

C-team beats Hays, Colby



Norton freshman Regan Simpson has been the fastest girl runner for the Norton Community High School cross country team so far this season. Above, she is shown during the Norton Invitational when the Norton girls won the championship.

— Courtesy photo by Amanda Ray

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School C-team girls volleyball team showed the hometown fans some excellent play on Thursday, Sept. 17 in their only home matches of the season when they defeated Hays and Colby and lost to Wheatland.

"I was very pleased with our team during all three matches," said Norton assistant coach Jill Lively. "It was nice to see them overcome a terrible performance a week earlier and play very well.

"As a team, we came very near some of our goals and our attitude and hustle was amazing, even when the matches ran very late in the evening.

"Our girls stayed focused in practice last week and most of them are really starting to understand how much they can improve when they work hard on the simplest of drills.

Positive attitude and determination are things we talked about all week long and they really showed that on the court.

"I was especially thrilled with our team because, regardless of whether a player was on the court or on the bench, they all made a great contribution to what we did as a team.

They took wonderful statistics, cheered for their team, focused on

the ball game and performed well on the court."

Wheatland
Norton lost to Wheatland 22-25, 25-13, 6-15.

Team statistics were: serving, 83 percent, 17 aces; passing, 1.63; hitting, 76 percent, 12 kills.

Serving leaders were: Julianna Miller, 100 percent, 6 aces; Alexis Lively, 100 percent; Katherine Boteler, Rachel Slipke, 4 aces; Alec Melvin, Brae Bigge, Kaitlyn Campbell, 1 ace each.

In passing, Lively led with a 3.0, followed by Campbell, 2.5; Kayleigh Norwood, 2.23; Melvin, 2.0.

Hitting leaders were Norwood and Miller, 100 percent, 1 kill each; Boteler, 4 kills; Campbell, 3 kills; Slipke, 2 kills; Melvin, 1 kill.

Hays
Norton defeated Hays 25-19, 21-25, 15-13.

Team statistics were: serving, 81 percent, 10 aces; passing, 1.57; hitting, 78 percent, 15 kills (11 percent).

Leading in serving were: Lively and Slipke, 100 percent, 1 ace each; Norwood, Campbell, Miller, 2 aces each; Boteler, Miller, 1 ace each.

Passing leaders were: Kelsey Mordecai, 2.5; Boteler, 2.17; Norwood, 1.92.

Leading hitters were: Miller, 100 percent, 2 kills; Mordecai,

100 percent, Melvin, Campbell, 4 kills each; Slipke, 3 kills; Norwood, Lively, 1 kill each.

Colby
Norton outscored Colby 21-25, 25-9, 17-15.

Team statistics were: serving, 87 percent, 12 aces; passing, 1.64; hitting, 82 percent, 16 kills (23 percent).

Serving leaders were: Miller, Slipke, 100 percent, 2 aces each; Norwood, 100 percent; Melvin, 5 aces; Boteler, 2 aces; Campbell, 1 ace.

Leaders in passing were: Miller, 2.25; Slipke, 2.0; Norwood, 1.7.

Hitting leaders were: Norwood, 100 percent, 7 kills; Melvin, 3 kills; Miller, Slipke, 2 kills; Boteler, Campbell, 1 kill each.

Other matches
In other matches during the evening, Wheatland defeated Hays 25-13, 25-11 and outscored Colby 25-19, 25-9 and Colby defeated Hays 25-23, 25-15.

Next action
The Norton C-team will compete in the Hill City Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Teams playing, in addition to Norton and Hill City, will be Ellis, Oakley, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Phillipsburg and Osborne.

One addition to the C-team schedule will be Monday, Oct. 5 at Plainville with Phillipsburg and Smith Center also competing.

Jays place in Hays invitational

By DICK BOYD
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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls cross country team placed second and his Blue Jay boys runners third in the Hays High Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 17 in Hays.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays won the girls championship with 28 points and Norton was just one point behind with 29.

Ness City won the boys championship with 20 points, followed by Colby, 56 and Norton just one point behind with 57.

Girls
All six of Norton's girl runners set season bests. Regan Simpson was highest placer for the Lady Jays with a fourth place in 16:40.

Abby Bainter was second best for Norton with a time of 18:00 and 11th place, followed by Kamilla Jones, 12th, 18:02; Dustyna Sprigg, 14th, 18:10 and Julia Kent, 15th, 18:10.58. Kaylen Rossi was Norton's sixth finisher in 16th with a time of 18:14.

Kayla Lowry of Northern Valley ran another good race, placing ninth in 17:36.

Heather Ruder, TMP, won the individual championship with a time of 15:35 and TMP's Allison Pfeifer was second in 16:14. Katrina Kaus, Colby, was third in 16:15.

Rounding out the top ten behind Simpson were: Kendra Pfanenstiel, Ness City, 16:43, fifth; Katherine Kaus, Colby, 17:06, sixth; Annie Mindrup, TMP, 17:30, seventh; Taylor Dinges, Ness City, 17:33, eighth; Lowry and Lacie Bourne, Ness City, 17:47, tenth.

"Our girls gave a valiant effort," said coach Rossi. "We knew going into the race that it would be

a hard battle with TMP and they proved too much for us.

They have three outstanding freshmen runners and, being in a dual with them, they were able to get us tonight.

"I am very proud of our effort, however, and the fact our times were season bests for all six runners. This race gives us an indication of times we are capable of running. We will use it to keep us motivated."

Boys
The Norton boys runners also set season's bests in placing second as a team.

Zach Hartwell placed fourth individually with a time of 17:24. Bryan Henry was second fastest Norton boy with a time of 18:09 and tenth place finish.

Kegan Vanover was third best for the Blue Jays with an 18:52 for 13th. He was followed by Troy Bainter, 16th in 19:19 and Zach Porter, 21st in 20:11.

Also running for the Norton boys and their places and times were: John Renner, 22nd, 20:14; Cole Archer, 24th, 22:45.

Colton McNinch, Ness City, was individual boys champion with a time of 16:02. His teammate, Kyle Calvin, was second in 16:58 and Raymundo Hernandez, TMP, was third in 17:07.

Following Hartwell to the finish line was another Ness City runner, Wyatt Beckman, in 17:33. Sixth place went to Dustin Reed, Colby, in 17:41, followed by Josh Snodgrass, Ness City, 17:44, seventh; Clay McIntosh, Ness City, 17:45, eighth; Jally Nally, Colby, 17:51, ninth.

"This was a very fast race," said coach Rossi. "Ness City has an unbelievable team, running an average time of 17:12 for the 3.1 mile race.

"Again, we feel good about our effort with most of the boys cutting their times from last year on this course. Kegan made the biggest gain, cutting one minute and fifty eight seconds off his time in 2008.

"The boys continue to work hard and Chris Maddy will be ready to run his first race of the season at Hill City on Thursday."

JV boys
Three Norton boys ran in the junior varsity race. Ryan Bainter placed 55th in 22:51, Matt Miller was just behind him in 56th with a 22:53 and Grant McClymont was timed in 24:39 for 68th.

"These young men work hard at practice every night and continue to improve," said coach Rossi.

"Ryan Bainter had a personal best by two minutes. Their race was not divided by classes so they had to run against all classes. I am proud of their effort."

Next action
The Norton girls and boys cross country teams will compete in the Hill City Invitational on Thursday, beginning at 5 p.m.



JV tennis wins championship

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team won the championship of the Phillipsburg JV Quadrangular on Thursday, Sept. 17.

"I was very excited for our girls when they took first," said Norton assistant tennis coach Crystal Montgomery.

"We won some close matches, which helped with our first place finish."

Katie Scott played No. 1 singles and won the gold medal. She defeated Belleville, 8-5; Trego, 8-6 and Phillipsburg, 8-5.

"Katie had an excellent day," said coach Montgomery.

"She wasn't afraid to try new shots and won those important points during her matches to help her come out on top."

No. 1 doubles players for Norton were Rachel Shepard and

Nikki McVey and they placed second. They defeated Belleville, 8-3; lost to Trego, 8-2 and outscored Phillipsburg in a tiebreaker, 8-7(7-4).

"Rachel and Nikki play doubles well together," said coach Montgomery.

"They are starting to know what each other will do and how to place the ball for winners."

Playing No. 2 singles for the Lady Jays was Diedre Kramer and she also won the gold medal. She defeated Belleville, 8-0; Trego, 8-1 and Phillipsburg in a tiebreaker, 8-7(7-5).

"Diedre's consistent play makes her a strong singles player," said coach Montgomery.

"She frustrates her opponents by keeping the ball in play and covering the court well."

On the Norton No. 2 doubles team were Ashley Millan and Kaitlyn Ross and they placed

third. They defeated Belleville, 8-2; lost to Phillipsburg, 8-0 and lost to Trego, 8-4.

Also playing No. 2 doubles for the Lady Jays were Rhees Carlson and Kelsie Griffith and they finished in fourth place. They lost to Norton, 8-2; lost to Phillipsburg, 8-0 and lost to Trego, 8-4.

"This was Rhees and Kelsie's first time playing doubles together," said coach Montgomery.

"They improved in each match and stayed close to Trego's No. 2 doubles team, which took first in the tournament."

Next action
The Norton junior varsity tennis team will play on Saturday in the Phillipsburg JV Tournament and the Lady Jay varsity squad will compete on Saturday in the Trego Invitational, both beginning at 9 a.m.

Blue Jays defeat lady Cowgirls

By DICK BOYD
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The best three-of-five games match with Goodland in Norton on Thursday, Sept. 17 didn't last very long since the Norton Community High School junior varsity girls volleyball team defeated the visiting Lady Cowgirls in the first three games.

Game scores were: 25-16, 25-13, 25-13.

"Overall, we played very confident and under control the entire night," said Norton assistant

coach Christine Thompson.

"Our serves were very aggressive and allowed our team to easily control the outcome of the match.

"We successfully adjusted to everything Goodland threw at us to even our season record at 4-4."

Caren Thomson led Norton in kills with 6, followed by Brianna Karnopp, 5; Alexis Henson, 4; Sharrille Shinn, Teslee Nickell, 3 each; Bekah Streck, 2.

Kylie Nuzum led the Lady Jays

with 7 serving aces, followed by Nickell, 4; Shinn, 3; Katie Gall, Brooklyn Winkel, Karnopp, 1 each.

Nickell had 12 setting assists, Mariah Farber had 5 and Winkel had 1.

Nuzum and Shinn led in digs with 3 each, followed by Karnopp, Gall, 2 each; Farber, 1.

Next action
The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams will host Atwood and Colby on Tuesday, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

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