

There were two victories in the Denver Miller Gym the night the volleyball team faced Rockwood Summit. One was recorded on the scoreboard, and the other happened before the game even started.

Alison Brown was diagnosed with breast cancer Nov. 7, 2014. Doctors surgically removed all signs of cancer Nov. 20. Shortly after, Brown went through six treatments of chemotherapy and 33 days of radiation. And on the night of Oct. 6, Brown walked onto the pink balloon filled court with her daughters to celebrate a victory against cancer.

"There were pink balloons everywhere. It was awesome being on the bench with my kids. I love watching them play," Brown, mother of Sarah and Mary Catherine, said. "I was overwhelmed with attention [at the Pink Out game]. It's hard being in the spotlight when you're not used to it, but I did it for my kids."

With a crowd including family of players, students and even the St. Louis Post Dispatch watching the game and a strong desire to win, KHS beat Summit 22-10. Players sold over 450 shirts. When t-shirt profits combined with donations from local businesses, the event raised more than \$3,500 to go to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Saint Louis. At the end of the game, Brown received a pink survivor ribbon from the volleyball team.

"It's not over. I'm still recovering and trying to feel better. I just have to heal so I can be back to myself," Brown said. "My family, my friends, my neighbors and the strong will to remain positive and happy for my kids [helped me get through it all]."

Through her mom's battle, Sarah Brown, junior slept with her mom every night.

"You'd never think something like that would happen to your own mom. You see people around you getting cancer, but you'd never think one of your own family members would. I never blamed anyone for it, I just tried to take the situation as best as I could," Sarah said. "[My mom receiving the survivor ribbon] was my favorite part because I knew my mom was cancer free, and that she had survived it. It was not only a relief, but an accomplishment."

Mary Catherine said she was happy she could play one game dedicated to her mom.

"You have to have priorities. Some things come before others. Family comes before sports and school," Mary Catherine said. "I'm relieved she's better now. We knew if we got through this, we could get through anything. It was an honor to be able to win for my mom. It wasn't only a win for my team, but we knew we were winning against cancer too."