

THREE TWO ONE



THE LIBERO

Blair Smith

With perfect form, junior Blair Smith aims to serve the ball over the net. "I have a special routine for when I go back to serve," she said. (THurst)



1 In the middle of the home game against Atlanta, senior Brette Wacha goes up for a hit, gaining a point for the Lady Hawks. "Senior night was bittersweet, so when I got on the court I played just like it was any other game," Brette said. "Taking the win and killing Atlanta in three sets at my last home game was amazing." (KGlover) 2 Dropping to her knees, freshman Macey Adams saves a point during a JV home game against Atlanta helping to move her up to varsity later in the season. "I missed JV at times because of the playing time that I got, but I appreciate the experience I got working with the varsity players," Macey said. (THurst)

Three girls, two teams, and one game that would change everything

When the season started, the thought of sobbing on the sidelines after the third round of playoffs wasn't something seniors Faith Lipham, Carley Barrett and Brette Wacha expected to be doing.

But there they were on the court, crying, hugging, and taking in the thought of playing their last volleyball game together.

It took a while to sink in that the season was over.

"It was my turn to set and when I turned around, Blair and the others were already crying," Faith said. "It didn't upset me at first. It made me mad that they had given up, but it was the last point and then I realized that there was nothing we could do."

After finishing second in district and making the playoffs for more than 20 years in a row, things

changed for the team.

"We weren't expecting to go to playoffs because of our rough preseason," Brette said. "But when we made it to the first round, we all decided that we needed to get it together and put in our best effort."

Before the season began, the three seniors weren't even sure they were going to play their last year of high school. But they had played passionately and intensely for six years in a row and it had become something they were expected to do, something they wanted to finish. There was no point to not playing their senior year.

"Playing volleyball was a routine for me," Carley said. "Quitting something that had become a big part of my life didn't seem like something that I could easily do."

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Playing all the way around is challenging because I get tired at times, but I love it."

Britton Anderson (10)

3 Before the game, Coach Army Collvins recognizes her three senior players, Brette Wacha, Carley Barrett, and Faith Lipham during Senior Night activities at the last home volleyball game. "I choke up a little bit when I think about them leaving. They've been a huge part of my life for seven years," Coach Collvins said. (AClark) 4 In a close game, seniors Brette Wacha and Carley Barrett, and junior Anna Miller cover sophomore Britton Anderson to keep Liberty Eylau's hitter from scoring a point. "Normally I'm not scared to set the ball, but it was a really close game and L.E. had a really good hitter that intimidated me," Britton said. "When I went up to set or hit, I was really cautious because I didn't want her to make a kill that could've helped them win the game." The Lady Hawks won the game in five sets. (KMccorkle)