

Echoing Vigorously, Justly and without Prejudice

Lynx Advance to State

Volleyball team's season ends in quarterfinals



Photos courtesy of Crimson and Blue

Arlette Milstead
R.E.A.D

ALHS volleyball finished their season with the record of 37-3. They practiced five days a week and with all of their games, they won five tournaments. The playing, the culture, the perseverance, and their attitudes have improved since previous seasons and years. All the players are overcome with relief and joy that they have played at state.

"It means a lot, we've

been working so hard for these past four years to try and get it and it just feels like a huge accomplishment and like our goal has been made," senior Taylan Keefer said.

Even though girls' volleyball met their ultimate goal of making it to state, it doesn't mean that they chose to sit down and give up at state.

"Well, making it (state) was one thing; nobody expected us to sweep Ankeny Centennial so I feel like we have set ourselves a higher goal," senior Julia Wagoner

said. "Because when we get there, there are good teams but we realize that we're good too."

Their culture has allowed them to move up the ladder more and more. They have all had their personal accomplishments as an individual player as well as team players.

"Our personal goals (as a team) have been to beat city champs, and beat everyone in the city which we accomplished," senior Sam Christiansen said. "I've hit my 2000 assists this year, Taylan hit her 1000 digs, Elaina hit her 1000, Julia's hit her 1000 digs; you can tell how well rounded we are because everybody's just showing their success."

Head coach Katie Darrington has been coaching for 13 years and specifically ALHS volleyball for four years. She is very proud of her players and is excited for them to be playing at state.

"It's a great validation to our team and program, that hard work pays off. We want

to perform to our best ability and to have fun, as this is the payoff for hard work. I am so happy and proud of this team," Darrington said.

Even though volleyball season is over, there will be quite a few seniors that are going to be continuing their volleyball career in college.

"I have committed to playing volleyball at Iowa Western and that's only a two year school, so my plan is after I graduate from Iowa Western, to finish at a four year school," senior Elaina Bohnet said.

With the end of volleyball season, the coaches and girls realize that this is the end of a great period and much will be missed. When coaching volleyball, there is a bond that can't be broken.

"I love watching female athletes realize their potential and helping them see the power in succeeding, believing in themselves, and supporting other women," Darrington said.

When it came to playing at state, Ankeny defeated AL, winning all three sets. The

first one being 25-20, 25-15, and finally swept the floor with 25-18.

It was a change of environment, playing on the floor of the volleyball state tournament for the first time.

"I was not expecting it to be that big," junior Jillian Shanks said. "It was very nerve racking but a great experience. I think the whole team was pretty nervous but mostly excited. I'd say we did our best when we just kept

fighting for each point no matter what the score was."

The outcome that players hope for isn't always the one that ends up happening. All the players can do is learn from their mistakes and move forward.

"It was kind of an off game for everyone and we didn't play ourselves. I'd say we did our best when we just kept fighting for each point no matter what the score was," Shanks said.



District discusses possibility of two hour late start, early dismissal

Grace Shoening
Reporter

Winter is expeditiously approaching, and conversations regarding possible snow days have already begun. Contrary to last year's policy, Council Bluffs Community Schools will consider two-hour late starts, or two-hour early dismissals this year, possibly resulting in fewer full snow days.

In an email to CBCSD staff, Superintendent Dr. Vickie Murillo explained the benefits of an early out, or late start when the weather prevents safe transportation to school.

"Starting two hours late would allow staff, parents, students, and our buses to avoid rush hour traffic, provide additional time for streets, sidewalks, and parking lots to be cleared, and reduce the need for students to travel while it is still dark outside," Murillo said. "Dismissing two hours early could help everyone

avoid unsafe road conditions if the storm is predicted to begin in the afternoon."

Freshman Jasmine Martinez expressed what she believes are positive aspects the new snow day policy could have when it comes to making up days towards the end of the year.

"At the end of the year, when we add on snow days, we don't do anything," Martinez said. "It's not like we are learning anything new, so I think it will help."

It's not just students that can find additional school days trickling into early June

frustrating. Staff can, too.

Teacher Jennifer Bonham reflected on the struggle of makeup days at the end of the term in previous years.

"Especially after the last few winters we've had, we've lost so much instruction time," Bonham said. "Moving those days to the end of the school year is hard on students and teachers."

Although the option for early outs and late starts has apparent positive intentions, the possibility of conflict when it comes to getting students to school on those days also exists.

"There's going to be some people that aren't going to have rides," said Martinez. "Everyone has their own situation."

Solutions for these dilemmas have been considered by the administration for Council Bluffs schools.

"Kids & Company, the school-age childcare program in our elementary schools, will provide care for families who are registered for the program," Murillo wrote. "We encourage families to plan ahead for this potential so they know in

advance what they will do on a shortened day."

No matter what this winter brings, it should be expected that the safest judgment will be made when it comes to deciding if school will be in session.

"I understand the inconvenience that weather cancellations, delays, and early dismissals can create," Murillo wrote. "Please know that I will make school delay or closing decisions as early as possible based on the best information available, with student and staff safety as the main priority."