

Ellie Anderson loves volleyball so much that she plays the sport 12 months of the year.

She plays sand volleyball, club volleyball, USA volleyball and high school volleyball for the Linn-Mar Lions.

"It's so fun," she said Tuesday night. "It gets me going. I love it.

"I love setting up my teammates," she said. "When they get a kill I go crazy."

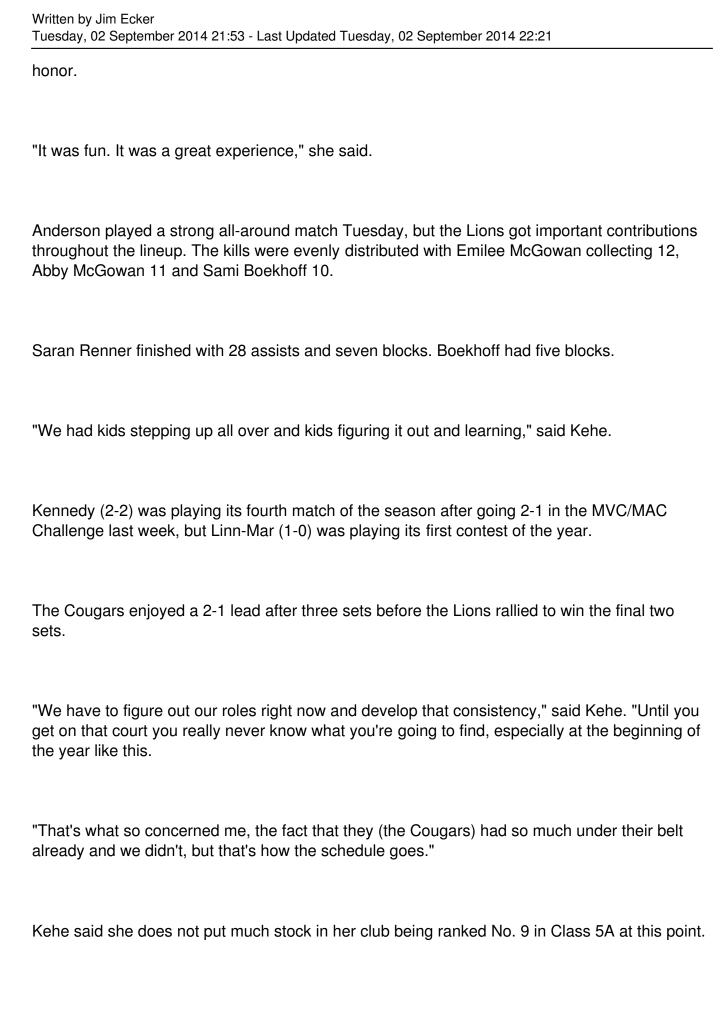
Anderson led a balanced attack Tuesday as the ninth-ranked Lions trimmed Kennedy in a five-set marathon, 19-25, 25-20, 21-25, 25-21, 15-10 in a Mississippi Valley Conference match at Linn-Mar.

Anderson, a 5-foot-7 sophomore, was all over the court with her jump serves, digs, assists and kills at the net.

"An all-around outstanding player. Absolutely," said Linn-Mar Coach Teresa Kehe. "She has great timing. She's just a tremendous athlete."

Anderson was invited to compete in the USA Volleyball High Performance Championships in Tulsa, Okla., this July, one of only 33 elite players from around the country to receive that

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"It's a nice honor, but now are you going to defend that or step up to the occasion?," she remarked. "If they're going to think that of you, what are you going to do in response?"

If Linn-Mar is No. 9, then Kennedy is not far behind. The young Cougars also played well without a single senior on the court all night.

Anna Fluent finished with 11 kills and 42 assists. Macy Anderson also collected 11 kills. Brinley Milbrath and Paige Franck had 10 kills. Tianna Drahn contributed 24 digs.