

Norton Blue Jays to host Smith Center tonight

By DICK BOYD

Coach Graber's Norton Community High School varsity football team will host an outstanding, veteran Smith Center team in a key Mid-Continent League clash at Travis Field this evening.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Norton's inexperienced team has just three starters and eight lettermen returning from the 2003 state playoff squad which graduated 18 seniors. The Blue Jays have compiled a 1-1 record. After losing their opener 30-14 to a veteran Oakley team, Norton improved their quality of play considerably in defeating Plainville 42-6 last Friday night in Norton.

In contrast to the Blue Jay squad, veteran coach Roger Barta's Smith Center team returns 16 starters and 30 lettermen. They overpowered Stockton 46-0 in their opener and rolled over Hill City by the same 46-0 score last Friday evening.

The Redmen have six senior players who were all-Mid-Continent League selections last season. They are led by Austin Kingsbury who was a unanimous all-league running back and first team linebacker. Adam Rorabaugh is a 6'5, 240 pound second team all-league offensive tackle. David Boucher was a second team linebacker and honorable mention center and Connor Barnes was honorable

mention offensive guard and defensive tackle. Jared Kingsbury was a second team all-league defensive end and Jordon Hommon was an honorable mention defensive back.

Norton has two returning all-league choices. Senior Ryan Maddy is a 195 pound tight end and linebacker who was honorable mention all-Mid-Continent League at both positions last season. After two games, he is second leading tackler for Norton with 17 stops.

Michael Sprigg, 285 pound senior tackle, was honorable mention last season as an offensive tackle. He also plays defensive tackle and is Norton's third leading tackler with 13 tackles. Senior offensive guard and defensive tackle Blake Hillebrand, who weighs 210 pounds, is leading tackler with 23 total.

Senior tailback Aaron Overlease is Norton's leading groundgainer with 111 yards on 18 carries for a 6.2 yards per carry average. Senior fullback Kyle Kats has gained 93 yards on 18 attempts for a 5.2 yards average.

Senior quarterback Seth Mills has gained 133 yards in his first two career starts this season but has lost 61 yards for a net total of 72 yards on 17 carries for 4.2 yards per carry. Despite throwing three passes that were intercepted by Oakley, Mills has been a very ef-

ficient passer. He completed 5 of 6 passes against Plainville with no interceptions and, for the season, has completed 16 of 27 passes for 59.3 percent accuracy and 211 yards. He has averaged 13.2 yards per completion. His leading receiver is senior tight end Justin Shirk who has caught 6 passes for 98 yards.

"We improved tremendously from week one to week two and executed much better against Plainville," Coach Graber told the Blue Jay Booster Club on Wednesday evening. "As much as we improved, we need to improve that much again this week. Smith Center has another outstanding team. They average 235 pounds across the front line and 190 pounds in the backfield. Their backs are powerful and fast.

"Special teams are a scary part of any game you play against them. Offensively, we must control the ball. Defensively, we've been successful against them in recent years but they've made it more challenging this year. They have added some option to their normal wishbone, which is tough enough to defend.

"We must be a lot tougher physically and mentally than we were last week. We have to be secure in our assignments and play very, very hard. We're healthier than we've been so that is good."

Tennis team takes third in tourney

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School girls varsity tennis team placed third in the Phillipsburg Quadrangular Tournament played on Tuesday in Phillipsburg.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 21 points, followed by Concordia, 21; Norton, 13; Belleville, 5. The tiebreaker was used to determine the winner since both Phillipsburg and Concordia scored 21 points.

Norton senior Jessi Duscher was the No. 1 singles champion, compiling a perfect 3-0 record. Duscher defeated Melinda Schremmer, Phillipsburg, 8-3; outpointed Sarah Splichal, Belleville, 8-1 and won from Amy Maxwell, Concordia, 8-6.

Maxwell placed second, Schremmer was third and Splichal was fourth.

Junior Chelle Donovan compiled a 2-1 record to finish second in No. 2 singles. She lost her first match by a 2-8 score to Sara Fawver, Phillipsburg, but shutout Ashley Wollenberg, Belleville, 8-0 in her second match and ended with an exciting 8-7 (11-9) win over Ashley Michel, Concordia. Fawver was the champion, followed by Donovan, Michel and Wollenberg.

Norton's doubles teams did not fare so well. The Lady Jays' No. 1 doubles team of senior Keesha Holste and senior Sara Johnson lost 1-8 to Jill Dusin and Allison Dusin, Phillipsburg; was outpointed 7-8(5-7) by Jenna Paige and Jany Strnad, Belleville and was defeated 2-8 by Alaina

Lady Jay junior Chelle Donovan (above) compiled a 2-1 match record to place second in No. 2 singles in the Phillipsburg Quadrangular on Tuesday. Here she returns the ball during one of her matches. Norton senior Jessi Duscher (below) returns the ball during one of her No. 1 singles matches in the Phillipsburg Quadrangular. Duscher won all three matches to earn the championship.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



Swenson and Lindsay Sanders, Concordia. Swenson-Sanders, Concordia, won the championship. Phillipsburg's Dusin-Dusin placed second and Paige-Strnad, Belleville, placed third.

In No 2 doubles, Norton sophomores Reesa Volgamore and Hannah Mills lost 4-8 to Alyssa Kirchoff and Kayla Jarvis, Phillipsburg; were defeated 4-8 by Kendra Miller and Erin Dusek, Belleville and lost 1-8 to Katie Maxwell and Shala Sicard, Concordia. Phillipsburg's Kirchoff-Jarvis won the championship, followed by Maxwell-Sicard, Concordia; Miller-Dusek, Belleville and Volgamore-Mills, Norton.

"Our singles play was the bright spot for us," said Coach Johnson. "Jessi Duscher was undefeated and played extremely well.

"Chelle Donovan fought her way to a second place finish. She is behind on her tennis skills but

she'll get better. Her mental toughness is really good. She played the Concordia girl very well in her final match.

"She's just got to learn how to swing the racket better and she'll be very competitive."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity tennis team will play Goodland on Tuesday in Goodland, beginning at 4 p.m. and will play in the Phillipsburg Junior Varsity Invitational on September 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Norton varsity tennis team will not play again until they travel to WaKeeney on September 25 for the Trego Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m.



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Standings Sept. 13 — LuJon's, 12-4; FSBT, 10-6; First State Bank, 8-14; High Line: Jane Engelhardt, 196; Jacky Barenberg, 192; Bev Miller, 176; High Line Handicap: Jane Engelhardt, 235; Jacky Barenberg, 217; Bev Miller, 209; High Series: Cindy Linner, 495; Bev Miller, 488; Jane Engelhardt, 486; High Series Handicap: Jane Engelhardt, 603; Bev Miller, 578; Cindy Linner, 552

Results Sept. 6 — LuJon's, 9-3; First State Bank, 7-5; FSBT, 6-6; High Line: Janet Manning, 196; Janice Russell, 193; Cindy Linner, 176; High Line Handicap: Janice Russell, 232; Janet Manning, 227; Barb Goeken, 203; High Series: Janet Manning, 492; Cindy Linner, 483; Janice Russell, 466; High Series Handicap: Janet Manning, 585; Janice Russell, 583; Barb Goeken, 544

Results Aug. 30 — High Line: Peggy Sevier, 180; Cindy Linner, 180; Jacky Barenberg, 172; High Line Handicap: Peggy Sevier, 222; Jennifer Schemper, 214; Jane Engelhardt, 209; High Series: Peggy Sevier, 522; Cindy Linner, 507; Jacky Barenberg, 469; High Series Handicap: Peggy Sevier, 648; Jennifer Schemper, 602; Jane Engelhardt, 595

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Junior varsity tennis wins quad

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team placed first and third in the Norton Junior Varsity Quadrangular Tennis Tournament held on Saturday on the swimming pool park tennis courts.

Team placings were: Norton Yellow, 17; Colby, 16; Norton Blue, 15; Phillipsburg, 7.

Chelle Donovan, Norton Blue, won No. 1 singles, followed by Samantha Brasted, Norton Yellow; Michelle Myers, Colby; Brienne Nelson, Norton Extra.

No. 1 doubles was won by Rasmussen and Wilson, Colby, followed by Claudia Lacy and Lisa Jones, Norton Yellow; Kenney and Asher, Phillipsburg; Howard and Ferreira, Colby.

Norton Yellow's Kayleigh Brooks won No. 2 singles, followed by Ashley Maybon, Norton Blue; Lacy, Norton Extra; Stephanie Albers, Colby.

No. 2 doubles winners were Cole and Troyer, Phillipsburg, followed by Jessica Cook and Brienne Nelson, Norton Yellow; Barker and Rasmussen, Colby; Rachael Engelsman and Cyndie Milnes, Norton Blue.

"We were able to get match time today for most all of our junior varsity players," said Coach Johnson. "It was a great day for tennis with ideal weather conditions.

"Chelle Donovan steamrolled through the competition in No. 2 singles, losing only one game in her first two matches. She ended

the day with a 6-3 victory over fellow teammate Samantha Brasted. We have looked for good things out of Chelle this season but she has gotten a slow start due to complications from knee surgery this summer. Chelle has come on strong the past two weeks and will be battling for a varsity spot in the near future.

"Kayleigh Brooks also finished in first place in No. 2 singles. In her second round match, she came from behind to win a hard fought tiebreaker over a Colby opponent. She closed the day with a convincing 6-1 victory."

Next action

The Lady Jay junior varsity will compete on Tuesday versus Goodland in Goodland, beginning at 4 p.m.

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