

# Blue Jay volleyball going to state

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team finally played the way their coach has been telling them all season they are capable of playing and defeated the top three seeded teams, Phillipsburg, Lakin and Cimarron, to win the championship of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium and advance to the Class 3A State Tournament this weekend in Salina!

Norton was seeded No.7 in the tournament and brought in a record of 10-20. In the first round, they played No.2 seed Lakin, who was 25-12. After defeating Lakin 25-23, 25-15, they took on No.3 seed Cimarron, who was 26-13 after beating No.6 Holcomb in the first round.

The Lady Jays surprised Cimarron by beating them 25-12 in the first game. Cimarron won the second game 15-25 but Norton rallied to defeat Cimarron 25-20 and earn a berth in the championship match versus No.1 seed and No.2 state ranked Phillipsburg. The Lady Panthers brought a 35-3 record into the finals match after disposing of No.8 Larned in the first round and No.5 Scott City in the semi-finals but the Lady Jays defeated them 25-13, 25-22 to win it all!

Norton and Phillipsburg met earlier this season on September 4 in Norton and the Lady Panthers had their way, winning 25-17, 25-18. Phillipsburg's only previous losses were to Little River, Liberal and Colby, all in three games. In all 38 matches this season, they had never lost the first game of a match until the Lady Jays defeated them Saturday evening!

The Norton fans were present in full force to support the Lady Jays and they did not disappoint them. As each match progressed, the local fans became even more vociferous and supportive. In the end, the Lady Jays were engulfed by a sea of fans with plenty of hugs and congratulations for an unbelievable evening!

"We steamrolled over the No.1 seeded Lady Panthers, who are ranked No.2 in the state, and kept the sub-state championship plaque at home in front of the wonderful, very supportive, loud seventh player: our fans!" said Cox.

"It was unbelievable. It was definitely our house tonight and no one was going to take it away from our Lady Jays. They all played so well.

"It was such a great day. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it.

"The way our girls played, the fans, the band, the boys with flags, bows and cheers. Everything was perfect! I'm proud to be a Blue Jay!"

LAKIN

"Our girls came out focused and ready to play from the beginning," said Cox. "With great support from our fans, we remained in control and never let up the momentum.

"We knew coming into this tournament that no one, except ourselves and some others who have seen the flashes of brilliance every once in awhile, expected us to get past Lakin. I'm sure they were overlooking us and we took them by surprise."

The score was tied many times in the first game but Norton always pulled back ahead to eventually defeat the Lady Broncs by two points. The Lady Jays didn't allow the second game to be so close as they aggressively took the lead and expanded on it for the 10 point win and match victory.

Senior setter Courtney Cox led the way with 9 kills and 8 assists. Junior Hayli Bozarth was right behind her with 6 kills, senior Courtney LeClair with 4 and senior Ashli Hageman with 1.

"I didn't think we passed as well as we have in the past but we did a great job digging the ball," said Cox. Junior libero Katharine Roy had 13 digs while sophomore Ashli Stewart and sophomore Shelby Jones contributed four and three, respectively.

"It was a great way to start the day; our girls all played so well!" said the coach.

Ashley Colip had 7 assists and Lacy Keilig had 1. Bozarth, Cox and Hageman each had 1 block.

LeClair had 2 serving aces, followed by Colip, Cox, Sara Lentz, Stewart, 1 each.

Cox had 10 digs, Bozarth and Colip had 2 each and Hageman, Keilig and Lentz had 1 each.

CIMARRON

Norton built a 14-7 lead en route to beating Cimarron 25-12 in the first game. In the second game, the Lady Jays fell behind 7-15 and went on to lose 15-25. Norton got back on track in the third game, edged ahead 22-19 and won 25-20.

"We played very aggressive from the beginning and dominated the first game with Cimarron," said Cox. "We then lost the second game. We just seemed to be out of sorts but not in a panic mode.

"In the third game, we knew what we had to do and came out and did it.

"Sara Lentz was spectacular at the net with four blocks and four kills. She had no kills or blocks against Lakin. I challenged her before the start of the match that it was time to step up and boy did she!

"Ashlie Hageman was another girl who arose to the occasion and she had five kills and one block.

"I was so proud of our girls and how they kept their composure despite the second game loss."



Happiness is, in this case, surprising all the top-ranked teams to win the Class 3A Sub-State volleyball championship! The Lady Jays' Lacy Keilig (#12), held up the championship plaque

as her delirious teammates celebrated after receiving the precious "hardware" from Norton Activities Director Larry Mills (right).  
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Bozarth and Cox each had 7 kills, LeClair had 4 and Colip and Keilig, 1 each. Keilig had 1 block.

Colip, LeClair and Lentz each had 1 serving ace. Cox led in digs with 9, followed by Stewart, 5; LeClair, Roy, 4 each; Colip, 3; Keilig, Lentz, 2; Bozarth, Hageman, Jones, Thea Wiseman, 1 each.

Assists leader was Cox with 13, followed by Colip, 11; Keilig, Lentz, 1 each.

PHILLIPSBURG

"When Courtney LeClair received an overpass from the Lady Panthers, she kaboomed it back on Phillipsburg's side," said Cox.

"Ashley Colip played so well and so smart. She kept the Phillipsburg defense guessing on where she was going to set the ball. Lacy Keilig came out of nowhere with her left handed kill. Ashli Stewart's powerful digs from Phillipsburg hits, Hayli Bozarth hitting with no errors and five kills were tremendous. Shelby Jones, Katharine Roy and Thea Wiseman passed a near perfect game. Courtney Cox killing the

25th point was really big.

"Sara Lentz gave us flat, deep 12 of 12 serves and two aces. Ashlie Hageman kept the ball alive on some desperate passes. Lacy Ellis's killer serves prepared us for this. All our girls served very aggressive. We averaged 98 percent with nine aces.

"It was awesome! Our girls wanted this match so badly and, when I asked them to give me everything they had, they did!"

LeClair led in kills with 7, followed by Bozarth, Cox, 5 each; Keilig, 4; Colip, Lentz, 1.

Bozarth, Keilig and LeClair each had 1 block.

Serving leader was Colip with 3 aces, followed by Lentz, Stewart, 2 each; Cox, Roy, 1 each.

Stewart had 6 digs, followed by Cox, 5; Colip, Jones, 4 each; LeClair, Roy, 3 each; Bozarth, Hageman, Keilig, Lentz, 1 each.

Cox led in assists with 8, followed by Colip, 7; Keilig, 2.

Sub-State results

In the first round of the Norton Sub-State, No.1 seeded Phillipsburg (33-3) defeated No.8 Larned (3-29) 25-8, 25-20; No.5

Scott City (20-15) defeated No.4 Thomas More Prep-Marian (23-13) 25-16, 25-12; No.7 Norton (10-20) defeated No.2 Lakin (25-12) 25-23, 25-15 and No.3 Cimarron (25-13) defeated No.6 Holcomb (13-21) 23-25, 25-18, 25-15.

In the semi-finals, Phillipsburg defeated Scott City 25-18, 25-20 and Norton defeated Cimarron 25-12, 15-25, 25-20 to set up the matchup between the Lady Jays and Lady Panthers for the championship and the trip to Salina for the state tournament. As we already know, the Lady Jays more than met the challenge, looking like the No.1 seed, as they had throughout the tournament.

Four of Norton's opponents this year, Colby (Class 4A), Atwood and Smith Center (2A) and Hoxie (1A) also won their Sub-State championships and will compete this weekend in their respective state tournaments.

Of these opponents, Norton defeated Hoxie 25-22, 25-22 in the Oberlin Tournament.

Phillipsburg was this season's Mid-Continent League Tourna-

ment champion, defeating Smith Center for the championship.

Next action

The Norton Lady Jays will compete Friday and Saturday in the Class 3A State Volleyball Tournament in the Bicentennial Center in Salina. Norton is one of eight teams in the tournament. They will be divided into two pools for three-matches each on Friday.

The four teams with the best records will advance to play in the semi-finals and finals on Saturday. The Lady Jays will face the No.1 seed Sacred Heart of Salina (37-3) in the opening match of the tournament at 8:30 a.m. on Friday.

In their second match of the day, Norton will play No.4 seed Pomona-West Franklin (31-10) at 11:30 a.m. and in their third contest they will play No.5 seed Whitewater Remington (28-10) at 1:30 p.m.

Competing in the other pool will be: No.2 seed Hutchinson-Trinity (31-4), No.3 seed Silver Lake (34-6), No.6 seed Mound City-Jayhawk Linn (30-11) and No.7 seed Winchester-Jefferson County North (28-11).

## Northern Valley Huskies fall to Brewster/Triplains

The Northern Valley football Huskies bussed themselves to Brewster for a test against the strong Brewster/Triplains bunch.

When it was all over, the Huskies scored 22 points vs. 56 for the host team.

Northern Valley scored 8 points in the second period and 14 in the third. Brewster/Triplains scored 30 in the first, 20 in the second and 6 in the third.

The Huskies rushed for 116 yards on 35 carries, outdistancing

Brewster/Triplains with 75 yards on 25 carries.

However, the passing story, one-sided, was pretty much the name of the game. Brewster/Triplains connected on 16 of 24 for 364 yards (and they had two interceptions) and the Huskies connected on 3 of 7 for 7 yards (and had one interception).

The Huskies gained 6 first downs vs. 8 for Brewster/Triplains. Northern Valley was penalized 20 yards and 3 calls, while the host

team gave up 90 yards in penalties on 10 whistles.

The Huskies fumbled 4 times and lost 2, Brewster/Triplains didn't fumble. In the punting category, Northern Valley punted 6 times for 155 yards (a 25.8 average), and Brewster/Triplains punted 1 for 21 yards.

Individually for the Huskies:

**Rushing** (carries, yards, average)— Justin Jeffries, 8, 8, 1.0; Ethan Hays, 8, -1, -1; Blake Johnson, 3, 8, .4; Dusty Eagleburger,

6, 22, 3.7; Brian Sproul, 3, 57, 19.0; Drew Eagleburger, 1, 8, 8.0; Zachary Vincent, 2, 1, .5; Jacob Gallentine, 1, 4, 4.0; Matt Dole, 2, 7, 3.5.

**Passing** — Johnson, 6 attempts, 2 completions for 4 yards; Sproul, 1 attempt, 1 completion, 3 yards.

**Pass Receptions** — Ethan Hays, 2 for 4 yards; Tanner Jessup, 1 for 3 yards.

**Punting** — Jessup, 6 for 155 yards, 25.8 average.

**Punt Returns** — Hays, 1 for 21 yards.

**Kickoffs** — Jessup, 2 for 49

yards (24.5 average); Sproul, 2 for 91 yards (45.5 average).

**Kickoff Returns** — Hays, 2 for 73 yards (36.5 average); Jeffries, 1 for 24 yards.

**Tackles** (solos, assists, totals): — Colton Lowry, 2-0-3; Dusty Eagleburger, 6-2-8; Hays, 0-1-1; Michael Callaway, 2-0-2; Dole, 2-0-2; Sproul, 2-1-3; Jeffries, 3-1-4; Taylor Hammond, 1-0-1; Cody Callaway, 1-2-3; Skyler Harris, 1-1-2; Jacob Gallentine, 3-4-7; Drew Eagleburger, 6-2-8; Vincent, 1-0-1; Justin Lee, 4-1-5; Nathaniel Graham, 5-3-8; Jessup,

0-1-1; Hutch Gehrke, 2-1-3.

**Scoring:** Jeffries, 1-yard run, 2-point conversion, Jessup pass from Sproul, second quarter; Drew Eagleburger, 8-yard run, point-after failed, third quarter; Vincent, 3-yard run, 2-point conversion run by Dole, third quarter.

Coach Chuck Fessenden and his boys will be at home against Wallace County Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.

This will be the final game of the season before the start of bi-district action Oct. 30. -td

## Huskies' Field to state cross country

The Class 1A Cross Country Regionals were held Saturday, Oct. 20, at Grainfield for area schools. The Northern Valley Huskies and the Eastern Heights Mustangs each had three entries, and each are sending one runner to state.

Kayla Field from Northern Valley qualified by placing 4th in the girls race running a time of 17:25. She will be competing at state on

Oct. 27 at Wamego at 10:30 a.m.

Bryce Marble placed 12th in the varsity race with a time of 19:53. An untimely illness during the week slowed his time from a week ago by 54 seconds, a time that would have placed him 6th and qualified him for state in his senior year.

Stanton Nelson improved his time by 25 seconds from the prior week over the same course and

finished 31st.

The trio of Mustangs that ran with the Phillipsburg Panthers during the year competed in the state qualifying race wearing their own school jerseys as required by the state rules. Ethan Rose, Nicolas Irwin, and Drake Reynolds ran the boys race. Drake placed third with a time of 18:47 and will be competing at Wamego and will run at 9:30.

Follow your teams to the state championships!

Norton Long-Spur Chapter 16th ANNUAL

## Pheasants Forever Banquet


### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

at the Norton EAGLES

Social Hour at 5:30 p.m./Dinner at 7 p.m.  
AUCTION WILL FOLLOW DINNER

Open to Wives and Kids; Drawing for Ladies' Prize  
Kids Auction-Kids Have a Chance to Win a Gun

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
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