

'Jays one game shy of making league finals

By DICK BOYD

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The No. 7 ranked Norton Community High School girls volleyball team upset the No. 2 and No. 3 ranked teams in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament but couldn't get past the No. 6 squad and missed the finals on Saturday in Ellis by just one game.

In their opening match, the Lady Jays outscored No. 2 ranked Smith Center 25-19, 17-25, 25-14. Next, they defeated No. 3 ranked Ellis 25-21, 28-26. In their third match of pool play, Norton lost to No. 6 ranked Trego Community 20-25, 21-25.

The top two teams from each of two pools advanced to the finals. In Norton's pool, Smith Center and Trego both had 5-3 won-lost records in games played and Norton had a 4-3 record, just one win short.

No. 1 ranked Phillipsburg and No. 4 ranked Hill City advanced to the finals from the other pool.

In the semi-finals, Smith Center defeated Hill City 25-11, 18-25, 25-14 and Phillipsburg outscored Trego 25-11, 25-17.

Trego placed third by defeating Hill City 26-24, 15-25, 25-12.

Phillipsburg won the championship by outscoring Smith Center 19-25, 25-21, 25-22.

Smith Center

"We took control of the match with Smith Center and never

looked back while avenging an earlier loss from the Lady Red the previous week," said Norton head coach Peggy Cox.

"We just played really well!" "People who had been struggling earlier in the year to get touches on the ball were slowing attacks up on the front line to help the back row have a better chance to dig the ball.

"Hayli Bozarth and Lacy Keilig were killing with an exceptionally high percentage.

"It just all clicked and the players trusted one another. I think, once we started blocking Smith Center, they became frustrated and started making errors."

Bozarth had 18 kills, followed by Keilig, 6; Katharine Roy, Kaitlyn Wolf, 3 each; Bethany Roy, 1.

Bozarth had 3 serving aces, followed by Charli Lawson, 2; Katharine Roy, Bethany Roy, Ashlie Stewart, 1 each.

Bozarth had 4 digs and Stewart had 3. Katharine Roy led in assists with 20, followed by Shelby Jones, 3.

Bozarth and Lawson each had 1 block.

Ellis

"After defeating Smith Center in an emotionally and physically demanding match, we had a tough match against the Lady Railers," said coach Cox.

"To Ellis' credit, they played

very well and kept us on our toes. This is a match that I felt could have gone either way, especially if it had gone into three games. Points were spread throughout the team between kills, blocks and aces.

"I was pleased to come out with a win, especially knowing how tired our girls were."

Bozarth led in kills again, this time with 11. She was followed by Wiyanna Paxton, 3; Keilig, Bethany Roy, Wolf, 2 each; Katharine Roy, 1.

Ashley Colip and Bethany Roy each had 2 serving aces and Lawson had 1.

Assists leader again was Katharine Roy with 11, followed by Colip, Jones, 2 each; Bethany Roy, 1.

Keilig had 2 blocks and Lawson had 1.

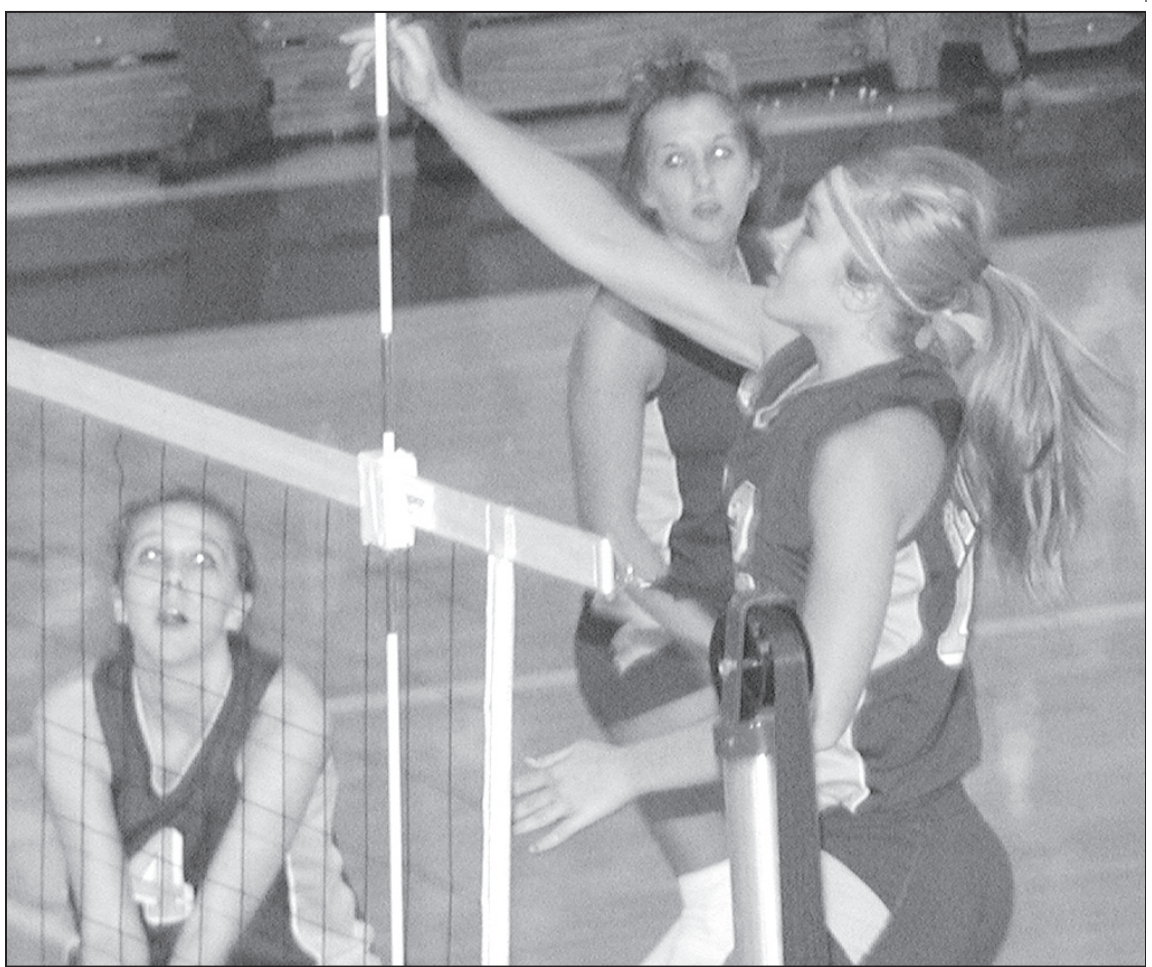
Trego

"This was a bittersweet match," said coach Cox. "We went into this match knowing we wanted the win but not realizing that we needed to win just a game and not the match.

"We lost the match in two games and the three-way tie for first in our pool in matches was broken by the fact that Smith Center and Trego both had 5-3 records in games played and we had a 4-3 record.

"We played very flat and just could not stop Trego's hits.

"Touches that we had earlier in



Norton's Lacy Keilig hit the ball over the net during the Lady Jays' recent win over Logan in Norton. Her teammates are, from left, Katharine Roy and Shelby Jones.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the day just were not there in this match. People who should have been set weren't. We didn't communicate like we did earlier.

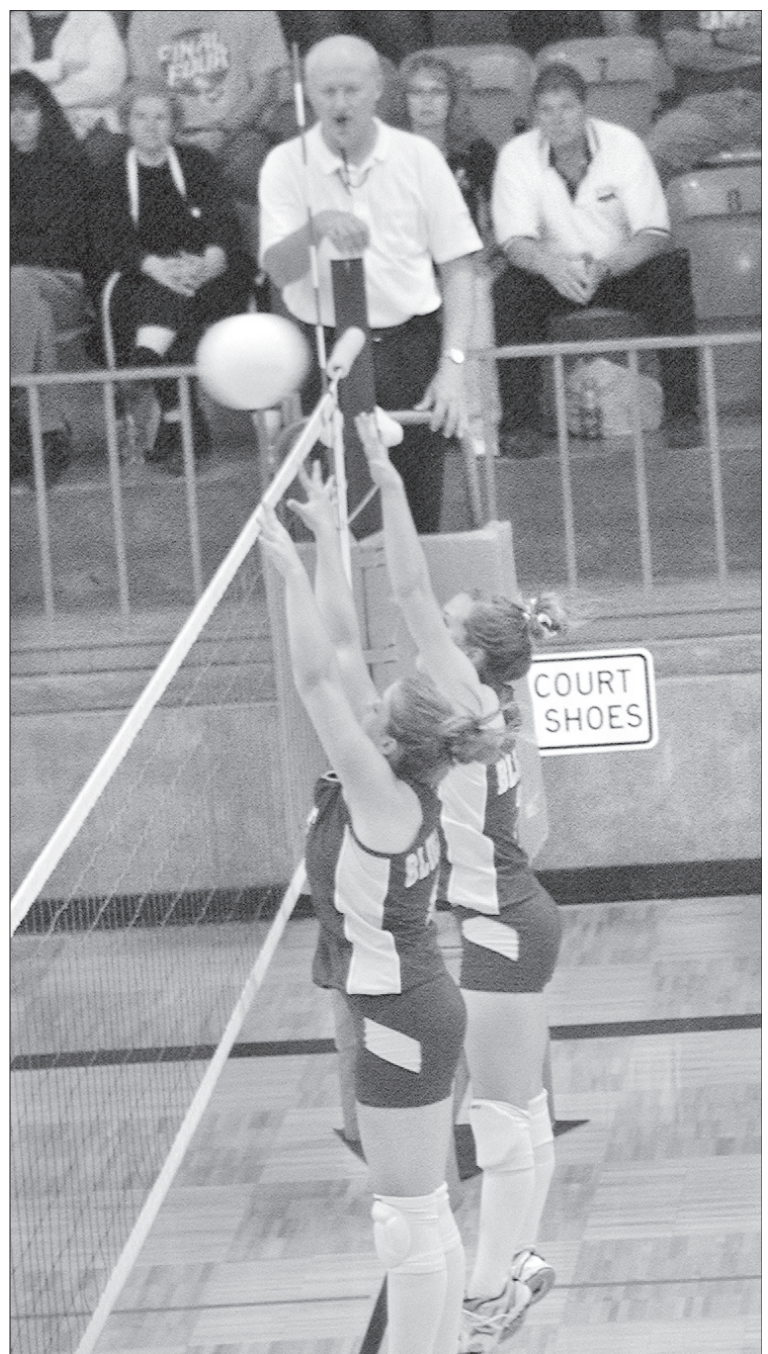
"After having such a high earlier in the day, this was heart wrenching."

Bozarth led in kills with 4, followed by Keilig, Bethany Roy, 3 each; Amanda Delimont, Wolf, 1 each.

Aces leader was Katharine Roy with 2, followed by Colip, Bethany Roy, Stewart, 1 each.

Katharine Roy had 4 assists, followed by Colip, 2; Bethany Roy, 1.

Norton had no digs or blocks.



Lady Jay Charli Lawson, left, and Bethany Roy block a ball hit by an Ellis player during Norton's win over the Lady Railroaders in the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday in Ellis.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ulysses, Goodland fall to Blue Jays

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School varsity girls volleyball team warmed up for this Saturday's Class 3A Sub-State Tournament by defeating both Ulysses and Goodland in Goodland on Tuesday evening.

The Lady Jays outscored Ulysses 25-17, 18-25, 25-15 and beat Goodland 25-11, 25-23.

Ulysses

"Our match with Ulysses should have been only two games," said coach Cox. "We actually passed and set fairly well but our hitters struggled finding holes in their offense, that is, if we kept the ball inside the court.

"It wasn't so much a match that was flat but a match that was very lethargic. We won but not with the intensity I have come to expect from this team."

Hayli Bozarth led in kills with 11, followed by Lacy Keilig, 8; Amanda Delimont, Bethany Roy, 2 each; Katharine Roy, 1.

Leading in serving aces was Ashley Colip with 6, followed by Shelby Jones, 4; Charli Lawson, 3; Bozarth, Katharine Roy, 1 each.

Ashlie Stewart led in digs with 13, followed by Colip, 8; Bozarth, 5; Lawson, Katharine Roy, 2 each; Bethany Roy, 1.

Assists leader was Jones with 10, followed by Katharine Roy, 9; Colip, Stewart, 1 each.

Bozarth and Katharine Roy each had 1 block.

Goodland

"In our second meeting of the year, we beat the Lady Cowgirls

for a second time in front of a very rowdy crowd in Max Jones Fieldhouse," said coach Cox.

"Despite the razzing from Goodland's high school boys, our Lady Jays maintained their composure and finished their regular season over .500.

"I was confident we were going to come away with a win but our blocking in this match particularly impressed me. We had a season high 11 blocks in the match, which is amazing for us! This has typically been an area of weakness for us but, tonight, we had almost as many blocks as we had kills."

Bozarth and Keilig led in kills with 5 each, followed by Wolf, 2; Delimont, Katharine Roy, Bethany Roy, 1 each.

Bozarth also had 2 serving aces.

Bozarth and Stewart each had 7 digs, followed by Jones, 3; Katharine Roy, Bethany Roy, 2 each; Colip, Delimont, 1 each.

Assists leader was Katharine Roy with 7, followed by Jones, 3; Bozarth, Bethany Roy, 1 each.

Keilig led in blocks with 4, followed by Katharine Roy, 3; Delimont, 2; Bozarth, Bethany Roy, 1 each.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity also played Ulysses and Goodland in Goodland on Tuesday.

In their first match, they defeated Ulysses 25-21, 25-13 and, in their second match, they outscored Goodland 25-15, 25-18.

"We had difficulties with Ulysses due to not knowing what to expect each time the ball came

over the net," said Norton assistant coach Christine Thompson. "Ulysses was very scrappy and, at times, there were a lot of unexpected plays.

"In our second match with Goodland, we played smart and disciplined to come away with an easy win.

"Throughout the season, I have been very impressed with how our girls have come together and played as a team.

"I have noticed great improvement from everyone on the team individually and as a team. As a coach, I am very pleased with our junior varsity's performance and our season ending record of 15-9."

Ulysses match statistics:
Kills - Sharelle Shinn, 3 kills, Alyssa Thomson, Kendra Engelbert, Raven Brown, 2 each; Shaylyn Boteler, Bekah Streck, 1 each;

Setting Assists - Brown, Erin Terrell, 3 each;

Serving Aces - Thomson, Brown, Engelbert, Shinn, 2 each; Boteler, 1;

Digs - Hannah Waggoner, 5.

Goodland match statistics:
Kills - Thomson, 5; Engelbert, Terrell, 2 each; Shinn, Streck, 1 each;

Setting Assists - Brown, Terrell, 5 each;

Serving Aces - Brown, 6; Terrell, 3; Boteler, 2; Engelbert, Thomson, Shinn, 1 each;

Digs - Engelbert, Waggoner, 1 each.

Next action

Norton will compete Saturday

C-team ends season vs. St. Francis

The Norton Community High School C-team girls volleyball team defeated St. Francis 25-23, 25-14, 25-22 in a best 3 of 5 games on Monday, Oct. 6 in St. Francis.

"This match concluded the season for our C-team," said Norton assistant coach Jill Lively.

"Although we have played better, it was a pretty good effort.

"A two-hour bus ride on Monday doesn't exactly make a team as alert as we would like to be. Our fundamentals were sound and we were able to attack the ball a lot. St. Francis didn't provide much opportunity for us to play defense.

"I am really pleased with this group of girls who finished their season with a 13-9 record. I hope they will realize how short the season is and really start working during the summer to prepare for the next season."

Norton served 86 percent with 12 aces, passing was 1.52 on a

3.0 scale and the Lady Jays had 19 kills.

Match leaders:

Serving - Sady Keilig, 20/20 100 percent; Lindsey Tacha, 5 aces; Brooklyn Winkel, 3 aces; Kylie Nuzum, 2 aces; Alexis Henson,

Katie Gall, 1 ace each;

Passing - Tacha, 2.5; Caren Thomson, 2.23;

Hitting - Thomson, 7 kills; Nuzum, 6 kills; Henson, 3 kills;

Keilig, Mariah Farber, Winkel, 1 kill each.

Adult Coed Volleyball

Play Begins Sunday, November 9

Teams are forming now. Closing League Entries at 8 Teams

Entries are Due October 30th

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