

# Lady Storm softball team places third in state

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Lady Storm won their first three games and lost their final two to place third in the Girl's 18 and Under Fast Pitch Class C State Softball Championship Tournament held Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Topeka.

On Friday evening, they defeated Team Rokk of Topeka by a 6-1 score. They outscored the Kiowa Chieftains 12-5 on Saturday morning and the Topeka Peaches 5-2 on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday morning, the Lady Storm played the Rockin' Jays from Topeka and lost 7-5. In their final game, they lost 8-1 on Sunday afternoon to the Wichita Rage.

The Rockin' Jays and Rage played for the championship and the Jays were the winners.

Norton's final season record was an outstanding 16-10.

## TEAM ROKK

Neither team scored the first three innings of Norton's 6-1 win over Topeka Rokk. The Lady Storm broke the ice in the top of the fourth inning with three runs. Amy Foster singled, Kylie Cooper and Ame Nicholson both walked and Karlie Boyd doubled. Foster, Cooper and Nicholson all scored to put Norton ahead 3-0.

Team Rokk scored their only run in the bottom of the inning to make it 3-1.

Norton's final three runs crossed home plate in the top of the fifth. Danielle LeClair doubled, Tiffani Long singled, Kayla Foley and Chantille Campbell each got on base via an error. LeClair, Long and Campbell all scored to make the final 6-1.

Norton had seven hits in the game. Leading hitter was Long, who went 2-3 at the plate.

Foster was the winning pitcher. She allowed just two hits, struck out 10 batters and walked four.

"Both teams had good pitchers in this game," said team manager Darin Campbell.

## KIOWA CHIEFTAINS

The Lady Storm had a big third inning when they scored six runs in their 12-5 win over Kiowa.

The Lady Jays got a good start, however, tallying four runs in the top of the first inning. Boyd singled, Long walked, Foley singled, Campbell blasted a triple and Cooper singled. Boyd, Long, Foley and Campbell all scored.

Kiowa added two runs in the bottom of the inning to make it 4-2. Neither team scored in the second inning.

In the top of the third, Norton jumped out to a 10-2 advantage. Long and Foley both singled, Campbell walked, Courtney



After the ball was hit to her, Norton pitcher Amy Foster threw it to first baseman Kiley Cooper for an out during the Lady Storm's 6-1 win over Team Rokk of Topeka in the Girl's Fast Pitch Class C State Softball Championship in Topeka over the weekend. At right is Norton third baseman Ame Nicholson. After defeating Team Rokk of Topeka 6-1 in the opener on Friday night, Norton Lady Storm players (below) contemplate their next game as they walk off the field. In front are, from left, Chantille Campbell and Lacey Roe. Behind them are, from left, Kylie Cooper, Amy Foster, Kayla Foley and Courtney LeClair. — Courtesy photos by Lori Roe



LeClair singled, Cooper doubled and Nicholson, Boyd and Danielle LeClair all singled. Long, Campbell, Courtney LeClair, Cooper, Nicholson and Boyd all scored.

Kiowa added two runs in the bottom of the third and one in the fourth to cut the Norton lead to 10-5.

The Lady Storm added two more runs to their total in the top

of the fourth inning. Nicholson walked, Thea Wiseman singled, Boyd doubled, Danielle LeClair and Long both singled. Nicholson and Wiseman both scored to make the final score 12-5 in favor of Norton.

The Lady Storm's bats were booming in this game. Norton pounded out 16 hits. Leading hitter was Boyd with a perfect 4-4 at the plate. Long and Cooper were

both 2-3 and Foley and Danielle LeClair were both 2-4.

Courtney LeClair was the winning pitcher. She gave up nine hits, struck out seven batters and walked just one.

Losing pitcher was Jessica Cunningham.

"They brought a 14-4 record into our game but we pretty much dominated them," said Campbell. "We got hits when we needed them."

## TOPEKA PEACHES

The Peaches scored their two runs in the top of the first inning in their 5-2 loss to the Lady Storm. The Peaches had three hits in the inning but only two the rest of the game and scored no more runs.

Norton tallied their first two runs in the bottom of the second inning. Campbell and Foster both singled and Nicholson doubled and Campbell and Foster both scored.

Norton's final three runs crossed home plate in the last of the third inning. Foley singled, Campbell walked, Foster blasted a triple and Cooper singled. Foley, Campbell and Foster all scored to make the final score 5-2.

Foster was the winning pitcher.

She allowed five hits, walked just one batter and struck out six. Megan Flynn was the losing pitcher.

The Lady Storm had eight hits in the game. Foster and Foley both went 2-3 at the plate.

"This was a tough game," said Campbell. "The Heat Index was 110 degrees but we came to play. We were not intimidated by any of the bigger schools in this tournament. We played well."

## ROCKIN' JAYS

The Lady Storm played the eventual state champion Rockin' Jays a good game before losing 7-5.

Norton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning. Foley walked and Foster and Cooper both singled. Foley and Foster both scored.

The Rockin' Jays tied the score at 2-all in the top of the third and took a 3-2 lead with one run in the top of the fourth. Neither team scored in the fifth inning.

The Rockin' Jays tallied four runs in the top of the sixth to go ahead 7-2.

The Lady Jays scored three runs in the bottom of the inning but fell just short at 7-5. Danielle LeClair singled, and Long walked. Foster came up to the plate and blasted the ball over the fence for a three-run home run!

Norton had eight hits in the game. Foster was leading hitter with a perfect 3-3 at the plate. Boyd went 2-3.

Losing pitcher was Foster. She allowed nine hits, struck out eight and walked two batters.

Winning pitcher was McMillan. "They had five unearned runs," said Campbell. "We just made too many errors."

"Their coach told me after the game that they had played 105 games this season and that our

team was the best they'd played against. That was quite a compliment."

## WICHITA RAGE

The Rage took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning but Norton tied the score with one run in the top of the second. Foley singled and scored later in the inning.

Seven more runs by the Rage in the bottom of the third made the final 8-1.

Norton had just four hits in the game. Danielle LeClair, Foley and Campbell each went 1-2 at the plate.

LeClair started on the mound for Norton but was relieved by Foster in the third inning. The Rage had eight hits, four struck out and four walked.

"We ran out of steam," said Campbell. "We were still hitting the ball well but were hitting it right at them a lot of the time."

"Even though we relieved Courtney, she pitched well."

"I'm told that this Norton girls team went farther in the state tournament than any in history. To go this far after not having a team for several years makes us pretty happy."

"It's a great accomplishment for our girls to do this well."

Campbell thanked head coach Kirk Foley and assistant coaches Erin Hill and Maggie Foley for all they did for the team this year. He also thanked his wife, Julie, for all the behind-the-scenes help, the team sponsors and fans.

"We had the largest number of fans of any of the teams," said Campbell. "We had great crowds. We had at least 50 fans at all the games. Our fans outnumbered all the Topeka fans. It was awesome to see such wonderful fan support from Norton."

## Norton K-18 baseball team fourth in Sub-Regionals

The Norton K-18 baseball team compiled a 4-2 record in three days of games to finish fourth in the Sub-Regional Tournament held Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Plainville.

Norton defeated Hill City 15-5 on Friday evening but lost a 10-9 contest to Russell on Saturday. After defeating La Crosse 16-6 on Saturday afternoon, Norton defeated Smith Center 27-23 on Sunday. After defeating Plainville 26-24 later on Sunday, Norton lost a 16-0

game to Russell on Sunday evening.

Ellis won the championship, Hays was second and Russell placed third. Phillipsburg finished in fifth place.

Norton qualified for the Regional Tournament which will be held this weekend in Russell. Norton's first game will be versus Colby at 2 p.m. on Friday.

See Friday's *Norton Telegram* for complete details of the Norton K-18's competition in the sub-regional tournament.

# More action from girls Division II girls softball

The Division II girls softball teams continued play throughout June.

As of June 22, team standings were Almena 8-0, Logan 4-3, First State Bank 4-3, New Age 2-4, Credit Union 2-5 and End Zone 2-5.

## First State Bank 15 Credit Union 9

Credit Union made it on the board in the top of the second with Caren Thomson, Lanae Dial and Tess Nickell scoring. In the third, Rickette Green scored, while in the fourth, Dial and Nickell made runs. The fifth brought Nickell, Sady Keilig and Alexis Henson home to score.

Darcy Bainter, Abby Bainter and Kami Jones scored for First State Bank in the first, while Marisa Maddy, D. Bainter, A. Bainter, Jones, Kylie Nuzum and Tiffany Eagleburger rounded the bases in the second. A. Bainter and Kami Jones brought two more in in the third and then rounded the bases to score in the fourth, along with Nuzum and Emily Schulze.

## Almena 9, New Age 8

In the top of the first, Erin Terrell rounded the bases to score for New Age. Jade Cressler scored in the second, while Terrell, Brooklyn Winkel, Mariah Farber and Kelsey Mordecai crossed home base in the third. Terrell scored again in the fifth to tie the score. Shylo Paxton scored for New Age in the sixth, giving them eight runs.

Ashley Constable put Almena on the board in the bottom of the first. Kynzie Stevens, Olivia

Lowry and Dakota Hilburn each scored once for Almena in both the second and third innings. Almena won the game in the sixth with one each from Melissa Hawks and Stevens.

## End Zone 13, New Age 12

It all came down to the fifth inning for New Age and End Zone.

New Age didn't make it on the board until the third inning when Shelbi McKenna, Mariah Farber and Shylo Paxton each scored. McKenna, Farber and Paxton joined Alec Melvin, Erin Terrell, Ashley Hildebrand and Cristine Nelson in rounding the bases in the fourth. McKenna and Farber made the team's final two runs in the fifth.

End Zone made it on the board first with one run in the first inning from Tess Nickell. Ruth Kendall and Brianna Karnopp scored in the second, while Alexis Henson, Kylee Ford, Fayth Temmel, Kendall, Johnnye Ruder and Karnopp crossed home plate in the third. Henson scored in the fourth. Temmel, Kendall and Ruder made the last three runs in the fifth, giving End Zone the lead and the win.

## Almena 6, Logan 4

Logan put two on the board in the first with runs from Marcy Gaines and Caley Greving. Katie Babcock and Hannah Pinkerton both rounded the bases to score in the fourth.

Erika Chandler scored for Almena in the second, followed by Sarah Whitney, Chandler and Cassie Field in the fourth to tie the score. Ashley Constable and Whitney added two more to Almena's score in the fifth to take the win.

## Credit Union 16, New Age 11

In the top of the first, New Age had three runs from Brooklyn Winkel, Erin Terrell and Alec Melvin. Mariah Farber, Winkel, Melvin, Jade Cressler, Ashley Hildebrand and Kelsey Mordecai rounded the bases in the second. New Age didn't score again until the sixth, when Winkel and Terrell crossed home base, adding a final two to the team's tally.

Credit Union scored three in the first from Makayla Cadwalader, Alexis Henson and Rickette Green. Cadwalader scored again in the second and once more in the third.

Also making runs were Henson, Caren Thomson, Kayleigh Norwood, Chrissy Matheson and Lanae Dial. Credit Union won the game in the fifth with six runs made by Cadwalader, Sady Keilig, Henson, Green, Thomson, and Matheson.

## Almena 16, First State Bank 4

First State Bank made its four runs in the third when Kylie Nuzum, Sierra Black, Emily Schulze and Darcy Bainter each rounded the bases to score.

Almena took a big lead in the first with runs from Ashley Constable, Sarah Whitney, Cassie Field, Melissa Hawks, Kynzie Stevens and Dakota Hilburn. The third was another big inning as Stevens, Olivia Lowry, Constable, Whitney, Erika Chandler and Field crossed home base to score. Lowry, Constable, Whitney and Chandler topped off the game by scoring in the fourth.

## Almena 19, End Zone 18

The game between Almena and End Zone came down to the sixth inning, when one run made the difference.

Almena took the lead in the first

with runs made by Ashley Constable, Sarah Whitney, Erika Chandler, Cassie Field, Melissa Hawks and Kynzie Stevens. Savannah King and Chandler scored in the second, while Constable, Whitney, Chandler and Field rounded the bases in the third. The fifth brought the team two runs from King and Chandler. Almena made six runs to End Zone's five in the sixth as Constable, Whitney, Chandler, Field and Hawks each crossed home base to win the game.

End Zone made it on the board in the second with runs from Fayth Temmel, Ruth Kendall and Johnnye Ruder. The third brought them more runs as Alexis Lively, Temmel, Kendall, Ruder and Brianna Karnopp rounded the bases. In the fourth, Karnopp, Brooklyn Winkel, Tess Nickell, Lively and Skylar Davis crossed home base. Winkel tied the score in the fifth, sending the game into an extra inning. The sixth brought Temmel, Kendall, Ruder and Karnopp home, giving End Zone 18.


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