

Mustangs sweep Heart volleyball opener

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Mount Mercy women's volleyball team has gotten off to a nice start this season with an 11-and-2 record, but Coach Deb Marlin knows there's a long way to go for the Mustangs.

Mount Mercy swept Culver-Stockton, 25-15, 25-20, 25-22, in the Heart of America Conference opener at the steamy Hennessey Recreation Center Tuesday night.

"It's a great start," Marlin said. "We've done what we needed to do. There's one match that we would like back. Our other loss was against a really good team, and I thought we played well in that match.

"But at the end of the day, the toughest part of our schedule is yet to come. If we can keep everyone healthy and keep fine-tuning our game, we've looked really good at times. We can play with anybody, I believe, in this conference."

Lauren Stopko, who became the career digs leader at Mount Mercy this past weekend, collected 23 more Tuesday to help pave the victory. The 5-foot-5 libero from Tiffin now has a whopping 2,028 digs in her four-year career with the Mustangs.

"That kid does not get out-worked," said Marlin. "And if she feels like she has been out-worked, she takes it personally and gets upset."

Becca Thomson led a balanced attack at the net with 12 kills. Alyssa Weldon had 11 kills, with Maddie Bell and Olivia Coe finishing with nine apiece.

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the Mustangs swept the Heart volleyball opener, winning both sets 3-0. The Mustangs' offense was led by Kaitlyn Smith, who scored 12 points, and Reagan Doughtine, who scored 10 points. The Mustangs' defense was led by Kaitlyn Smith, who made 10 digs, and Reagan Doughtine, who made 8 digs. The Mustangs' setter was Kaitlyn Smith, who made 10 assists. The Mustangs' libero was Reagan Doughtine, who made 10 digs. The Mustangs' captain was Kaitlyn Smith, who scored 12 points. The Mustangs' coach was Jim Ecker, who coached the team to a 3-0 victory.