

Armstrong helps Eagles toughen up

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 22 September 2016 04:48 -



Nobody wanted to look at Erica Armstrong's left hand after she dislocated a finger while playing for the Kirkwood volleyball team in a 3-0 victory over NIACC Wednesday night, although the trainer had no choice.

Several of Armstrong's teammates covered their mouths and looked away.

"They were about to puke," she said later.

Even Armstrong looked away as the trainer examined her hand and then popped the errant finger back into place.

"It was ugly," said Kirkwood Coach Jill Williams, who took a quick peek.

"It was smashed up," Armstrong confirmed.

Incredibly, she did not miss a single point despite the injury. "Oh no, couldn't," she said firmly.

Without a doubt, Armstrong is a tough customer on the floor.

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The trainer taped her pinkie and ring finger together between sets and the 6-foot sophomore from Guttenburg and Clayton Ridge High School simply played on.

"I asked her, 'Does it hurt?'" Williams said after the match.

"She said, 'No.'

"Are you good to go?"

"Yes."

It was a freak injury at the net as Armstrong and Madsy Richards both tried to block a shot by NIACC.

"The ball came over and I went up to block it and Madsy swung on it," said Armstrong. "Madsy hit it and the ball hit my finger."

Armstrong's hand began to ache after the match and she was headed to the training room for assistance, but not before she received the "Pride Award" from her teammates in the form of a stuffed toy animal that's supposed to be a wolf (but looks more like a dog). One of the Eagles gets the award in recognition of a job well done.

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