



Sara Maeyaert (left) and Haylee Davis successfully blocked a MACCRAY shot during the 3-1 Minneota win Monday night.

By Byron Higgin, Mascot Publisher

Everyone comes to Minneota with visions of knocking off the state's No. 1-ranked Class C team.

MACCRAY had those visions, romping to a 25-20 win in the first game.

But the Vikings pulled themselves up by the bootstraps and captured three straight wins, 25-16, 25-20 and 25-23 from a stubborn group of Wolverines.

MACCRAY was the team that just wouldn't go away. Using solid hitting from a variety of sources, primarily 6-1 Abbey Thissen and 6-0 Kailee Epema, they forced long volleys that made the Vikings "dig" the ball up from the backcourt 77 times.

Jenna Hennen returned 22 of those potential hits; Kelsey Hennen 14, Haylee Davis 12 and

Katelyn Kack 11 times.

At the serving line, Kack had a great night serving 22 of 23 serves with two aces. "We've been working on that alot," said Kack.

At the net, Minneota smacked 57 kills with Ashlynn Muhl leading the way with 19 shots for points. Rachel Cheadle had a good night following Muhl along with Taya Kockelman. Both had eight kills while Davis pitched in with 10 and Sara Maeyaert seven. Muhl added three blocks and Kockelman and Davis two each.

Kockelman, the setter, had 43 set assists but it was her pokes over the net and jabs to the floor that meant the most to the Vikings.

"What a way to start a tough week," said Coach Steph Hennen. The Vikings win gave them an 8-0 league-leading Camden Conference record and they are 18-2 overall. Tuesday night they host Renville County West, Thursday they're at Lakeview and Friday and Saturday they enter the Apple Valley Tournament.