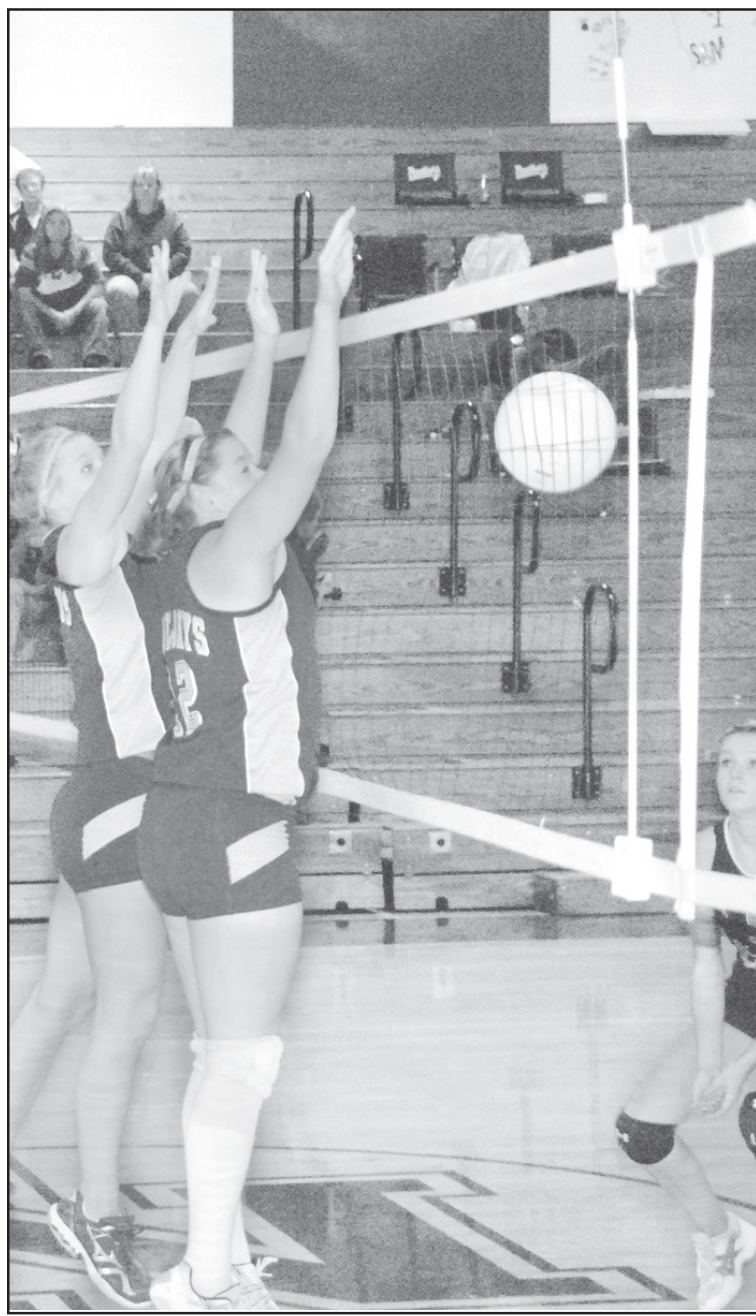


Lady Jays play in Mid-Continent League Tournament but their four game winning streak comes to an end



Norton senior Bekah Streck, left, and sophomore Teslee Nickell timed a hit by an Ellis player perfectly to block the volleyball and send it back on the Lady Railroaders' side for a Norton point during Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament play on Saturday in Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School girls varsity volleyball team took a four-match winning streak into the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament last Saturday in Norton but was unable to sustain the streak.

After previously defeating Leoti/Wichita County, Golden Plains and Logan, the Lady Blue Jays hosted Stockton on Thursday in a feather bracket match to get into the tournament and defeated the Lady Tigers 25-7, 26-24.

In the tournament on Saturday morning, they met the No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Phillipsburg Lady Panthers and lost 3-25, 15-25.

Their next opponent in pool play was the outstanding Smith Center Lady Red squad and, although Norton played better, they lost 17-25, 16-25.

Their third opponent was the Ellis Lady Railroaders and the Lady Jays played them very close. Norton won the first set 25-19 before losing 18-25, 18-25.

The top two teams from each of two pools moved on to the semi-finals and finals. Phillipsburg was the top team in Norton's pool and played Trego Community, the second place team in the other pool. The Lady Panthers won 23-25, 25-19, 25-8 to advance to the finals.

In the other semi-finals match, Hill City was the top team in the pool and played the No. 2 team Smith Center. The Lady Red won 25-17, 24-26, 25-22.

In the championship finals versus Smith Center, Phillipsburg won 25-7, 21-25, 25-13.

Hill City won third place with a

25-21, 25-23 win over Trego.

Stockton

The Lady Jays came out powerful and aggressive against the Lady Tigers from Stockton on Thursday evening.

"We took control of the first set and never looked back," said coach Cox.

"Unfortunately, in the second set, we made some mental errors and let Stockton creep back in. We gave up six points to their one on missed serves, let tips drop with no one going for them and just played tentative.

"The good news is that we dug ourselves out of the hole and, when Juliana Miller went back to serve, it was nothing but smiles on our Lady Jays' faces! Juliana's serves forced an overpass that Erin Terrell crushed. A combined block of Terrell and Bekah Streck for another point and two aces from Miller for point 25 and 26 sealed the win for us and allowed us to play in the MCL Tournament on Saturday."

Erin Terrell was kills leader with 10, followed by Caren Thomson, 3; Juliana Miller, 2; Bekah Streck, Bailey Ambrosier, 1 each.

Aces leader was Juliana Miller with 3, followed by Streck, Teslee Nickell, 2 each; Kylie Nuzum, Terrell, Thomson, 1 each.

Nuzum led in digs with 5, followed by Terrell, 4; Thomson, 3; Miller, 2; Streck, Nickell, 1 each.

Nickell had 14 assists and Thomson had 3.

Terrell had 2 blocks and Streck and Ambrosier had 1 each.

Phillipsburg

"We had a taste of what the No. 1 ranked team in the state of Kansas can do in our meeting with them Saturday morning," said coach

Cox.

"We didn't do much right in our first set but I was glad to see us come back in the second. While we didn't win, we didn't give up without a fight."

Terrell was kills leader again with 6, followed by Miller, 2; Streck, Thomson, Ambrosier, 1 each.

Streck and Nickell each had 1 serving ace.

Digs leader again was Nuzum with 9, followed by Nickell, 8; Miller, 5; Thomson, 3; Nickell, 1.

Nickell was assists leader again with 9, followed by Nuzum, Ambrosier, 1 each.

Ambrosier had 2 blocks and Terrell had 1.

Smith Center

"We played better against Smith Center in our second meeting of the year but not quite good enough to pull out a win," said coach Cox. "We let Smith Center string nine points together before we came back and answered with one."

"In the second set, we stayed with them through our first six rotations and then let them score two or three points at a time whereas we only scored one to two at a time."

Terrell continued to lead in kills as she got 12 and was followed by Streck and Miller with 2 each and Thomson and Ambrosier with 1 each.

Streck and Nickell each had 1 serving ace.

Digs leader was Miller with 9, followed by Nickell, 7; Thomson, 5; Terrell, 4.

Nickell continued to lead in assists with 13 and was followed by Thomson and Miller with 1 each.

Nickell and Ambrosier each had 2 blocks and Streck and Thomson each had 1 block.

Ellis

"Our Lady Jays traded points back and forth with the Ellis Lady Railroaders for the first twelve rotations and then we gradually pulled away for the win in the first set," said coach Cox.

"It was the same situation in the second and third set with both teams staying even in points but, right at the end of each, Ellis did a better job than us of pushing to 25."

Terrell was again the leader in kills with 16, followed by Streck and Miller, 4 each; Ambrosier, 2; Thomson, Nickell, 1 each.

Streck and Nickell each had 2 serving aces and Terrell had 1.

In the digs department, Miller led again with 9, followed by Terrell, Thomson, 7 each; Nuzum, Nickell, 6 each; Streck, 3.

Once again, Nickell led in assists with 19 while Thomson had 5. Ambrosier had 1 block.

Next action

Norton will compete in the Class 3A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Smith Center.

Norton is seeded No. 8 and will play No. 1 seeded Phillipsburg at 1 p.m.

Other matches will feature No. 4 seed Riley County versus No. 5 seed Marysville in the upper bracket and No. 2 seed Minneapolis versus No. 7 Beloit and No. 3 Smith Center versus No. 6 Ellsworth in the lower bracket.

Winners of the Norton-Phillipsburg and Riley County-Marysville matches and winners of the Minneapolis-Beloit and Smith Center-Ellsworth matches will meet in the semi-finals with the winners of those matches playing in the championship finals to qualify for the State Tournament.

Norton cross country teams win championship

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams had an outstanding day on Thursday, Oct. 14, winning the team championships of both divisions in the Lakeside Invitational in Downs!

Both girls and boys entries were loaded with state ranked teams and runners. There were 81 girls varsity runners and 114 boys varsity runners in addition to junior varsity competitors.

The Norton girls won the championship with 64 points and were followed by Southeast of Saline, 80; Sacred Heart of Salina, 87; Minneapolis, 107; Lincoln, 109; Osborne, 138.

The Blue Jay boys won the championship with 71 points and were followed by Belleville, 116; Minneapolis, 133; Sacred Heart of Salina, 146; Lincoln, 149; Southeast of Saline, 181; Pike Valley, 188; Beloit, 192; Oberlin, 196;

Phillipsburg, 202.

GIRLS

Junior Astrid Moen continued to lead the Norton girls to the finish line. She placed fifth individually in 16:32 and was followed by freshman Katelyn Engelbert, tenth, 17:12; freshman Darcy Bainter, 13th, 17:25; sophomore Julia Kent, 20th, 17:41 and sophomore Kamilla Jones, 24th, 17:49, to round out the five team placers.

Also running for the Norton girls varsity and places and times were: junior Abby Bainter, 31st, 18:14; senior Dustyna Sprigg, 32nd, 18:16.

Lady Jay freshman Marisa Maddy won the girls junior varsity race with a time of 18:44.

"Our goal tonight was to go to this race and go in with a mindset that we were running at regionals," said coach Rossi. "Our girls came out and competed as well as I have ever seen and won the championship of this race for the

first time!

"All seven of our girls were bent over and gasping for air in the finish chute and that tells everyone that they left it all on the course. All of our girls gave it their all at the finish. Astrid, Katelyn and Kamilla had super kicks at the end. Julia, Dustyna and Abby also ran very strong races. We caught a few runners and let a couple of girls pass and we will work on that this week.

"This was the most competitive race for us so far this year and we are very pleased with the result. We need to use this race to springboard into the regionals this week."

The top ten girls finishers were: Jenna Farris, Lincoln, 15:35; Courtney Freed, Pike Valley, 16:16; Ally Balderston, Sacred Heart, 16:18; Anna Trahan, Minneapolis, 16:31; Astrid Moen, Norton, 16:32; Jaelyn Sheets, Belleville, 16:36; Eileen Mick, Osborne, 16:44; Kylee Gragg,

Minneapolis, 16:58; Emma Huskey, Lincoln, 16:59; Katelyn Engelbert, Norton, 17:12.

BOYS

Junior Zach Hartwell also continued to lead the Norton boys to the finish line. He placed fifth individually in 18:02, followed by junior Bryan Henry, 12th, 18:41; freshman Alec Hager, 20th, 19:13; senior Troy Bainter, 22nd, 19:18 and freshman Marc Miller, 23rd, 19:23, to round out the top five placers for team finish.

Also running for the Norton varsity and their places and times were: sophomore John Renner, 31st, 19:48 and senior Kegan Vanover, 50th, 20:39.

Running for Norton in the junior varsity race and their places and times were: freshman Keith Sander, fourth, 20:45; senior Cole Archer, 14th, 22:08; sophomore Ryan Bainter, 17th, 22:38; freshman Garret Otter, 26th, 23:45.

"After the girls race, the boys were determined to run a competi-

tive race also," said coach Rossi. "They did not disappoint, winning by 45 points!"

"Zach Hartwell continues to run great races. Seeing Bryan Henry return to the form he had last year was a highlight. Alec Hager also ran a great race along with Marc Miller and Troy Bainter. John Renner has improved his time over every race from last year. Keith Sander also paced the junior varsity boys with a fourth place.

"This race is a great tune up for regional. We will have to be as good this week or better in order to advance to the state meet in Wamego."

Continuing to run well for Northern Valley was Gunnar Hays, who placed fourth individually in 17:55. Jon Compton also ran for the Huskies and placed 38th in 20:13.

The top ten boys finishers were: Cory Donley, Sacred Heart, 17:09; James Farris, Lincoln, 17:21; Josh Rankin, Ellsworth, 17:38; Gunnar

Hays, Northern Valley, 17:55; Zach Hartwell, Norton, 18:02; Trenton Kuhlman, Belleville, 18:17; Garrett Daugherty, Minneapolis, 18:24; David Leonard, Southern Cloud, 18:25; Tyler Shields, Oberlin, 18:34; Collin Trickle, Minneapolis, 18:35.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will compete this Saturday in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet in Larned.

Competition will begin with the girls race at 3 p.m. and will be followed by the boys race at 3:30 p.m. The races will be held at the Fort Larned Historical Site located six miles west of Larned on U.S. Highway 256.

Competing in addition to Norton and Larned will be teams from Ellsworth, Goodland, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Holcomb, Southwestern Heights, Lakin, Lyons, Medicine Lodge, Phillipsburg, Scott City, Smith Center and Sterling.

Northern Valley Junior Huskies have an undefeated football season

By DANA PAXTON

dpaxton@nwkansas.com

The Northern Valley Junior High football team ended their 2010 season undefeated with a 54-14 win over Damar last Thursday on the Husky home playing field.

The first quarter began with the Huskies scoring the first touchdown. Stewart Whitney ran one in for six and two extra points were scored when Ame Baird caught a pass from Eli Lowry. The second touchdown also went to the Huskies as Gabriel Anderson had a 47 yard run. Matt Stutsman then caught a pass from Lowry for the extra points. Clint Cole finished the quarter for the Huskies by catching a 10 yard pass from Lowry for Northern Valley's third touchdown. Stutsman brought in the extra points by catching another pass from Lowry to end the quarter 24-0.

In the second quarter, Damar scored first on a 12 yard run but the push for the extra points failed, leaving the score at 24-6. Northern Valley turned around and Lowry had a 40 yard touchdown run. Philip Rupp then caught a pass from Lowry for the extra points

bringing the score to 32-6. The next touchdown was by Husky Stutsman on a 40 yard pass from Cole. The extra points were good as Carson Montgomery ran it in for two more, ending the first half 40-6.

The second half of the game began with Damar making a 4 yard touchdown run and this time the extra points attempt was good which brought the score to 40-14. Northern Valley finished the quarter with Rupp running for a 48 yard touchdown. The extra points attempt failed, ending the quarter 46-14.

Northern Valley was the only team to score in the final quarter. Stutsman had a 41 yard touchdown run followed with a successful extra points attempt by Matthew Southerland. The final score of the game was 54-14, ending the Husky season undefeated.

Head Coach Jim Cole said, "The Northern Valley Junior High football team ended their season with a 54-14 win at Damar. Ten Huskies scored a touchdown or an extra point in the game. The Huskies finished the season with a perfect 7-0 record and were crowned

GNEC league champions for the fifth season in a row. The Junior Huskies have a 19 game winning streak. This was a great group of boys to coach; congratulations on a great season!"

The leading Husky for rushing was Stutsman with 4 carries for 64 yards, followed by Rupp, 2 carries for 50 yards; Anderson, 1 carry for 47 yards; Lowry, 1 carry for 40 yards; Southerland, 9 carries for 20 yards; Whitney, 1 carry for 16 yards and Montgomery, 3 carries for 5 yards.

Lowry completed 6 passes for 50 yards and Cole completed 1 of 2 passes for 40 yards. The leading receiver was Stutsman with 2 catches for 43 yards, followed by Cole with 2 carries for 38 yards. Baird, Rupp and Brant Cox all carried the ball once for 3 yards each.

There was only one fumble recovery by the Huskies and it was by Trey Hall. No statistics were given on the tackles.

The Junior Huskies made their school proud and played a great season. Watch them play again next year and see if they can keep their perfect record intact.

Lady Huskies win one and lose one

The Lady Huskies volleyball team has split the past two weeks worth of play.

We traveled to Rexford and split with host Golden Plains losing 20-25, 17-25 and defeating Tri-Plains 25-10, 25-17.

In these contests we were not consistent and when you are not consistent an average team who is playing consistently will defeat you. That is what happened against Golden Plains. We just did not play up to our skill level and it cost us a game in which we should have won.

Against Tri Plains we got off to a quick start and never looked back as we won the first set 25-10, then took off again with a quick lead but relaxed and allowed them to come back before we finished on a high note and won 25-17.

We then welcomed Stockton and #5 ranked Thunder Ridge to our court.

We played Stockton first and started out as we normally do. We dug ourselves a hole and although we rallied we just gave up too many points and lost the first set, 15-25.

In the second set we battled the Tigers the whole time with some decent play (we got into a "free ball" match which goes against all we are taught) but came away

with a 26-24 win.

In the third set we again free balled too many and allowed Stockton to stay close and as the set developed we were going to have to dig deep to win on our home court and to the credit of our ladies they did. Although it was not pretty we did win, again in overtime, 26-24.

That brought on #5 in the state, Thunder Ridge. In this game our ladies came to play. With the home crowd cheering our efforts we did show what we could do and played well against a state ranked team (the last time we played this well was against another state ranked

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