

Mathiowetz shines, helps Knights take home conference title

Travis Rosenau

SLEEPY EYE - Making plenty of moves around the volleyball court within the past two seasons, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's junior Madison Mathiowetz became one of the Tomahawk Conference's best hitters in a shortened 2020 campaign.

Mathiowetz started last season as a setter but switched to middle hitter and played more all around the court in efforts to utilize her ability to pass, dig and bring forth a strong defensive effort. This year, Mathiowetz was primarily the Knights' middle hitter and ended the season with 196 kills and 155 digs in 12 matches.

She also ended this season with 16 total blocks, 12 ace serves and a 95% serving percentage. Her big-time play in a shortened season was more than enough to make her the 2020 All-Journal Volleyball Player of the Year as voted on by The Journal's sports staff.

Despite originally expecting to play the season in the spring of 2021 due to COVID-19 and having the fall season confirmed late, the work the Knights put in over the summer had each player ready to go regardless of when the season began.

"It started so crazy," Mathiowetz said of the 2020 season. "Weren't expecting to play until the spring time, and suddenly they flipped the switch and they're like, 'Yep, you're going to go in a week' - a week of practice. So that was kind of crazy, but our team handled it so well. We came into it ready to go, we had been working all summer