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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



PHOTOS BY JILL NANCE/THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Brookville's Carsen Baldree goes up for a spike during Thursday night's non-district victory over Altavista at Brookville High School.

Building blocks

Brookville downs perennial power Altavista

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BROOKVILLE 3, ALTAVISTA 1
Non-district

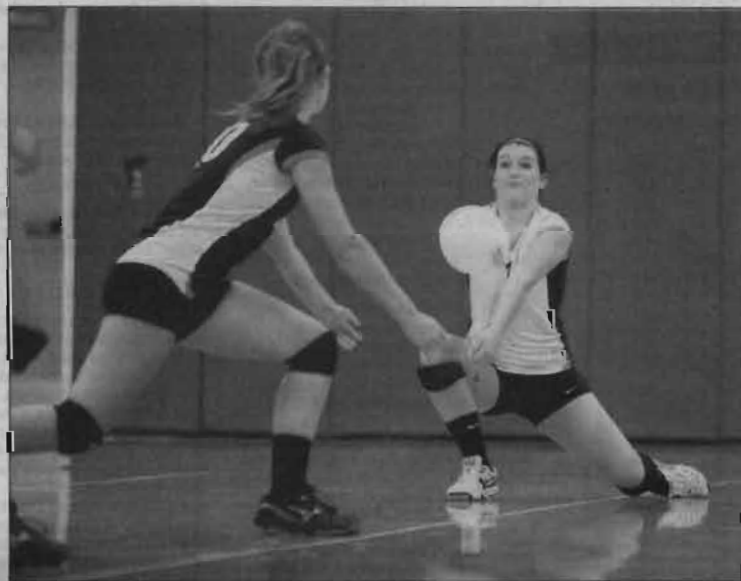
Putting up an effective block against Altavista junior outside hitter Sydney Morris is no easy task.

She led the Colonels to the Group A, Division 1, state final last year and was unstoppable at times in Thursday night's contest at Campbell County ri-

val Brookville, finishing with a match-high 16 kills.

But the Bees (2-0) found a way to take Morris out of her game in the end, with senior right-side hitter Kaily Weiss posting 10 blocks to equal her

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Brookville's Ryan Hedgpeth bumps the ball in Thursday's match.

Blocks

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10 kills and Carsen Baldree and Kelsey Lester adding six blocks apiece in a 25-17, 15-25, 25-23, 25-14 victory.

"We got like three blocks and they got 30," said Altavista coach Debra Spencer, whose team fell to 1-1 after sweeping Rustburg on Tuesday. "They scored quite a few points [off of blocks] and in our book, they're momentum points. You get to stuff block somebody, that's a big point and they got quite a few of those today."

Brookville coach Ashley Wilson helped her players overcome their early tentativeness and learn to go up for blocks with confidence, turning a defensive play into

one of their best weapons.

"I talked to the blockers all night long," Wilson said. "They were getting a lot of touches, but they weren't strong enough on the net to keep [Morris] from scoring. When they finally penetrated and really got a hand in her face, it worked. My blockers did a nice job. They were a big turning point for the match."

After the Bees controlled the first game, when outside hitter Jordan Pfau recorded five of her 11 kills, and the Colonels dominated the second, taking an early 13-3 advantage and cruising, Game 3 — which teetered back and forth with 13 ties — proved pivotal.

Brookville setter Leah Porter (28 assists) set backward for Weiss who spiked a kill

that tied the game for the last time at 23 before Colonels setter Allison Mabry (32 assists) set up Morris on the left side. However, Weiss put up a solid block for a stuff kill and, following an Altavista timeout, Morris hit a low set into the net on game point.

"We just had to get back and be loud and try to get back into our method and how we run our court," said Weiss, the Bees' only senior. "We had to come together as a team and that's what we really do best because ... we're young in some ways, but we play really well together."

The momentum shifted completely in Brookville's favor for Game 4.

"After that, we stopped playing," Spencer said.

"That's frustrating. We're the team that's down at that point. We're the one that's got to come out with that intensity and we didn't do it. Brookville did. They got beat in Game 2 and they came back and they came out in [Game] 4 with more intensity than us and that's why they won."

She said the Colonels failed to work their way around the Bees' blocks.

"They blocked well, but we didn't pass well," Spencer said.

"If you pass a little bit better, play defense a little bit better, then you can move the ball around a little bit more, but we didn't do it. We didn't come out mentally ready to play and a good team will pound you and that's what they did."