

Volleyball completes season sweep over rival Little Rock

Red Wolves easily take down Trojans in three sets



Photo by: Krishnan Collins | Sports Editor

Julianna Cramer celebrates with Timber Terrell after the Red Wolves win a point against Little Rock. The sophomore setter finished the game with 16 assists and four digs.

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Midweek volleyball changed up the pace for the Red Wolves as they hosted in-state rival Little Rock after sweeping the Trojans earlier in the season on the road. A win was much needed as both schools sat at 4-7 on the conference season and were tied for the final spot in the Sun Belt conference tournament.

After a disappointing weekend against Georgia Southern and Georgia State, the match against Little Rock was a welcome change of pace, as the Red Wolves (14-10, 5-7 SBC) swept the other Arkansans for the second time this season and now safely sit in the fourth spot in the Sun Belt west division heading into the final four games of the season.

Sophomore Julianna Cramer has been an intricate part of the team's efforts to stay afloat, scoring 16 assists against Little Rock and has consistently led that category throughout the entire season.

"We knew we had to win this game," Cramer said. "It's going to push us forward to hopefully qualifying for the conference tournament. We just came out with a lot of fight and excitement and we are ready to keep it going."

Nothing much changed in terms of strategy or mechanics from last night's

win compared to the rest of the season, as Cramer says, everything just came together against the Trojans.

"Honestly something just clicked," Cramer said. "We had a couple off games the past few weekends but our blocking, serving and passing really stepped us this game so that led to us winning."

Cramer is often seen celebrating more extravagantly than most of her teammates, and is seemingly always cheering her team on whether she is on the court or on the sideline, making her an incredibly likeable character among the team.

"I usually do it after someone gets a great dig or kill," Cramer said. "I scream and put out all of my energy and excitement because I love seeing my teammates succeed. And getting a win always helps."

Junior outside hitter Paulina Sobolewska received a lot of praise from Cramer for being one of the players that has stood out the most to her this season after spending her last two years in the NAIA.

"Paulina has been a great all around player for us," Cramer said. "She stepped in and played libero some games and also played outside hitter so she has really stepped up."

Heading into the final four games of the season, the optimism is there to qualify for the Sun Belt tournament, but the team is cautious and

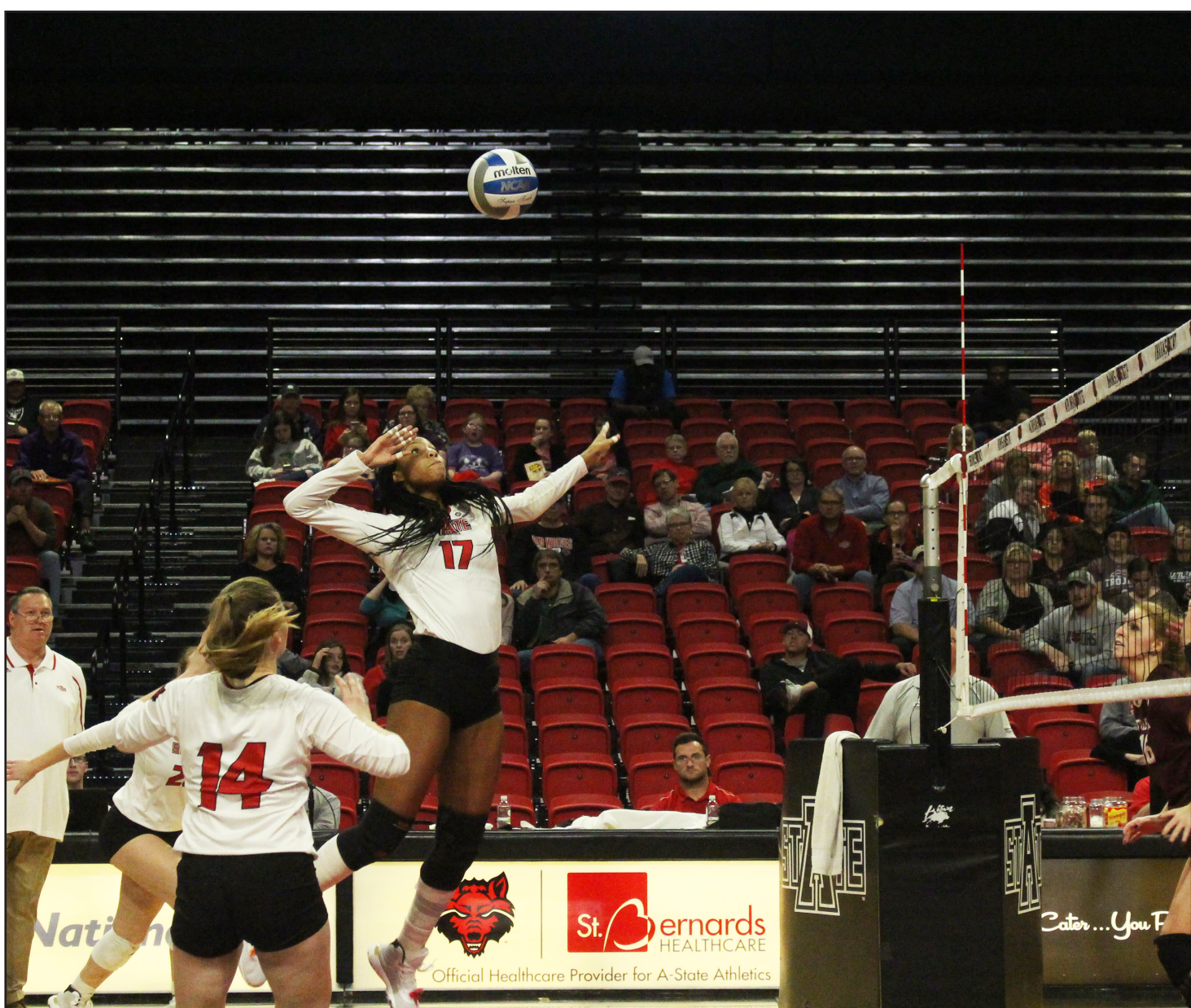


Photo by: Krishnan Collins | Sports Editor

Kendahl Davenport completed five blocks and four kills in A-State's 3-0 win over Little Rock on Tuesday night.

knows that no game is a secured victory until it's over. "We usually try to go into every game with the same mindset," Cramer said. "We

know we don't have it in the bag yet. We're going to keep fighting with all our might. We're going to keep pushing through and start every game

with the same mentality that we will fight for every point like it's match point." A-State returns to action on Friday when the Red

Wolves travel to Texas-Arlington. First service is set for 6:30 p.m.

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