



ACS Volleyball Opens Season

ACS Sports News
Editor

August 21, 2022 - Rams Varsity Volleyball opened their 2022 season this weekend in Pensacola in the Eagles Invitational Tournament hosted by East Hill Christian. Eight teams from Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana competed in the tournament.

This year's ACS team, while talented, is very young overall. They had moments during the four games they played that exhibited their talents, but they also struggled at other times with consistently showing those talents. This is typical of young teams.

Rams 0 Paladins 2

ACS's opponent in their opening game was the Pontchartrain Paladins from Louisiana. The first set opened close with the Paladins taking a 6-4 lead before pulling away with a 7-0 run 13-4. Anna Weaver helped pull ACS closer with a great serving performance, but the Rams fell down 22-12. A late rally fell short, and the Rams dropped the first set 25-16.

The second set started much better for the Rams, who jumped out to 11-0 lead. Miscues undermined the fast start, and the Paladins battled back to make the score 13-9. The Paladins took the lead 16-15 and ACS

called a timeout to settle down. Unfortunately, the Paladins stayed hot and finished off the Rams 25-18.

Rams 0 Ambassadors 2

In Game 2 the Rams faced off against a familiar Western Divisional Rival in the Panhandle Christian Conference, Lighthouse Baptist Academy from Theodore. A slow start in the first set had the Rams playing from behind the whole set. A block by McKenna Nicholas sparked a late push to pull the Rams back to a 3 point deficit at 21-18, but that was as close as they would come as Lighthouse finished off the Rams 25-18.

The second set saw another slow start for the Rams and they quickly found themselves down 15-2. There would be no rally as communication issues doomed their efforts and the Ambassadors closed the match with a 25-4 victory in set 2.

Rams 0 Eagles 2

In Game 3, another PCC Team awaited the Rams. The hosts of the tournament the East Hill Christian Eagles. Team Captain Brooklyn Hursh was sidelined with a wrist injury and was replaced in the starting lineup by Keeleigh Strawbridge.

East Hill jumped to an early lead and never looked back running away with the first set 25-7. A high spot in this set was the serving of Lizzy Landis, but the Rams could not overcome their slow start.

The second set saw the Eagles again fly into an early lead and end the match 25-6.

Rams 0 Sting Rays 2

In the final game of the tournament for the Rams, they faced off against Lighthouse from Pensacola. In a hard-fought contest, the Rams put on a valiant struggle to get their first win. It was not to be. In a back in forth affair stand out play from Tamra Stoltzfus and McKenna Nicholas kept the Rams in the hunt until the end. The game was tied 23-23 before Lighthouse finally won the set 26-24.

The second set saw another hard fought battle between the two teams. Ava Smoker's serving pulled the Rams to within 3 points at 18-15. It wasn't enough, as the Rams fell just short losing 25-18 in the final set of the tournament.

While it was a tough weekend for the Rams there is reason for optimism heading into league play. ACS played well in spurts and had several individuals who displayed their abilities. Young teams often struggle to find consistency early in the year. Consistency will be the key for this team moving forward into the their league schedule.