

Experienced Huskies on football field tonight

By TOM DREILING
tomd@nwkansas.com

The 2007 Northern Valley High School varsity football Huskies climbed aboard the bus this afternoon for a 7 p.m. season-opening kickoff this evening at Palco in a conference showdown.

Coach Chuck Fessenden, with a roster of 28, said, "We should show quite a little improvement on last year's record." The Huskies went 0-9 in 2006, (0-4 in the league and 0-5 in district action). "We return a good nucleus of players with experience. We do not have any exceptionally fast

players, but our overall team speed should be adequate," he said.

The coach is starting his 32nd year coaching with an overall 240-84 record.

The Huskies play in 8-man Division II in District 8. Other teams in District 8 are Weskan, Wallace County, Brewster/Triplains, Golden Plains and Cheylin.

Coach Fessenden's roster includes four seniors, nine juniors, four sophomores and 11 freshmen. The group, he said, includes 11 players who lettered last year. They are: Ethan Hays (11), Jacob Gallentine (10), Nathaniel Gra-

ham (11), Tanner Jessup (11), Taylor Hammond (11), Drew Eagleburger (11), Blake Johnson (12), Chaim McMillin (11), Cody Callaway (11), Eric Woodside (11) and Hutch Gehrke (10).

The coach said in this group of lettermen are four offensive starters and five defensive starters. He said starters on offense were Hays (QB), Gallentine (RB), Graham (G) and Jessup (E). Defensive starters returning are Gallentine (CB), Graham (LB), Jessup (DT), Hammond (CB) and Eagleburger (LB).

28-Man Roster (height, weight, position, year):

Blake Johnson, 5-7, 171, QB, 12; Colton Lowry, 5-8, 112, end, 9; Dusty Eagleburger, 5-7, 140, QB, 9; Elliott Conard, 5-6, 105, RB, 12; Chaim McMillin, 5-10, 157, end, 11; Ethan Hays, 5-7, 171, QB, 11; Michael Callaway, 5-4, 98, RB, 10; Matt Dole, 5-3, 110, RB, 9; Brian Sproul, 5-10, 184, RB, 12; Justin Jeffries, 5-7, 152, RB, 10; Taylor Hammond, 5-10, 144, end, 11; Cody Callaway, 6-2, 174, end, 11; Skyler Harris, 5-4, 150, guard, 9; Jacob Gallentine, 5-7, 156, RB, 10; and, Drew Eagleburger, 5-8, 166,

RB, 11; Zachary Vincent, 5-8, 187, RB, 9; Caleb Bach, 5-4, 126, end, 9; Justin Lee, 6-2, 182, center, 12; Nathaniel Graham, 5-10, 185, guard, 11; Eric Woodside, 5-9, 182, guard, 11; Jordan Hale, 5-8, 182, guard, 11; Bryant Tharman, 6-1, 213, center, 9; Tanner Jessup, 6-3, 187, center, 11; Sean Braun, 5-8, 200, guard, 9; Ethan Gallentine, 5-3, 204, guard, 9; Chris Pinzenscham, 5-4, 104, end, 9; Hutch Gehrke, 5-7, 166, guard, 10; Jacob Nuzum, 5-9, 126, end, 9;

*Aug. 31, at Palco, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 7, Eastern Heights at Agra, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 14, Kensington, home, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 21, Logan, home, 7 p.m.
**Sept. 28, Cheylin at Bird City, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 5, Weskan at Weskan, 3:30 p.m. CT
**Oct. 12, Golden Plains, home, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 19, Brewster/Triplains at Brewster, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 25, Wallace County, home, 6:30 p.m.
(*League, **District)

Schedule: ---

Norton splits volleyball opener

By DICK BOYD

Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team opened the 2007 season on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium by defeating Osborne 25-18, 25-18 and losing to Colby 19-25, 14-25.

In a third match, Colby defeated Osborne 25-10, 25-16.

OSBORNE

"We came on strong to easily win our opener with Osborne," said coach Cox. "We had 18 kills and 12 aces."

Hayli Bozarth led the way with five kills, followed by Wiyanna Paxton and Courtney Cox four each.

Courtney LeClair and Lacy Keilig had two kills apiece and Ashli Hageman had one. LeClair was on fire from the service line with seven aces, followed by Bozarth, two and Thea Wiseman, Bethany Roy and Cox, one each.

"This was a fairly easy win for us," said coach Cox. "We quickly got over being nervous. I thought Osborne was going to be a little

more dominant at the net and service line than what they were.

"Our back row players, Katharine Roy (libero), Shelby Jones, Thea Wiseman and Bethany Roy had little trouble getting the passes up to setter Courtney Cox, who had nine assists. We still set more balls out to our outside hitters than what I would like but, for a first match, I was pleased."

COLBY

"In this match, we stayed with Colby until about point 10 in each game and then would get into a string of points that we just couldn't seem to get turned around our way," said coach Cox.

"We played very timid and struggled to stay aggressive in all areas, especially our serving. We recorded only three aces and it wasn't because Colby received better than Osborne. We just didn't put the ball on the end line.

"As a team, we had only eight kills and, against a team like Colby, you have to force them to play out-of-system to win.

Bozarth did have five kills with Cox, LeClair and Paxton adding one apiece.

"As we became tired, our defense started standing instead of staying low, communication stopped and we just didn't take care of the small details. The good news is we have plenty of other opportunities to take wins from Colby and we'll learn from our mistakes."

Norton will host Phillipsburg and Northern Valley in volleyball action Tuesday, beginning at 5 p.m.

The varsity schedule will be: Norton vs. Phillipsburg, Northern Valley vs. Phillipsburg and Norton vs. Northern Valley. Varsity matches will be in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton so all senior players for the Lady Jays will be honored.

A junior varsity match will be played between Norton and Phillipsburg at 5 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on East Campus.

Emporia State counts heavily on Nortonite

By DICK BOYD

Joel Griffiths, 6-foot-3-inch, 282 pound senior from Norton, is expected to be a stalwart again this season in the Emporia State University offensive line.

Griffiths is one of five players being counted on heavily by ESU offensive line coach Travis Fox.

The hefty senior was a second-team All-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association selection last year by vote of the league's coaches. He started every game for the Hornets last season with nine starts at left guard and two at right guard.

Griffiths has also been named to the Preseason All-MIAA team on the second team offense.

Taking kidding from his teammates as a freshman for being from "the small town of Norton", Griffiths solidified his position by his exploits on the field. His fellow veteran linemen are very familiar with each other and believe in each other.

"Most of these guys . . . I know how they're going to act on the field, off the field," said Griffiths. You almost think you know what they're thinking all the time. That's a really nice thing to have when you're an offensive lineman because your block depends on the guy next to you and the guy next to him. When you know what ev-



Joel Griffiths, senior Emporia State University offensive lineman from Norton, blocked defensive lineman Corey Sudhoff during a drill recently on the ESU practice fields. Griffiths was a second-team All-MIAA selection as a junior last season.

- Photo courtesy Carly Pearson/Emporia Gazette

everyone else is doing and thinking, it helps a lot."

A sense of urgency has already set in for Griffiths and three other seniors. The time to play well — and to win — is right now.

"The new coaches — they want to win and we want to win," Griffiths said. "Probably not many of us are going to go to the NFL, so if we want to win in our football

careers, it's probably gotta be this year."

The Hornets will open the 2007 season at Western State, Gunnison, Colo., on Saturday. They will play a 7 p.m. contest on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Fort Hays State University in Hays.

Griffiths, who is also an honor roll student at ESU, is the son of Karen and Doug Griffiths, Norton.

New coach, system for Husky volleyball

By TOM DREILING
tomd@nwkansas.com

The new head coach of the Northern Valley High School Husky volleyball team will have to get used to several things in that capacity, but one that sticks out like a sore thumb is the fact the team will be on the road all season long. They will not have a home match.

Their closest 'home match' will be Tuesday, Sept. 4 when they play Norton and Phillipsburg in Norton with action scheduled to start at 5 p.m.

The Lady Huskies have been working to learn the "new system" being put in by new head coach Chuck Zimmerman. Ten girls re-

ported for practice, with seniors Jessica Largent, Joni Hilburn and Stephanie Tubbs leading the way.

Hanna Hawks is the lone junior. Four sophomores are on the roster, Karen Wenzl, Megan Cole, Christina Anderson and Alison Cole. Two freshmen round out the picture, Kenzie Chandler and Stacie Dole.

Coach Zimmerman is assisted by Kevin Largent, whom he described as "very knowledgeable." He said coach Largent has helped with the transition of not only the girls to the new system but the new coach to the nuances of the traditions of Northern Valley.

Season's Opener

The Lady Huskies got their season underway with action against Lakeside and Tipton at Downs on Aug. 24.

Their first match was against a very athletic Lakeside team. "Lakeside was there — when we hit the ball they were there, and got the ball up so they could return it to our side where we were just a step slow in getting to the ball. We had our moments, but not enough," coach Zimmerman said.

"We also missed too many serves. The team will learn the new coach really dislikes missing serves.

"That just GIVES a point to your opponents that they didn't even have to work for," he said.

The first game went to Lakeside, 19-25.

In the second game, the Lady Huskies improved by keeping Lakeside off balance.

"We made them move to get the ball," the coach said, "and we had enough firepower of our own to win 25-21."

In the third game, Lakeside got on a roll and the Huskies were not able to stop them with the final score being 9-25.

Second Match

In the second match against Tipton, the Lady Huskies used a key ingredient of volleyball to win both games — "keep them off balance," the coach said, and "hit it to where they have to move to go get it. This we did and Tipton was scrambling all match long."

Coach Zimmerman said Tipton's free ball returns allowed the Lady Huskies to use some of their power.

"Notice the word 'some' was used, as we did not even come close to displaying the power that this team possesses."

The final scores were 25-19 and 25-15.

"We greatly appreciated the fans who followed us to Downs," coach Zimmerman said. "It means a great deal to a player when there are fans in the stands.

"We hope you will come to support this year's version of Lady Husky Volleyball!"

The Huskies went up against K-town and Western Plains at Ransom on Tuesday.

C-team volleyball 2-1

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School C-Team volleyball team started the 2007 season with a 2-1 record in Colby on Monday.

The Lady Jays defeated Colby 25-16 and 25-20 in their first match. Next, they defeated Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays 25-19, 25-22. Norton finished the evening with a close match against a second Colby team, winning the first game 27-25, then losing 26-28, 4-15.

"Overall, I was pleased with the effort of our girls in their first high school competition," said coach Jill Lively.

"We are still doing a lot of thinking and getting used to specializing in positions. They didn't do a

lot of that in junior high, so they are going through a lot of transition. We served and passed much better than we did during the food scrimmage. At this level, we will focus a lot on serving, passing and communicating because that is what wins games."

Leaders in serving included Sophie Mills, 91 percent with nine aces; Becka Streck, 88 percent with one ace; Sharrelle Shinn, seven aces; Shaylyn Boteler, five aces; Rachel Shepard, four aces.

"Our team benefited from many great passes from Sharrelle and Shaylyn," said coach Lively.

The Norton C-Team will play next on Monday, Sept. 10 at Trego Community in WaKeeney, beginning at 5 p.m.

Volleyball underway for Trojans

Schedule announced

Aug. 28, *Eastern Heights/Tipton at Agra, 5 p.m.

Sept. 4, Hill City/WaKeeney at Hill City, 5 p.m.

Sept. 11, Stockton/Phillipsburg/*Kensington at Logan, 4 p.m.

Sept. 18, Alma, Neb./*Northern Valley at Logan, 5 p.m.

Sept. 22, Osborne Round Robin at Osborne, 8 a.m.

Sept. 25, *Western Plains/*Palco at Ransom, 4 p.m.

Oct. 2, Eastern Heights/Kensington at Agra, 4 p.m.

Oct. 6, Cougar Invitational at Mankato, 9 a.m.

Oct. 9, Golden Plains/Norton at Logan, 4 p.m.

Oct. 13, League Tourney at K-Town/E.H., TBA

Oct. 16, Regional Tourney, TBA

Oct. 20, Substate Tourney, TBA

Oct. 26-27, State Tournament, Hays time TBA

(* Conference games)

Back your favorite teams this season

Big weekend at Norton Speedway

The United Rebel Sprint Series (URSS), in conjunction with MBM Motorsports, will celebrate the end of summer with a Labor Day double-header weekend at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton. This will be a great opportunity to see the best of two periods of history from the past to the present in the Saturday and Sunday action.

The URSS 305 Winged Sprint Cars will be the featured class both nights along with the Vintage Racers from the Kansas Antique Racers, Colorado Vintage Oval Rac-

ers and Big Car Racing Association. The action on the historic half-mile of Elmwood Park Speedway has always been fast and furious with the Rebels and this race weekend will be no exception. URSS points leader, Smokey Fairbank, Norton's Randy Bantam, last year's winner, Justin Schwien, Jon Johnson and Mark Bantam, along with the rest of the best 305 Sprint Car drivers from the region will hit the track to battle for the wins.

The Vintage Cars will showcase the best of the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s era race cars as they were raced at county fairs on countless weekends across the United States. Many of the cars that will be on the track during this two-day race weekend were built by area racers and campaigned at tracks throughout the region in their hey days.

Logan Trojans open football season tonight

Schedule announced

Aug. 31, Western Plains, home, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7, Kensington, there, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14, Golden Plains, home, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21, Northern Valley, there, 7 p.m.

*Sept. 28, Eastern Heights, at Agra, 7 p.m.

*Oct. 5, Palco, there, 7 p.m.

*Oct. 12, Lucas/Luray, home, 7 p.m.

*Oct. 19, Victoria, there, 7 p.m.

*Oct. 25, Natoma, home, 7 p.m.

Oct. 30, BiDistrict

Nov. 3, Regional

Nov. 9, Substate

Nov. 17, State

(*District game)

Telegram SportsLine:
(785)
877-3361

Northern Valley, Logan coaches note

Please forward your game results, along with comments, as soon as possible after your games. I will need that information by 9 a.m. Monday mornings for each Tuesday *Telegram* and 9 a.m. Thursday mornings for each Friday *Telegram*. (With Monday being a holiday this coming week, I will need your information by 9 a.m. Tuesday.) With your help we can, together, greatly improve on the coverage for Northern Valley and Logan. My fax number is (785) 877-3732 and my e-mail address is tomd@nwkansas.com. Parents are encouraged to submit pictures with cutlines. I look forward to working with all of you.

Thanks,

Tom Dreiling
Telegram Publisher

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Trego County Commissioners and TCED board are seeking a qualified economic development professional to fill the position of Economic Development Director for Trego County. The director is responsible for implementing programs to promote economic development, expansion, retention, and recruitment for commercial and industrial activities, grant writing, and other projects as may be necessary. Director will manage a sufficient budget funded by a half cent county sales tax. Director is to have good public relation skills and must be willing to travel. Experience in economic development area preferred. Salary dependent upon experience and qualifications. Health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick day benefits offered. Send cover letter, resume and references to the TCED, Attn Darien Fritts, 521 Russell Ave., WaKeeney, KS 67672. Applications will be accepted through September 10th.