

Crean Lutheran girls volleyball team falls to Sage Hill in Academy League showdown

By **SPORTS STAFF** |

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The Crean Lutheran girls volleyball team fell to Sage Hill in a tight Academy League match-up on Thursday, Oct. 5, at Crean Lutheran.

The Saints jumped to a quick one-set lead at home, but Sage Hill outlasted them in five sets, 24-26, 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 15-9.

"It almost looked like a serve-receive battle," Crean Lutheran coach Eric Olson said. "We would break down a little bit and they would go up, then they would break down a little bit and we would go up. I think we played a lot better in the fourth game. We made better decisions passing and the setter made the right decisions."

With the loss, Crean Lutheran (12-7, 6-2) falls two games behind league leading Sage Hill in the standings.

After a strong showing by the Saints in the fourth set and falling behind 1-0 in the fifth, Sage Hill (12-5, 6-0) answered with three consecutive aces by Amiya De'Long. After establishing a lead, the Lightning held it tightly and won the final set by six.

Crean Lutheran led the entire fourth set with accurate serving and solid work along the net. Grace Coburn blocked a shot by De'Long which ended a run of four unanswered points by Sage Hill and put the Saints in position to win the set.

Setter Anna Unke had 11 digs and 43 assists.

Crean Lutheran played from behind in the first set. Sage Hill took its first lead by the score of 6-5, but the Saints they were able to tie it up on six occasions, once while facing set point.

A block by Christina Baker was only softly hit back by the Lightning and Grace Coburn killed it before her teammate had a chance to set it. The Saints regained a 25-24 lead and after a timeout and long volley, they won the set.