

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

## **Eleven is heaven for FCC volleyball**

### **Cougars continue to build program under Hathaway**

By Darren J. Gendron | Staff Writer

The difference in the 2009 Frederick Community College volleyball team was easy to spot on the first-ever Fall Sports Photo Day.

The team of 11 took a moment to get into two height-arranged rows, with head coach Breanne Hathaway and assistant coach Kristie Fourcade bracketing them.

Last year, they were just a simple row of seven volleyball players.

And the year before that, it was just the coaches.

"I just worked on recruiting," Hathaway said of her first year on the job.

The cupboards of Cougar volleyball were completely bare in 2007. The decision came to cancel the season and instead put on a full press on recruiting. Two years later, Hathaway is looking forward to having the luxury of options from the bench.

"I've got more than one option now," Hathaway said.

Not only that, but there's good options on the roster. Cieara Meyer, a 5-foot-10 sophomore from Crystal City, Mo., got a nod as one of the top returning players in Region XX, after averaging 1.10 blocks and 1.34 kills per game.

The other key starting sophomore is Alex Abuerto, Linganore graduate who will start as the other outside hitter.

The rest of the six are filled out by freshmen, including Catoclin alumnae Sara Gartrell, Ashley Beall, Kersti Moore as well as Linganore grad Lauren Scholen.

"These girls are really dedicated and they understand what all the hard work and scrimmages are for," Hathaway said.

However, the freshmen aren't completely new to Hathaway and her coaching. Gartrell, Beall and Moore are all part of the Frederick Area Volleyball Organization, or FAVOR. Hathaway used to play for FAVOR when she was part of the Middletown High team, and has since returned to FAVOR as a coach.

Freshmen Emily Snyder of Catoclin and Frederick graduate Mollie Bowling are also products of FAVOR. Danielle Maught (Brunswick) is another local product on the Cougars roster.

"I'll take 11, it's so much better than seven," Hathaway said. "I'd like at least 12, but up to 15 is good."

#### **Digging into a Pink think**

The Frederick Community College volleyball team is holding a Dig Pink rally on Wednesday, Oct. 21, during its home match against Potomac State College (WV).

In conjunction with the Side-Out Foundation, Dig Pink is meant to help raise funds and awareness to fight breast cancer. People attending the Oct. 21 game are encouraged to wear pink.