

SECTION B

FORSYTH SPORTS

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Weekend Edition-October 11-12, 2024



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East Forsyth nabs inaugural volleyball playoff berth

By Jake Cantrell
For the Forsyth County News

After a 2-0 sweep of Walnut Grove in Tuesday's Region 8-4A tournament, the East Forsyth volleyball team is headed to the state playoffs for the first time in school history.

For Broncos head coach Chris James, his team is getting the success they deserve and have earned.

"Honestly, I'm just really, really happy for these girls," James said. "This is an awesome group of girls, and I'm really happy for them. We've had girls that have been working for this all four years, and now, they're finally going. They've been putting in the work, and they get all the credit. ... It's an amazing feeling."

The Broncos ran through the region with an undefeated record in the regular season, earning the No. 1 seed and hosting right for the tournament, which kicked off Tuesday night. As the top seed, East Forsyth received a first round bye in the region tournament, putting the Broncos just one win away from clinching the school's first volleyball state playoff berth.

Walnut Grove proved to be a difficult out for the Broncos in the first set, coming just one point away from being the first team in the region to take a set against East Forsyth. The Warriors scored six unanswered points to take a 24-23 lead and force a set point. The Broncos answered back, tying the game at 24, then 25 before stringing together the consecutive points

necessary to claim the set, 27-25.

James said it was good to see his team challenged, as they prepare for a playoff run.

"They're poised to make a good run, so this was a good match for us," he said. "They were kind of shaky in the beginning, but that's good for us. It puts us in those situations where it's a little bit tense, and that will definitely help us in the long run when that happens again."

The second set looked more familiar for East Forsyth.

After going down 3-0 to begin the set, the Broncos responded with a 14-2 run to take control. East Forsyth stole the momentum with clean rallies and then grew the momentum with excellent serving, starting with aces by Chelsea Torrence and Mandy



East Forsyth volleyball players celebrate against Walnut Grove during a Region 8-4A tournament second-round match Tuesday at home.

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for the Forsyth
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Karavite.

"One of our big things, we don't necessarily need to have a bunch of aces, but what we really want to do is get them out of their system and get them predictable," James said. "That's our goal. ... We may not neces-

sarily get as many aces as we did today, but we just want to get them out of their system and get them predictable. Today, we had a couple that were feeling good.

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