

Volleyball

Saints Show No Mercy

BY J.P. LYONS
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After some pizza, a movie and a brunch, the Seton Saints were ready to play volleyball Saturday afternoon.

The Saints, defending Class AAA state champs and No. 1 seed, capped a busy weekend by easily defeating No. 2 seed Mother of Mercy, 15-6, 15-2, for the Cincinnati AAA District title at Forest Park High School.

After practice Friday afternoon, Seton coach Mary Jett ordered some pizza for the team while they sat and watched the movie, "Terms of Endearment." Saturday morning, the team met at a Delhi restaurant for some brunch at 11:30 a.m.

"I WANTED the team to relax," Jett explained. "I didn't want them to sit around by themselves and think about the game. After the movie Friday night, it was late. All the players went straight home. And then we met for brunch today and it really helped us. We felt real comfortable with each other."

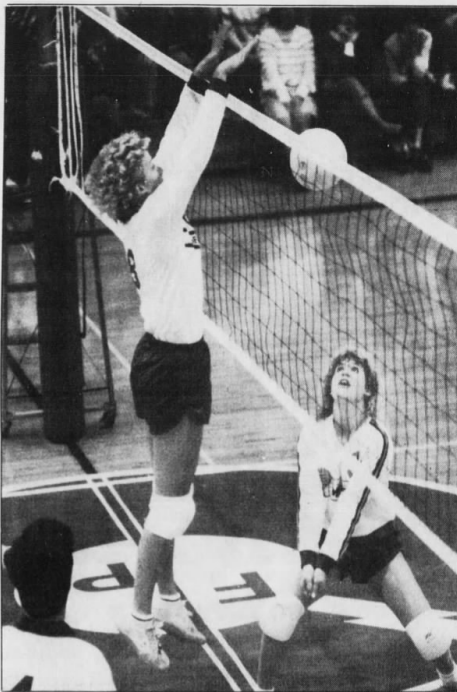
Jett's strategy paid off. As for the match itself: "We were intimidated," Mercy coach Rose Koch said.

Seton easily disposed of Mercy in the first game, and during the second contest the Saints broke a 2-2 tie and rolled to a 15-2 victory.

Seton senior Barb Mannix may have played her best games of the year, but Jett didn't quite agree.

"Barb (Mannix) was awesome today," Jett said. "But (setter) Kelly Kemen was just as good. Kelly kept setting up Barb for spikes."

Mannix, a 6-foot hitter, was proud of her effort. "I thought I played real well," Mannix said.



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ANN FISHBURN of Seton taps the ball over the net to a waiting Lisa Wenz of Mother of Mercy during Seton's victory Saturday.

"We were real relaxed coming into the game, and Kelly (Kemen) set me up with some great feeds."

Seton defeated Mercy during the regular season, but Kemen said the Saints still had to play their best to win again Saturday.

"BEFORE THE game," said Kemen. "we were like a family. Coach Jett prepared us well. We had some fun together before the game, but when the whistle blew for the first set, we were all business."

Jett's pre-game formula—pizza, movie and a brunch—suits Mannix just fine, too.

"I love pizza and movies," Mannix said. "I think it's good for the team that we have

brunch together, but I always order a lunch, instead. My teammates give me a hard time about ordering lunch instead of brunch and that helps me to laugh. It's the best way to prepare for a game."

And how does Seton compare to last year's volleyball state champs?

Jett paused and finally said, "Offensively, we are better than last year. As far as repeating (as state champs), I don't know. Only time will tell."

Seton, 26-0, faces Dayton Wayne Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and Oak Hills meets Kettering Fairmount at 11 a.m. in the regional semifinals. The winners play at 5 p.m. Saturday for the Regional title. All the games will be played at Forest Park. Mercy finished 21-5.