

# RCHS VOLLEYBALL

BY ALLISON ANDERKIN

It's a young sport that most students at RCHS might not be even aware that they have. But, the RCHS Lady Rockets volleyball teams rock the court.

So far this year, the Rockets varsity team is 14 and 3. One of the losses came from the first game of the season against last year's district champion South Laurel when the Rockets lost 2 out of 3 games for the match. On the bright side, in four meetings, this was the first time the Rockets had been able to force three games with the Lady Cardinals.

The second loss was to Barren County, a third year team, in the championship match of the Pulaski County Invitational Tournament. After winning the first game 15-0, a well rested Barren County, who had watched while the Rockets knocked off three straight opponents to get to the championship match, came back to win the second game 15-10 and the third game 18-16.

The Lady Rockets third loss of the season came against the North Laurel Jaguars. This match also went to three games because the Lady Rockets were able to win the first game 16-14, but lost the next two. The other two games jv 1 and 2 were very similar. The Lady Rockets do have a chance to come back for their loss Tuesday October 1, as they travel to the home of the Jaguars for a triple-header.

Junior Courtney Parsons, a defensive specialist on the varsity team, may have said it best when she commented on the program, "For a second year team, we're doing pretty good. Hopefully, we will go pretty far, instead of getting stopped in the first game of regionals as we did last year."



Audrey Burke

Junior Amanda Rogers prepares to spike during a recent volleyball match at RCHS.

The game of volleyball is just as complicated and as much a team sport as basketball. There are setters, inside and outside hitters, and, as mentioned, defensive specialists, a new set of rules, and new expectations.

It takes a lot of hard work and practice to learn all aspects of the game and to win. But, so far the Lady Rockets have earned their wins with a knowledge of the game.

What follows could be considered a primer, a sort of *Volleyball for Dummies*, if you will. Hopefully, it will help you develop your own knowledge of the game, and make it that much more interesting.

#### Now, what am I supposed to do?

Each player has a certain position to play, according to their talent as determined by the coach:

During a match, you can spot who plays what position by where they are on the court. Setters are in the front row, extreme left; outside hitters are on the front row, extreme right, and inside hitters are in the middle of the front row. Players in the back row are defense specialists, more commonly known as passers.

Each player fills one of these positions but have to rotate whenever the ball is recovered. That is why you might see players switching positions during the game. Now the question is what do these positions actually do.

The setter runs the court. They always have the second hit and they always determine who is going to spike it by setting it to that person's position and calling their name. There is always constant commu-

nication on the court. Defense specialists are just that. They are the ones who stop the other team from getting a spike down. They protect the court, and back row especially. Outside hitters are spikers on the outside. They tend to spike the ball to the opposite corner of the court. Inside hitters are the tallest and strongest spikers. They also are the ones who block the other teams' spikes.

#### Sorry, can't do that!

Of course, the sport has its own set of rules. To begin with, there is both a referee and an umpire. Also, instead of technical fouls, there are yellow and red cards handed out for misconduct. The yellow card serves as a warning and the red card is your official notice to "hit the showers." Also, a team can only score on their serve.

The best of three games constitutes a match and 15 points wins a game. However, a team must win by 2 points, sometimes causing the score to go beyond 15. Also no one but the team's captain is allowed to talk to the officials during a match. A coach nor any other player, parent, or score official cannot. Therefore if a coach has a question they have to go through the team captain.

Also part of the etiquette of the game is that no one in the gym is allowed to make any type of loud or distracting noise when either team is serving.

#### Who's that guy think he is?

With a record of 11 wins against just 2 losses, the Rockets are having a successful second year under the direction of new head coach Doug Mullins and his assistant Jill Franklin.

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