



SETON COACH Mary Jett lectures her players during a timeout.

Robben Inspiration For Seton Victory

BY TOM GROESCHEN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Seton's volleyball team won this one for Judy Robben. Robben, called the Saints' "best all-around player" by coach Mary Jett, was unable to play in Seton's 15-7, 15-4 Class AA regional championship victory over Dayton Wayne Saturday night at Forest Park High School.

Partially torn ligaments in her right elbow kept the 5-foot-7 Robben, a senior and three-year starter, on the sidelines. She suffered the injury during practice Wednesday.

But in true "Win One For The Clipper Style," the Saints came through to earn a second consecutive trip to the state tournament. Seton was state runner-up in 1983.

THE SAINTS, 26-1, ranked No. 1 in Ohio, will play Cleveland Rocky River Friday at 7 p.m. in the state semifinals at Otterbein College. Westerville Rocky River won the Grafton regional Saturday night.

Seton had earned its way into the finals Saturday with an easy 15-4, 15-1 afternoon semifinal victory over Kettering Fairmont. Wayne got in by beating Lakota, 15-7, 15-3.

Robben, fighting back tears after the game, said it was "really tough being out." She sat on the bench and wore her uniform, and sported a green "Seton" button attached to the sing on her arm.

"I wanted them to know I was behind them," said Robben.

Robben was missed, but Seton's overall strength was still too much for Wayne. Jett said her lineup did not change radically because of Robben's absence.

"I usually play about 18 people, but now I'm only able to play nine," said Jett. "But having Judy out leaves us with ten options."

The battered Wayne team probably couldn't notice. With 5-4 junior Ben Mannix providing the heavy-duty spiking and junior setter Kelly Kernen serving seven points in each game, Seton was pretty much in charge.

The only anxious moments came in the first game, when Seton squandered a 7-1 lead into a 7-1 tie.

"My kids don't like that," said Jett. "It seemed like the ball kept floating on us or something."

"It really didn't shake us," said Seton senior setter Tracy Thompson.

At 1-7, Seton's Kernen fired off seven straight scoring serves to make it 14-7. The Saints scored again just moments later to take the first game. The second game was never in doubt, as Seton rolled to a 3-0 lead and then shifted into cruise control for a 15-6 victory.

Volleyball

Two Local Schools Ousted

BY MICHAEL PAOLERO
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CENTREVILLE, Ohio—Both Roger Bacon and St. Bernard were victims of a pair of steamrollers Saturday afternoon in the Class AA and A regional volleyball tournament at Centerville High School.

Defending Class AA state champion Springfield Northwestern flattened Roger Bacon, 15-6, 15-12. Tipp City Bethel hammered St. Bernard, 15-4, 15-4 in Class A. Both local teams were eliminated in the first round.

Northwestern entered the game with a 21-1 record. Its only loss came at the hands of Bethel, which raised its record to 22-0 with the victory over the Titans. Both clubs exhibited similar styles.

To use a baseball analogy, Roger Bacon has been used to the hard-hitting style of the Girls Greater Cincinnati League. In Springfield Northwestern, the Spartans went from Nolan Ryan fastball volleyball to Phil Niekro knuckleball.

"In the GOOL, it's wind up and bang the ball. We encourage aggressive hitting," said Bacon coach Cheryl Schake, whose team finished 21-5. "This team just dinked, dinked, dinked and we couldn't react. It was like we were in slow motion. We were thinking about doing it instead of doing it."

Northwestern coach Nancy Pugh noted her team specialized in "dinker" serves rather than rockets with topspin. Time and time again, the Spartans couldn't handle Northwestern's serves. Of the 36 points allowed by Bacon, 21 were scored without any Spartan offense.

ST. BERNARD was dismantled almost single-handedly by Bethel's 6-foot junior Kelly Lyons. The Bees, without a senior on the roster, were taller than the Titans, but only Lyons reared throughout the afternoon.

With the first game tied 4-4, Bethel outscored St. Bernard 6-1, to effectively put the game away. In the second game, Lyons counted for 14 of the Bees' 15 points in some fashion or another.

She dinked and spiced the first two points, served for eight-straight points for a 10-5 lead, then scored the final three points on a dink and two ferocious spikes. The entire match lasted less than 40 minutes.

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