

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: LADY GIANTS GETTING USED TO NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS UNDER NEW COACH

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 16, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Anytime a new coach arrives to take over a program, there is an adjustment period. The coach adjusts to the players, and the players adapt to the new coach's philosophies and demands.

And then they go to work together.

For Ross, first-year coach Kari Shull and her new team, that adjustment has been as much about the mental approach to the game as the physical.

"I think we've gotten a lot better," said senior Jazmin Bulger. "The way she sets up practice, a lot of times, she'll have us separate into groups, based on our positions, and I like how that works. We work on what we're actually supposed to be doing in a game. Then she'll put us all together at the end, and you'll see the progress.

"You're nervous at first, but you get used to it and it gets better."

A season ago, Ross, which opens its season Aug. 21 at home against Tiffin at 7:30, compiled a 12-11 overall record but just a 1-6 record in the TRAC. When she arrived, one of Shull's top priorities was to build the team's fundamental acumen and strategic thinking.

"We're not very good at tipping, we're not very good at roll-shotting, we're not disciplined about where we belonged on the court and when," Shull said. "It's making sure all those little technical things, like getting a pass up to target, being in the right place, all of that goes into play."

"Practices are a lot more intense, and we're doing a lot more," senior Lindsay Weickert said. "We have so much going on at the same time, we're always touching a ball, always practicing and working hard."

Shull, whose previous head coaching positions included Columbus-area schools Groveport Madison and Olentangy, said Ross' path to being competitive in and out of the league lies in its work ethic.

"They need time on the court. Time on the varsity court," she said. "It's all about the strategy and the volleyball IQ. When do I use these tools and at what time? How do I work with her? How do I partner with her? When do I set out for her? When do I pass straight up? It's all of that."

Offensively, Ross will be looking to 6-foot junior Olivia DeRodes and 5-11 junior AnneMarie Moses to provide big arms in both the front and back rows, assisted by setters Aliza Quick (a senior) and Isabelle Held (a sophomore). Defensively, Sara Hrynciw and Maddison Baacke will be looked to keep the opposition from extending scoring runs.

"We're really working on fine-tuning all the niches of all 11 players on varsity to make the best use of our talent to get some wins," Shull said. "I'm pretty sure I know where the pieces fit best; it's a matter of getting them to understand the faster pace of the game and the volleyball IQ."

ERRORS COST VOLLEYBALL IN ITS SEASON-OPENER AGAINST TIFFIN COLUMBIAN

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 21, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Errors and miscues came in bunches for the Lady Giants in their volleyball season-opener Monday night.

Hosting Tiffin Columbian, Ross battled close in each of the match's first two sets, only to see the Tornadoes pull away late. By the third set, the Lady Giants' ill-timed mistakes were too much to overcome, and the Tornadoes swept the match, 25-20, 25-19, 25-14.

"I was super-impressed that they never got down on themselves and they continued to push, even into set three when the score didn't look so great," coach Kari Shull said. "I just think in that third set we had a lot of problems trying to string enough good balls together."

Ross held a 17-13 lead in the first set, then Columbian won eight of the next nine points, and, soon thereafter, the set thanks, in part, to unforced Ross errors.

The second set saw more of the same. Ross led 18-17 only to see Columbian win seven of the last eight points of the set when Ross hit a shot long, misplayed a setting attempt, and shot into the net, among other miscues.

With each error, more seemed to follow.

"Whether it was passing or you might get a nice pass to set and the third ball was bad," Shull said.

With a two-set lead, Columbian wasted little time closing out the match, jumping out to a 14-6 lead.

"Tiffin Columbian didn't make a lot of errors in that third set," Shull said. "They definitely deserved their win. They earned it."

Ross (0-1) travels to Bellevue Thursday night.

Shull said the Lady Giants' mistakes are correctable, and Ross knows how to do so.

"Repetition and time on the court," Shull said. "That's the magic bullet."

VOLLEYBALL TEAM FALLS IN FOUR SETS, STILL LOOKING FOR FIRST WIN OF SEASON

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 24, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

BELLEVUE – It may still be looking for its first win of the season, but the Ross volleyball team doesn't think the search will take too much longer.

The Lady Giants won the first set of their match at Bellevue Thursday before dropping the next three in a 3-1 loss, 27-25, 16-25, 21-25, 22-25.

"That is the strongest playing we've done for that length of time," coach Kari Shull said. "They still have some spurts where they would lose four, five, six points, but we're not having those eight, nine, 10-point streaks. They're starting to get fewer and farther between.

"We're close."

AnneMarie Moses led Ross with 12 kills. Jazmin Bulger added nine kills and five blocks. Olivia DeRodes had seven kills and a team-high 18 digs. Lindsay Weickert had eight digs, Sara Hrynciw had seven, and Maddison Baacke had six as Ross' record dropped to 0-2.

"The girls talked about how this is the most they felt they played together so far, and I wholeheartedly agree with that," Shull said.

"It's definitely a hard loss when you're battling that close, but they were very engaged," she added. "The bench was engaged, the rest of the program, the JV, and the freshmen were engaged from the sideline. It was a tough loss, but there were a lot of good things about it."

Ross plays four matches next week, beginning Monday at Lake.

NEW GAMEPLAN SHOWS IMPROVEMENT, BUT VOLLEYBALL TEAM STILL LOOKING FOR FIRST WIN

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 29, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

TIFFIN – The Ross volleyball team tried something different Tuesday evening. And while the switch in strategies showed promise and a reduction in critical errors, the results were more of the same as the Lady Giants are still searching for their first win of the season after losing in four sets to Tiffin Calvert, 22-25, 25-21, 17-25, 20-25.

“I’m super proud of my girls because a couple of months ago, there would have been no way they could do the transition I asked them to do,” coach Kari Shull said. “But everybody rolled with what was asked of them and played the role they were asked to play tonight.”

Shull moved Lindsey Weickert to Libero with an emphasis on getting the ball on the right side of the court to set up Olivia DeRodes and AnneMarie Moses for kill opportunities. Getting the hitters the ball in a position to score has been a struggle for the Lady Giants in their first three matches.

“We had a lot more good moments strung together, for sure,” Shull said. “We still have a couple of those runs where we make mental mistakes that shouldn’t be happening. But that’s just where time on the court and reps continue to make those bad errors better.”

DeRodes led Ross with 15 kills, Moses had nine, and Jazmin Bulger added eight kills. Ross (0-4) plays its third match in as many nights, Wednesday evening at Allen East.

THIRD MATCH IN THREE NIGHTS HAS VOLLEYBALL TEAM LACKING ENERGY IN LOSS

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 30, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

HARROD, Ohio – Playing their third match in as many nights, the Ross volleyball team lacked a spark Wednesday night.

After narrowly dropping the first set at Allen East, the Lady Giants couldn't recover, losing in straight sets, 26-28, 16-25, 18-25.

"There just was no energy tonight," coach Kari Shull said. "...They didn't really get going until set three. The talking, the communication, there were a couple of them that tried in the first couple sets, but it wasn't until set three that everybody started to get involved."

In Tuesday's loss at Tiffin Calvert, Ross enjoyed a hit percentage of .431.

Wednesday night, that percentage dropped to .167.

"I don't know if it was our third match in a row or if it's that theory of when you're building a program, it's (one) step forward (two steps back)."

Olivia DeRodes led Ross with 12 kills while AnneMarie Moses added seven.

Lindsay Weickert had 37 passes, and Sarah Hrynciw had 17 assists.

Ross (0-5) plays its fourth match in as many nights Thursday when the Lady Giants open TRAC play at home against Lima Senior at 7:30.

Shull said her team must continue to press on, despite frustrations that may lurk with still being winless.

"Starting 0-5 can be frustrating, but that's where you have to keep pushing yourself to make those changes and do those adjustments to go out there and get that win," Shull said. "I think we just struggled making those adjustments tonight."

ROSS VOLLEYBALL PICKS UP FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 31, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Kari Shull asked her team how it felt following its match Thursday against Lima Senior.

The Lady Giants responded with screams and cheers.

Question asked and answered.

Ross volleyball broke into the win column Thursday night, winning its TRAC opener in straight sets over Lima Senior, 29-9, 25-12, 25-18.

“I think their energy level, they’re continuing to swing really hard at balls and refusing to let balls hit the floor really made a difference tonight,” said Shull, who won her first game as Ross’ head coach.

“They were rip-roaring, ready to go. The gym was loud, and they were energized.”

The victory snaps a five-game losing streak to begin the season and gets the Lady Giants a reward at the end of a busy week that saw them play four matches in four nights.

“I think everybody came together and felt this was their night to get the win,” Shull said.

Olivia DeRodes led Ross with eight kills and two blocks. AnneMarie Moses had seven kills and two blocks, Jazmin Bulger had three kills and a pair of blocks and Kennedy Bohannon had a pair of kills. Aliza Quick finished with 11 assists while Isabelle Held added seven.

Aliza Quick, Fremont Ross

“It’s tough to win in three sets straight, at varsity. A couple of our kids who play JV and dress up for varsity, Hayley Lawrence and Brooke Baptista, we put them in the third set. The way the rest of the varsity girls responded, with giving up some playing time and being able to see them on the floor, was a great way to continue that energy and allowed us to win the third set and get that win.”

The victory lifts the Lady Giants’ record to 1-5, 1-0 in the league. Ross returns to the court Sept. 7 at St. Ursula.

VOLLEYBALL SUFFERS TOUGH LOSS, BUT HOPEFULLY LEARNS A LESSON

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 7, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

TOLEDO – It's a painful lesson, but if it sinks in, it may just be worth it. The Ross volleyball team found out first-hand that a lackadaisical practice can carry over into a match. And, when facing state power, St. Ursula, that can mean big trouble.

Ross was swept away in straight sets by the Arrows, 25-9, 25-11, 25-23.

"Yesterday's lack of effort for practice carried into our first two sets today," coach Kari Shull said. "The third set is when my team showed up to play.

"The third set was energized, the third set was hustle and effort, and playing as hard as they could, all those things we've worked toward. I think we missed an opportunity to go in and sneak a win or give a good battle."

Shull said she suspects the long Labor Day weekend played a role in the Lady Giants' sluggishness. She's hopeful; however, her team saw the difference between the first two sets and the third and took the lesson to heart.

"Before I could even get it out of my mouth, one of our senior captains stepped up and said it to the team," Shull said. "A coach can say it so many times, but when one of your players steps up and says it for them, it's powerful."

AnneMarie Moses had five kills, and Olivia DeRodes had four kills and two blocks. The loss drops the Lady Giants to 1-6 overall, 1-1 in the TRAC. They return to action Saturday at 10:30 a.m. against Sandusky St. Mary's.

VOLLEYBALL SHOWS WHAT IT CAN DO PLAYING WITH ENERGY AND EFFORT IN SWEEP OF SMCC

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 9, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Energy, passion, performance.

The Ross volleyball team struggled to find those things Thursday night in a three-set loss to St. Ursula.

The Lady Giants had no such troubles Saturday afternoon.

Ross came flying out of the gate at home against St. Mary Central Catholic, cruised through its first two sets, and then fought off a third set challenge on the way to a sweep of the Panthers, 25-10, 25-16, and 25-17.

“We came ready to play. They were fired up and energized,” coach Kari Shull said. After dropping its first two sets against St. Ursula by lopsided scores, Ross discovered it could compete with the Arrows before being edged out 23-25 in the final set. The Lady Giants took that lesson to heart and were determined not to waste any time Saturday.

“You could feel it, even in warm-ups, it felt completely different than St. Ursula,” junior Olivia DeRodes said. “We had a lot of energy, we were fired up, we were hitting the ball really hard. It was exciting.”

Ross opened the match by scoring the first five points of the first set. The Panthers never challenged the Lady Giants, who communicated effectively, ran a smooth offensive attack, and battled to keep balls alive, most notably from Izzy Held, who saved a ball in front of the Ross bench on the third touch, sending it over to the SMCC side of the net. Ross soon after won the point, en route to the first-set win.

“After our third game against St. Ursula was so close, we knew we could play to a higher potential than we were,” DeRodes said. “We were fired up going into this game to show that here.”

Ross continued the momentum into the second set, where another five-point run spotted the Lady Giants a 10-3 lead and they again cruised to the set victory.

“(We had) a lot of talking, a lot of effort,” Shull said. “Definitely moving their feet so they could drive that first ball, whether it was a pass or dig up to target. We had a lot more aggressive swings today.”

The final set didn’t come as easily for Ross. Shull expanded her rotation, emptying her bench to give everyone some playing experience. The shake-up in personnel disrupted the chemistry on the floor, but Ross persevered. After being tied at 17, the Lady Giants won the next eight points to close out the match and improve its overall season record to 2-6.

DeRodes led the Ross attack with 10 kills and had four blocks. AnneMarie Moses had five kills, while Jazmin Bulger had four kills and a pair of blocks.

Held, Aliza Quick, and Lindsay Weickert did a nice job setting for their hitters, as Ross’ offense fired throughout the match. Quick led with nine assists, Held had six, and Weickert added five.

Weickert led the way defensively, coming up with 10 digs while Sara Hrynciw dug up five.

Ross will look for back-to-back wins for the first time this year on Monday at 7:30 as the Lady Giants host Clyde.

"I'm expecting a win," Shull said. "I always expect a win. Any team is beatable on any given day. I tell my girls, 'St. Ursula might beat us nine times out of 10, but you can get them that one time.' You can say it's realistic or not realistic, but for me, that's the mentality I have when I come in and coach every day. We're going to walk out of here with a win."

VOLLEYBALL PLAYS HARDER AND SMARTER TO BEAT CLYDE IN FOUR SETS

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 12, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – The Lady Giant volleyball team got off to a slow start Monday night, but just playing with more energy wasn't going to cure all their ills. They had to play harder, but if they didn't play smarter, they wouldn't win.

The Lady Giants applied some of the lessons in volleyball IQ that first-year coach Kari Shull has been instilling in them and were rewarded. Ross roared back after a slow start and took a 3-1 win over Clyde, winning by scores of 17-25, 25-23, 26-24, 25-21.

"I think they did a better job tonight doing those little things we keep breaking down and working on in practice," Shull said. "We keep talking about time and reps on the court, and tonight they were able to execute more of them than not." After losing the first set, Ross needed a spark, and the Lady Giants got it from senior Jazmin Bulger. The middle hitter tallied several blocks and registered a couple of nice roll shots to provide Ross with a level of energy it lacked in the first set.

"After I got the first two blocks, I was like 'Ok, let's go!'" Bulger said. "I just kept getting them, which gave me more hype, which gave me more intensity for our team."

Bulger finished the match with eight kills and four blocks.

"She is a big spirit-lifter, a big hustler, lots of effort, easy-going," Shull said of Bulger. "The kids love her; they feed off of her. It's really exciting to watch her play and see how much she's grown over the season already."

As the match went along, however, Ross found many of its powerful kill attempts being sent back over the net by blocks from the Clyde front row. The Lady Giants decided to change things up by using numerous roll shots, tips, and dumps, softly knocking the ball over the net and finding gaps in the Fliers' defense.

"You've got to take a different approach," sophomore Izzy Held said. "You've got to be smart and use the different tools that you have. The tips are open, you have to find the spots that are there."

Held had one of the match's most significant points. Clyde jumped off to an 8-3 lead in the fourth set. That's when Held surprised everyone in the gym when,

rather than setting up hitters Olivia DeRodes or AnneMarie Moses, she dumped the ball over the net to steal a point and take momentum from the Fliers.

"I was looking at the other side, seeing where the open spots were, and I just thought, 'It might be a good time because the blockers aren't ready, it's there,'" Held said. "They're not expecting it at all."

Later in the set, Ross's other setter, Aliza Quick, took a turn. With the match tied at 16, Quick made a dump and snuck a point, the first in a three-point run, and Ross never again trailed en route to the victory.

For Shull, who spent 45 minutes in practice the day before with her setters talking about becoming more active in attacking, Held and Quick's smart decision-making is proof that her message is getting through.

"That's why I coach. It's awesome to see that light bulb go off," Shull said. "They're big points, absolutely, and the fact it's your setters, not those big hitters, makes it all the more gratifying for the team."

Moses led the Lady Giant attack with 13 kills, while DeRodes added 11, Kennedy Bohannan added six, and Marissa Overmyer had five.

Quick had 24 assists, and Held had 19 helpers, while Lindsay Weickert had 24 digs.

The victory is Ross' second in a row and lifts its overall record to 3-6. The Lady Giants host Whitmer on Thursday at 7:30.

VOLLEYBALL BATTLES BACK AGAINST WHITMER BUT FALLS IN FIVE SETS

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 14, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Forget moral victories; they don't exist. But if there is such a thing as a loss to feel good about, the Ross volleyball team got one Thursday.

The Lady Giants dropped the first two sets to TRAC rival Whitmer but rallied back. Ross won the next two sets to force a fifth set, before falling short, 3-2 by scores of 21-25, 18-25, 25-12, 25-21, 7-15.

"I think the team I walked into at the beginning of July would have given up after the first two sets," first-year coach Kari Shull said. "And they kept pushing and fixed the things I asked them to fix, and they did those things very well in sets 3 and 4.

"Unfortunately, in set 5, we were slow out of the gate doing that, and when you're playing to 15, you just don't have enough time to catch up."

Ross dug itself into the two-set hole with sloppy passing. The Lady Giants corrected the problem and found their offense, battling back. Shull said the slow start in the fifth set was not a case of running out of gas, but rather just good play by Whitmer.

"I just think Whitmer is a solid team and had some nice hitters, they're scrappy, and that ball is going to keep going back over," Shull said. "I don't think we ran out of gas; we just struggled to pass in that fifth set. Which is what we struggled with in the first set and the second set."

Olivia DeRodes led the attack with 12 kills and five blocks while Olivia Baptista added eight kills. Jazmin Bulger had four blocks and three aces as Ross' record dipped to 3-7 overall, 1-2 in the TRAC.

"I told them I was super proud of them and not to lose faith and keep chugging along," Shull said. "Volleyball is a game of inches and centimeters. So when we're missing some of those shots we're aiming for by a few inches or a foot, those are the differences between the ball coming back or not."

VOLLEYBALL TAKES EARLY LEAD BUT FALLS TO NORTHVIEW IN FOUR SETS

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 16, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Though it won the first set of its match against Sylvania Northview Saturday afternoon, the Ross volleyball team didn't get the uplift in energy that typically comes with taking a set.

But Northview did.

The Wildcats surged ahead of the Lady Giants, using the power of middle hitter McKenna Hall, for which Ross had no answer. Despite the early lead, Ross lost the next three sets to lose the match 3 sets to 1, 25-23, 9-25, 10-25, 21-25.

"I don't know that we started out fast. I don't know that either team did," Ross coach Kari Shull said. "(We lacked) energy. And a lack of discipline."

The Lady Giants' offense stalled after the first set. Ross either didn't get a clean hit of the ball or, if it did generate power on a hit, the aim was off.

"I keep talking about inches and centimeters with them, that when we miss that roll shot to the center of the court by four inches, that's the difference between a nice Libero, like Northview had, picking that ball up, versus scoring a point," Shull said.

Northview had no such trouble finishing its points. With the 6-foot-2 Hall roaming on the Northview side of the court, the Wildcats pounded away at the Lady Giants. Hall's most considerable damage, however, came from serving. She ripped off five consecutive aces in the second set to key an eight-point run to open up a 15-3 lead.

Northview ended the set with as many aces as Ross had points, nine.

Ross lost the third set in much the same fashion as the second before coming back in the fourth. Ross went on a 7-0 run to take an 11-5 lead in the fourth set. Northview, however, chipped away at the deficit.

Ross held a 21-19 lead until Northview regained the serve with Hall due up in the rotation. The Wildcats ripped off six straight points for the victory, with Hall picking up another ace along the way.

"She is one of the harder servers we've faced," Shull said of Hall. "We don't have anybody who can replicate a serve like that."

Olivia DeRodes had nine kills, while AnneMarie Moses had seven kills and three blocks. Jazmin Bulger had five kills and a pair of blocks and did everything she could to give her team a lift.

“Jazmin had a lot of nice hustle and effort in Set 3, so I left Jazmin Bulger in all the way around (in the fourth set) to provide some energy and effort,” Shull said. “I think she provided that to us; unfortunately, we just didn’t get it.” Aliza Quick had 15 assists while Izzy Held had nine. Lindsay Weickert led Ross with 19 digs, with Sara Hrynciw adding 10 and Maddison Baacke picking up six. The loss drops Ross to 3-8 overall as the Lady Giants will return to the court Monday at 7:30 as they host Bowling Green.

MISTAKES PROVE COSTLY AS VOLLEYBALL LOSES IN FOUR SETS TO BOWLING GREEN

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 18, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – The Lady Giant volleyball team spent 45 minutes in practice Sunday working on its serve-receive.

But the work wasn’t enough as Ross lost a four-set match to Bowling Green Monday, 16-25, 17-25, 25-16, 19-25.

“I told the kids, the two things I think got us tonight were serve-receive, which did not go well, and consistency, putting enough good balls together,” Shull said. “I debated having practice yesterday, and I knocked it down to one hour from two hours, and we did serve and serve-receive for 45 minutes. And it didn’t take.” Ross took the lead in every set Monday night, but ultimately was undone by its own miscues and a lack of consistent offense. Ross and Bowling Green were evenly matched in terms of size and skill up front, and both squads had their issues with missed shots and hits into the net.

“I think Bowling Green cleaned it up faster than we did tonight,” Shull said. “He who made the least amount of mistakes was going to win today. Beatable team.” Olivia DeRodes led the attack with 10 kills and two blocks. AnneMarie Moses had six kills and 11 digs, while Jazmin Bulger had five kills, three blocks, and eight digs. Lindsay Weickert had 27 digs, four assists, and three service aces. Aliza Quick had 14 assists and 10 digs, while Izzy Held had seven assists. Ross’ record drops to 3-8 overall and travels to Findlay on Thursday.

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by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 18, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

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VOLLEYBALL FALLS IN THREE SETS TO FINDLAY

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 21, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FINDLAY – A couple of points. A missed shot here and there made all the difference for the Ross volleyball team Thursday night.

The Lady Giants took two sets beyond 25 points, but couldn't get over the hump, losing in three sets to the Trojans, 18-25, 26-28, 25-27.

"We're still kind of in and out on doing the things we have to do to get the points when we need to get them," coach Kari Shull said.

"In the second set, it came down to a ref call; whether I agree with it or not is on the table, absolutely," Shull said. "The third set we failed to excite at doing some of those little things we need to do so. We sent over a very easy attack, and their 6-2 middle put down our pipeline."

The Lady Giants had to shuffle the lineup just minutes before the match.

Kennedy Bohannon stepped on a teammate's foot in warm-ups, twisting her ankle.

"I had to take Lindsay Weickert out of the Libero jersey because Kennedy Bohannon got hurt in warmup," Shull said. "I thought Lindsey stepped up and did a nice job swinging for us and going all the way around. I thought AnneMarie Moses had a nice match as well.

"Sarah Hrynciw stepped up,' she added. "When I took Lindsay out of the Libero jersey, I put it on her."

Weickert finished the night with 21 passes and nine digs, while Hrynciw had 13 passes and 11 digs.

Olivia DeRodes had 10 kills, while Jazmin Bulger had seven kills and two blocks. Moses finished the night with five kills, two blocks, 18 passes and six digs while Marissa Overmyer had three blocks.

Aliza Quick had 15 assists, and Izzy Held had 10 assists and seven digs. Ross is now 3-10 overall, 1-3 TRAC, and will travel to Ashland on Saturday.

CONTROVERSIAL CALL SAPS MOMENTUM AS LADY GIANT VOLLEYBALL FALLS TO OLD FORT

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 26, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – Momentum can be a strange thing in volleyball.

If it's on your side, anything is possible. If it's going against you, stopping it can feel as daunting as climbing a mountain.

Tuesday night, the Ross volleyball team lost the momentum at the end of the third set against Old Fort. While the Lady Giants still won that set, the Stockaders stole the momentum and carried it into the fourth set. Ross could not stem the tide nor steal the momentum back on its way to a four-set loss, 18-25, 23-25, 27-25, 11-25.

“(Momentum) was kind of going back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, and in the fourth set, we just didn't have any,” coach Kari Shull said.

Trailing 2-0 in sets, Ross played its best stretch of the match. The Lady Giants executed with roll shots, and Olivia DeRodes repeatedly pounded the ball for kills to put Ross ahead 20-10. The Lady Giants looked on the verge of closing out the set, leading 24-17. The Stockaders started to mount a rally until Izzy Held set up Jazmin Bulger for the set-clinching kill – or so it seemed.

The official, however, called Held for a lift, giving the point to Old Fort. Using the controversial call to its advantage, Old Fort continued to chip away at the deficit and scored eight points in a row to tie the set at 24.

“It takes a lot of wind out of your sails when the ref makes a terrible call like that,” Shull said. “I think that carried over a bit into set No. 4. But I still thought, overall, we had some energy on the court tonight.”

While Ross eventually pulled out the set victory, 27-25, the momentum the Stockaders had built up in its comeback set the tone for what was to come.

Old Fort opened Set 4 on a 5-0 run and soon led 11-2 then 16-3. Ross never threatened to put together a similar rally of its own.

“I think the fourth set the difference was they executed those tips and roll-shots to perfection, and we had been doing that in sets 1, 2, and 3 better than them, and in Set 4 it was hard for us,” Shull said. “That was the big difference in the game.”

DeRodes led the attack with 13 kills with 24 passes, 12 digs, and three blocks. AnneMarie Moses had nine kills, three aces, four blocks, 10 digs, and 22 passes, while Bulger had five kills and two blocks.

Lindsay Weickert finished with 20 passes and two blocks, while Sara Hrynciw had 14 assists, and Izzy Held had 10 assists.

Kennedy Bohannan had two blocks, and Olivia Baptista had eight digs.

Ross falls to 3-12 overall and travels to Notre Dame on Thursday.

NOTRE DAME SIZE TOO MUCH FOR ROSS VOLLEYBALL

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 28, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

TOLEDO – A match against a team like Notre Dame is often used as a measuring stick for building programs like Ross' volleyball team.

Thursday night, however, the Lady Giants got a view of how they measured up with the Eagles, in both literal and figurative terms.

"We were incredibly short tonight," Ross coach Kari Shull. "My tallest girl, their six hitters were all taller than her, and when they put in the second string, they were still taller than her."

The Eagles used their size and their years as an elite program to roll to a three-set sweep of the Lady Giants, 25-10, 25-10, 25-10.

"They're a very nice team," Shull said. "They definitely earned their points. Their attacks are at a point where you're just not going to dig up. I don't think our team stopped fighting. They kept playing."

Olivia DeRodes totaled six kills, 12 passes and 12 digs for the Lady Giants.

AnneMarie Moses added five kills with seven digs and 10 passes. Lindsay Weickert finished with 29 passes and nine digs, while Olivia Baptista had nine passes and six digs.

Sarah Hrynciw had eight assists while Izzy Held had six digs.

"You're talking years and years of tradition against a team with a first-year coach," Shull said of the difference between Notre Dame and Ross. "That's what we're trying to get to and build to that level and get that tradition going. And these players are the start of that process."

Ross is now 3-13 overall and will travel to Sylvania Southview on Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL SEEING PROGRESS AS IT PLAYS ITS BEST MATCH OF THE YEAR IN LOSS AT SOUTHVIEW

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 30, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

SYLVANIA – Sometimes the final score isn't indicative of how a team plays. While the score from Ross' match at Southview Saturday afternoon shows another four-set loss, what it won't tell you is the Lady Giants played their best match of the season in their 10-25, 25-22, 20-25, 18-25 defeat to the Cougars. "We played the best that we've played," coach Kari Shull said. "Energy was up, aggressiveness was up, serve-serve, defense, everything was on. We just played a good team in Southview.

"The girls were happy, and I was happy. It was good."

While the whole of the match showed progress, Ross was still stymied in the early going, a recurring issue the Lady Giants are trying to understand and overcome.

"If you look at our scores, that Set 1 hates us and we hate that Set 1," Shull said. "It still takes us a while to settle into the game for whatever reason. We have to make sure when we walk onto the court, we're mentally ready to go."

Olivia DeRodes again led the Ross attack with eight kills with a pair of blocks, 14 passes, and 10 digs. Jazmin Bulger had five kills and four blocks while AnneMarie Moses had five kills, 20 passes and 12 digs. Lindsay Weickert had 21 passes and 13 digs, while Sarah Hrynciw had 10 assists and five digs, and Izzy Held had nine assists. Olivia Baptista 11 passes and 11 digs.

Ross, now 3-14 overall, returns to action Tuesday vs. Woodward

"I feel really good that we have kids pushing and trying and working and they're starting to see the results of doing those small, technical skill things that make them good and get them points," Shull said. "They're starting to see those things and starting to do them more."

VOLLEYBALL HOPING WIN OVER WOODWARD IS A SPRINGBOARD TO A STRONG FINISH TO THE SEASON

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 3, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

FREMONT – With just two weeks remaining in the regular season, one could argue it's the beginning of the end of Ross's volleyball team.

The Lady Giants, on the other hand, are hoping Tuesday night's match against Toledo Woodward is just the beginning. The beginning of a strong finish and the starting point of a wave of momentum they wish to ride into the sectional tournament.

While it entered the night having lost its last eight matches, Ross overpowered Woodward. The Lady Giants cruised to a 3-0 victory, winning sets by scores of 25-5, 25-10, 25-11.

"I feel like this is what we needed to progress, going into tournaments. I think this is just the excellent game that we needed," senior Lindsay Weickert said.

"We definitely want to move past our first sectional game, get a medal, and just keep progressing, making this program stronger and building on this win," said Weickert, who finished with four kills, four digs, and six aces.

Though Ross had the vast advantage in size and skill, coach Kari Shull wanted her team to apply the lessons it had learned throughout the year and not let the Polar Bears hang around in the match.

"Any team can get beat on any given night, which includes us," Shull said. "Doing those little, basic things that we're talking about, you have to do them well tonight or a team that's scrappy like that, and continually sending you balls, all of a sudden, you'll find yourself on the losing end."

While Ross' record reads 4-14 overall, senior Jazmin Bulger takes comfort in seeing how far the Lady Giants have come from where they began over the summer. She said that if Ross and Woodward had met at the start of the season, the match might have been more competitive than it proved to be Tuesday night.

"We've grown a lot, I think," said Bulger, who totaled three kills Tuesday. "We've gotten a lot more aggressive at our swings. Take Liv Baptista, she's been doing a lot better at her passing and her swings, it's not just her. I think we've all grown really well for the better."

Olivia DeRodes had four kills, five aces, and six digs despite playing only in the first set, as Shull distributed playing time throughout the roster. Sara Hrynciw and Izzy Held each dished out 11 assists while Mia Boda had three passes.

Olivia Baptista finished with six digs and four kills, and Brooke Baptista added three kills. Hayley Lawrence had five digs and two kills. Kennedy Bohannon had five kills, Marissa Overmyer added four kills, and AnneMarie Moses had three kills. With four matches remaining on the schedule, including TRAC foe Clay, Thursday at home at 7:30, the Lady Giants are intent on closing the season on a high note.

“Even though it’s my senior year, I want to go out with a bang,” Bulger said. “I want to go in hard, play hard, regardless of whether we win or lose, I want it to be a competitive match.”

VOLLEYBALL MAKES NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS IN WIN OVER SANDUSKY

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 9, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

SANDUSKY – A tweak to the lineup did the trick.

After splitting the first two sets of its match at Sandusky, the Ross volleyball team changed up some personnel.

Senior Lindsay Weicket put on the libero jersey, the Lady Giants put up a bigger block on the right side, and kept sophomore Olivia Baptista on the court all the way around the rotation.

The moves worked as the Lady Giants won the next two sets to win the match, 25-17, 19-25, 25-16, 25-18.

“We came out a little slow, we struggled in the first set or two with our passing so we made some lineup adjustments for sets 3 and 4,” coach Kari Shull said. “It just gave us a bigger block on that right side, pulling our passes back in the middle of the court because those balls were shaky in the first and second sets. We had a hard time getting our arms going, so after we started getting more consistent passes, we were able to get our big swings in.”

Shull cited Kennedy Bohannan, three kills, Olivia Baptista, five digs and 12 passes, and AnneMarie Moses, three kills, 10 digs, 13 passes, for their play Monday night.

“Kenney Bohannan and Olivia Baptist played very well tonight, along with AnneMarie Moses,” Shull said. “Whether it was attacking or taking the big swings or being aggressive on defense or refusing to let the ball hit the floor, consistent with passing or stepping up with serve-receive defense.

“Sometimes we have some of our big guns that can’t get going, and we need other kids to come out of the plate and step up, and I think that happened tonight.”

Olivia DeRodes led with seven kills, seven digs, and 10 passes. Jazmin Bulger added four kills and five blocks.

Weickert had a team-high 15 passes and six digs, Sara Hrynciw led with 10 assists, with six digs, while Izzy Held added three assists.

The Lady Giants improve to 5-15 overall and will go back to Sandusky Tuesday when they visit Perkins for a 7:30 match. Ross closes its regular season Thursday at Toledo Central Catholic before starting the district tournament next week. The Lady Giants will play at Toledo Start on Oct. 18.

“We’re working to try to build momentum as we head into the tournament next week,” Shull said. “A little slow start today for a Monday, but hopefully we continue to build momentum throughout the week.”

DESPITE LOSS TO PERKINS, THE LADY GIANT IS HITTING ITS STRIDE AS THE SEASON WINDS DOWN

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 10, 2017 | [Volleyball](#)

SANDUSKY – With the season winding down, Ross's volleyball team is starting to peak.

The Lady Giants played strong and fast out of the gate, a constant struggle this season, and played two strong, nearly error-free sets Tuesday night. While Ross came away from Sandusky Perkins with a three-set loss, 22-25, 19-25, 10-25, the Lady Giants are feeling optimistic about their chances in the first round of next week's district tournament.

"I thought our kids came out on fire, I thought they played some of the best volleyball they've played in sets 1 and 2," coach Kari Shull said. "We only had one or two unforced errors in each of those sets. And for some reason in Set 3, we had like nine, and you add in the refs' calls, and there is your 15-point difference right there."

Jazmin Bulger led the Ross attack with seven kills while Olivia DeRodes had six. AnneMarie Moses added six kills to go with 18 passes and six digs. Olivia Baptista made three kills with a team-high 16 digs.

Lindsay Weickert led Ross with 30 passes and 15 digs. Sara Hrynciw totaled 11 assists with six digs, while Izzy Held had eight assists and seven digs.

"I thought they all played well, I'm not going to lie," Shull said. "We talked on the court, we were like, 'Oh my gosh, this kid is playing well', 'that kid is playing really well.' The girls collectively played really well and played as a team.

The Lady Giants play their final regular season match Thursday at Toledo Central Catholic before traveling to Toledo Start for the opening of district play next Wednesday.

"I feel perfect about the position my team is in," Shull said. "All of those shots we've talked about needing time and reps, time and reps, and getting time on the court, we're finally able to execute on more of those than not or create traffic to get a free ball back over.

"The girls have just grown tremendously," Shull added. "They've really hunkered down and focused in on executing and understanding timing, along with when the execution needs to occur and how. And they're starting to get those shots and those side outs when they need them."

