

Lady Trojans win regionals, then end season at sub-state



Running back Troy Bainter (above) looks for running room around right end during the Norton sixth grade's triple overtime 19-18 win over the defending champion Wichita Bulldogs in the opening round of the NYSSO Mid States Tournament last Saturday in Lawrence. Leading the way is fullback Jeremy Sproul. Also blocking for him is wingback Brett Terrell. Bainter (below) sprints around left end to gain yardage during the young Blue Jays' 13-12 victory over the Topeka Buccaneers the next day. In the background is Luke Ninemire, offensive tackle.

— Photos by Jana Keiswetter and Vicki Bainter

The Logan volleyball team stayed ahead of the game in the 1A Regional Tournament on Oct. 19, defeating both Natoma and Northern Valley, and went on to the 1A Sub-State Tournament on Oct. 23 where they were beaten by Tipton, ending the season.

Regionals

Logan High School was the host for regional volleyball on Oct. 19 with seven teams. The top two teams advanced to sub-state in Ransom.

The Lady Trojans received the first place seed and a bye in the quarterfinals. Natoma defeated Kensington to earn the right to play the first seeded Lady Trojans. Logan's ladies beat Natoma 25-10, 25-20 in this semi-final match.

In a very high energy semi-final match, Northern Valley was able to defeat the Victoria Knights. This pitted the big green against the mighty red. "What an exciting thing for us to get to play for the regional title on our home floor," said Logan Coach Robin VanLaeys. "No. 1 seed and home floor are advantages that you will take any chance you get. The Osborne tournament and winning four ball games was a huge boost to our record and us. You never really know how big an impact days like that can have come post season time."

Logan defeated Northern Valley 11-25, 25-22, 25-9. Both teams headed to Ransom to compete in the sub-state tournament.

"We played pretty consistently

at regionals," said the coach. "Against Natoma, we were able to control the ball very well and consequently be very aggressive at the net. Northern Valley came into our match on a big high from their previous match against Victoria. They were blocking very well and we struggled to get the ball past them.

"In the huddle between the first and second games, the girls decided that they did not want the last time they played on our floor to be such a domination by the other team. They put it in their minds to go out and take control of the match and they did.

"I am very proud of the persistence they showed that evening." Stats were:

Against Natoma: hitting — Lanee Webb, 15 of 16 with 9 kills; blocks — Webb, 2 solos; serving — Jenny Noel, 10 of 10 with 1 ace; setting — Noel, 17 of 33 with 17 assists; Megan Brumbaugh, 21 of 23 with 7 assists; defensive digs — Melanie Berg, 6 of 6; serve receive — Vanessa Van Diest, 7 of 8.

Against Northern Valley: hitting — Webb, 17 of 23 with 12 kills; blocks — Kati Chestnut, 3 assists; Van Diest, 1 solo, 2 assists; serving — Noel, 17 of 7 with 1 ace; setting — Brumbaugh, 25 of 27 with 8 assists; defensive digs — Chestnut, 7 of 11; serve receives — Webb, 10 of 12.

Sub-State

Logan's ladies traveled to Ransom to compete in the sub-state volleyball tournament on Oct. 23.

The Trojans faced the Tipton Cardinals in the semifinal match. The winner of that match would compete with the winner of the Western Plains versus Wheatland match for the right to go to state volleyball in Hays.

Unable to combat the consistent play of Tipton, the Lady Trojans ended their season with a loss of 25-20, 25-23. Tipton did go on to defeat Western Plains and so went to the state tourney on Oct. 29.

"We had a very successful year," said Coach Robin VanLaeys. "I don't think any of us have anything to be ashamed of. We finished with a record of 8-12 after a very rocky start to the season. I believe that we got better each time we took the floor and I think that I can speak for all 22 of us and say that we had a really good time doing what we were doing.

"Ultimately that is what it is all about, getting better and having a great time doing it. Thank you so much to all who supported and encouraged the team in so many ways throughout the year. You are definitely appreciated."

Stats against Natoma were: hitting — Van Diest, 13 of 5 with 7 kills; Webb, 10 of 13 with 7 kills; blocks — Webb, 1 assist; Chestnut, 1 assist; serving — Van Diest, 8 of 8 with 2 aces; Noel, 6 of 6; setting — Noel, 18 of 31 with 12 assists; Brumbaugh, 17 of 21 with 6 assists; defensive digs — Webb, 6 of 8; serve receives — Webb, 11 of 14; Chestnut, 4 of 5.

Huskies league, tourney champs

The Northern Valley Junior High volleyball team defeated Damar on Oct. 7, Eastern Heights on Oct. 14, and Kensington on Oct. 21 to take the league championship. Then they were 4-0 at the Great Northern Elementary Conference Tournament in Kensington and Eastern Heights on Oct. 26.

Damar

The Junior Lady Huskies outscored Damar 25-16, 25-18. Serving were: Amber Sheley, 12 of 12, 12 points; Alison Cole, 9 of 9, 10 points; Hannah Hawks, 9 of 9, 8 points; Christina Anderson, 7 of 8, 8 points; Karen Wenzl, 6 of 6, 6 points; Megan Cole, 4 of 4, 5 points; and Brittney Braun, 2 of 2, 1 point.

"As a team, our serving was close to perfect," said Coach Kristen Baird. "Alison Cole had numerous spikes, with Megan Cole and Christine Anderson setting the ball well.

"Hannah, Amber and Karen passed the ball consistently on serve receive.

"We played great volleyball and had a chance to set the ball up." The junior varsity team won 25-17, 25-21.

Serving were: Staci Dole, 17 of 19, 20 points; Kenzie Chandler, 8 of 8, 8 points; Amanda Lowther, 6 of 6, 6 points; Cailyn Patterson, 5 of 7, 6 points; Braun, 2 of 4, 5 points; Sheley, 1 of 3, 3 points; and Anderson, 2 of 2, 2 points.

Eastern Heights

Northern Valley outscored the Mustangs 25-13, 25-16. Serving were: Braun, 19 of 19, 20 points; Hawks, 9 of 10, 10 points; A. Cole, 5 of 7, 7 points; Anderson, 4 of 6, 6 points; M. Cole, 2 of 4, 4 points; and Wenzl, 2 of 2, 3 points.

"We passed the ball well," said Coach Baird. "Our serving needs to improve for next week. I felt the girls played hard."

The junior varsity won in three games: 19-25, 25-11, 25-11. Serving were Braun, 20 of 21, 21 points; Lowther, 17 of 18, 20 points; Sheley, 12 of 13, 13 points; Chandler, 6 of 6, 7 points; Patterson, 4 of 5, 5 points; and Dole, 2 of 4, 3 points.

Braun and Lowther were the super servers. "We lost the first game and the girls didn't give up," said the coach. "They played hard and

worked together as a team."

Kensington

The Lady Huskies defeated Kensington 20-25, 25-13, 25-23 to take the league championship. Serving were: A. Cole, 14 of 16, 19 points; Sheley, 16 of 16, 16 points; Anderson, 10 of 12, 12 points; M. Cole, 9 of 11, 11 points; Hawks, 8 of 8, 6 points; Wenzl, 5 of 6, 6 points.

A. Cole and Sheley were the super servers. "We served and passed the ball well," the coach said. "We got a lot of spiking because of our great passing.

"After losing the first game, the girls didn't give up and played hard. Great Northern Elementary Conference champions! Super job."

The junior varsity tied 16-16 because time ran out. Serving were: Chandler, 4 of 4, 5 points; Dole, 3 of 3, 3 points; Miriah Florence, 3 of 3, 3 points; Braun, 3 of 3, 3 points; Lowther, 1 of 1, 1 point; C.J. Woodmansee, 1 of 1, 1 point.

Chandler was the super server. "The girls played a good game," said Coach Baird. "Our serving was excellent. We just ran out of time.

"I am very proud of my second team. They worked hard throughout the season and made great individual improvement. Great job girls!"

Great Northern Elementary Conference Tournament

The Lady Huskies started the tournament by beating Damar 25-16, 27-25.

Serving were: Cole, 10 of 10, 11 points; Sheley, 9 of 10, 11 points; Hawks, 10 of 10, 9 points; Anderson, 7 of 8, 8 points; M. Cole, 5 of 6, 7 points; Wenzl, 4 of 6, 6 points. Super servers were Hawks, Sheley and A. Cole.

"This was our first game of the tournament," said the coach. "The girls were nervous, but came out playing strong."

Kensington was next on the list of teams to be beaten. Northern Valley won 25-20, 25-12.

Serving were Wenzl, 15 of 15, 16 points; A. Cole, 12 of 12, 13 points; Anderson, 9 of 10, 10 points; Sheley, 5 of 6, 6 points; M. Cole, 2 of 2, 3 points; and Hawks, 3 of 3, 2 points.

Wenzl was the super server. "We had beaten Kensington the previous week in the regular season and it was a close match," said Coach Baird. "We were ready to go and played as a team on their home court. Serving and passing is the key to win junior high

games, and we did both very well."

They then defeated Logan 25-12, 25-13 in the semifinal round. Serving were: Hawks, 15 of 15, 14 points; Sheley, 8 of 9, 10 points; Anderson, 9 of 9, 9 points; Wenzl, 9 of 9, 9 points; A. Cole, 5 of 5, 5 points; and M. Cole, 1 of 3, 3 points.

Hawks was the super server. "This was the match to win for first in the league tournament," she said. "The girls came out strong with great serving. Hannah, Amber, and Karen had great passes. Megan and Christina set the ball well, and Alison had awesome hits."

Eastern Heights was the final hurdle for the league tournament championship. The Huskies beat the Mustangs 25-14, 25-14.

Serving were: Anderson, 11 of 12, 13 points; Sheley, 9 of 10, 10 points; Wenzl, 9 of 9, 9 points; A. Cole, 6 of 6, 7 points; M. Cole, 6 of 7, 7 points; and Hawks, 5 of 5, 4 points.

"We had a great season," Coach Baird said. "I am very proud of each of the girls. We are a young team and I am already looking forward to next year. The girls are 2004 league and tournament champions. They did a great job."

The Junior Lady Huskies ended their season with a 10-1 record.

Littlest Jays are undefeated champions

By DICK BOYD

The Norton sixth grade football team is the undefeated champion of the Western Kansas Football League and the National Youth Sports Sanctioning Organization Midwest States Tournament.

The Norton team completed a perfect 12-0 season, which followed the team's 9-0 record and league championship a year ago as fifth graders to compile a perfect 21-0 record for the two seasons.

The team is the only one in the history of the league to go two years undefeated and win back-to-back league championships.

Last Saturday and Sunday, the Blue Jays competed in the Midwest States Championship Tournament in Lawrence with 15 other teams from Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. To qualify for the tournament, each team had to have finished first or second in their league.

In round one on Saturday, the young Blue Jays defeated the No. 1 seed Wichita Bulldogs 19-18 in an exciting triple overtime game. The Bulldogs were the two time defending state and tournament champions. They are also the Greater Wichita Football League Champions.

This is the second time the Norton team has won a triple overtime game. Last season, they defeated the Hays Falcons in three overtimes to win their first league championship.

In round two on Saturday, the Junior Jays played the Blue Valley Tigers. After falling behind 6-0 in the first half, they rallied to win 22-6. The Norton scoring started when Terrell Lane returned the second half kickoff for a touchdown to tie the game.

In the championship game on Sunday afternoon, the young Blue Jays played the Topeka Buccaneers, who had reached the title contest by defeating the Savannah, Mo., Savages and Sedalia, Mo., Broncos. The Junior Jays scored first and led 7-0 but fell behind 12-7 in the fourth quarter.

With just over four minutes remaining, Jeremy Sproul recovered a blocked punt deep in Buccaneer territory. On the next play, Lane

followed a lead block by Troy Bainter as he ran around right end for the go-ahead touchdown. The Junior Jays held on for the 13-12 victory.

Norton's regular season games and scores were — Norton 27, Phillipsburg Cowboys 7, Sept. 11; Norton 26, Hays Falcons, 0, Sept. 18; Norton 38, Colby Eagles 6, Sept. 25; Norton 30, Oberlin Red Devils 0, Oct. 2; Norton 42, Colby Eagles 0, Oct. 9; Norton 34, Hays Falcons 6, Oct. 16.

The post-season league tournament was held at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays. In the first round on Oct. 24, Norton shutout Medicine Lodge 49-0. In the second round on Oct. 30, the young Blue Jays blanked the Hays Falcons 27-0. The championship game was held on Oct. 31 and Norton defeated the Hoisington Cardinals 27-13.

Winning the Midwest States championship qualified Norton for a berth in the national tournament but the team chose not to compete for the national championship.

The young Blue Jays outscored this season's opponents 354 to 68 which is an average of 29.5 to 5.7 points per game, less than a touchdown.

The Norton team has 22 boys from Norton, Alma, Logan and Lenora. Five boys were added to the 17-boy roster that made up the

fifth-grade team in 2003.

Team members were Tyler Esslinger, defensive back; Kaid McKenna, center, defensive end; Spencer Shirk, quarterback, line-backer; John Koch, defensive back; Billy Broeckelman, wingback, safety; Brett Terrell, wingback, defensive back; Terrell Lane, runningback, middlelinebacker; Ryan Blecha, defensive tackle; Troy Bainter, running back, outside line-backer; Andrew Otter, right guard; Landon Keiswetter, nose tackle; Jeremy Sproul, fullback, outside line-backer; Justin Griffith, defensive tackle; Dakota Dreher, tight end, defensive end; Rylee Stanley, defensive tackle; Jesse Gallentine, defensive tackle, all from Norton; Charlie Becker, defensive back; Brady Tien, left guard, defensive end; Jordan Girard, tight end, all from Logan; Cole Archer, offensive tackle; Colton Lowry, tight end, safety, both from Alma; and Luke Ninemire, offensive tackle, defensive end, Lenora.

Head coach and offensive coordinator for the Norton team was Lamont Shirk. Assistant coaches were Jim Ninemire, co-defensive coordinator; David Bainter, co-defensive coordinator; Mike Terrell, co-offensive coordinator; Brian McKenna, line coach; Cameron Archer, line coach.

Team commissioner is Jim Broeckelman.



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