MIFFLIN COUNTY VOLLEYBALL

Young team will have to play over the net in MPC

By NICK WAGNER

Sentinel sports reporter nwagner@lewistownsentinel.com

LEWISTOWN - Rarely do role players find time in the spotlight at the varsity level. But when they do, you know you have something special.

For Mifflin County's first season in the Mid-Penn Conference, the net will seem to be a little higher than normal with a lack of role players and height surrounding the young volleyball squad.

Last year's 4-11 Husky team graduated four seniors: Sammie Chestnut, Chelsea Bilger, Katie Leister and Katie Mundie. Each of those players filled a very specific role on Matt Kern's team. That will be where Mifflin County lacks experience and depth this season.

"We're going to miss key role players," Kern said. "They've never practiced before until this week and they are undersized."

Mifflin County's one big strength is how smart this young team is. Returning for the Huskies will be a trio of seniors that have played together since they were freshmen: Sarah Bonson, Kelsey Barth and Maddie Berrier.

"What I really like about them is that they are very smart volleyball players," Kern said. "They've played together for a while so they mesh really well."

To go along with that trio of upperclassmen will be fellow seniors Alyssa Stackpole and Hannah Miller. And although those two haven't played with the Husky core very long they fit together very well.

"Alyssa fits in very well and Hannah started last year and has some reach over the net," Kern said. "There are five seniors and I expect them



AT A GLANCE

MIFFLIN COUNTY **HUSKIES**

District 6, Class AAA Coach: Matt Kern, assisted by Jess Smith and Roy Bucher 2011: 4-11

> Sentinel photo by **BUFFIE BOYER**

Members of the Mifflin County volleyball team are, from left, front, Hannah Miller, Sarah Bonson, Alyssa Stackpole, Maddie Berrier and Kelsey Barth; middle, Kierra Imler, Shania Teenie, Rachel Johnson and Anessa Holes; back, Kaitlyn Dreese, Anna Aurand, Hayley Hower, Jenna Snyder and Chole Benner.

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to carry a lot of weight."

With the size being a serious problem heading into Mifflin County's first season in the Mid-Penn, Kern and the Huskies will focus on a few key volleyball aspects to carry in this season. them through what will be a tough schedule.

may have.

an opportunity to make a some responsibility." play," Kern said. "But that's come in to score points."

Setting most of the balls for Mifflin County will be junior ers to step up in some varsity setter Kaitlyn Dreese.

her shoulders," Kern said, thinking they will do all us it will lead to some success. "But she also has the respect right." of the seniors."

it's in good hands for years to also has something that not all come. There are a lot of good, young players in the system, Kern said. But that doesn't mean some of those youngsters will get a chance to shine

"There's a lot of good young players coming up and have been together for a very Receiving serves and giv- we're looking for them to ing themselves the best op- make a push in the next two portunity will play a big role weeks of practice," Kern said in the success Mifflin County early in the preseason. "I think from what I've seen they are 'Good defense will give us ready to step up and take

Some of those players will where the volleyball IQ will certainly get the chance to play at the varsity level.

"We've asked some playmatches and have a very spe-"She has a lot of weight on cific role," Kern said. "I'm Kern said. "If we can focus on

Mifflin County looks like off, Mifflin County's group prepare for that."

teams can say they have. That's basically being able to get along with one another. Kern said that is very important when a team is young and looking to build success.

With smart players that long time, sometimes physical ability doesn't take precedent. But Kern expects to go into the Commonwealth Division and compete in every match.

A key to that is focusing on Husky volleyball and Husky volleyball only.

"We're really trying to focus on our side of the net so we don't get shellshocked when we go somewhere, which happens occasionally," But we have to set our goals Whether it's on the court or realistically and we have to



ENJOY THE GAME! Have fun!



Mark Eddy, GRI

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613 West Fourth Street Lewistown, Pa, 17044

Business (717) 242-9151

Cell (717) 250-8866