Volleyball cruises over Caldwell University

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

After a tough loss to Dominican University on the road several days earlier, in the last morning game of the season on Saturday, Sep. 28, the volleyball team overpowered the Caldwell University Cougars in three sets 25–21, 25–16 and 25–16.

"They had a lot of off-speed shots. We had a little bit of a struggle with that, causing timing issues with the block in the beginning, but then we were able to adjust with it as the match went on," Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said. "We started to get on a roll on serves, hitting locations and zones. We got kind of stronger as the match went on."

The first set started a balancing act between both teams, as each managed to score after each other. The Owls fell behind quickly 2–0 but tied on a bad set by Cougars' Jordan Mack.

For a moment, the Cougars scored four straight points to tie and take a 9–7 lead over the Owls. The first two points that tied the score at 7–7 were on kills by Cougars' Wyette Schubert-Brown.

The university took a 9–7 lead on the next two points were from back-to-back attack errors on outside hitters Isabel Alvarez, a freshman, and Raegen Emery, a graduate.

Later in the set, several more attack errors by Mack assisted the Owls in securing the first set.

"We are so, so young and bringing it together. There's no 'give this person the ball,'" Barbaro said. "We lack, obviously, that experience. So, we're just growing together, and we're just going to keep trying to get better every week."



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Setter Lily Miller, a senior, sets up right-side hitter Sydney Bennett, a junior.

"Caldwell really went on a run, and we were struggling really hard to get out of our rotations. It was good to be able to make some of those substitution changes and have people come in off the bench and be able to step up to pull us ahead."

— Head Coach Lisa Barbaro

The momentum of the young and inexperienced did not fade, as they quickly went up 4–0 in the second set.

After the Owls were up 6–2, each team had their streaks, starting with Caldwell scoring 11 of the next 12 points.

It was filled with one bad set, one ace, one attack error and eight kills for the Cougars. The Owls' only point was on a service error from Mack.

After Caldwell had their run, it was the Owls' turn to give them a taste of their own medicine, hammering off eight straight points to take a 15–13 lead. They would go on another run of 10–3 to win the second set.

The late run was highlighted by eight attack errors on the Cougars. Outside hitter Julia Jaworowski, a freshman, documented a kill as Emery, middle blocker Sarah Stark and outside hitter Victoria Pascual, sophomores, each recorded two.

"I think we did great. We had great communication. We just did our job of putting the ball away," Pascual said. "We really wanted this win; we were on a losing streak. We really needed it."

Needing one more set to win, the Cougars jumped up early in the third 2–0.

The Owls deficit did not last long, as they scored seven straight points. The Cougars got into reaching distance 9–8 but would ultimately fall in the set of three straight points on a kill by Emery, a service ace and a kill by right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a junior.



Middle blocker Sarah Stark, a sophomore, and outside hitter Julia Jaworowski, a freshman, attempt a block.



Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, goes for the kill.

Jaworowski and Bennett each had four kills. As Pascual totaled six with Emery having the most with 12.

"It's looking better every day. We've got a lot of work to do, but it's going in the right direction," Emery said. "We did a lot of film study today before– we were able to execute it and we served tough that was our main thing, and it got us a win and three."

The Owls are 2–11 on the season after the win against Caldwell.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernews.com

Men's soccer comeback

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls scored twice in the game's final ten minutes to come out with a 2–1 victory against the Saint Anselm College Hawks. The Owls now improved their record to 3–3–1 on the year and 1–2 in NE10 Conference play.

Opening the game, the Hawks played with physicality, eventually scoring late in the first half of the game, stealing the momentum from the Owls going into halftime. In the first half, the Owls started out slow, making critical errors and racking up five fouls.

"It's very hard, especially when our first half was sloppy, but we came out with the win and stuck together like a family," midfielder Samuel Nagy, a junior, said.

The Hawks' defense would hold the Owls scoreless for the remainder of the first due to these errors. The Owls and Saint Anselm have played each other multiple times over the years, which caused this tense and physical matchup between the two schools.

"They are tough to play against; they sit in a low block, and it makes it harder for us on the offensive side," defender and team captain Alex da Cunha, a senior, said.

They came out motivated in the second half, taking the momentum back.

As the end of the game neared, forward Jalen Jean, a senior, tied the game on a wide-open shot. Jean was one-on-one with Saint Anselm's goalkeeper when he kicked past him and into the goal. This goal would be the fifth of his career.

Two minutes later, forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scored a goal to put the Owls on top.

Clemente has been on a hot streak since the start of the season; he currently leads the team in goals.

"This group doesn't shy down from that scenario. We fight until the end," Head Coach Kevin Anderson said.

This comeback win showed that the university is ready for anything that comes their way.

There is a rich history between these two NE10 teams. Saint Anselm is resilient, and always gives the Owls problems on the offensive side of the ball.

It was clear the Owls pulled out the win due to their defense. Goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, scored a crucial save, preventing the Hawks from going up by two.

They are 1–2 in the conference, with high hopes of competing with the best in the NE10. They look to take home a victory in every conference matchup and put the conference on notice.

With their resilient, hard-working and technical style of play, the Owls look to be a top team in the NE10 and even get a tournament bid.

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PHOTO | LILY RAND

Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scores the game-winning goal.

Women's soccer blowout

By Avery Martin
Contributor

The Owls cruised to victory on Wednesday, Sept. 25 over Post University in a 6–1 win at Jess Dow Field.

With their highest score this season, multiple players found the goal in what was a stellar showing from both offense and defense.

"I thought we played well as a team. We scored a lot of goals, which is what we've been working toward, so we are really happy about that," forward Nicky Deslauriers, a junior, said.

The Owls scored all five of their goals in the first half, plus an own goal from Post. With 20 shots in the first half and nine in the second, the Owls dominated their opponents.

Five different players each scored, with Deslauriers taking the first point off an assist from forward Alexie Rosado, a graduate, and midfielder Emma Noheimer, a freshman.

Rosado earned a goal of her own a few minutes later with an assist by midfielder Shi Reeves, a junior. It was the first goal of the season for both Deslauriers and Rosado.

"We played really well. We were able to connect passes and get a lot of opportunities on net, which was really nice," Reeves said.

Forward Sydney Myers, a sophomore, brought in her fourth goal of the season unassisted.

This was followed by one from Reeves that came off an assist courtesy of forwards Victoria Vera, a senior, and Angela Filosa, a graduate. It was Reeve's second goal this season.

Back Caileigh Driscoll, a senior, brought in the Owls' last goal unassisted, her third goal this season. Goalkeeper Abby Aughe, a senior, stopped two of three shots by Post.

Deslauriers said a strong showing from the offense is key to producing a win.

"That's a big theme we have been working on; Being able to score six goals is huge," Deslauriers said.

Reeves said that the team has been working on the accuracy of their shots, which paid off with such a large win.

"I know in past games we've had a lot of shots but haven't been able to score as much as we did today, so it will be really helpful for our next game," Reeves said.

Head Coach Adam Cohen said that a key strategy for his team is constantly working on small improvements.

"We want to score goals, and today was the most goals we scored so far in a game this season, so that's a step forward for us," Cohen said.

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PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Defender Mackenzie McCormack, a junior, attempts to score.