

# Press Release

Contact: Shelley Sparks  
Phone: (318) 237-8565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS CONFERENCE**

FARMERVILLE, LA - The U.C.A. Lady Lions Junior Varsity Volleyball team, consisting of one 9<sup>th</sup> grader, nine 8<sup>th</sup> graders and two 7<sup>th</sup> grade athletes, swept the Arkansas-Louisiana Christian Athletic League, finishing their season with an undefeated record of 10 wins - 0 losses. According to Coach Shelley Sparks, every member of the team contributed significantly to their accomplishments this season, including personal goals being met by all individuals. Sparks states, "This team has worked very hard this season, determining to highlight their strengths and work diligently on their weaknesses, with a positive attitude and strong friendships among the players which has been a huge factor in their success. Not only do they play well together as a team, they continually pray and encourage one another off the court. In order to be a true winning team, these factors must be present. I am very

proud of their accomplishments, and I look forward to many more successes in their future."

The team was led in service aces by the following players: Kayla Albritton, Brittney Lawson, Jessica Hicks, and Taylor Mashaw. Assists (sets) were led by Brittney Lawson, Sarah Orten, McKenzie Rykard, and Jessica Hicks. Kills were led by Brittney Lawson, Taylor Mashaw, Jessica Hicks, and Amanda Linder. The team was led by Captain Taylor Snell and Co-Captain Taylor Mashaw. Mashaw was out due to an ankle injury in the late season, but played a lead role in the teams' success, as well as the outstanding rookie players this season, Amanda Linder, Hannah Beck, Tori Desadier and Brianna Allen.

Next year, the Lady Lions will be moving to the Mississippi Private School Association, which currently does not have a volleyball program developed. Coach Sparks plans to help pioneer the development of such a program in MPSA, while seeking the help of surrounding college coaches, officials, and experienced supporters of the sport. About the transition, Sparks comments, "It may be a delayed process, but I believe the interest is here and just needs someone to step up and get the ball rolling. Volleyball is a great sport that emphasizes many athletic skills and abilities. It's more than just hitting a ball over a net, when done properly. Also, I believe our team deserves to be given the opportunity to pursue their interests in volleyball, considering the growth and excitement we have seen generated over the past five years of participating in it."

Coach Sparks and the Lady Lions JV Team thanks their fans, friends, the Varsity team, and all those who helped at the matches this season, knowing they could not have done it without their support. Great job, U.C.A. Lady Lions 2008 JV Volleyball team!