



Norton senior Sharrelle Shinn went all the way down to the floor on both knees to return a volleyball hit by Goodland during action last Thursday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton. Teammate Kylie Nuzum looks on. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Lady Jays lose twice

**By DICK BOYD**  
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Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team showed some improvement during the night but was still unable to defeat Hill City and Hoxie in matches played Tuesday evening.

Norton played in Hill City first and lost 13-25, 8-25, then played Hoxie and was outscored 12-25, 14-25.

**Hill City**  
"We played the Lady Ringnecks for the first time this season and just couldn't handle their aggressive serving," said coach Cox. "We've had some changes take

place and we're working on getting everyone comfortable with their new roles."

Junior Erin Terrell led Norton in kills with 5, followed by junior Caren Thomson and sophomore Juliana Miller, 1 each.

Senior Bekah Streck, Miller and sophomore Teslee Nickell recorded 1 ace each.

Terrell was also the digs leader with 5, followed by freshman Johnnye Ruder, 1.

Nickell led in assists with 4, followed by Ruder, 2, Streck, 1.

**Hoxie**  
"In the Hoxie match, we played better but still struggled to string points together," said coach Cox.

"We passed better which allowed us to get the ball to our hitters at a more consistent rate so we had more kills."

Terrell was kills leader with 10 and Thomson had 1.

Thomson, Miller and Ruder each had 1 dig.

Assists leader was Nickell with 9, followed by junior Kylie Nuzum, 1.

Terrell and Thomson each had 1 block.

**Next action**  
The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams will play next on Tuesday versus Colby and Atwood in Colby, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

# Jays played double dual tennis in Phillipsburg

**By DICK BOYD**  
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On Saturday, Sept. 18, the Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team competed in the Junior Varsity Double Dual Tennis Match in Phillipsburg.

Team scores were not kept but Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery said the Lady Jays played well.

"It was a double dual which means we played against two teams and everyone played both singles and doubles against the two teams," said coach Montgomery. "It was a cold day and we took awhile to warm-up for our matches. The doubles teams changed so the players could get experience with other people. It's important to know how to play with different types of people."

"We played Trego in our first round. Our team record was 0-9 but we learned a lot and it was the doubles players' first time playing singles. In our second match against Phillipsburg we had better results, recording a 2-10 record as a team."

**No.1 singles**  
"Sierra Black played Kylah Ellis, Phillipsburg, losing in a close match in a tie-breaker 6-5(7-3)," said coach Montgomery. "Then, she played Janet Johnston, Phillipsburg, winning 6-4. Her consistency is the key to winning at the junior varsity level. Once Sierra

gets her stroke down, she'll be able to hit with more power which will make her a difficult opponent."

**No.2 singles**  
"Rhees Carlson lost both matches at No.2 singles," said coach Montgomery. "She played very well and worked hard in both matches."

Rhees lost to Janet Johnston, Phillipsburg, 6-1 and lost to Kylah Ellis, Phillipsburg, 6-1.

"She works hard in practice and is continually improving her consistency and the way she hits the ball," said coach Montgomery.

**No.3 singles**  
Rickele Green played singles for the first time.

"She did very well," said coach Montgomery. "She had a tough first match, losing 6-2, but then had a close match for her second singles match and lost in a tie-breaker 6-5 (7-2)."

"Tiebreakers are something we need to work on and play more so we are used to them," said coach Montgomery. "That way our players can focus on playing and not how to play the tiebreaker."

**No.4 singles**  
Jessica White played No.4 singles for the Lady Jays.  
"She had a fantastic day," said coach Montgomery. "Being a doubles player, I was proud of Jessica's accomplishment in singles. She hit the ball well and moved around the court. In her

first match, she was up 3-0 but ended up losing to Kimberly Day, Trego, 6-4. She came back in her second match to outscore Tiffani Eller, Phillipsburg, 6-2."

**No.5 singles**  
Hannah Pollock played No.5 singles for Norton. "She had a close second match and improved her singles play throughout the day," said coach Montgomery. "I always enjoy watching Hannah play because she never gives up and always has a great attitude."

**No.6 singles**  
Desiray Skrdlant played No.6 singles for the Lady Jays.

"Desiray had a tough time switching from doubles to singles but she learned a lot and was able to try something new," said coach Montgomery.

"She had a close first match, losing 6-3 to Sonya Stanton, Trego. The biggest thing is to work on consistency in order to become a better player."

**No.7 singles**  
Kristen Leibhart lost her matches against Cory Garner, Trego and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg. "Kristen's first year in tennis has gone great," said coach Montgomery. "She has a great attitude and attempts whatever you tell her to try."

**No.8 singles**  
Danielle Wagoner played No.8 singles for the Lady Jays. "Danielle had some tough matches and

lost both singles matches," said coach Montgomery. "I saw her hit some great shots that ended up being winners. We just need to work on consistency and being prepared to hit the ball when it comes back over the net."

**No.1 doubles**  
Rhees Carlton and Sierra Black paired up for their first time in doubles.

"They played well together for the first time and had fun playing doubles," said coach Montgomery. "Rhees and Sierra had a great match against Janet Johnston and Tiffani Eller, Phillipsburg. The score was close with a loss of 6-4."

**No.2 doubles**  
Rickele Green and Jessica White also paired up for the first time in doubles.

"It's an important learning experience to play with new and different people," said coach Montgomery. "It allows players to adapt to everyone's style of play. Rickele and Jessica struggled in their first match but really worked hard and played well in their second match, losing a close one 6-4. I feel they could be a strong doubles team in the future."

**No.3 doubles**  
Hannah Pollock and Desiray Skrdlant also played together for the first time.

"I think Hannah and Desiray really learned something about

playing with different people," said coach Montgomery.

"Hannah had some great volleys in her doubles matches. She's definitely getting better at playing at the net. Desiray is becoming more consistent at the baseline, which is important in every tennis match."

**No.4 doubles**  
Kristen Leibhart and Danielle Wagoner played No.4 doubles for Norton.

"Doubles takes a lot of cooperation and communication with partners," said coach Montgomery.

"I was impressed with how they played in their second match,

losing 6-3 to Phillipsburg. They improved throughout the day, which is the most important reason we have these matches. Both Kristen and Danielle had some excellent gets and returns in their matches."

**Next action**  
The Norton junior varsity tennis team will compete Saturday in the Phillipsburg Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Norton varsity tennis team will also compete on Saturday but will be in the Trego Invitational in WaKeeney, beginning at 9 a.m.

# Junior varsity places fourth in quad

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team placed fourth in the Phillipsburg JV Tennis Quad on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 37 points, followed by Trego Community, 27; Phillipsburg B, 17; Norton, 14; Belleville, 5.

"Our junior varsity team struggled at Phillipsburg on September 16," said Norton assistant tennis coach Crystal Montgomery. "We are a young team and are still learning how to take advantage of our strengths. Our main focus is hitting the ball correctly and becoming more consistent with the placement of the ball."

**No.1 singles**  
Sierra Black placed third for the Lady Jays with a 2-2 record.  
"After struggling in her first two matches, she finished the tournament strong," said coach Montgomery. "Sierra has done extremely well for her first year of tennis. She picked tennis up fast and she tries things that we tell her to try."  
Sierra lost to Laurie Beard, Phillipsburg, 8-5; lost to Ellie

Sherwood, Trego, 8-6; shutout Heather Miller, Phillipsburg B, 8-0 and defeated Kelby Johnson, Belleville, 8-1.

**No.1 doubles**  
Rickele Green and Hannah Pollock placed fifth in No.1 doubles with an 0-4 record.

"This was their first time at No.1 doubles and they saw some tough competition" said coach Montgomery. "Doubles takes a lot of strategy and communication and that is something we are still working on but getting better at. By the end of the day, Rickele and Hannah were playing better and had a close last match against Belleville."

They lost to Kaci Ferguson and Stephanie Stutterheim, Phillipsburg, 8-2; lost to Kylie Dunn and Bailee Fritts, Trego, 8-0; lost to Arika Aiken and Audri Fedrigo, Phillipsburg B, 8-1 and lost to Amber Kemmerer and Liz Jacques, Belleville, 8-4.

**No.2 singles**  
Katie Koch placed second for Norton at No.2 singles with a 3-1 record.

"This was a great day for Katie," said coach Montgomery, "and I was proud of her accomplishment. She worked hard in all her matches and that's important in tennis. She

lost her first match 8-3 but didn't give up and won her next three matches. She volleys well and she needs to capitalize on that."

Katie lost to Victoria Main, Phillipsburg, 8-3; defeated Jacy Buchholz, Trego, 8-3; outscored Mary Kearns, Phillipsburg, 8-5 and outpointed Dakota Naby, Belleville, 8-1.

**No.2 doubles**  
Desiray Skrdlant and Jessica White placed fifth at No.2 doubles with a 1-3 record.

"There was a three-way tie for third and Desiray and Jessica had the lowest win/loss game percentage, giving them fifth," said coach Montgomery. "I was proud of them when they won their last match in a tiebreaker against Megan Bejot and Morgan Powell from Trego. They stayed calm in the tiebreaker which is the key to winning. They had some great points but we need to play more to become even better."

Desiray and Jessica lost to Kaitlyn Vogel and Bailey Ward, Phillipsburg, 8-0; defeated Megan Bejot and Morgan Powell, Trego, 8-7(7-5); lost to Cassidy Roth and Mariah Coomes, Phillipsburg B, 8-1 and lost to Lexia Aurand and Kelsie Kussman, Belleville, 8-4.

# Norton volleyball team has a good show in junior varsity tournament played at Quinter

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team played well in the Quinter Junior Varsity Tournament on September 11, compiling a 2-2 record for the day.

In pool play, the Lady Blue Jays lost to Oakley 12-25, 19-25; defeated Wheatland 25-22, 25-21; and outscored Quinter 25-22, 24-26, 15-11. In first round bracket

play, Norton played Hill City and lost 15-25, 21-25.

"We were successful throughout the day," said Norton assistant coach Christine Thompson. "As a team, we played aggressively, disciplined and smart."

"This is the best performance from a Norton junior varsity team in the Quinter Tournament in the last four years!"

**Statistics leaders**  
Alec Melvin led in kills with 11, followed by Bailey Ambrosier,

Katherine Boteler, 9 each.

Mariah Farber was assists leader with 11, followed by Boteler, 10.

Leading the Lady Jays in blocks was Ambrosier with 4, followed by Farber, Boteler, Melvin, 1 each.

Melvin led in digs with 13, followed by Ambrosier, 10; Rachel Slipke, 6.

Farber led in serving aces with 11, followed by Ambrosier, 10; Melvin, Slipke, 3 each.

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**115 W. Main 9:30 am**