

## Centralia stays unbeaten; advances in 1A-I with win over Spearville

DODGE CITY – A rematch was certainly a possibility with five teams in the eight-team bracket of Class 1A-I that had competed four months earlier in the same division of State Volleyball in the same venue at United Wireless Arena.

The first opportunity came in the opening quarterfinal round when Centralia's Panthers took on the Spearville Royal Lancers. In a reversal of late October, it was Centralia's turn to come out on top, this one a 59-42 verdict over a Spearville team that had captured the state volleyball title.

In that late October volleyball match, Spearville had beaten the Panthers in three sets (13-25, 25-21, 25-21) before Centralia was ousted in the semifinals by Pretty Prairie, another basketball state qualifier.

Centralia was powered by a balanced scoring attack, a tenacious defense and what Coach Roger Holthaus called a "total team effort."

"We don't see the normal straight up defense, so we were able to take advantage of our shooters," Holthaus said after watching his squad hit from long range to the tune of 10-of-20 treys, including a sizzling 9-of-15 in the first half. "We usually are seeing a triangle-and-two or a box-and-one, so this was different."

The reason his team has seen those odd defenses is finding a way to stop Holthaus' sizzling freshman, 5-6 Oen Deters. All she did against the Lancers was finish with 21 points, 18 of them in the first half when she hit 5-of-6 from behind the arc.

"She makes me look good," Holthaus said with a smile. "She's special, but the other girls contribute in so many ways. I couldn't say enough about our team defense (forcing 24 Spearville turnovers), and just the overall general floor game that everyone played."

The younger Deters was joined by her senior sister, Avery, in double figures with 13 while Lena Haverkamp and Abbie Flentie each contributed 11. The two Deters also finished with 8 and 9 rebounds, respectively.

For Spearville, senior Anna Stein had a big night with 16 points and five rebounds.

“She’s a tough one to guard, but I thought overall the team defense was the difference,” Holthaus said.

The Panthers took control early with a 21-9 first quarter outburst that was partly available when the Lancers’ 5-9 forward Tawney Krominga was whistled with her second foul just three minutes in and sat the rest of the half.

The Lancers stayed within range at 34-21 by halftime and came out in the third quarter and immediately went on a 7-2 mini-run to trim the deficit to eight, 36-28. That came with 5:04 left in the stanza and Krominga was then saddled with her third foul and headed to the bench.

Centralia responded with 9-0 run to put the game out of reach, going up 45-28, and leading by 16, 48-32, heading to the final eight minutes. The margin was never under 15 and the biggest Panther lead came at 57-36.

The Panthers are now 24-0 heading into their semifinal battle. Spearville finishes its season at 17-8.

-----

### **CENTRALIA 59, SPEARVILLE 42**

Spearville 9 12 11 10 -- 42

Centralia 21 13 14 11 -- 59

Spearville (17-8) – Brakey 0-2 0-0 0, Huston 0-4 2-2 2, Pedigo 3-3 0-0 8, Stein 7-15 2-2 16, Krominga 2-7 0-0 5, Ackerman 1-1 0-0 2, Ratzlaff 2-6 0-0 6, Kuker 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 16-42 4-4 42.

Centralia (24-0) – Haverkamp 5-13 1-5 11, Wells 1-2 0-0 3, A. Deters 4-5 3-5 13, O. Deters 5-11 6-10 21, Flentie 4-7 1-1 11, Kramer 0-5 0-0 0, Domann 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 19-44 11-21 59.

3-point goals—Spearville 6-13 (Huston 0-1, Pedigo 2-2, Krominga 1-3, Ratzlaff 2-4, Kuker 1-3), Centralia 10-20 (Haverkamp 0-5, Wells 1-1, A. Deters 2-2, O. Deters 5-6, Flentie 2-5, Domann 0-1). Rebounds—Spearville 24 (Stein 5), Centralia 24 (A. Deters 9). Assists—Spearville 13 (Brakey, Krominga 3 each), Centralia 12 (Haverkamp 5). Fouls—Spearville 19, Centralia 7. Fouled out—None.