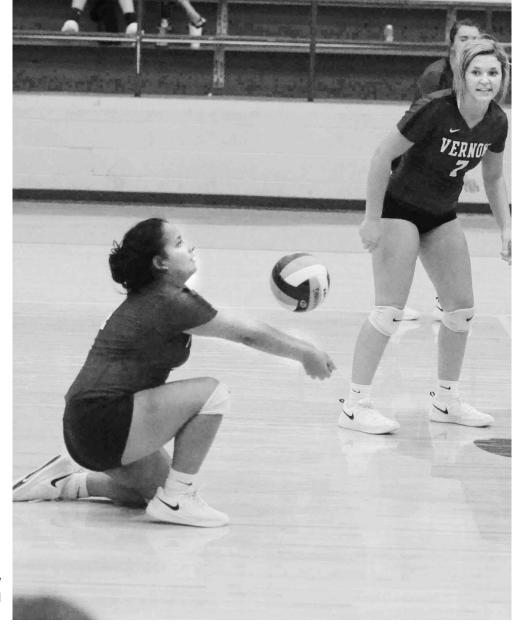
District opener postponed

RIGHT -- Vernon Lady Lion Gabby Gonzales goes down to a knee for a dig in recent lady Lions volleyball action against Petrolia. Vernon won that game last Tuesday in three sets, and fell in three sets over the weekend at Abilene Cooper.

Vernon's district opener with Mineral Wells, scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, has been postponed due to Mineral Wells ISD shutting down this week due to a spike in coronavirus cases. Vernon will now be hosting both varsity games against Mineral Wells on Oct. 16. The first varsity game will be at 4 p.m., then a second varsity match at 5:30. JVs will follow after the second varsity match (JV Maroon in Fulton gym, JV White in the back gym).

The Lady Lions will now open the season this Friday at Burkburnett.

> **Daniel Walker/** Vernon Record



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2721 PECK



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Character-building win for Cowboys

Dak Prescott said Mike McCarthy's halftime message was that the outcome mattered less than the character check after an inept first quarter put the Dallas Cowboys way behind in their coach's home debut.

The star quarterback's record-setting response in the second half led to an improbable 40-39 win over Atlanta on Sunday.

The wild rally keyed by a successful onside kick raised the obvious question of what kind of catalyst this could be for a franchise that doesn't want to wait for McCarthy and his new players to get comfortable with each other before contending for championships.

"To show the resiliency to go out there and continue to fight and come out with the win, it does so much," said Prescott, who became the first player in NFL history with at least 400 yards passing and three rushing touchdowns in the same game.

"Obviously, way better than starting 0-2, but

going 1-1, and having a lot of confidence after we put ourselves in such a big hole. We just stayed at it, and everybody believes in each other. That was huge in so many ways."

The Cowboys fumbled four times, losing three, and botched a fake punt while falling behind 20-0 in the first quarter. They still trailed by 15 with less eight minutes to go.

But after Prescott's third rushing TD pulled them within two in the final two minutes, kicker Greg Zuerlein's spinning onside kick, executed without a tee, wiped out a game's worth of miscues and misfires, in part because Atlanta erred by not falling on the ball before it went 10 yards. Zuerlein kicked a 46-yard field goal as time expired.

"You look at past experiences and look at any great season, you have big moments that you're able to build off of," McCarthy said. "This is a big moment to build off of, but the fact of the matter is that we're 1-1. We understand that."



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