

Jays win championship

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls cross country team won the championship and the boys earned the runner-up spot in the annual Hill City Invitational cross country meet on Thursday, Sept. 24.

The Norton girls won the championship with 56 points, followed by Lakeside, 68; Osborne, 68; Scott City, 73; Colby, 90; Hill City, 122.

Scott City won the boys championship with 70 points, followed by Norton, 83; Colby, 85; Hill City, 88; Lakeside, 107; Phillipsburg, 128; Oberlin, 131; Trego Community, 188; Osborne, 218.

Girls

Norton freshman Regan Simpson continued to run fastest for the Lady Jays. She placed fifth individually with a time of 17:06.

She was followed by sophomore Abby Bainter, 12th in a season best, 17:48; freshman Kamilla Jones, 16th, tied her season best, 18:02; freshman Julia Kent, 18th in a season best, 18:06 and junior Dustyna Sprigg, 26th, 18:44.

Also running for Norton was junior Kaylen Rossi who finished 34th in 19:23.

Northern Valley's Kayla Lowry continued to run well and placed ninth.

Katrina Kaus, Colby, was the individual girls champion with a time of 16:19. She was followed by Naomi Rech, Cheylin, second; Magan Hake, Lakeside, third; Rachel Renken, Lakeside, fourth; Norton's Simpson; Caitlin Beckman, Scott City, sixth; Katherine Kaus, Colby, seventh; Jenee Davis, Scott City, eighth; Northern

Valley's Lowry and Eileen Mick, Osborne, tenth, to round out the top ten.

"This was a great competitive race," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi.

"There were many quality runners present from the area and our Lady Jays gave a great showing.

"The course in Hill City presents different challenges such as very steep, short hills and long inclines and declines. Our girls did a good job of attacking each type of terrain.

"Kamilla and Julia continue to improve their times. Regan keeps in the top group; Kaylen, Abby and Dustyna continue to work hard to get better.

Abby and Dustyna both ran a faster time than they did last year in this meet.

"Our girls are moving in the right direction, both individually and as a team."

"This win was a total team effort in the fact that our girls are consistent and are able to finish close together to keep the score low. We just need to keep striving for our team goals."

Boys

As he has been doing, sophomore Zach Hartwell led his Blue Jay teammates as he finished in fourth place individually with a time of 18:04.

Finishing second best for Norton was fellow sophomore Bryan Henry in 19:01 to place 13th. He was followed by junior Troy Bainter, 28th, 19:40; junior Kegan Vanover, 30th, 19:48 and junior Zach Porter, 46th, 20:47.

Also running for the Norton boys were senior Chris Maddy, 47th, 20:47 and freshman John Renner, 49th, 20:55.

Winning the individual championship was Brady Johnson, Plainville, with a clocking of 17:31.

He was followed by Sam McDaniel, Scott City, second; Andrew Gasper, Lakeside, third; Norton's Hartwell; Miles Pearson, Scott City, fifth; Mason Gillespie, Wheatland, sixth; Luke Friess, Hoxie, seventh; Tyler Shields, Oberlin, eighth; Jared Nally, Colby, ninth and Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg, to round out the top ten.

Norton freshman Ryan Bainter placed 22nd in the boys junior varsity race with a time of 23:09. Blue Jay senior Matt Miller was just behind him in 23th with a 23:20 time.

Junior Cole Archer placed 26th in 23:51 and senior Grant McClymont was right behind him in 27th with a clocking of 23:56.

"This was another competitive race," said coach Rossi. "Scott City has a very good boys team and we were able to be fairly close to them.

"Zach Hartwell did a great job of attacking the steep drops and inclines of the Hill City course. Chris Maddy also made his debut after knee surgery and ran well.

"Kegan Vanover continues to cut large amounts of time off his time, cutting two and one-half minutes off his time last year on this course.

"Our boys need to keep working because the teams in all of our races have been very competitive and we want to get in the mix in every meet."

Next action

The Norton cross country girls and boys will compete Thursday in the Phillipsburg MCL Meet.



Norton's Kendra Engelbert hit the volleyball over two Atwood players for a Lady Jay point during their win over the Lady Buffaloes on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Also pictured for Norton are Kaitlyn Wolf, No. 13 and Bethany Winkel, No. 3

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays defeat Atwood

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity and junior varsity girls volleyball teams lost to Colby but defeated Atwood in play Tuesday evening in Norton.

The Norton varsity lost to Colby 22-25, 21-25 but outscored Atwood 25-22, 25-16. The Lady Jay junior varsity lost to Colby 18-25, 11-25 and defeated Atwood 25-12, 25-22.

Colby

"We played Colby for the second time this season," said Norton head girls volleyball coach Peggy Cox. "We passed extremely well but didn't convert that to kills. Serving was also weak at 82 percent and only four aces.

"As coach Lively put it, 'we were speaking 'whale' (playing very slowly) instead of swimming.' Again, we watched the game instead of playing the game."

Individual statistics: kills - Erin Terrell, Kaitlyn Wolf, 3 each; Bethany Roy, Alyssa Thomson, 2 each; serving - Raven Brown, 2; Shelby Jones, Wolf, 1 each; digs - Roy, 7; Ashlie Stewart, Wolf, 5 each; Brown, Jones, Terrell, 4 each; Thomson, 2; assists - Jones, 17; blocks - Roy, 2.

"Due to lack of discipline, we were no match for the Colby team in junior varsity play," said Norton assistant volleyball coach Christine Thompson.

Individual statistics: kills - Brianna Karnopp, Bekah Streck, Shaylyn Boteler, 2 each; Caren Thomson, 1; serving - Teslee Nickell, 2 aces; Sharrelle Shinn, Boteler, Mariah Farber, 1 ace each; digs - Juliana Miller, 6; Nickell, 5; Boteler, 4; Katie Gall, Kylie Nuzum, Shinn, 3 each; assists - Nickell, 4; Brooklyn Winkel, 1.

Atwood

"It was great to come out on top in our second meeting with the Lady Buffs," said coach Cox. "We made several changes between matches and they worked. This is the first time that I've seen us finish a game. We've had chances in many of our losses but never 'played' the entire match.

"It was nice to finally see our girls perform like I've seen flashes of in practice and have them show the home crowd how well they can play.

"Hopefully, this will be the spark to turn the season around while we can."

Individual statistics: kills - Kaitlyn Wolf, 7; Alyssa Thomson,

4; Bethany Roy, Erin Terrell, 3 each; Kendra Englebert, Shelby Jones, 1 each; serving - Raven Brown, Kendra Engelbert, Jones, Ashlie Stewart, Bethany Winkel, Wolf, 1 each; digs - Stewart, 10; Jones, 4; Wolf, 2; Brown, Roy, Hannah Waggoner, 1 each; assists - Jones, 8; Winkel, 5; blocks - Wolf, 3; Engelbert, 1.

"We played well against Atwood and were able to keep control of the match," said coach Thompson. "We played smart, aggressive and disciplined throughout the entire match.

"Our junior varsity has improved over the season and every player is contributing to our team's victories."

Individual statistics: kills - Shaylyn Boteler, 4; Brianna Karnopp, Caren Thomson, Bekah Streck, 3 each; Sharrelle Shinn, 2; digs - Juliana Miller, Boteler, 4 each; Kylie Nuzum, Teslee Nickell, 3 each; serving - Boteler, 2 aces; Mariah Farber, Nickell, 1 each; assists - Nickell, 6; Farber, 3; Brooklyn Winkel, 2.

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams will host Smith Center and Trego Community on Tuesday, beginning at 5 p.m.

defeated Megan Dougherty and Kim Gerstner, Colby, 8-7(7-3) in a tiebreaker, lost to Taylor Funk and Kelli Gudenkauf, Russell, 8-3; defeated Kaci Ferguson and Stephanie Stutterheim, Phillipsburg, 8-4 and lost to Danelle Unruh and Bailey Schart, Larned, 8-1, to place fourth.

"Rachel and Nikki gave us our best finish of the day," said coach Green.

"They had a great win in the first round by defeating the Colby team in a tiebreaker. By defeating Russell in the next round, they would have been in the match for first place but were not able to win.

"Beating Phillipsburg in the next round put them in the third place match against Larned. They were a little over matched and placed fourth but that was a great finish in this tournament," he said

Lady Blue Jays place seventh in invite

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity girls tennis team placed seventh in the Russell Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 24 in Russell.

Hoisington won the championship with 20 points, followed by Larned, 18; Colby, 17; Osborne, 7; Russell, 5; Victoria, 4; Norton, 1; Phillipsburg, 0.

"It was a great tournament to compete in," said Norton head tennis coach Jim Green.

"We saw some teams that we had not played against. Hoisington and Larned both have outstanding teams."

Katie Scott played No. 1 singles for the Lady Jays. She lost 8-0 to Somer Schmidt, Larned and lost 8-1 to Desiree Karlin, Victoria.

"Katie improved her game by hitting harder and moving her opponent around," said coach

Green. Allie Corbin and Meaghan Peterson played No. 1 doubles for Norton. They lost 8-3 to Karisa Kaiser and Lindsey Ney, Hoisington and lost 8-2 to Katie Schmidtberger, Victoria.

"Allie and Meaghan drew a first round match against the Hoisington team who won the tournament," said coach Green. "It didn't get any better for their second match against Victoria."

In No. 2 singles, Morgan Baumann played for Norton. She defeated Aubree Broyles, Victoria, 8-6; lost to Aubrey Geist, Osborne, 8-2 and lost to Lauren Shoaff, Colby, 8-6.

"Morgan gave us a big win over Aubrey Broyles," said coach Green.

Playing No. 2 doubles for the Lady Jays were Rachel Shepard and Nikki McVey. They finished in fourth place. They

Junior varsity loses to Goodland

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team was defeated 32-22 by Goodland in Goodland on Monday evening.

"The game was a lot closer than the final score showed," said Norton assistant football coach Wade Church.

"Our guys battled back well after a slow start. We need to work on being ready to do our job every single play of the game.

"If we hadn't had some mental break downs and do our job, the score would have been a lot different."

The Cowboys struck early when they scored on a blocked

punt, then recovered an inside kickoff. Norton's Dillon McConney kept them from scoring again when he intercepted a pass.

The Blue Jays drove down and scored on an 8-yard pass from Dalton Miller to Robert Blecha to tie the game at 8-all.

In the second quarter, Norton had chances to take the lead. Jacob Brooks intercepted a Cowboy pass but Norton could not convert a fourth down try. Goodland then scored before half on a 40 yard pass. Their two-point extra try was good and they led 16-8 at halftime.

Goodland started the second half with the ball but Taylor Meder intercepted a pass and the Blue Jays drove downfield to score.

Tye Nickell tallied on a 3-yard run. The extra points attempt was no good but Norton was within two points at 16-14.

The very next series, Goodland scored on a 50-yard pass to extend their lead to 24-14.

Goodland scored their final touchdown in the fourth quarter to take a 32-14 lead. Norton's final score came on a 60 yard run by Brooks to make the final 32-22.

"Our guys played hard but just need to keep working on getting better each week," said coach Church.

Next action

The Norton junior varsity grid-ers will play next against St. Francis on Monday in Norton with kickoff set for 6 p.m.

Lady Huskies improved to score win

That creaking you heard last week up north was not the old garden gate it was the Lady Husky volleyball team as we got back on the court after a week and a half lay off from playing and it showed.

We took on conference foe Logan in our first outing and the Trojans jumped out to a quick 1-5 lead before we righted ourselves and started to play the style of ball we are now known to play - power volleyball.

Our passing improved, our servers started to pick apart their receivers so they were not getting to set their hitters and gave us free balls so we capitalized and started to use our power which they could not return. We came back to win the first set 27-25.

In the second set it was all power - supplied by the Lady Huskies as Logan had no answer for what they were receiving from all our hitters.

We were not only hitting power shots, we were placing the ball

with "roll" shots between their defenders which they could not get to and control. We went on to win the second set 25-13.

This win gave us our second undefeated Cheyenne Conference title in a row as we have now played our conference schedule.

Our next game put us up against Alma, Nebraska a team who has 4-6 footers (5'10" or taller) and they always had two on the net at all times which did not bode well for us as we struggled with their power. We were scrambling to get to their power shots and could not get our attacking game started,

we lost 13-25.

In the second set we realized what we could do against their power and made the adjustments and actually played a very good set of volleyball being ahead 19-15. Then we once again ran into the big block with our undersized front row and the Cardinals powered the ball past our block attempts to go on to win 21-25.

We will be off a period of time before we travel to Ellis for their tournament we hope to start our second half of the season on a strong note and do well at this tournament.

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