

Positives breaking through Husky volleyball gains split on the road

By TOM DREILING
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Some positives are beginning to break through the early season varsity volleyball fog in Huskyland, thanks to the latest action — on the road.

The Northern Valley ladies traveled to Palco for their latest outing, and it resulted in a split in the matches, with Palco taking the match against the Huskies, and the Huskies turning around to defeat Eastern Heights.

“Against Palco we again struggled to be consistent with our power game, which is our bread and butter,” said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

“We have some amazing hitters and not just thumpers but hitters that can place the off-speed hit — we are just not being consistent enough for all three phases to come together at the same time and

for us to string together enough points to take the other team completely out of the match,” he said.

He said the team’s serving is still suspect as the Huskies only served 88 percent as a team, missing on 7 serves.

“Our passing is still rated low. As a team we only passed at a 1.3 rating, which in this coach’s opinion makes our setter have to run too much to be able to set properly.

“We were good on 76 percent of our spikes with 19 kills.

“The team did have 12 stuff blocks which is very good. We now just have to work to get all phases to working at the same time,” the coach said.

Scores vs. Palco were 19-25, 25-19, 16-25.

Coach Zimmerman said against a very scrappy Eastern Heights team “we let them play their style of ball in the first game, which we

did win 25-21 but had to battle their passes and good serves.”

In the second game, the coach said, the ladies played the style of ball they need to be playing all the time as they served 93 percent, only missing 3, and having 5 aces, passed a little better with a 1.5, hit at a 77 percent clip with 15 kills and blocked 7 with 4 being stuffs.

“A good game, one that we need to copy each time we take the floor,” the coach said.

Final score 25-21, 25-7

“Our junior varsity got on the floor this week as we now have enough to play and the ladies did OK in their first outing of the year,” the coach said.

“We hustled well the entire match with some good serving. We handled their attacks well, we just did not score enough to win as we were defeated 18-25 and in a close game, 25-27,” he said.

Fourth-place finish for tennis

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Lisa Henderson’s Norton Community High School girls varsity tennis team placed fourth in the Colby Varsity Tournament on Sept. 1 in Colby.

Colby won the team championship with 45 points, followed by Osborne, 35; Scott City, 28; Norton, 19; Liberal, 14; Plainville, 9.

“Overall, I think we did fairly well today,” said coach Henderson. “We had to do some rearranging with our roster because Hannah Fulton wasn’t able to compete due to her knee injury.”

“I was pleased that all of our players received medals. They all worked hard and I’m proud of their efforts. Our doubles teams are communicating better with each other on the court and our singles players are really staying alert and on their toes. We’re continuing to work hard during practice and we seem to be getting better.”

Tabitha Vincent played No. 1 singles for Norton and placed fifth with a 1-4 record. She lost 6-0 to Sloane Hardman, Osborne; defeated Jessica Collins, Plainville,

6-2; lost 6-0 to Logan Wark, Colby; lost 6-3 to Janie Gunther, Scott City and lost 6-3 to Maddie Plunk, Liberal.

Valerie Wagoner and Kelsey Nuzum played No. 1 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed fourth with a 2-3 record for the day. They defeated Aubrey Geist and Terah Stroup, Osborne, 6-4; lost 6-2 to Kendra Husmann and Katelyn Thyfault, Plainville; lost 6-2 to Lindsey Wilson and Caitlyn Wark, Colby; lost 6-2 to Christine Chambless and Karrin Wessel, Scott City and defeated Jarly Marsh and Allison Baqwell, Liberal, 6-3.

“Kelsey filled in for Hannah and did a great job,” said coach Henderson. “It was her first time playing at the varsity level.”

In No. 2 singles, Norton’s Ashley Maybon went 2-3, tied for third place and received a fifth place medal based on the tiebreaker. She lost 6-0 to Jeni Wolters, Osborne; won a 6-0 bye over Plainville; lost 6-0 to Barbara Bickner, Colby; lost 6-2 to Debbie Kough, Scott City and won 6-4 over Caitlin Workman, Liberal.

“Ashley’s last match against

Liberal was very tough,” said coach Henderson. “She sprained her ankle during her last game but managed to finish up the match with a 6-4 win.”

Emily Juenemann and Stephanie Shepard placed third in No. 2 doubles with a 3-2 record. They defeated Jessica Gregory and Ashley Oliver, Osborne, 6-4; outscored Ana Zica and Danielle Winters, Plainville, 6-3; lost 6-1 to Laura Dougherty and Kayla Hockersmith, Colby; lost 8-6 to Kaitlin Stockman and Ericka Wright, Scott City and defeated Karla Bosquez and Alejandra Alonsa, Liberal, 6-3.

“Emily and Stephanie really impressed me today,” said coach Henderson. “This was the first time they had been paired up this year and they both did a wonderful job.”

Next action

The Norton varsity tennis team split up Tuesday to compete in the Phillipsburg Quad and the Goodland Tournament.

Next varsity action for Norton will be in the Trego Invitational on Saturday, September 22 in WaKeeney, beginning at 9 a.m.

Bolt of lightning



Blue Jay senior tailback Todd Bolt (24) weaved in and out through the Trego defenders on an 85-yard touchdown return of a Golden Eagle punt during Norton’s 27-6 Mid-Continent League win here Friday night. Ready to knock any potential tacklers out of the way was junior running back Matt Stanley (33).
- Telegram Photo by Dick Boyd

Junior varsity posts big win

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team evened their 2007 record at 1-1 on Monday evening by shutting out Trego Community 24-0 in WaKeeney.

Norton took the opening kickoff and sustained a long drive, highlighted by a crucial fourth down conversion by Ashton Draper. Zane Perez scored from two yards out and the extra points run was unsuccessful, giving the Blue Jays a 6-0 lead.

The Norton special teams then got into the action, creating a turnover on the kickoff. The Jays scored their second touchdown when J.D. Gall tallied from one yard out. Again, the run for two

extra points failed and it was 12-0.

With the defense dominating, Norton extended their lead with two more touchdowns in the second period. The special teams once again got in on the action as Kaid McKenna blocked a punt and fell on the football in the end zone for six more points. Again, the run for two extra points failed.

Norton’s fourth touchdown came on a last minute fourth down conversion and 39 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel to Landon Hamel, making the score 24-0 at half-time.

The second half became a defensive battle with the Blue Jay defense continuing to dominate

and help bring home the first victory of the season for the Norton junior varsity.

“We made great strides in improvement in all facets of the game tonight,” said Norton assistant football coach David Stover. “The play of our defense was outstanding all evening and our offensive execution was greatly improved from last week.

“Our special teams were very good in the game, as well.

“Overall, it was a great team effort.”

Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team will play Plainville on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. in Plainville.



Norton’s Stephanie Shepard (foreground) awaited a return hit from a Trego player after her No. 2 doubles teammate Emily Juenemann served the ball during a match in the Phillipsburg Round Robin Varsity Tournament on Sept. 4 in Phillipsburg.
-Telegram photo by Dennis Maybon

Junior high Jays lose 14-0

The Norton Junior High School varsity football boys were shut out by Phillipsburg there, 14-0, last Thursday.

“This was not an outcome we were looking for tonight,” said coach George Rossi.

“We did not play with the intensity that we had last week. I thought the boys played hard, but mistakes and penalties killed every drive we had,” he said.

“There were times we started to get going but we just could not finish the drive. Our tackling was poor. The mistakes we made need to be corrected in order to improve. The boys will work hard to reach their goal,” the coach said.

Phillipsburg scored 8 points in the first quarter and 6 in the second.

Statistically, for Norton: First downs 6; pass attempts 5, complete 1, yards 24; rushing 38 plays, 20 net yards.

Rushing leader Trey Millan with 4 rushes for 19 yards. Receiving, Zach Hartwell, 1 for 24 yards.

Tackles: Trey Millan 7; Casey Temmel 5; Robert Blecha 3; Cayleb Campbell 3; Tye Nickell 3; Seth Antrim 3; Damien Davis 3; Alec Gilgenbach 2.

Jayvee wins big
The Norton Junior High junior varsity football team shut out Phillipsburg there on Sept. 6, 24-0.

Norton scored 6 points in the first quarter, 8 in the second, and 8 in the third.

“The seventh graders had their first full game tonight and they were ready to go,” said coach Rossi.

“The line of Lane Bigge, Eli Bozarth, Lucas Engel, Cody Ellis, Alex Riggins did a great job of creating holes for the backs to get through,” he said.

“The defense did a fantastic job of swarming to the ball and making hard hits. These kids do a good job of working together, and still have to improve in many areas, but this was a good win over a rival team,” he said.

Statistically, for Norton: first downs 6; passing attempts 5, completions 1, yards 15; rushing, 19 attempts, 126 net yards; total offense, 141 yards.

Norton scoring: first quarter, Jacob Brooks 56-yard run, point-after failed; second quarter, Dalton Miller 27-yard run, Miller point-after; third quarter, Brooks 6-yard run, Miller run point-after.

Rushing leaders: Jacob Brooks, 10/81 yards; Dalton Miller, 4/27 yards; Jarod Bohl, 3/10 yards; John Risewick, 1/13 yards.

Receiving: John Renner, 1/15 yards. Tackles: Treven Rossi 10; Dalton Miller 7; Carson McKenna 5; Jacob Brooks 4; Jared Bohl 4; Cody Ellis 4; Eli Bozarth 4.

Logan volleyball update

Here are some results of Logan High School varsity volleyball action:

Sept. 4, at Hill City Vs. Hill City
15-25 lose
20-25 lose
Serves, 30/36, 6A, 84 percent; attacks, 21/31, 10k; sets, 33/35, 8A; serve receives, 52 percent; blocks, 3; dinks 11/13, 3k.
Season’s record: 2-1
Sept. 4, at Hill City Vs. WaKeeney
25-22 win
16-25 lose

13-25 lose
Serves, 48/55, 7A, 88 percent; attacks, 52/65, 15k; sets, 52/55, 12A; serve receives 53 percent; blocks 2; dinks, 8/13, 2k.
Season’s record: 2-2
Individual leaders vs. WaKeeney
Serves, Jenny 11/11, 4A, Leandra 9/9, 1A; attacks, Autumn, 5/6, 4k; sets, Shaley, 51/53, 12A; serve receives, Carri 3/3, Shelley 15/18; blocks, Shelley 2 assists, Jenny and Aspen 1 assist each; dinks, Shelley 4/5, 2K.
Individual leaders vs. Hill City
Serves, Leandra 6/6; attacks, Shelley 7/10, 6K; sets, Shaley 31/33, 8A; serve receives, Shelley 11/13; blocks, Shelley 2 assists, Shaley, Jenny, Autumn, Aspen, 2 assists each; dinks, Shaley 6/7, 3K.

Seventh girls get three W’s

Here is an update on the Norton 7th grade girls’ volleyball action:

Aug. 30, at home Vs. Ellis
25-23 win
14-25 lose
14-16 lose

Coach’s comment: The opening game of the 2007 volleyball season started off with the Lady Jays winning the game against Ellis, but then falling short dropping the next 2 games. The Ellis team did an excellent job serving the ball and dominated in that area. The Norton team did an excellent job of setting and hitting, but did not serve well.

Aug. 30, at home Vs. Hill City
26-24 win
25-13 win

Coach’s comment: The Lady

Jays came out strong and wanted to improve from their first match. The serving was much better, but still not where it needs to be. We played aggressively and communicated better as our nerves were settled after the first match.

Sept. 6, at Phillipsburg Vs. Phillipsburg
20-25 lose
18-25 lose

Coach’s comment: The junior high Lady Jays hit the road to play their 3rd match of the season against Phillipsburg. We knew it would be tough because they always have solid teams. Our serving was not good. The ladies communicated and transitioned well with the ball, but were not consistent in getting our serves over. With rally scoring you cannot miss your serves and win.

Blue Jay junior varsity volleyball 2-1 in tournament

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls junior varsity volleyball team compiled a 2-1 record in the Quinter JV Tournament on Saturday in Quinter, just missing qualifying for bracket play out of their pool.

Norton defeated Hoxie in three games in their first tournament action. Scores were 19-25, 25-13,

15-11. Next, the Lady Jays lost 23-25, 17-25 to Hill City.

In their final match, Norton played Oakley and outscored the Lady Plainsmen in three games: 25-20, 14-25, 15-10.

Coming out of pool play, Norton, Oakley and Hill City were tied, each with a record of 2-1. The tiebreaker came down to the number of games each team had

won and lost. The records of games won and lost were: Oakley, 5-1; Hill City, 4-3; Norton, 4-4. Due to Oakley and Hill City having the least number of games lost, they both went on to bracket play in the tournament.

“Throughout the tournament, we were very successful in different areas of play,” said Norton assistant coach Christine Eveleigh.

“For the tournament, we had a total of 32 serving aces, having 21 of those aces in the Hoxie match.

“Hitting was average for the tournament with a total of 34 hitting kills, averaging a hitting percentage of 80 percent,” the coach said.

“Our back row defense played well with a total of 72 digs for the day.”

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