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SET AND SPIKE



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POINT WEST HIGH McKenna Proud '21, Natalie Young '20, Rylee Fay '20, Claire Overton '19 and Emily Cray '19 celebrate after scoring a point against CR Kennedy on Oct. 9. West lost, 1-3. "As a team, our biggest struggle has been to work together and to play with joy and inspiration," Overton said.

JUMPING FOR JOY Grace Fleckenstein '19, Haley Gallagher '19, Katherine Kouba '22, Rylee Fay '20 and Claire Overton '19 celebrate after winning a point against City on Aug. 21. West won, 3-1. "It was so surreal and fun to represent my school after an exciting game," Kouba said. "It was a good team win."

DIVING FOR THE BALL Libero Katherine Kouba '22 scrambles to hit the ball during the second set against CR Kennedy on Oct. 9. "It feels natural," she said. "If the ball is going to drop, I go for it by diving. It's actually fun to me."

READY TO SPIKE Claire Overton '19 prepares to spike the ball during an intense game against City on Aug. 21. "Beating City meant a lot this year," Overton said. "They were ranked above us. It was a good start to the season."

HANDS UP Seniors Claire Overton and Emily Cray jump to block the ball during the game against CR Kennedy on Oct. 9. "I was disappointed that we lost because it was a close game," Cray said. "However, I'm optimistic that when we play (Kennedy) for playoffs, we will be able to have a better outcome."



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Kicking off the season in a big way, the team won "The Battle of the Spike" against City on Aug. 21. "(Winning) was one thing that was at the top of my list of successes this year," Cailyn Morgan '19 said. "It was such a great experience being able to hold the spike up myself, and representing West and it being my last ever playing for the Battle of the Spike." Coach Scott Sanders added, "The 2018 season started off pretty well, keeping the Spike at West. We have had a good group of captains all season. They have showed their leadership multiple times throughout the year and I couldn't be more proud." Besides City, Liberty adds another local rivalry to the mix. Those schools met Aug. 28, but the Women of Troy lost, 1-3. "I felt sad and felt like we had let everyone down," Claire Overton '19 said. "But I also felt ready to work hard to improve as a team." Morgan echoed those sentiments. "I was frustrated to lose against (Liberty) because they are kind of like another rival team ... and I hate losing. But I think even though we put our best effort against them and competed to win, (Liberty) wanted to win, too." According to Ellie Kouba '19, finding a consistent lineup was challenging, "It was hard to get into a system when (that) kept on changing." West ended its season 13-23.

—Sidney Kout