A good volleyball team has to have strong relationships with each other on and off the court to win games. "As the season progressed, our communication on the court improved," freshman Mia Wilson said. "We were no longer letting balls hit the floor. We had people going after everything."



t. lewis



m. brandon

SETTING GOALS "The setter gets every second ball," senior Chealsea Slider said. "If they get a bad pass, the setter has to get the ball under control for the hitter to get a kill."



s. vaughn

IT'S GOING DOWN "It is very important to block because if we don't have a block, then our defense doesn't know what to do or where to go," freshman Treyaunna Rush said.