Page Arena Volleyball 5:00 P.M. 9/22/16 Z.DWYER

 The opening of Page Arena has caused loads of excitement on the UW-River Falls campus. Meanwhile, the young volleyball team that treated fans to its first live event is making headlines of its own with its lightning-fast start to the season.

 Zach Dwyer has the story.

MP3 RUNS : 88 Q: STANDARD

ZACH DWYER: EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN’T BE TAUGHT. BUT FOR THE UWRF VOLLEYBALL TEAM, IT’S SOMETHING THAT HAS GONE TOGETHER WITH YOUTH AND CHANGE. COACH PATTI FORD SAYS HER SOPHOMORE CLASS HAS HAD A LARGE INFLUENCE ON THE TEAM.

PATTI FORD: OUR SOPHOMORE CLASS HAD HAD A LOT OF GOOD EXPERIENCES FROM LAST YEAR, SO THEY’RE PLAYING AT A LEVEL WHERE THEY UNDERSTAND THE COLLEGE GAME NOW. WE PLAY A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCED EVEN THOUGH WE’RE A YOUNG TEAM. .

ZACH DWYER: THE FALCONS STARTED THE YEAR 12-1, WHICH IS ONLY THREE WINS SHORT OF THEIR 2016 TOTAL. THE FALCONS HAD A MAJOR TEST WHEN THEY HOSTED CARLETON COLLEGE IN THEIR FIRST HOME GAME IN THE NEWLY-BUILT PAGE ARENA. SENIOR MIDDLE HITTER AMARA MEYER QUICKLY REALIZED HOW UNIQUE THE SITUATION WAS.

AMARA MEYER: IT WAS SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. YES WE HAVE BEEN PRACTICING IN THERE, BUT JUST SEEING IT WITH ALL THE BLEACHERS PULLED OUT AND ALL THE PEOPLE THERE, IT WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.. IT BROUGHT EXCITEMENT BUT WE WERE ALSO REALLY NERVOUS AND TENSE IN THE FIRST MATCH.

ZACH DWYER: THE FALCONS OVERCAME THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENT IN DRAMATIC FASHION, COMING FROM A SET DOWN TO WIN IN THE FIFTH AND FINAL SET. SOPHOMORE LIBERO HANNAH ROBB THOUGHT THE MATCH SHOWED SIGNS OF GROWTH IN THE FALCONS.

HANNAH ROBB: I DEFINTELY THINK IT’S COME WITH MORE MATURITY. I’VE PLAYED A LOT OF FOUR SET MATCHES, WE’VE PLAYED A COUPLE OF FIVE SET MATCHES. I THINK IT DEFINITELY KIND OF COMES WITH THAT GRIT THAT’S KIND OF COME WITH EXPERIENCE, BEING ABLE TO FIGHT THROUGH MISTAKES AND CHANGE THE MENTALITY WHEN YOU NEED TO IN GAMES.

ZACH DWYER: WITH THE TEAM’S ULTIMATE GOAL OF FINISHING IN THE TOP HALF OF THE WIAC, THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR MORE HIGHLIGHTS AS THE YOUNG FALCON SQUAD GROWS INTO ITS NEW ARENA. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, THIS IS ZACH DWYER.

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