Another New Season and More New Coaches

by Bailey Theis

Another new volleyball season, another new coach, or coaches.

Dorchester volleyball girls were tired of adjusting to what seemed like every year to new coaches.

The senior volleyball girls have had three different assistant coaches and two head coaches over the last four years. Their freshmen year was Head Coach Claire Tachovsky and Assistant Coach Raymi Polk. Their sophomore year they had a new assistant coach, Amanda Clouse. Their junior year they were able to keep the same coaches. Finally, their senior year, they had a whole new slate with Head Coach Bethany Theis and Assistant Coach Kelli Kohout.

The girls handled the changes well and had a good season considering having new coaches.

"It was hard at times to have to adjust to a new coach each year," senior Micaela Loarca said. "I'd just get used to one way of coaching, and then would have to change again for the next year."

One of the many challenges they faced was learning new tricks and techniques. The girls were so used to doing it one way and now changing it to meet the newest coach's expectation was sometimes hard.

"Balancing between how I used to do things and trying to do what the new coaches wanted was more difficult than I thought it would be," senior Savannah June said. "It's hard to try to meet new expectations every year."

Even though Head Coach Theis didn't have a lot of coaching experience as a high school head coach, she was willing to step up to the plate when the school was looking. "I played in high school and my husband and I play year round on a co-ed court and sand volleyball. I had also coached the girls in junior high and had been assistant coach for two years previously."

Assistant Coach Kohout also had some experience. "I've been coaching DPS elementary aged kids for about five years. However, coaching high school girls was different. I was able to get into coaching strategy rather than initially teaching basic skills like I'd done with the elementary."

The team also had many other outside resources to help them improve. They hosted a volleyball camp and Husker players, Andi Jackson and Olivia Mauch, came down and ran a camp for York and Dorchester girls.

"I loved having a camp with the Husker players," freshman Katilyn Bolton said. "I even got them to sign my shoes."

Assistant Coach Kohout's sister, Lindsay Gangelhoff, who played volleyball in college, came and helped out at a few practices and also Coach Theis's husband, Michael Theis, came and helped out quite a bit when he wasn't farming.

"It was really cool to have them work with us," junior Lily Lehr said. "They were able to help me with some of my hitting and digging."

Head Coach Bethany Theis had the opportunity to coach her daughter for the last time. Having a daughter on the team can be difficult especially when she starts being a daughter not a player.

"It definitely wasn't the easiest having parents as coaches, but it was fine. The hardest part was knowing if they were my parents or being my coach," senior Bailey Theis said.

It actually may have been harder for Coach Theis to coach her child.

"It was hard only because I didn't get to enjoy just watching her play the sport she loves so I missed a lot of the exciting moments when she did really well," Coach Theis said. "There were times I wanted to really yell in excitement for my daughter, but as a coach I also didn't want to show favoritism."

Theis, however, is stepping away from coaching for next year.

"I really loved coaching volleyball, but the main reason I did it was so my daughter had a coach. Without any more children in school, I know I'll be busy watching my daughters compete in college," Theis said.

Fortunately, Coach Kohout is staying around for another year as Assistant Coach.

"I really enjoyed getting to know the girls as individuals," Kohout said. "I've been a fan and have watched them all in that capacity for the past couple of years so it was really cool to get to know them on a different level."