

Floyd Central was defeated by Mercy in volleyball Wednesday night last week by a score of 25-23, 25-16, and 26-24.

It continues a recent string of losses the Lady Highlanders have suffered at the hands of parochial high school teams in Louisville, which is a national hot bed of high school volleyball.

The main difference between losses to Sacred Heart and Holy Cross and the loss to visiting Mercy is that Floyd Central coach Bart Powell is that he thinks his team played with some intensity and energy. He thought that the team didn't display much of either in the losses to Sacred Heart and Holy Cross.

The Lady Highlanders also got good news in the form of getting junior Jordan Alvey back in the playing rotation. She was back the previous Saturday in action, and Powell thought she brought a lot of the energy his team showed against Mercy.

"She brings a little more energy," Powell said of the return of Alvey.

Powell thought that the team played good defense and blocked well against Mercy, who added that Mercy played a high octane offense, so it tested his team's defense.

"We just did a good job tonight," said Powell. "I was excited we finally competed tonight against a good team."

In the first game, Mercy led 8-3, before Floyd Central started to charge back, getting to within 8-5 and 9-6. Sydney Engle and Rachel Engle both had kills that kept the Lady Highlanders in the thick of it in the first game and within 14-10. Down 17-11, Floyd called a time out, and charged back to within 20-18, behind a kill by Remi Bowman and another kill by Sydney Engle. Mercy then called a time out, but the Lady Highlanders went ahead 21-10.

"We had a big run (going) up 21-20 in the first game," said Powell. "I was shocked that we did that, to be honest."

Mercy then managed to tie up the first game at 21-21, and led 23-21 when the Lady Highlanders called another time out. Floyd scored to get within 23-22, and a Rachel Engle kill tied the game at 23-23. Mercy then called a time out, and proceeded to score the next two points and win the first game.

In the second game, the lead changed hands several times, and there were several ties early in the going.

Floyd Central led 10-9 before Mercy went on a run to gain a 14-10 advantage. This prompted Floyd to call a time out, and a stretch where they kept it close. The visiting Jaguars ended up outscoring Floyd 9-4 to close out the win in game two.

The third and deciding game saw several ties and lead changes, with Floyd Central enjoying a 16-15 lead before Mercy tied it up seconds later at 16-16.

Floyd then managed to gain a 19-17 lead, with Mercy then deciding to talk it over. The Lady Highlanders then built up a 23-21 lead (with the 23rd point off of a service ace by Morgan Wilson), with Mercy calling another time out.

Floyd again led 24-23, but the Jags scored the last three points for the win.