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CLASS 5A OSAA VOLLEYBALL STATE PLAYOFFS

Bucks excel under pressure

Pendleton knocks off Marshfield to get to field of eight

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Kate Bostwick leaps into the middle of her Lady Buckaroos teammates Saturday night, Nov. 3, 2007, after winning a playoff round in Coos Bay against the Marshfield Pirates. Pendleton won the series 3-1 in Pirate Palace. *Photo by Lou Sennick for the East Oregonian*

Playing what head coach Dave Baty called a pressure game, the Pendleton High School girls' volleyball team advanced to the 'Elite Eight' with a 3-1 victory over favored Marshfield High School last night in Coos Bay.

"We are not a tall team, but we play with a lot of heart and the girls never quit," Baty said. "We knew we had to put the pressure on them if we were to have any success. We did and now we go to Portland."

Pressure and some nervousness is what the Pirates must have been feeling in the opening game as they allowed the Bucks to open up a 10-2 lead.

Baty's tactic of putting on the pressure forced Marshfield into several miss-hits and position errors and the dominance of the Bucks' frontline put Marshfield in a 16-7 hole.

The deficit proved to be too much despite a brief rally, and the Bucks came away winners.

The second game was almost a mirror image of the first, but with the roles reversed as the Bucks lost focus, according to Baty.

"This is a young team (six sophomores) and it was a case of losing our poise," Baty said. "So before the third game, I told them that it's time for us to play power volleyball all the way."

Junior Kate Bostwick agreed with her coach that the second game was less than stellar for the team.

"That was pretty unusual for us. We've been pretty consistent all year," she said. "I think we got a little overwhelmed with winning the first game, but we bounced back and it was amazing."

After the 15-25 loss in the second game, the Bucks battled back and forth with a stubborn Pirate team that stayed close even leading at one point 12-11.

Then the Bucks put the game away with a 14-2 run due in part to a series of key kills by Mackenzie Gundlach and Bostwick along with more unforced errors by the Pirates.

The fourth and deciding game started with a pair of serving aces by sophomore Kayla Stewart and several key digs by senior Shanna Treloar.

"Shanna is the best libero I've ever seen," Baty said. "I think she's the best in the state. She was everywhere on the court and nothing got by her."

Baty also paid tribute to his only other senior Shasta Vogler who had only one setting error in 78 chances for the match.

"I really have to say that both of my seniors have really helped pull his team together," Baty said. "The younger kids look up to them and they really are great role models for them."

The match game also featured a 13-2 run, with Bostwick's back-to-back kills serving to nail the Marshfield lid shut.

"This is the most fun we've had all season," an excited Traloar said. "It was definitely worth the trip."

As his team heads for Portland next weekend, Baty said he likes their chances.

"This has been the most fun team to coach and I think we still have things we can accomplish," Baty said. "Even without this win tonight, we've had a great season. They're fun to watch."

Jack Carrerow is a reporter for the Coos Bay World.

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