

Norton volleyball varsity finally plays home matches

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls varsity volleyball team played at home for the first time this season on Tuesday when they hosted matches with Colby and Atwood.

The Lady Jays played Colby first and lost the match. Next, Colby defeated Atwood in two games. Following that match, Norton played Atwood. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Buffs in the first game, then lost the next two to lose the match.

Colby

Norton lost to Colby 12-25, 14-25.

"Against Colby, we struggled to stop their attacks," said Norton coach Chuck Zimmerman. "We were forced to give them too many free balls, which they turned into spikes. So, we were on the defense most of the night."

"We gave them four points with four missed serves since, with

rally scoring, misses mean points for the other team.

"Our passing was low at 1.4. Again, when they can attack at will, there is too much floor to cover when the ball is coming at 50 plus m.p.h. This is a guess since Olympians hit around 85-100 m.p.h."

"We were at 84 percent accuracy with our own hitting, which is good. We just do not generate enough kills. Our team had only six kills."

Atwood

Norton lost to Atwood 25-20, 15-25, 19-25.

"We started well against Atwood and won the first game," said coach Zimmerman. "Our combinations were good in the first game, which led to our winning. But, we did not sustain the good play into the second and third games as Atwood came back to win."

"Our serving was at 90 percent,

which is acceptable, but those six serves we missed sure hurt." Perfect servers were Hayli Bozarth, 10 with 2 aces; Courtney LeClair, 6 and Courtney Cox and Sara Lentz, 2 each.

"Our passing improved as Atwood did not dominate the net as Colby did," said coach Zimmerman. "We passed at a 1.6 rate." Lentz led in passing with 2.3, followed by Katharine Roy, 2.0; Lacey Roe, 1.8; Brianna Felton, 1.7.

Setters did well. Cox had 11 assists, Roy had 7 and hitter Maggie Nielsen had 1.

Norton hitters recorded 23 kills. LeClair led with 7, followed by Cox, 6; Bozarth, 4.

Sara Lentz led Norton in stuff blocks with 2.

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams will compete in the Oberlin Tournament this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.



Norton's Courtney LeClair spiked the volleyball over an Atwood defender during the Lady Jays' 25-20 win over the Lady Buffs in one game on Tuesday night in Norton. Other Norton players are Courtney Cox, No.7; Hayli Bozarth, No.15 and Maggie Nielsen.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Jayvee-2 volleyball tacks up win

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity No.2 girls volleyball team defeated Hill City 16-25, 25-18, 25-20, 23-25, 15-12 in a best three of five match on Monday evening in Hill City.

"After playing almost as many points as possible in all five games, we took home the win," said Norton coach Peggy Cox.

"To say the win was pretty would be inaccurate but it was refreshing, though stressful, to see our girls gut it out, especially af-

ter having played five matches two days earlier.

"Neither team wanted to give an inch and it seemed to come down to who could outlast whom and make the fewest mistakes."

"Our girls served 103 times for a team average of 87 percent. In all that, all but two had one or more aces for a total of 14."

Raven Brown served 20/23 w/ 4 aces, followed by Bethany Winkel, 12/13 w/3 aces; Amanda Delimont, 14/14 w2 aces; Kaitlyn Wolf, 12/16 w2 aces; Kendra

Engelbert, 6/9 w2 aces; Valecia Rogers, 3/5 w1 ace; Lori Ebner, 13/13 and Kayla Lee, 10/10.

Winkel led the way with assists with 14 with Amanda Delimont setting 3.

Assisting with one each were Brown, Engelbert and Wolf.

Wolf also had 6 kills, Brown and Winkel, 5 each; Lee, 3; Delimont and Engelbert, 2 each.

Helping jump start that with passes were Brown, Engelbert, Delimont, Winkel and Wolf.

Jayvee-2 volleyball 3rd at Oberlin

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity No.2 girls volleyball team placed third in the Oberlin Tournament on Saturday.

After losing to Colby, they defeated St. Francis and Quinter in pool play. They lost to McCook in the semi-finals, then outscored Oberlin C-Team to place third.

Colby

Norton lost to Colby 22-25, 22-25.

"Meeting the Lady Eagles for the third time and second time in two days did not prove to be a charm for us," said coach Peggy Cox.

"We played well, considering that we had to put in a new offense the previous night and move our libero Raven Brown to a hitting position."

"Alyssa Thomson, who had been sharing a setting role with Bethany Winkel, also changed positions to accommodate for a loss of a player. Winkel then became the lone setter to run a 5-1 offense. We really did not make many mistakes but were adjusting to new positions and each other and we just could not put it together for the win."

Match statistics were: serving — Brown, 15/15 w/3 aces; Thomson, 5/5 w/1 ace; Valecia Rogers, 4/5 w/2 aces; Lori Ebner, 10/10; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5/5; Winkel, 2/3; assists — Winkel, 11; Thomson, 3; kills — Thomson, 5; Wolf, 3; Kayla Lee and Winkel, 1 each.

St. Francis

Norton outscored St. Francis 25-8, 25-8.

"Playing St. Francis saw us gel together for the win," said coach Cox. "A total of 14 aces and 16 kills ensured the victory as we dominated from the offensive side."

"Bethany Winkel served 15/15 with 5 aces and set 9 assists. Lori Ebner was 11/11 with 4 aces and played great defense."

"Alyssa Thomson was also perfect in serving with 6/6 and 3 aces and 1 assist as were Kendra Engelbert, 5/5; Kayla Lee, 2/2 and Valecia Rogers, 1/1.

"Raven Brown and Kaitlyn Wolf kept the ball alive on our side with some great defensive passes."

"Wolf had a record 13 kills with Thomson recording 7, Engelbert 5, Winkel 3 and Lee and Brown 2 each."

Quinter

The Lady Jays defeated Quinter 22-25, 25-18, 15-10.

"Against Quinter, we played very flat but managed to be victorious," said coach Cox.

"Needing the full three games for the win, we continued to plug away at Quinter."

"Even when we were ahead, we seemed very somber on the court. Almost everyone on the team had at least one kill, we had several blocks and, yet, nothing seemed to jump start us. I felt fortunate that we ended with the win."

Kaitlyn Wolf had 4 kills, followed by Raven Brown, Alyssa Thomson, 3 kills each; Kendra Engelbert, 2 kills and Bethany Winkel, 1 kill. Winkel assisted for 7 of those kills with Thomson recording 1 assist. Wolf and Kayla Lee each had a block.

"Brown and Thomson had some great passes to keep the ball alive," said coach Cox.

Match statistics were: serving — Lori Ebner, 16/16 w 4 aces; Wolf, 11/12 w/ 5 aces; Brown, 5/7 w/1 ace; Thomson, perfect 3/3; Winkel, 7/8; Engelbert, 11/13.

McCook

Norton played McCook in the semi-finals and lost 15-25, 19-25.

"Our Norton JV No.2 team

came out the loser against a very good McCook team," said coach Cox.

"McCook did everything we've been working on, only at a quicker and higher level."

"What we gave them, they quickly gave back to us before we had time to adjust our defense. We just couldn't keep up with the speed of the game."

Match statistics were: serving — Alyssa Thomson, 5/6 w/3 aces; Bethany Winkel, 7/8 w/1 ace; Kayla Lee, 2/2; Lori Ebner, 8/9; Kaitlyn Wolf, 3/4; Raven Brown and Valecia Rogers, each 2/3.

Oberlin

The Lady Jays outscored Oberlin 25-19, 25-18 to finish third in the tournament.

"Beating Oberlin to place third finished the day on a bright note," said coach Cox.

"We seemed rejuvenated for this match and, except for a short period of time where Oberlin led, our girls stayed in the lead."

"Kaitlyn Wolf was phenomenal from the service line. She hit 14/14 with 7 aces that were zingers."

"Raven Brown put her touch on the service line with 9/9 and 5 aces."

Adding ace points were Valecia Rogers, 6/7 w/3 aces; Kendra Engelbert, 4/5 w/2 aces and Lori Ebner, 4/4 w/1 ace. Putting down kills were Wolf, 6; Alyssa Thomson, 4; Bethany Winkel, 2; Brown, 1. Wolf had one block with Winkel assisting 9 times and Rogers contributing from the back row.

"Overall, I felt that we played well considering that we changed our offense and players around the night before because of unforeseen circumstances."

"Our girls kept their composure throughout the five matches to come home with third place."

Jayvee volleyball beats Stockton

By DICK BOYD

The Norton junior varsity volleyball team defeated Stockton but lost to Hill City in matches played last Tuesday in Hoxie.

The Lady Jays defeated Stockton 25-13, 25-6.

"We came out very strong against Stockton," said coach Jill Scott. "They struggled a little bit and our girls took full advantage of it. We came out strong and never looked back!"

"Lacy Keilig served 15 of 16 for the match with 13 consecutive in the second game.

many serves but we will continue to work on that every day in practice."

Norton lost to Hill City 21-25, 25-15, 12-15.

"This was our third time to face Hill City and I really thought we would get them this time," said coach Scott.

"We came out in the first game and just never got into the flow of the game. We went back and forth with Hill City but just fell short."

"We came out fired up in the second game and played our game."

ahead but just didn't finish. It is good for our girls to play in games like that. It will help make them better in the long run."

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Norton goes 2-1 in Atwood quad

By DICK BOYD

Norton defeated Dundy County and Atwood but lost to Brewster in the Atwood Junior Varsity Quad held Saturday, Sept. 16 in Atwood.

Dundy County

Norton defeated Dundy County 26-24, 16-25, 15-8.

"We had a really tough fight in the first game but ended up coming out on top," said coach Jill Scott.

"In the second game, we had way too many mental mistakes. Missing six serves was only part of them"

"In the third game, we played very well. Charli Lawson served nine in a row, helping us get the win."

Atwood

The Lady Jays outscored Atwood 13-25, 25-19, 15-9.

"The first game was a good test for our Lady Jays," said coach Scott. "There wasn't much we did right in the first game. However, we showed a lot of heart fighting

to come back and win in three games."

"Once again, we made a lot of mental errors that made the match much closer than it should have been."

Brewster

Norton lost to Brewster 25-27, 27-25, 10-15.

"Brewster was a very good matchup for us," said coach Scott. "I knew it would be a tough match to win."

"Our girls started a little slow and they jumped ahead early in the first game. But, we never gave up and made the Bulldogs get that win the hard way."

"The second game was much of the same but with a better outcome for us."

"In the third game, we just got outplayed a little bit."

"Our girls played very hard all day and I was happy to come out with two wins."

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