

Powerful Tigers too much for Lady Blue Jays

Written by Jim Metcalfe

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By JIM METCALFE

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DELPHOS — The Midwest Athletic Conference is a powerful volleyball league.

Just ask St. John's.

The Lady Blue Jays saw it with their own eyes as the power-hitting Versailles crew gave them a 25-9, 25-5, 25-8 beatdown Thursday on Senior Night at Robert A. Arnzen Gymnasium.

Three Lady Blue Jays played their last match at Arnzen Gym: Kaylie Youngpeter (9 digs), Brittney Claypool (9 digs) and Alicia Buettner (4 kills).

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"These are three great girls; they have worked hard and showed a lot of determination and dedication throughout the year," Jays' coach Carolyn Dammeyer noted. "We could have rolled over from the start against a team like this but we played great defense; we were scrappy and never quit. I am so proud of the girls for showing great character."

The Tigers (20-2, 8-1) had simply too much firepower for the Blue Jays (4-15, 0-9).

"It was nice for us to get some other girls in there and get into good form for the tournament," Versailles coach Karla Frilling explained. "We run some different sets, like a 3-option offense, and when we have the ball control we did tonight, we can run it well."

It started from the opening volley and never let up. Though the Blue Jays tried to slow down and dig up the attacks of Versailles, the Tigers were regularly putting them down. Set one culminated on a kill by Brett Bey.

The Tigers built an early 5-2 lead on a bash by Amanda Winner (11 kills, 3 aces). After Alicia Buettner put down a kill of her own, a stuff from Christa Putthoff gave the serve to Kristin Langston (8 aces, 8 digs). After she put in three of those aces, Taylor Winner (9 kills) had three stuffs and Lauren Bruns five kills, including a pair of bombs, one of those bombs gave the visitors a 20-4 edge. A kill by Claypool broke the 15-point run but the Tigers easily put away the set on a hit out of bounds by the Blue and Gold.

The third set was very much like its predecessor. A stuff by Blue Jay junior Bekah Fischer (3 kills) made it 4-3, Versailles, but an off-speed kill by Bruns gave the serve to Langston once more. Three kills by Bruns (15 kills) and three aces keyed a 10-0 run to put the visitors up 14-3. A hitting error broke that spurt but it was only a matter of time as the hard-hitting Tigers finished the sweep on a hitting mistake by the Jays.

"Versailles is a fantastic volleyball team; they have so many weapons," Dammeyer added. "I know they took Marion Local to five sets the first week of the season but what I saw tonight, I think they are the better team right now. We played a great match against a fantastic team; they are just that good."

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Versailles also won the junior varsity match 25-6, 25-8.

Jessica Geise led the hosts with 14 digs and five kills and Colleen Schulte had nine digs and 12 assists.

St. John's opens Division IV sectional action at Elida Thursday versus Perry at 7:30 p.m.
Versailles plays in Division III action Thursday.