



Office of Marketing and Public Information
Bob Burchette, 336-334-4822, Ext. 2566
Coretta Montague 336-334-4822, Ext. 2487

Guilford Technical Community College
Jamestown, N. C. 27282

Contact Bob Burchette
roburchette@gtcc.edu

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LADY TITANS TO CONTEND FOR VOLLEYBALL TITLE

JAMESTOWN – Guilford Technical Community College’s Lady Titans volleyball team will be playing in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Region X tournament Saturday (Nov. 1) at the Charles Corbin Center in Greenville.

GTCC, which will be take a 6-4 league record and a 15-8 overall mark into the tournament, is the second seed.

Pitt Community College of Greenville, Wake Technical Community College of Raleigh and Cape Fear Community College of Wilmington will play in elimination rounds to determine who will play GTCC in the semifinal round. The winner of the 4 p.m. semifinal match will play in the championship contest against Spartanburg Methodist Community College.

The tournament hosted by Pitt Community College will have matches at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. before the championship match at 6 p.m.

Spartanburg Methodist, which took the regular season championship for the second consecutive year, is the favored team in the tourney after compiling a 10-0 league record (22-7 overall).

The tournament champion will compete in the NJCAA Division I national tournament in West Plains, MO.

GTCC Coach Sabrina Johnson believes her team has a real shot at the championship. “If we can play consistently like we did during the first part of the season. We’ve made a comeback in the past few games and have showed the effort that sparked us to strong wins earlier in the year,” she said.

The Lady Titians, now in their third season, were having their strongest season during the first 12 games of the season, winning nine of 12 contests through Oct. 1. Then GTCC had a mid-season slump, losing four matches in a row. One of the setbacks came against eventual conference champion Spartanburg.

The losing streak took place after middle hitter Brittany Hunsucker of Jamestown was sidelined with an injury. The team lineup had to be shuffled and it took a while for the players to adjust to new roles, according to assistant Coach Debbie Hammond. Hunsucker has returned to the lineup and will be available to play in the tournament.

Hammond said the other middle hitter, Ashlee Gordon, of Liberty “stepped up and did a great job for us. The whole team has done a great job making adjustments from the changes we had to make.”

GTCC ended the skid with a 3-2 victory over Blue Ridge Community College, winning six of the final seven games.

Johnson said that she is pleased with the progress her GTCC team has made since going from 8-16 record during the team's inaugural season to 15-12 last season and to 15-8 this year.

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