Defensive effort: Mercy senior Mary Gignac

Gignac keeps the ball alive with a pass Tuesday in the Marlins'

match with Ladywood. Mercy beat the Blazers for the first time since the early part of the decade with 15·11, 15·10

victories on

its home



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blockers up front to take Jenny out, "Moeller said. "Jenny got some points, but she's capable of taking over a game and she didn't do that."

"When we had the opportunity, we took it to them and made them make the mistakes."

Branklewicz said. "We didn't play wimpy. We went for it, so they couldn't get good passes and set it."

The Blazers had a 3-2 lead in the first game, but the Marlins scored the next four and took the lead with Meghan O'Connor's three service points — two of which resulted from Jarzem-bowski kills.

Mercy went out to a 10-5 lead, with Gignac serving a pair of aces; however, Ladywood closed to 10-9 and 12-11 but couldn't put the brakes on Mercy's momentum. Amy Miller served the final three points, with Brankiewicz smashing kills for the 13th and 15th.

"We were ready to come out here and play." Gignac said. "I just think we're all so committed, and we do what we have to do for the team. This team is so united.

"We really prepared for

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"We really prepared for (Young). I thought we had a pretty good block on her. When

ahe did get a hit, we were able to dig it up. I think they got frustrated when we were able to shut them down. Then we came back at them, and we didn't hold anything back."

Ladywood took a 5-0 lead in the second game, and it looked as the Blazers had begun to straighten out their game and turn the tide.

"But their momentum was hard to break," Wystt said. We never had the ball enough, never had enough control. It doesn't matter how good your hitters are if you can't set them.

"The Marlins) were passing and running their offense, and we couldn't get the ball on target. We never took their crowd out of it, and that kept playing into their hands."

Mercy scored the next 12 points to take command of the game and their destiny. Kelly Blunden served the first four, including three aces, and Brankiewicz the next five, as Ladywood are rors accounted for three. O'Conner and Nikie Downing (two points) served one ace each.

The Blazers attempted another rally, making it 14:10 with four service points by Rebekah Thornton. But O'Conner and

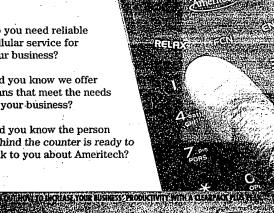


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