

Norton C-team wins volleyball tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton C-team volleyball team rallied to win the championship of the Junior Varsity Volleyball Tournament in Hill City.

"We had a busy day on Saturday," said Norton Coach Joan Bolt. "After losing our opening match to Hill City and another match to Oakley, we still got out of pool play, won the semi-finals and the championship."

Hill City

Norton was in a pool with Hill City A, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays and Oakley.

The Lady Jays lost their first match to Hill City A by scores of 25-12, 15-25, 5-15.

"We did not play very soundly in this match, especially in passing," said Coach Bolt. "We only passed at 33 percent accuracy. It is tough to win a match when you pass that low."

Norton's team statistics included: serving, 86 percent; setting, 93 percent; spiking, 77 percent with a 32 percent kill ratio; digging 52 percent.

"I think it took this match for our girls to adjust to the caliber of play," said Coach Bolt. "Junior varsity teams play at a higher level. You have to do a better job of reading their defense and knowing what it will take offensively to defeat a team. But, first and foremost, you need to get the passes so there can be a productive offense."

Top servers were: Taylor Rossi, 91 percent accuracy, 7 points, 3 aces and Ashli Hageman, 91 percent, 7 points, 2 aces.

Rossi and Ashley Colip led setting. Rossi had 94 percent accuracy and 14 assists. Colip was 90 percent accurate with 4 assists.

Rossi led digs with 3. Kylie Morel, Lacy Ellis and Hageman led passing.

Hitting statistics were led by Hageman with 7 kills and Wiyanna Paxton with 4 kills.

Foley, Thea Wiseman and Ellis had 3 kills each.

Hageman and Rossi led saves with 2 each.

Thomas More

In their second match, the Lady Jays defeated Thomas More 25-17, 25-17.

"This was a much better match for us," said Coach Bolt.

"Our girls knew they had to win in two games to get a chance to advance from pool play and they did."

Team statistics for Norton were: serving, 81 percent; passing, 58 percent; setting, 98 percent; digs, 71 percent; attacks, 77 percent; 42 percent of hits for aces.

"We really worked on hitting holes and staying aggressive and it paid off," said Coach Bolt.

Ellis led serving with 11 points, 4 aces, followed by Colip, 8 points, 1 ace; Paxton, 5 points, 4 aces; Rossi, 3 points; Hageman, Wiseman, 1 point each.

Rossi led assists with 14, followed by Colip, 6.

Paxton led digs with 4; Foley led 1.

Foley was hot at the net with 8 kills, followed by Paxton, 7; Ellis, 4; Colip, Hayli Bozarth, 1 each.

Foley led passing. Rossi had 2 saves. Katharine Roy, Foley and Ellis had 1 save each.

Oakley

In their third match, Norton lost to Oakley 22-25, 15-25.

"Oakley has a very sound offense and we just did not pass well enough against them to get aggressive ourselves," said Coach Bolt.

"We need to work on getting quicker to our base defense so we can play the attacks with more efficiency."

Team statistics for Norton were: serving, 82 percent; passing, 57 percent; attacks, 75 percent; killed 25 percent of hits; dug, 44 percent.

Leading the serving for Norton was Ellis, 6 points, 1 ace, followed by Colip, 3 points; Rossi, 2; Paxton and Hageman, 1 each.

Colip and Rossi each had 5 setting assists; Ellis and Roy had 1 each.

Roy and Rossi led digs with 3 each, followed by Foley, Paxton, 2 each; Ellis, Colip, 1 each.

Rossi, Morel, Bozarth led passing. Bozarth led kills with 4, followed by Wiseman, Ellis, 3 each; Foley, Hageman, 2 each; Roy, 1.

Roy tallied 2 saves. Ellis, Paxton and Hageman had 1 save each.

Championship bracket

At the completion of pool play, Norton and Oakley advanced from their pool. Oakley had a 3-0 record and Norton, Thomas More and Hill City each had 1-2 records but Norton advanced based on holding their opponents to the least number of points.

West Plains, Phillipsburg, Hill City B and Trego were in the other pool. Trego compiled a 3-0 record to advance along with Phillipsburg, who was 2-1.

WaKeeney

Norton played WaKeeney in its semi-final match and defeated the Lady Golden Eagles 25-21, 25-13.

"Our girls were so excited about getting out of pool play that they made a great effort to defeat Trego," said Coach Bolt.

"We were struggling with our serving when we started, partially due to the smaller gym atmosphere. Once our girls figured that out, they did very well."

Team statistics for Norton were:

serving, 79 percent with 8 of 10 misses in first game; setting, 88 percent; passing, 60 percent; hitting, 83 percent with 34 percent hits being kills; dug, 48 percent.

Foley led serves with 8 points, 5 aces, followed by Ellis, 5 points, 4 aces; Roy, Hageman, 4 points each; Colip, Paxton, Colip, 3 each; Morel, Lawson, 1 each.

Roy led setting with 5 assists, followed by Colip, 4; Lawson, 1. Rossi led digs with 3, followed by Ellis, Hageman, 2 each; Morel, Wiseman, Roy, 1 each.

Hageman had 2 saves; Foley, Wiseman had 1 each.

Oakley

Norton advanced to the championship match against Oakley, who had defeated Phillipsburg in their semi-final match.

Norton defeated Oakley 25-18, 12-25, 15-8 to win the championship.

"Our girls were anxious to get another chance at Oakley," said Coach Bolt.

"We knew we had to be aggressive and smart offensively to force Oakley to move and keep the ball from their dominant middle hitters."

"We learned a lot about the importance of transitioning quickly and keeping our defensive base strong."

As a team, Norton served 93 percent, passed 68 percent, set 97 percent, dug 48 percent, attacked 79 percent with 25 percent kills.

Colip and Paxton led serving with 6 points each, followed by Colip, 2 aces; Ellis, 5 points, 2 aces; Hageman, 3 points, 2 aces; Rossi, Bozarth, 2 points, 1 ace each; Delimont, 1 point.

Rossi, Wiseman and Ellis led passing.

Paxton led attacks with 4 kills, followed by Hageman, 3; Ellis, Wiseman, 2 each; Foley, Bozarth, 1 each.

Wiseman and Colip led digs with 4 each, followed by Morel, Hageman, Roy, 1 each.

Colip led serving with 8 assists, followed by Rossi with 5.

Morel and Ellis had 2 saves each; Delimont, 1 point.

Bozarth had the only stuff of the match.

"This tournament was a great experience for our girls," said Coach Bolt.

"It gave them an opportunity for some great competition."

"Many thanks to the parents and other fans for their support, book-keeping and line judging."

The Norton C-team returned to Hill City on Monday for a re-match versus the Lady Ringnecks that was not on the original schedule.

Norton wins junior varsity tennis

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team won the championship of the Junior Varsity Round Robin in Phillipsburg.

Norton scored 48 points followed by Phillipsburg, 44; Hays, 38; Colby, 22; Phillipsburg B, 16; Beloit, 8; Norton B, 7.

"Our A team played just great," said Norton assistant coach Shawnee Branek. "I was thrilled with their performance."

Ashley Maybon played No. 1 singles for the Lady Jays and placed first with a perfect 3-0 record. She defeated Cindy Rothfuss, Colby, 6-4; outpointed Val Harris, Hays, 6-2 and outscored Kady Malmberg, Phillipsburg, 6-5.

"Ashley had only three matches because not all the teams brought No. 1 singles players," said Coach Branek.

"As usual, Ashley played strong, smart tennis to win her gold medal."

Norton's No. 1 doubles team of Gena Myers and Sara Campbell placed second with a 4-1 record. They shutout Brittney Dick and Rachel Waddell, Beloit, 6-0; defeated Megan Thyfault and Karis Kleymann, Hays, 6-1; outscored Hannah Fulton and Stephanie Shepard, Norton B, 6-2; defeated Robbie Hadley and Katie Hays, Phillipsburg B, 6-4 and lost to Kali Asher and Jodie Mongeau, Phillipsburg, 4-6.

"Gena and Sara lost a hard

fought match against their Phillipsburg rival," said Coach Branek. "They played better against them than they have all season, losing by only two games."

Brianne Nelson won the individual championship in No. 2 singles with a perfect 5-0 record. She defeated Emily Dougherty, Colby, 6-2; outscored Vicky Portz, Hays, 6-2; outpointed Tabitha Vincent, Norton B, 6-1; defeated Mary Ann Schremmer, Phillipsburg B, 6-3 and outscored Brianna Miller, Phillipsburg, 6-2.

"Brianne simply dominated her matches," said Coach Branek. "She won all five for her gold."

In No. 2 doubles, Tiffany Marx and Valerie Wagoner placed second with a 5-1 record. They defeated Quinlynn Woofter and Gillian Zumbrana, Colby, 6-3; outpointed Whitney Morrell and Mikki Yu, Beloit, 6-2; defeated Brianna Salsbury and Amanda Rohr, Hays, 6-1; outscored Bethany Wicker and Mariah Gordine, Norton B, 6-1; shutout Chelsy Troyer and Tristin Troyer, Phillipsburg B, 6-0 and lost to Becca Zillinger and Courtney Beard, Phillipsburg, 3-6.

"Tiffany and Valerie continue to improve in their ability to play together," said Coach Branek. "They lost only one match out of their six to claim their silver medal."

"I've been working with our doubles teams to be more aggressive at the net and I think it paid off

for them today. They each hit some beautiful winners."

The Norton B team had no No. 1 singles player. Tabitha Vincent played No. 2 singles for the Lady Jays and placed sixth. She lost to Emily Dougherty, Colby, 2-6; lost to Vicky Portz, Hays, 3-6; lost to Brianna Miller, Phillipsburg, 1-6; lost to Brianne Nelson, Norton, 1-6 and lost to Mary Ann Schremmer, Phillipsburg, B, 2-6.

Hannah Fulton and Stephanie Shepard played No. 1 doubles for the Norton B team and placed sixth. They lost to Brittney Dick and Rachel Waddell, Beloit, 2-6; lost to Megan Thyfault and Karis Kleymann, Hays, 1-6; lost to Kali Asher and Jodie Mongeau, Phillipsburg, 1-6; lost to Gena Myers and Sara Campbell, Norton, 2-6 and lost to Robbie Hadley and Katie Hays, Phillipsburg B, 3-6.

The Norton B's No. 2 doubles team of Mariah Gordine and Bethany Wicker placed seventh. They lost to Quinlynn Woofter and Gillian Zumbrana, Colby, 2-6; lost to Whitney Morrell and Mikki Yu, Beloit, 2-6; lost to Brianna Salsbury and Amanda Rohr, Hays, 2-6; lost to Becca Zillinger and Courtney Beard, Phillipsburg; lost to Tiffany Marx and Valerie Wagoner, Norton, 1-6 and lost to Chelsy Troyer and Tristin Troyer, Phillipsburg B, 1-6.

The Norton junior varsity tennis team played on Saturday in the Colby Junior Varsity Tournament in Colby.

Junior varsity volleyball beats Colby, Atwood

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team defeated both Colby and Atwood last Tuesday in Colby.

Colby

The Lady Jays defeated Colby 25-17, 25-21.

"From the beginning, we took control with exceptional passing from libero Lacey Roe," said Coach Pegg Cox.

"With Roe, Laura Delimont and other players passing well, our setters Katharine Roy (nine assists) and Courtney Cox (four assists) easily put up sets for our hitters. Courtney LeClair led the way with 5 kills, followed by Sara Lentz, 3; Hayli Bozarth, Roe and Brianna Felton, 2 each and Roy and Cox, 1 each.

"Our girls are really working as a team and communication has been outstanding."

"We are taking this game to the next level and really fine-tuning our individual play."

"We were behind several times but held our composure and finished with a win in two games."

Serving statistics were: LeClair, 10-11, 3 aces; Bozarth, 9-11, 2 aces; Lentz, 7-8; Roy, 7-9, 2 aces; Cox, 4-5; Felton, 3-5; Delimont, 1-1.

Atwood

Norton defeated Atwood 25-11, 27-25.

"We added another dimension to our game with five blocks recorded in one game," said Coach Cox.

"LeClair and Cox had two each and Lentz had one."

"LeClair and Felton continued their hitting streak with 6 kills each, followed by Bozarth and Lentz, 4 each; Roy, 3; Cox and Roe, 1 each. Felton was strong from the service line with 13 of 14 services and 3 aces and Lentz followed with 10 of 11 and 2 aces."

"This was a match in which our girls were in control the whole time. I have been so impressed with our state of mind; our girls do not give up when they get several points behind. Each of them wants the ball again if they shank a serve and they make the next one perfect."

Serving statistics were: Felton, 13-14, 3 aces; Lentz, 10-11, 2 aces; Bozarth, 8-9; Cox, 7-8; LeClair, 3-4; Roy, 3-5.

Junior varsity volleyball wins Oberlin tourney

By DICK BOYD

Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team defeated Oberlin, Atwood, St. Francis and Hoxie to win the championship of the Oberlin Invitational Junior Varsity Tournament on Saturday in Oberlin.

Oberlin

The Lady Jays defeated Oberlin 26-24, 25-19.

Norton beat Oberlin for the second time this season.

"I was impressed with the way our girls came out at 9 a.m. to start the tournament," said Coach Cox.

"They were focused and competitive. The goal for the day was to win their second tournament of the year and to win each match in two games. We started off with a great win."

Norton served an outstanding 96 percent as a team. Courtney Cox was 17-17 with 1 ace, followed by Katharine Roy, 10-10, 3 aces; Hayli Bozarth, 8-8, 1 ace; Sara Lentz, 7-7; Courtney LeClair, 3-3; Brianna Felton, 3-5, 1 ace.

Lentz and Felton each had 5 kills, followed by Bozarth, 4; Cox, 3; libero Lacey Roe, 2; LeClair, 1. Cox and Roy had 11 and 7 assists, respectively. Roy also recorded 2 blocks and LeClair had 1.

Atwood

Norton defeated Atwood 25-20, 25-13.

The Lady Jays met Atwood for the second time in five days and with the same victorious results.

"We knew that Atwood wanted revenge on us but we also knew that we had the capability to finish them in two," said Coach Cox.

LeClair was outstanding from the service line with a perfect 11-11 and 5 aces. Again the Lady Jays served 96 percent as a team. Five out of the six servers served 100 percent with a total of 11 aces. Felton and LeClair both had 5 kills with Bozarth adding 3, Cox and Roy 2 each and Lentz, 1.

"Our girls continued to play focused," said Coach Cox. "Blocking played a factor in this match with one each from LeClair, Lentz and Roy. Our blocking just took the wind out of Atwood's sails. They played not to lose and that doesn't win volleyball matches."

St. Francis

Norton defeated St. Francis 24-26, 25-5, 15-7.

"This was the only match where we played three games but it was one of those situations where you knew you were in control the whole way," said Coach Cox.

"We had changed some personnel around for the first game and our players were running into and over each other. We made the necessary adjustments in the second and third game and sealed St. Francis' fate for a win."

Lentz led serving with an excellent 100 percent. She was 24-24 with 8 aces, followed by Felton, 9-10, 4 aces; LeClair, 7-8, 3 aces. Bozarth added 6 kills and Felton had 5 kills.

"It was so much fun to see our team come out in the second game and make a statement but I'm sure St. Francis players weren't laughing," said Coach Cox.

Hoxie

Norton defeated Hoxie 25-4, 25-19 to win the championship.

"We finished the day by gaining some revenge for our only loss of the season on September 20 to Hoxie and winning the championship," said Coach Cox.

"We soundly beat the Lady Indians and we had help from our entire team."

"Courtney LeClair took the serving responsibility on her shoulders and wowed the crowd with her zinger of a serve. She was a perfect 17 of 17 with eight aces."

"In the first game, she served 13 in a row with six of them being aces."

Again, Norton served well as a team. The Lady Jays served 94 percent. LeClair and Lentz had 5 kills each, followed by Cox, 4; Roy, 3.

"Our girls had a great tournament and really put on a show for the Norton crowd," said Coach Cox.

"We were aggressive and out there to have fun and show what Lady Blue Jay volleyball is all about."

The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams will play Smith Center and Trego today in Smith Center, beginning at 5 p.m.

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