

Dedication leads Central spikers

Lucky for the Hinsdale Central volleyball team, Patty Russell decided to take the game seriously.

She took it so seriously, in fact, that she played on a club team during the

winter and then went to a one-week camp during the summer to develop her skills further.

The result? Just listen to her coach, Debbie Whiteford: "Every game we play, I get a comment on her from the other coach."

- When you get noticed by other coaches, then you must be good. And Patty Russell is good.

"If we're going to do it, then this is the year," the junior captain said. "Most of us have been playing together for some time and there is a lot of communication between us."

Last weekend, there was a lot of communication between Russell and her teammates as they finished third in the Glenbard North Invitational. The Devilettes won three of four matches, losing only to eventual champion Elgin Larkin, 15-9, 15-11.

But it was Russell who Whiteford praised as the most outstanding player.

"She has really dedicated herself to the sport and has really worked hard at it," Whiteford said. "She never had the confidence or aggression she has now."

Most of that confidence and aggression came this summer when Russell went to an open camp that included playing 2 hours in the morning, 4 hours in the afternoon and 2 hours at night. She was enrolled in the advanced camp that emphasized blocking and setting fundamentals.

"I like spiking, but I think my defense is better," she said. "Setting I think I can be better at if I get used to it."

Russell has assumed team leadership along with senior Sheavon Pivaronas, who saw some action last weekend after spraining her ankle the week before. Both hope to lead Central to a successful conference season that begins today (Thursday, Sept. 25) at Proviso West.

On Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27, Central will compete in the Proviso East Invitational.

Singles dilemma

Hinsdale Central tennis coach Jerilyn Krizka finally will be pitting her singles players against some top competition.

She's playing her top three players against each other.

Vicki Shields, Anne Hutchens and Margaret Hopkins will be serving and volleying against each other in practice this week.

Although the results won't necessarily determine who will be playing what, "It will be an indication of how they stand," Krizka said.



Hutchens



Russell

Although Downers North dominated the dual meet with Central last week, Yeutter led a pack of five Central runners across the finish line.

"They're running pretty well in a pack," Coach Gail Avgeris said, "but they're just not fast enough."

Other top finishers for Central were Michele Predovic, Kate Leatham and Leane Kivela.

Central didn't fare much better in the Mustang Invitational at Downers South on Saturday. Central was seventh of nine teams. Yeutter was again the first runner to cross the finish for Central. Unfortunately, no Central runner was in the top 15.

Avgeris will be holding time trials this week to determine the runners for the DuPage County Meet in Glen Ellyn on Saturday. Each team is allowed seven runners.

Short on numbers

Too bad Sue Kutz was at home with a virus. She could have undoubtedly helped Hinsdale South's cross country team win Monday.

Kutz, South's No. 2 runner, missed Monday's meet with Downers Grove South and, for the Hornets, it was a costly absence. South lost 27-28 on a makeshift course that was made after a heavy rainfall.

"We were kind of short-handed as far as numbers were concerned," South coach Sylvia Matzack said, pointing out that other runners were sick as well.

The meet was supposed to be a triangular with Glenbard East, but the Rams cancelled out. Doing well for Hinsdale were Ann Schuessler, who finished first with a time of 12:07, Cindy Hawken (fourth, 13:15), Kathy Schmidt (fifth, 13:30), Linda Schlueter (eighth, 13:38) and Sally Karth (10th, 14:12).

South will compete in the big DuPage County Meet Saturday, Sept. 27, at Glenbard West. Powerful Downers Grove North will run in that race.



Sophomore Lynn Weekly uncurls during a dive in last week's triangular meet with St. Charles and Glenbrook North. (Doings photo by Susan Draftz.)

Senior sparkle

Two of Hinsdale Central's top runners are newcomers.

Kim Yeutter and Jane Johnston are seniors who are on the cross-country team for the first time. Last week, Johnston crossed the finish line first for Central. This week, it was Yeutter.

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