Frankfort, Ky. - In the first round of the 2009 SIAC Volleyball Championship Tournament, the Lady Panthers of Clark Atlanta clashed with East Division foe Fort Valley State, defeating the Wildcats in four sets (19-25, 25-17, 25-19, 25-19).

In the first set, the Lady Panthers and Wildcats battled through five lead changes as CAU maintained the lead for most of the set. After being tied 15-15, Fort Valley scored four unanswered points, a deficit from which the Lady Panthers would never recover, dropping the first set 19-25.

CAU made a quick turn-around in the second set and never looked back. The Lady Panthers never trailed in the last three sets of the match, defeating the Wildcats 3-1. Clark’s smothering attack was led by SIAC All-Conference First Team member, Krysta McGowan, with 19 kills on 48 attacks (.250 hitting percentage), 4 service aces and 19 digs. Latisha Hunley joined in on the attack with 15 kills and 11 digs.

The Lady Panthers’ second match of the night proved a more difficult opponent. Kentucky State’s offense was stifling, never allowing the Lady Panthers to take the lead over the three sets. The Lady Panthers lost to the Thorobrettes 0-3 (12-25, 12-25, 18-25). In a match dominated by Kentucky State, the Lady Panthers were led by McGowan with 9 kills and 8 digs.

Next up for Clark Atlanta is a 4:00 p.m. match against the winner of Paine vs. Claflin.