

# Blue Jay tennis wrap-up

## Season comes to an end at Regional

By **DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School girls tennis team competed for the final time of the 2007 season with their performances in the Class 3A Regional Tournament on Thursday, Oct. 4 in WaKeeney.

All the Lady Jays finished with 1-1 records, some of which were byes. Some of their matches were against the best competition. It was a single elimination tournament.

"Our girls were up against some really tough competition today," said Norton head tennis coach Lisa Henderson.

Playing No.1 singles for Norton was Tabitha Vincent. She drew a first round bye, then played Kassandra Huser, Victoria, and lost 6-0, 6-2.

"Kassandra was very quick on her toes and Tabitha struggled quite a bit with her serve return," said Henderson. "Tabitha has been one of our girls who almost always keeps a positive attitude even when she's struggling during a match. It was very hard to see Tabitha get seeded the way she did and be up against an extremely tough opponent in her first round.

"Tabitha may have ended her high school tennis career today with a loss but she's walking away the biggest winner, in my opinion. She stayed positive, kept her head up and gave 110 percent effort until the very end. I really hope she'll continue to play tennis during college because she's got the kind of attitude and drive that it takes to be successful."

Sara Campbell and Kelsey Nu-

zum were Norton's No.1 doubles team. They defeated Andrea Harerich and Anna Yost, Victoria, 6-1, 6-0 in their opening round, then lost 6-0, 6-1 to Kayla Jarvis and Shayne Runnion, Phillipsburg.

"After winning their first match, Sara and Kelsey were absolutely floored when they learned they'd be competing next against Kayla Jarvis and Shayne Runnion during the second round," said Henderson. "Jarvis and Runnion had been seeded No.1 with an overall season record at that time of 22-3. It was a known fact that they would be the toughest doubles team to beat in the regionals. Sara and Kelsey surprised me today with their performance. I watched as their score went to deuce eight times in a row during a single game! I think this actually gave Sara and Kelsey the confidence they had needed.

"They were able to win just one of their games against Phillipsburg but many people will never know just how intense their match really was! Usually when teams are competing against Jarvis and Runnion, the matches move along very quickly because they are so tough. Sara and Kelsey had never been paired up on a doubles team until today, which was why they weren't seeded. However, I was very proud of their performance. They worked together and communicated like they had been partners all season."

Playing No.2 singles for Norton was Ashley Smith Maybon. She defeated Jessica Collins, Plainville, 6-4, 6-1 in the first round, then lost 6-0, 6-0 to Olivia Fabrizius, Trego, in the second round.

"Ashley's match against the Plainville girl went very well and her serves were looking really good," said Henderson. "After that victory, she had to compete against Olivia Fabrizius. Olivia has been a great singles player for Trego this year so we knew that she'd be really tough competition. Ashley lost her match against Olivia and was eliminated.

"The fact that the tournament was single elimination this year was a disadvantage for all teams. Many players who had not been seeded found themselves up against the best players in the first round.

"There were so many great players from every team who were eliminated during the first round. It was very heartbreaking to watch them walk onto the court and have their mind made up that they had no chance of winning. I saw so many players simply give up and not put forth 100 percent effort because they knew they'd be defeated.

"Ashley has really been a great role model to our younger girls this year because she always kept her heart in the game and works hard to make the necessary changes to be a better player. She has never just given up on any game she's every played and today was no exception. I'm very pleased that she hung in there and fought until the very end."

Emily Juenemann and Stephanie Shepard played No.2 doubles for Norton. After receiving a first round bye, they lost 6-0, 6-1 to Robbie Hadley and Jodie Mongeau, Phillipsburg.

"Hadley and Mongeau have been a phenomenal doubles team this year and we've competed against them time and time again," said Henderson. "Emily and Stephanie stayed positive and really worked hard today. It's very unfortunate that they were eliminated so quickly because I know they have so much potential.

"They have teamed up for most of our season and I truly hope they continue to be doubles partners next year. They work so well together and will really be the team to beat next year if they continue to work as hard as they did this year."

# Blue Jays claim fourth in conference tourney

By **DICK BOYD**  
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Coach Lisa Henderson's Norton Community High School Blue Jay tennis team placed fourth in the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 29 in WaKeeney.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 51 points, followed by Trego, 43; Osborne, 22; Norton, 14; Plainville, 6.

Tabitha Vincent played No.1 singles for the Lady Jays and placed third with a 2-2 record. She lost 8-2 to Kady Malmberg, Phillipsburg; defeated Jessica Collins, Plainville, 8-6; shutout Michala Linton, Osborne, 8-0 and lost 8-0 to Olivia Fabrizius, Trego.

Norton's No.1 doubles team of Emily Juenemann and Stephanie Shepard placed fifth with an 0-4 record. They lost 8-1 to Kayla Jarvis and Shayne Runnion, Phillipsburg; lost 8-3 to Kendra Husmann and Katelyn Thyfault, Plainville; lost 8-4 to Aubrey Geist and Terah Stroup, Osborne and lost 8-2 to Samantha Augustine and Dana Diec, Trego.

Ashley Smith Maybon played No.2 singles for the Lady Jays and placed fourth with a 1-3 record. She lost 8-4 to Whitney Cole, Phillipsburg; shutout Kaci Axelson, Plainville, 8-0; lost 8-1 to Jeni Wolters, Osborne and lost 8-0 to Cassie Dietz, Trego.

Sara Campbell and Allie Corbin played No.2 doubles for Norton and placed third with a 2-2 record.

They lost 8-2 to Robbie Hadley and Jodie Mongeau, Phillipsburg; defeated Danielle Winters and Ana Zica, Plainville 8-2; outscoored Jessica Gregory and Ashley Oliver, Osborne, 8-2 and lost 8-3 to Amanda Gosser and Rachael Newcomer, Trego.

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