

Senior girls team showing depth on the court

By Joel van der Veen

DAVIDSON — With one tournament under their belts, Davidson's senior girls volleyball team has already started to click.

The Raiders began their season with a tournament in Nipawin on the weekend of Sept. 8 and 9.

Wrapping up the round-robin games with a 4-2 record, they went on to win both playoff games and earn Tier II gold, or fifth place out of 12 teams.

"They played like a team that had been playing together for a long time," said Sandra Baldwin, who is co-coaching the team with Leanne Read.

There are 15 players on the senior girls team — three in Grade 12, five in Grade 11 and seven in Grade 10.

Baldwin said the three oldest girls — Gracie Allan, Emily Read and Lynzey Sanden — are proving to be leaders both on and off the court.

Many of the players are able to transition between different positions with ease, unusual for a team playing at this level.

"We have depth in all

positions," said Read.

Grade 10 student Hallee McNichol is playing volleyball for the first time. Her new teammates quickly gave her the nickname "Rookie."

In spite of this, her coaches said she's playing well and learning quickly. She even agreed to play in the Nipawin tournament, which would be a daunting prospect for most beginners.

Read recalled asking McNichol at one point how the tournament was going. Her answer: "Terrifying."

With such a large roster, Baldwin said she anticipates the greatest challenge will be ensuring a fair distribution of playing time.

"It's hard to get 15 people onto the court," said Read.

To that end, they are using a reduced roster, with 11 or 12 players travelling to tournaments and nine or 10 players competing in league games.

Providing assistance to the coaches are Brooke Stamnes and Taelor Bayda.

The Raiders play their



Sitting on the sidelines during a tournament in Nipawin are the Davidson Raiders senior girls volleyball team. Pictured from left are: coach Sandra Baldwin, Lynzey Sanden, Gracie Allan, Tylar Oliver, Emily Read, Jordan Matheson, Chase Lyn Dean, Lauren Bueckert, Hannah Gust, Jocelyn Millham, Hallee McNichol and Elena Nykiforuk.

(Leader photo by Leanne Read)

first home game this Wednesday, when they will host LCBI/Dinsmore.

They are scheduled

to play in a total of seven tournaments this season, including a home tournament hosted by

Davidson and Kenaston on Sept. 29.

Davidson will also host 2A senior girls provincials

this year, again in co-operation with Kenaston, scheduled for Nov. 17 and 18.



Aztecs win consolation title in senior girls RAVE

Loreburn Central School hosted their eighth annual senior girls RAVE (Really Awesome Volleyball Event) on Sept. 8 and 9.

Fourteen teams took part in a two-pool draw with the top four teams in each pool moving on to playoffs. The Outlook Blues A took top honours for the weekend with a win over NWCS-Plenty in the championship final.

The Loreburn Aztecs won the consolation side of the tournament, defeating Gravelbourg in their final. Pictured here are (back row from left): coach Ashley Norrish, Alyssa Glubis, Abigail Graham, Brooklyn Lemcke, Madison Snustead, coach Madelyn Vollmer; (front row) Kaitlyn Glubis, Tori Rendall, and Brianna Jess. Missing is head coach Hallie Vollmer.

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