

# Lady Rebels Sophomore 'Setting' School Records

By Ryan Anderson  
Baytown Sun

BAYTOWN - After leading the nation in assists and breaking a couple of school records last year, one might wonder what La Porte High School grad, Tami Harvey, has left to accomplish during her sophomore campaign with the Lee College Lady Rebels volleyball team.

That's easy, says the 5'10" setter, take care of some unfinished business by winning the national volleyball title.

"My first goal for the season was going to be improving our record from last year (47-1), and when that didn't happen it was a real let down," Harvey said. "After we lost for the first time, I got some good words from my teammate Brandi (Brisnahan). She reminded me that last year Miami-Dade didn't have a perfect record and they won the title. So it doesn't matter what our record is, we can still go in there and win first place and that is my biggest goal for the season."

During her freshmen campaign, Harvey set single season records for most assists (1,940), assists per game (12.68), and assist percentage (.494). Harvey also ranks fifth in career assists with 1,940. Heading into her sophomore season Harvey was just 574 assists away from first place. Harvey is also ranked ninth in most service aces with 89.

"Tami is a great competitor and setter," said Tracie Johnson, Lady Rebels head coach. "She has the intelligence you want in a setter, the ability to make plays happen and the mental focus needed in competitive volleyball."

Harvey is on pace to break several school records this year and she has worked very hard to get into that position.

If it looks like setting comes naturally for Harvey, it should. Setter is the only position Harvey has played since she first took up volleyball eight years ago.

"I got started playing volleyball during seventh grade. "Shortly after that, my coach said. 'hey you come set' and I've been a setter ever since," Harvey said. "I started working really hard at it after my eighth-grade year when I made the A team and started playing club."

While Harvey has been burning up the record books at Lee College, her most memorable moment actually happened during her senior year of high school against Kingwood.

"It was the most unbelievable game ever," Harvey said. "We went to five games and every point was really, really close. In the first game we were losing 10-0 and we came back and won."

Ultimately Harvey's La Porte team lost in the playoffs but the game against Kingwood still ranks as the best in her mind.

Besides having a strong work ethic on the court, Harvey is also a standout in the classroom. Along with each of her teammates, Harvey was named a Class Act recipient for maintaining a GPA above 3.0.

"It's tough at times to juggle volleyball and school, but it definitely teaches you responsibility and discipline," Harvey said. "It also teaches you time management and how to use every possible moment, including studying on the bus heading to games."

After leaving her mark on the Lady Rebels and Lee College, Harvey hopes to continue her education at a college to be named later.

"I want to stay close to home if I can," Harvey said. "But if not, I'm going to look at my scholarship options first in volleyball and then with academics."

Besides needing stamina and the ability to see what's happening on the entire court, there are several other qualities that make a good setter, according to Harvey.

"Everybody says that the setter is the quarterback," she said. "I call the plays and it's my job to try to keep everybody up and going."

While Harvey's main role on the team as "quarterback" is to set and pass the ball, sometimes she needs to act as a cheerleader, too.

"I'm a really big team player, so I always play for the team," she said. "Whenever I mess up, I start to get down and then I look around the court and see everybody trying so hard and I decide that I'm not going to let them down by not trying my hardest. Even when I'm having one of my worst games, I'm still working my butt off trying to get the balls the best I can."

While Harvey works to encourage her teammates on and off the court, sometimes the encourager needs encouragement, as well.

"The best piece of advice I ever received was 'never give up,'" she said. "I have had a real self-confidence problem at times when I didn't think I would ever make it anywhere. During those times, I always had coaches pulling for me and telling me to keep on working hard and that I can make it anywhere I want, and I guess that's really the best thing anyone can tell you."

Besides getting support from her coaches, and teammates, Harvey has another secret weapon in her arsenal; her family.

"Where I am today is because of the support of my family," Harvey said. "The biggest crowd at the games is my family. I'm so grateful that they come to all of my games and are so supportive of me."

June 10, 2003

Baytown Sun