

Lady Rebels Serve it up

By RYAN ANDERSON
The Baytown Sun

BAYTOWN - With only three players on this year's Lee College volleyball team returning from last year, head coach Tracie Johnson figured the team needed a little warm-up before heading into district play.

So, Johnson thought, "what better way to see how her rebels will stack up against their junior college foes than to play the Houston Baptist University Huskies Tuesday night in a preseason match-up."

Playing in their first competitive match of the season the Rebels held their own against the NAIA national runner-up Huskies before falling three games to two.

"We did some wonderful things and some things that we need to work on," Johnson said. "This really gives us a good idea of what we need to work on before the regular season starts. I couldn't have asked for a better opponent to play in a preseason match than HBU."

Johnson ranked hitting errors as the main area that needs improvement.

"We killed ourselves with missed hits," Johnson said. "When you hit as many balls out as we did tonight you don't have a prayer of winning. Not to take anything away from HBU, but we just can't afford to make so many errors."

While hitting errors proved to be the weak spot for the Lady Rebels, there were several areas where everything seemed to click.

"The hitting was good, the passing was good, and the serving was good," Johnson said. "We still have some work to do, but at least now we know what areas we need to practice."

After starting sluggish in game one and falling 30-17 to the Huskies, the Lady Rebels hit the court on a mission in game two, amassing seven unanswered points to start the match. The Huskies could never cut the lead to fewer than six points as the Lady Rebels rolled to a 30-16 victory.

Game three showed more Lee College dominance as Kati Brett and Andi Bishop each had an ace in the 30-19 Lacy Rebel win.

The momentum shifted in game four as the Huskies rolled to a 30-10 victory to knot the match at 2-2 forcing a decisive fifth game. The Huskies prevailed 15-10 in game five to claim the match.

Defensively, Iulia Porumbescu paced the Lee College hitters with 14 kills.

Jessi Hollums and Sarah Clancy had 13 and eight kills, respectively.

Setter Andi Bishop had 44 assists. Porumbescu and Nancy Wataka paced the Lady Rebels with 12 digs each with Hollums and Bishop adding nine and eight digs.

The Lady Rebels will officially kick off the 2003 campaign in the Navarro Tournament when they play Navarro at 1 p.m. Friday.