

Volleyball 'Jays lose to Panthers, Huskies

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkans.com
The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team hosted Phillipsburg and Northern Valley in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday evening in their first home matches of the 2009 season and lost to both opponents.

Norton played Phillipsburg first and lost 15-25, 15-25, then lost to Northern Valley 14-25, 20-25.

PHILLIPSBURG

"They overpowered us," said Norton head volleyball coach Peggy Cox. "Even though we continued to battle back, it just wasn't enough."

"Phillipsburg is very aggressive and they continued pounding at us, forcing us to play defense most of the time."

"We struggled at the service line and had unforced errors at the net."

"Our Lady Jays will have to learn to play tough and want the

ball instead of relying on someone else to take care of the job."

Erin Terrell led Norton in kills with 4, followed by Kaitlyn Wolf, 3; Shelby Jones, Alyssa Thomson, 2 each; Kendra Engelbert, Bethany Roy, 1 each.

Shelby Jones served 1 ace; Digs leaders were Roy and Hannah Waggoner with 7 each, followed by Ashlie Stewart, Wolf, 6 each; Raven Brown, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

Roy was assists leader with 5, followed by Jones, 2; Thomson, 1.

Engelbert and Terrell each had 1 block.

NORTHERN VALLEY

"Our Lady Jays handed the match over to the Lady Huskies and they didn't look back," said coach Cox. "They outthusted us on every level of the game. We played very timid and didn't play smart at all."

"They came in, did what they

had to do and we let them."

"Again, we're going to have to play intense, be 'gamers' if you will, to win matches."

"Hopefully, we will take our defeats from Phillipsburg and Northern Valley and use them to turn our season into a winning one."

Engelbert was kills leader for the Lady Jays with 4, followed by Terrell, 3; Roy and Wolf, 2 each; Brown and Jones, 1 each.

Serving leader was Stewart with 2 aces, followed by Jones, Waggoner, Wolf, 1 each.

Jones was assists leader with 6, followed by Roy, 4.

Roy was also blocks leader with 1.

Next action

The Norton varsity volleyball team will compete versus Atwood, Brewster and Dundy County, Neb. on Saturday in Atwood, beginning at 10 a.m.



Norton sophomore Erin Terrell spiked the volleyball over the outstretched arms of a Phillipsburg defender during their match in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday. Terrell led the Lady Jays in kills but they were unable to defeat the visiting Lady Panthers.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Northern Valley senior Alison Cole led the attack for the Lady Huskies in their matches versus Norton and Phillipsburg on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. She is shown here hitting the ball over the net during their win over Norton. Earlier, they lost to an outstanding Phillipsburg team. No. 10 for Northern Valley is senior Karen Wenzl.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Jayvee volleyball claims win, suffers loss

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkans.com
The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team opened their season at Colby on Tues., Sept 1 with a win over Osborne and loss to Colby.

Osborne

Norton defeated Osborne 25-19, 20-25 and 15-6.

"Due to first game jitters and some inexperience, we struggled a little but were able to still come away with the win," said Norton junior varsity coach Christine Thompson.

Brianna Karnopp led Norton

in kills with 5, followed by Caren Thomson, Bekah Streck, Shaylyn Boteler, 3 kills each.

Tesslee Nickell had 9 setting assists, followed by Mariah Farber with 4 and Brooklyn Winkel with 1. Nickell and Karnopp led the team with 4 ace serves each. Sharrell Shinn and Boteler each had 1 ace.

Colby

Norton lost to Colby 25-17, 22-25 and 11-15.

"We started playing better in the Colby match and played very well," said coach Thompson.

"We played a little timid in our

first matches of the season but, I am sure as the season progresses, we will become more confident and aggressive."

Thomson led the team in kills with 3, followed by Nickell, Karnopp, Streck and Boteler, 2 kills each.

Nickell led in setting assists with 3.

Karnopp was digs leader with 9, followed by Kylie Nuzum and Shin, 6 digs each and Alexis Henson and Katie Gall, 1 dig each.

Nickell led in ace serves with 4, followed by Shin and Farber, 2 each.

Husky volleyball opens with two wins

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies traveled to Palco for an "ol, time doubleheader" — the way it used to be played — followed by the Husky football team opening their season.

"We are showing that we are a veteran team and did not fall into another 'trap' that this sport has and that is of playing down to your competition."

"The Lady Palco Roosters are a scrappy team that gives a tremendous effort each time we play them — they are just a little short on talent at this time."

"We could have fallen into the 'play as they do' trap but we didn't and although we did not power the ball as much as we would have liked to we did not get into a passing game which would have been to Palco's advantage," said coach Zimmerman.

"Our serving was the main ingredient in this victory. Staci Dole, our first server, came back around

for the second rotation with our score at 11 and continued until we had 23. With her serves the team used its passing of Palco's free balls to start our combinations that ended in numerous spikes with the Cole sisters (Megan and Alison) doing quite a bit of damage on Palco's new floor while Karen Wenzl, Kenzie Chandler and Ashley Constable kept the Roosters on their toes by hitting roll shots deep which kept them off balance," he said.

"When Palco did return a ball with some force our defensive specialists, Dole, Cassie Field, Melissa Hawks and Megan Cole were there getting the ball up to, in this game, Sophomore Kelsey Raburn who did a good job of setting to her veteran players."

"Only one game but we made the most of it by defeating Palco 25-10, 25-8 — no let down in the second game and now with the 'pre-season' over we move on

to the challenges of the bigger schools and state ranked schools where we will see just what we are made of," said the coach.

"This next week will be interesting to say the least with the competition we will be going against. It will almost be like a state tournament as we will play 4 teams that have been to a state tournament in the last two years," said the coach.

"Our junior varsity played against basically the same team our varsity did except for one player and did a very good job. Again, serving was the key as Melissa Hawks rotated to serve and picked apart the Rooster defense as our team scored almost twenty straight."

"We passed well, served well 'hit well' which is what Coach Largent and I have been asking this young group to concentrate on and they responded. Final score — 25-5, 25-15," the coach said.

Blue Jay volleyball wins one, drops one

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkans.com
The Norton Community High School junior varsity girls volleyball team defeated Northern Valley and lost in five games to Phillipsburg on Tuesday in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Norton defeated Northern Valley 25-15, 25-14 and lost to Phillipsburg 22-25, 25-13, 13-25, 25-20, 7-15.

"We were strong and consistent in the front row against Phillipsburg's very tall front row," said Norton assistant volleyball coach Christine Thompson.

"I am pleased with our net play at this time; our players are starting to play aggressive and smart."

"As a team, we are also starting to play smarter and more con-

sistent in the back row with our serving and defense."

"If we continue to get more aggressive and play smart overall, we will have a very successful season."

Northern Valley

Brianna Karnopp and Bekah Streck led Norton in kills with 3 each, followed by Sharrelle Shinn and Shaylyn Boteler, 2 each and Alexis Henson, 1.

Teslee Nickell led in assists with 6, followed by Brooklyn Winkel, 3; Mariah Farber, 1.

Nickell, Streck, Kylie Nuzum and Farber each had one dig. Nickell led in serving aces with 3, followed by Karnopp, Shinn, 2 each; Juliana Miller, Boteler, 1 ace each.

Phillipsburg

Boteler led in kills with 5, fol-

lowed by Shinn, 4; Henson, 3; Streck and Karnopp, 2 each; Thomson, 1.

Nickell led the team in setting assists with 13, followed by Farber, 6; Winkel, 3.

Digs leaders with 3 each were Miller and Nickell. Katie Gall was next with 2 and Karnopp had 1.

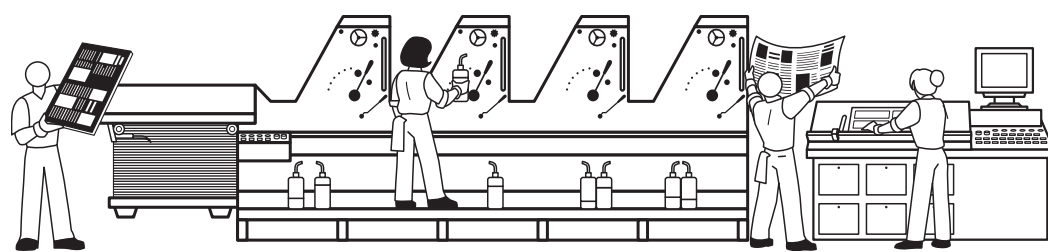
Nickell led the team in serving aces with 7, followed by Shinn and Farber, 2 each and Miller and Karnopp, 1 each.

Next action

The Norton junior varsity girls volleyball team will play in the Quinter JV Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton and Quinter, will be Hill City, Wheatland, Oakley, Trego, Oberlin and Hoxie.

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215 South Kansas Avenue, Norton, Kansas 67654, PH 785-877-3361

e-mail: nortontelegram@nwkans.com