

SC Volleyball Advances to the Second Round of Conference Play After a Win Against Sutton Mustangs  
Sandy Creek Earns Their Second Win of the Season  
By Jenna Heinz

Leading up to conference play, the Cougars did not hold a winning record. Although, when it comes to conference play, record means nothing. Earlier in the season, the Cougars had the chance to play the Mustangs in a regular-season match. At this encounter, the Cougars went home without the win. However, the Cougars brushed that off when stepping onto the court at conference play. Instead of letting their record and previous experience against the Mustangs put them down, the Cougars entered the game with a victory in mind.

“I think they thought of us as the underdogs but we knew we were cable of beating them. They underestimated us because we lost to them previously. We knew we had to bring our A-game and we did,” said sophomore Kirstyn Sherbeck.

Sandy Creek’s start to the game wasn’t what they wanted, scoring their first point after Sutton’s score of two. The rest of the first set was slow for the Cougars. The Cougars struggled to get a good pass, set, and hit over the net. Due to a normal starter sitting on the bench, miscommunication played a big factor in the Cougars’ gameplay as well. The set ended with a win for the Mustangs, 25-12.

The Cougars decided to leave the first set behind them and start the next set off how they originally planned to start the first. With all the original starters on the floor, Maryn Martin earned the first point for the team off of an ace serve. With the excitement of the game back, the Cougars earned the first three points before Sutton got one. The team played as one for the rest of the set and every player contributed. With the first set completely out of mind, the Cougars completely flipped the score from the previous set. The game would continue to a third set, after the Cougars’ success in the second, 25-13.

Since each team had now won one set, the winner would be determined in a third set. The stakes were even higher considering this was conference play and not a normal season game. After a serve by the opposing Mustangs, the ball is set up for a swing by Jaden Claycamp who takes advantage of it and scores a point for the Cougars. Claycamp continues to swing and earns the following point with another kill. Point by point, the game continued on and the Cougars held a steady lead for the whole set, not letting the Mustangs get too close to passing their points. With a kill by Leah Hatch, the Cougars won the game.

Senior Marilyn Whittaker commented, “We lost the first set and didn’t want to let that get to us. As a team, we didn’t give up and had to believe we could win as long as we put all our effort in.”

The Cougars’ success throughout the game shows through the stats recorded. Jenna Heinz had a total of nine kills and both Jaden Claycamp and Kirstyn Sherbeck had 7. The three had a combined total of 6 blocks as well. Along with success in hitting and blocking, the teams serving and passing was strong as well. Throughout the game, the players communicated well with each other and played as a team.

“All season we were waiting for all 6 girls on the court to bring it, at the same time. That was the game I believe they all did. They were all very deserving of that win,” Head coach Kourtney Allen commented.

With much success and improvement, the Cougars will continue on to the second round of conference, in hopes of another win.