

Cats hope to compete for title in revamped Region 7-4A

From Staff Reports

Experience on the court and experienced coaches will be a plus for Wyatt, but those things certainly won't guarantee wins for the Lady Cats. Players still have to hit the court and make more plays than the opposing teams. And, while GCHS is now the most established program in its region, Wyatt knows her team has a big challenge ahead.

"We have competed for the last two seasons with pretty tough schedules and our schedule this year definitely will be no easy task," Wyatt said. "Our district consists of many first or second-year programs, and I hope that with us being one of the more experienced programs, we will compete well."

"But it will still be challenging, especially knowing some of the other programs' coaches and players. I know the coaches will have their players ready to compete, so we will have to prepare harder and be more focused than ever when district play comes."

Region 7-4A will consist of GCHS, Stone County, which is in its second season of volleyball, and first-year programs from Forrest County AHS, Poplarville and Purvis. Wyatt expects Purvis, under the leadership of her mentor from a year ago, will be one of the teams to beat to reach the goal of making the playoffs.

"Having coached alongside Coach Aycock, I know she'll have her team ready to compete come district play," Wyatt said. "Another big team will be Stone County. They competed really well with us last year."

"George County and East Central are always tough competitors, usually finishing in the top of their districts. Although not in our district, I hope we can show how much progress we have made this summer and our competitive nature will be ready to compete with these two top teams in the state."

The Lady Cats kicked things off in jamboree play this past weekend at Pass Christian. They took on squads from Pass Christian, Gautier, West Harrison and Stone County. While they came up



Photo by Russell Turner - Herald Editor

Coach Wyatt looks on as players go through a blocking drill during Monday's practice.

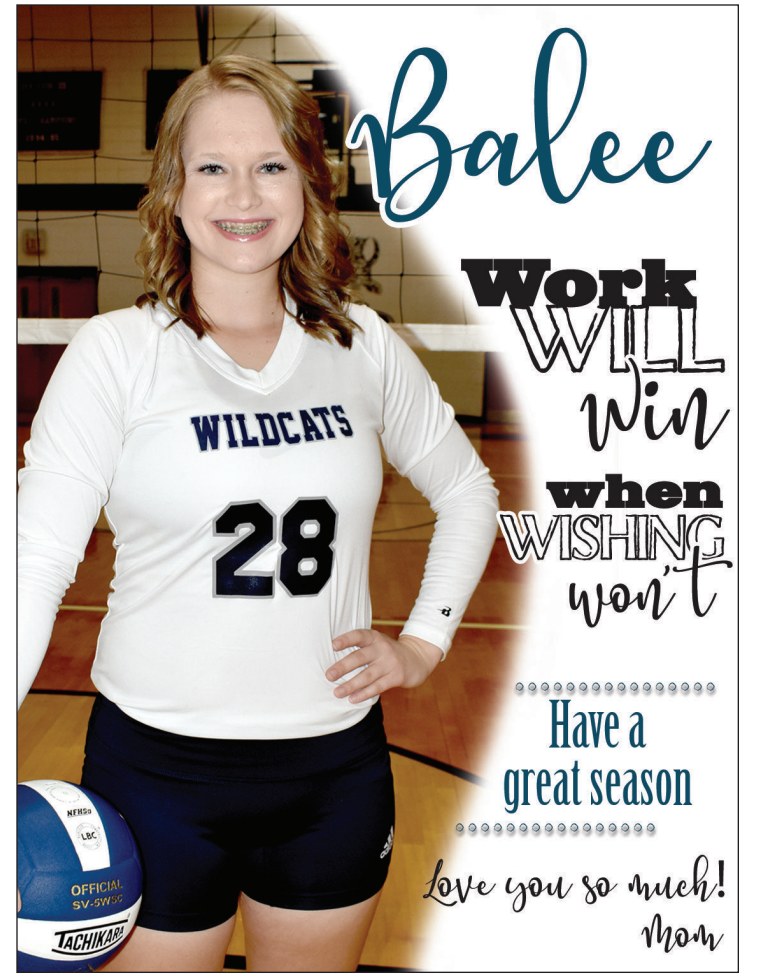
short in each of those matches, Wyatt believes it was a good start that GCHS can build on.

"We experienced a lot of great competition (Saturday)," Wyatt said. "Many of the teams that we had played had already played in a few matches, so we were still working the butterflies out until the second set of the Pass Chris-

tian match."

"We definitely faced some adversity, with 3-of-the-6 starters injured. However, they overcame and progressed throughout the day and some of the younger players got a lot of experience as well. However, we did still compete well. Hopefully, the next time they see us,

we will have everyone back at 100 percent."



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