

# Stephens College Athletics

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## Stephens College volleyball team digs self deep hole, rebounds to win pair from Benedictine

**COLUMBIA, Mo.** — Although few of them probably know who the Baseball Hall of Famer is, the Stephens College volleyball team channeled its inner Ernie Banks on Saturday. The former Chicago Cub shortstop and first baseman was known for his catchphrase "It's a beautiful day for a ballgame... Let's play two!", expressing his wish to play a doubleheader.

The Stars played two on Saturday against American Midwest Conference newcomer Benedictine University at Springfield, turning in a performance that would have made Mr. Cub proud.

After dropping the first two games of the first match, the Stars rattle off six straight wins to capture a pair of AMC wins, 3-2 (16-25, 19-25, 25-15, 25-18, 15-11) and 3-0 (25-18, 25-13, 25-19) Saturday afternoon in Silverthorne Arena. The wins were the third in a row for Stephens, which improved to 4-7 on the season; 2-2 in the AMC.

"We came out flat," Stars coach Shane McAfee said. "That's what happens when you play too many games in a week. This is our fifth match this week; this was a killer week.

"We dug ourselves a big hole but it was nice to see they were able to come back. It showed a little bit of character and we kind of needed that."

Kelsie Byrd and Megan Sheffield were again the "Monsters of the Midway" for the Stars, hammering out 15 and 21 kills, respectively.

"(Benedictine) just could not stop the middle; the middles did pretty much what they wanted," McAfee said.

The Stars comeback from the jaws of defeat took the bite out of the Lady Bulldogs (2-8, 1-2), who fell in straight sets in the second match of the day, 3-0 – one that saw Benedictine only muster a .030 hitting percentage.

"You go up 2-0 and you drop three games in a row, that would take the wind out of anyone's sail," McAfee said. "Plus they were just getting outplayed in the end there and went a little flat."

Byrd and Sheffield were again dominant, with 14 and 10 kills apiece. Kelsey Benson had 18 digs while Chrissy Echeverria and Lanie Hurt each had 13. Hurt, who also had 28 assists, summed up the sentiments of the team after the match.

"I'm exhausted," Hurt said. "My arms are so tired."

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