



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

North Platte Community College's Lady Knights are in Wisconsin Dells, WI, this week where they'll compete in the national junior college volleyball tournament.

RyAnn Spady of Imperial, a sophomore on the team, is the starting libero on Coach Sally Thalken's 27-14 Lady Knight squad.

NPCC qualified for nationals after a defeat of Central Community College of Columbus in the Region 9 tournament Oct. 30 in North Platte, advancing to the DII District G championship Nov. 6-7 in Wahpeton, ND, where they beat North Dakota State College in straight sets.

The National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II tourney kicks off with first round matches today (Thursday) in Wisconsin Dells.

NPCC heads into the double-elimination tournament seeded No. 13 among the 16-team field, and will face No. 4 seed Kiswaukee (Ill.) College at 3 p.m. CT today.

First round winners advance to matches later Thursday, while the losing teams will play their second matches on Friday. The championship match is set for 6:30 p.m. CT Saturday.

Spady was a four-year volleyball player at Chase County Schools, graduating in 2008. As a junior, she was on the Lady Longhorn team that competed in the state tournament. She was an SPVA all-conference player her senior year.

Her parents, Brad and Kim Spady of Imperial, and brother Hunter are in Wisconsin for the national tournament.