

# Norton tennis team wins at Colby

By DICK BOYD  
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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School girls tennis team won their second championship in a row last Saturday in the Colby Varsity Tournament.

The win followed a championship performance the previous Tuesday in the Hays Invitational.

At Colby, the Lady Jays scored 28 points to win the title and were followed by Colby, 12; Osborne, 11; Scott City, 9; Liberal, 7; Colby JV, 5; Plainville, 0.

"Because of our outstanding performance on Thursday at Hays, we were able to get all four of our entries seeded at Colby," said coach Green. "Being seeded in a bracketed tournament is extremely important."

"Tawni Griffey was the No. 1 seed at No. 1 singles, Meaghan Peterson and Rachel Shepard were the No. 2 seed at No. 1 doubles; Morgan Baumann was the No. 1 seed at No. 2 singles and Kyra Fulton and Nikki McVey were the No. 2 seed at No. 2 doubles."

"Our entire team had an outstanding tournament. This is the strongest showing we have ever

had at Colby. We had three firsts and one second, which was a dominating win."

**No. 1 singles**  
Norton's Tawni Griffey shutout Kathryn Buehler, Scott City, 7-0, then shutout Jessica Gregory, Osborne, 7-0 to reach the championship finals versus Caitlyn Wark, Colby, the defending Class 4A state champion whom she had defeated easily to win the gold medal at Hays.

This time, Wark took the lead and Griffey had to rally to win 7-6(7-1).

"Tawni's finals match with Wark was very different than the one they played in Hays," said coach Green. "This time Wark had the lead through most of the match. Tawni was always one game behind. Down 5-6 and playing to 7, Tawni played an outstanding game to tie the score at 6-6 and push the match to a tiebreaker. Jumping out to a 5-0 lead in the tiebreaker, Tawni dropped one point and then closed out the tiebreaker at 7-1 to win the match 7-6."

"The match was very close and either player could have won. Tawni showed a lot of determi-

nation to come from behind and win."

**No. 1 doubles**  
The Lady Jays' Meaghan Peterson and Rachel Shepard shutout Katie Plunk and Desirae Courkamp, Liberal, 7-0; outpointed Colby's Megan Dougherty and Lauren Shoaff, 7-1 then placed runner-up in No. 1 doubles with a 7-1 loss to Alyssa Scheuerman and Shannon Blair, Scott City.

"Rachel and Meaghan faced a tough match against Colby in the second round," said coach Green. "This is the same team they played in the finals at Hays when they won 8-6. This time Rachel and Meaghan were at the top of their game and jumped out to a 4-0 lead, then lost one game, then closed out the match with a 7-1 win. In the finals, they played Scott City, the No. 1 seed and state qualifiers last year. The Scott City girls were a little too experienced and talented for our girls to beat."

**No. 2 singles**  
Morgan Baumann had another good tournament, earning the gold medal. She outscored Evelyn Craig, Scott City who was playing for the Colby JV, 7-1; beat

Kathy Nguyen, Liberal, 7-1, then defeated Aubrey Geist, Osborne, 7-4 to win the No. 2 singles championship.

"Morgan lived up to her No. 1 seed and won her bracket," said coach Green. "Morgan continues to be very consistent in returning the ball. She moved through her matches, 7-1, 7-1 and 7-4. Morgan's performance adds much needed strength to our team."

**No. 2 doubles**  
The Lady Jays' Kyra Fulton and Nikki McVey shutout Plainville's twosome 7-0, outscored Colby's Paige Roopchan and Madi Gawith, 7-5, then shutout the Colby JV team of Tomi Miller and Theresa Basset, 7-0 to win the No. 2 doubles championship.

"Kyra and Nikki were seeded second and won easily in the first round and then met a strong Colby team in the second round. This match was very close. Playing well, Kyra and Nikki won 7-5. In the finals, they played against another Colby team, which had defeated the No. 1 seed from Scott City. Kyra and Nikki won 7-0, giving our team another first place finish."



Norton Community High School sophomore Tawni Griffey is getting the 2010 tennis season off to a good start and is undefeated during the first four tournaments at No. 1 singles.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Blue Jays settle for runner-up at the Phillipsburg Invite

By DICK BOYD  
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The Norton Community High School girls tennis team just missed a third straight championship with a runner-up finish in the Phillipsburg Invitational on Tuesday.

The Lady Panthers successfully defended their home courts by scoring 25 points to edge Norton, who tallied 23. Third place went to Trego with 10 points while Russell was fourth with 2 points.

"Of the three teams we played, Phillipsburg is the best," said Norton head coach Jim Green. "We had to play against them in the first round. It would have been nice to have played at least one match

before playing the home team."

**No. 1 singles**  
The Lady Jays' Tawni Griffey remained unbeaten in early season play in No. 1 singles and did it in convincing fashion, not allowing a single point to be scored against her.

She shutout Phillipsburg's Malorie Witmer 8-0, shutout Russell's Brittni Hayes 8-0 and shutout Trego's Emily Wyse 8-0 to win the gold medal.

"Tawni plays extremely well at No. 1 singles," said coach Green. "She is becoming more and more aggressive in her play. Tuesday she was coming to the net more often and putting balls away for winners."

**No. 1 doubles**  
Norton's No. 1 doubles team of Rachel Shepard and Meaghan Peterson placed runner-up. They lost 8-4 to Phillipsburg's Ember Ward and Chelsey Edwards, edged Russell's Kelli Gudenkauf and Rhett Brown 8-7 and outpointed Trego's Tia Brunswig and Beth Haflinger 8-1.

"Rachel and Meaghan didn't have the best start with a loss to Phillipsburg," said coach Green. "But, Phillipsburg is a very good team and they simply played better than we did."

"As the day went along, Rachel and Meaghan played better and better, winning their next two matches."

**No. 2 singles**  
Playing No. 2 singles again for the Lady Jays was Morgan Baumann and she earned another championship. She outpointed Phillipsburg's Sage Ratliff 8-6, defeated Russell's Desiree Brack 8-1 and shutout Trego's Jacy Buchholz 8-0.

"Morgan continues to be very consistent at No. 2 singles and gave us another first place finish," said coach Green. "She had a tough match against Phillipsburg but she had the determination to win. Morgan has a lot of experience and uses it to her advantage."

**No. 2 doubles**  
In No. 2 doubles, Norton's Kyra Fulton and Nikki McVey placed

third. They lost 8-4 to Phillipsburg's Brooke Lawyer and Shelbie Christensen, defeated Russell's Abby Dreher and Taylor Hamel 8-4 and lost an 8-5 match to Kylie Dunn and Bailee Fritts, Trego, to place third.

"Kyra and Nikki played another outstanding team from Phillipsburg and were not able to win. They came back in the second round to defeat Russell."

"Kyra covers the court extremely well, running corner to corner. She has also improved her play at the net."

"Nikki continues to place the ball away from her opponents."

"In their last match, they were up against Trego. One of the Trego

girls was very good at the net, winning a lot of the points with overheads. Still, the match was very close and our girls played very well."

### Next action

The next varsity competition for Norton will be in the Phillipsburg Quad on Tuesday, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Norton junior varsity team will host the Norton JV Quad on Saturday. Teams competing, in addition to Norton, will be Colby, Hays and Phillipsburg.

Play will begin at 9 a.m. on Norton's new courts in the Swimming Pool Park.

# Norton C-Team starts their season in Colby

By DICK BOYD  
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The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team began their 2010 season in a quadrangular in Colby on Thursday, Sept. 3.

They had three losses but were very competitive.

Scores of matches were: Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays, 25-15, 18-25, 14-15; Colby, 15-25, 21-25 and Heartland, 15-25, 26-24, 13-15.

**TMP MARIAN**  
"We started off well and easily won the first game," said Norton coach Jill Lively.

"We lost our momentum in the second game and just couldn't gain it back."

"I was pleased with our team passing overall as we reached our goal of passing with accuracy over 1.75; however, our serving was

below our team goal." Norton team statistics were: serving, 83 percent, 14 aces; passing, 1.77 on 3.0 scale; hitting, 66 percent with 8 kills.

Individual leaders were: serving - Juliana Miller, 100 percent, 5 aces; Katherine Boteler, 90 percent, 1 ace; Alec Melvin, Rachel Slipke, 3 aces each; Alexis Lively, Brae Bigge, 1 ace each; passing - Bigge, 3.0; Kayleigh Norwood, 2.5; Lively, Slipke, 2.33; Boteler, Miller, 2.0; hitting - Norwood, Slipke, 3 kills each; Kaitlyn Campbell, 2 kills.

**COLBY**  
"The Colby match was disappointing for us," said coach Lively. "Our serving was far below what we expect and we simply lacked the determination it takes to succeed."

"There were some problems with the scorekeeping, which

seemed to sap some of our momentum and we made mental errors that kept us from being more competitive."

Team statistics were: serving - 75 percent, 8 aces; passing, 1.81; hitting, 90 percent, 2 kills.

Individual leaders were: serving - Miller, 100 percent, 1 ace; Slipke, 100 percent; Sierra Black, 91 percent, 4 aces; Melvin, 3 aces; passing - Boteler, 3.0; Black, 2.25; Katie Koch, 2.0; hitting - Norwood, Miller, 1 kill each.

**HEARTLAND**  
"We had a burst of energy in the second game that pulled out a win but we simply didn't perform our skills and communicate well enough to win the match," said coach Lively.

"We found through the evening that there are several team concepts we need to work on, including defensive coverages

and transitioning." "We also need players to work hard every day to improve their individual skills so they become automatic when it's time for a match. Right now, I'm just not seeing the effort required in every practice drill that will be necessary to win ball games."

Team statistics were: serving - 80 percent, 10 aces; passing, 1.22; hitting, 55 percent, 1 kill.

Individual leaders were: serving - Lively, 100 percent; Black, 92 percent, 3 aces; Boteler, 4 aces; Melvin, 2 aces; Miller, 1 ace; passing - Koch, 1.6; Black, 1.57; hitting - Miller, 1 kill.

**Next action**  
The Norton C-team will play next on Saturday versus Plainville, Smith Center, Ellis and Phillipsburg. Matches will be in Phillipsburg and will begin at 8 a.m.



Kylie Nuzum, Norton Community High School junior, went down to one knee to return the volleyball during the recent match versus Colby in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Lady Jays win and lose in Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD  
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The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team had their second competition of the season on Tuesday at Phillipsburg where they lost 8-25, 15-25 to the Lady Panthers and defeated Northern Valley 25-20, 25-18.

In the third match, Phillipsburg out-pointed Northern Valley 25-6, 25-5.

The Lady Panthers are unbeaten and are ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 3A by the Kansas Volleyball Association.

**PHILLIPSBURG**  
"Phillipsburg is a very quick team and we struggled playing their tempo," said Norton head coach Peggy Cox.

"Size-wise we can't compete so we're going to have to continue working on our defense and be able to dig what we can't block."

Erin Terrell, Caren Thomson and Brianna Karnopp led in kills with two each. Kylie Nuzum and Johnnie Ruder each had one ace.

Digs leader was Nuzum with two while Juliana Miller had one.

Teslee Nickell led in assists with four and Ruder had one. Terrell had one block.

**NORTHERN VALLEY**  
"Our Lady Jays came out victorious over the Lady Huskies but it was tough and go at times," said coach Cox. "We would build up a lead and then let the Huskies back in with bad passes or poor serving."

"Again, we need to work on consistency and being aggressive through the entire game and not in spurts."

"Overall, I'm very pleased with our girls' attitudes and their work ethic. They are very team-oriented and are improving every match we play."

Kills leader was Terrell with 14, followed by Miller, 3; Sharrelle Shinn, Thomson, Karnopp, Nickell, one each.

Terrell also led in aces with four, followed by Nickell, three; Miller, Ruder, one each.

Terrell was digs leader as well with four, followed by Nickell, three; Shinn, Nuzum, two each; Katie Gall, Bekah Streck, Karnopp, Ruder, one each.

Assists leader was Nickell with 11, followed by Ruder, seven; Thomson, one.

Terrell had one block.  
**JUNIOR VARSITY**  
Coach Christine Thompson's

Norton junior varsity volleyball team suffered a tough three out of five games loss to Phillipsburg.

Game scores were: 22-25, 24-26, 25-22 and 16-25.

"The Panthers served very aggressively which caused us difficulty in setting up an effective offense," said coach Thompson.

"As a coach, I feel that our junior varsity did not grow or continue the great play which they had on Tuesday, August 31 against Colby and Osborne. As a team, we need to play aggressive, disciplined and smarter in every aspect of the game."

Match statistics were: kills - Alec Melvin, 6; Katherine Boteler, 2; Mariah Farber, Bailey Ambrosier, Chelsi McReynolds, 1 each; setting assists - Boteler, 5; Farber, 2; digs - Ambrosier, 4; Melvin, 3; serving aces - Boteler, 7; Farber, 5; Rachel Slipke, 3; Melvin, 2; Brae Bigge, Ambrosier, 1 each; blocks - Ambrosier, 2; Farber, Melvin, 1 each.

**Next action**  
Norton will travel to Atwood on Saturday to play Brewster, Dundy and Atwood.  
Competition will begin at 10 a.m.



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