

Norton volleyball team wins home opener

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School volleyball team opened the 2012 season on Friday evening by defeating Plainville and Northern Valley in three-game matches held in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

Norton defeated Plainville first by scores of 20-25, 25-17, 25-22, then outscored Northern Valley 26-24, 12-25, 25-17.

Plainville

"It was a great way to start our year," said coach Jilka.

"Obviously, this time of year we have things to work on but we thought our girls played hard and we were very proud of the way we came back in the third game.

"Serving and hitting were two of our main problems that we need to fix. Our serve receive and passing was much better and we

need to continue with that."

Junior Bailey Ambrosier led Norton in kills with 6, followed by senior Bri Karnopp with 4 and senior Teslee Nickell and junior Johnnye Ruder with 2 each.

Assists leader was Ruder with 7 while Nickell had 5.

Karnopp led the Lady Jays in blocks with 6.

Digs leader was senior Rachel Slipke with 4, followed by senior Alec Melvin with 3 and Ambrosier and Karnopp with 2 each.

Nickell led in serving aces with 3 while Slipke had 2.

Northern Valley

"It wasn't a thing of beauty but we got the win over Northern Valley," said coach Jilka.

"Give Northern Valley credit in the second game of taking it to us and being the aggressor.

"We were very proud of our girls the way they came back after being blitzed in the second game and found a way to win the third game.

"It was a great effort. We need to regroup and be ready Tuesday at Colby."

Karnopp led in kills with 7, Ambrosier got 4 and sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, Nickell and Melvin had 3 each.

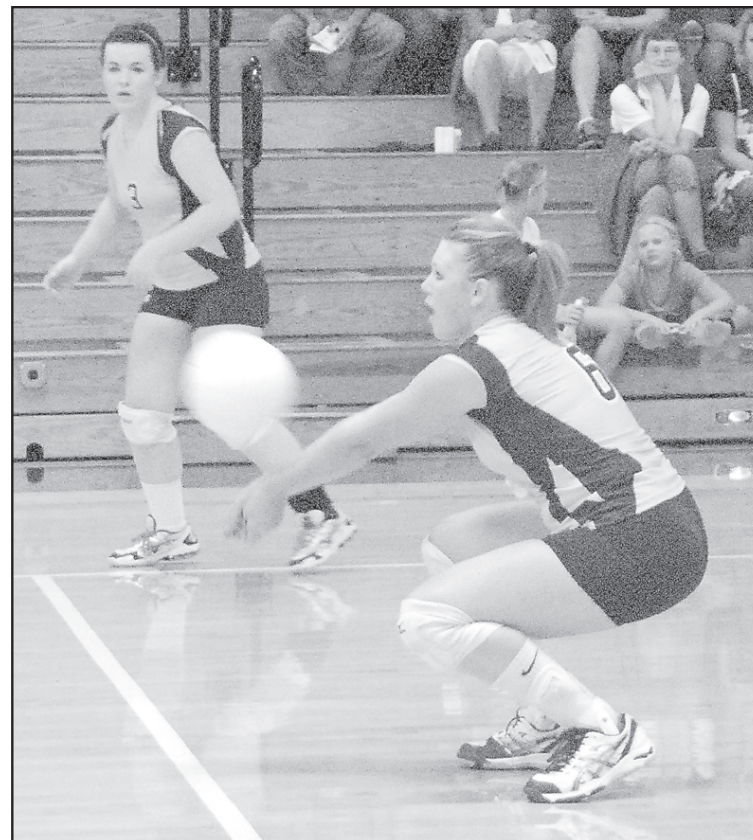
Assists leader was Nickell with 8 and Ruder had 6.

Karnopp was digs leader with 9 while Melvin had 7 and Ambrosier 6.

Slipke served 4 aces and Ruder served 3 aces.

Next action

The Norton Lady Jays will compete today in Colby versus Holcomb, Osborne and, beginning at 4 p.m., Colby.



Norton senior Bri Karnopp digs a serve from Plainville during the Lady Jays' win over the Lady Cardinals on Friday in the NCHS Stull Gym. In the background, is senior Rachel Slipke, No.3.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Cross Country season begins Thursday

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School cross country teams will begin the 2012 season by hosting the annual Norton Cross Country Meet on Thursday at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of Norton.

The meet will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the junior varsity race and will continue with the girls varsity race at 5 p.m. and the boys varsity race at 5:30 p.m.

The boys will run 3.1 miles and the girls will run 2.5 miles.

Team medals will be awarded to the top three boys and girls teams. Individual medals will go to the top 15 varsity boys and girls and the top 10 junior varsity boys and girls.

Competing in addition to Norton will be Ellis, Hill City, Hoxie, Northern Valley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Stockton, Trego Community and Wheatland.

The Norton girls and boys both won the Norton Invitational championship last year for the third year in a row and it was the sixth championship in a row for the Lady Jays.

George Rossi returns as head coach of both teams for the fourth straight year. He has welcomed 11 girls and 13 boys to this season's squads. This is the largest number of athletes ever to compete for Norton in a cross

country season.

Returning letter winners from last season's state runner-up team are Kamilla Jones, senior, top 2011 time, 17:15; Julia Kent, senior, returning state placer, top 2011 time 16:34; Katelyn Engelbert, junior, returning state placer, top 2011 time 15:50; Darcy Bainter, junior, top 2011 time 16:18; Marisa Maddy, junior, top 2011 time 16:43; Sierra Griffith, sophomore, returning state placer, top 2011 time 16:57 and Jesika Smith, sophomore. Jesika is out for the season due to an injury.

Other members of the girls team are Steph Hager, senior; Molly Maddy, Raenee Patterson and Kylie Perez, freshmen.

Returning boys lettermen from last season's fourth place state finish are Marc Miller, junior, top 2011 time 17:46; Alec Hager, junior, top 2011 time, 17:56; John Renner, senior, top 2011 time 18:59; Ryan Bainter, senior, top 2011 time 20:19 and Dalton Vanover, sophomore, top 2011 time 19:20.

Other members of the boys team are Chris Chambers, Keith Sander, Kailen Hawakara, juniors; David Smith, sophomore; Brendon Frack, Skylar Johnson, Weston Erbert, James King, freshmen.

Last season's Lady Jays won the Mid-Continent League Meet for the fourth year in a

row and the Norton boys were team champions for the eighth year in a row.

At the Regional Meet in Cimarron, both girls and boys qualified for the state meet for the third year in a row. For the second straight year, the Norton girls won the Regional championship and the Blue Jay boys were the Regional runner-up team.

Last season, the Norton girls earned five meet championships and had three runner-up finishes. The Blue Jay boys won four meet championships and placed runner-up in two meets.

Coach's comments

"We return all seven members of last year's girls state runner-up team," said coach Rossi. "Katelyn Engelbert, Sierra Griffith and Julia Kent were state medalists and Darcy Bainter, Marisa Maddy and Kamilla Jones have high hopes for the upcoming season.

"Freshmen Molly Maddy and Raenee Patterson could also fight for varsity spots.

"Area teams that look to be tough are Hill City, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays and Osborne.

"We have one of the toughest schedules in the state of Kansas with big meets at the Wamego Invitational, Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence, the biggest meet in the Midwest and the Lake-

side Invitational with many top teams from last year's state meet.

"Our boys team loses outstanding runners Zach Hartwell and Brian Henry from last year's fourth place state team. Returning lettermen Marc Miller, Alec Hager, Dalton Vanover, Ryan Bainter and John Renner look to equal or improve last year's state finish.

"Several area teams have good returning runners. Phillipsburg, Plainville and Hill City will be tough on the boys side.

"Our boys, as well as the girls, have their work cut out for them this year."

Coaches' backgrounds

Although in just his fourth year as head coach, Rossi is no stranger to Blue Jay athletics.

He coached junior high football for 21 years and is in his 25th year as junior high track coach.

He has also been the assistant girls basketball coach at Norton Community High School for the past 22 years and has moved up to head girls coach this season.

Rossi has a bachelor's degree

Norton Cross Country Schedule

- Thursday, Aug. 30 - Norton Invitational 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 8 - Wamego Invitational (A) 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 13 - Hays Invitational (A) 3:45 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 20 - Hill City Invitational (A) 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 22 - Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 25 - Oberlin Invitational (A) 5 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 4 -- MCL Meet Phillipsburg 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 11 - Lakeside Invitational (A) 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 20 - Regional Meet (A) TBA
- Saturday, Oct. 27 - State Meet-Lawrence 10:30 a.m.

in geology from Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo. and his teaching certificate from Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

His assistant coach is Lindsey Bailey. A 1999 graduate of Decatur Community High School,

she received her bachelor of science degree from Fort Hays State University in May, 2003. She is starting her second year as the high school assistant cross country coach and just finished her seventh year as a junior high assistant track coach.



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Deadlines for Labor Day

Ad Deadline Noon, Wed., August 29
for the Paper Friday, August 31

THE FRIDAY PAPER WILL BE FREE TO EVERY HOME

The Monday EXTRA and Tuesday, September 4 paper will be combined and delivered on Wed., Sept. 5

The Telegram Office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 3

215 S. Kansas Avenue
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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

THE JAMBOREE FOODS INSERT WILL BE IN THE FRI., AUG. 31 ISSUE, NOT THE SEPT. 4 ISSUE

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkans.com

High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:	
Norton Blue Jays vs. Smith Center Redmen	7 p.m. Friday in Norton
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Smith Center	6 p.m. Tuesday in Smith Center
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Alma, Neb.	7 p.m. Friday in Alma
Logan Trojans vs Tescott	7 p.m. Friday in Logan
VOLLEYBALL:	
Norton Lady Jays, V, JV vs Colby, Holcomb, Osborne	4 p.m. Today in Colby
Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Phillipsburg, Osborne, Stockton	4 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Cheylin, Wheatland, Triplains/Brewster	3 p.m. Today in Grainfield
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Alma, Neb.	5 p.m. Friday in Alma
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Cheylin, Hayes Center	4 p.m. Tuesday in Bird City
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco	4 p.m. Today in Palco
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco, Western Plains	4 p.m. Tuesday in Ransom
CROSS COUNTRY:	
Norton Cross Country Invitational	4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies in Norton Invitational	4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
TENNIS:	
Norton Lady Jays in Russell JV Singles Tourney	3 p.m. Today in Russell
Norton Lady Jays in Hays Varsity Invitational	3 p.m. Thursday in Hays
Norton Lady Jays in Colby Tournament	9 a.m. Saturday in Colby
Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Quad	1 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg

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Admission: Adults-\$12.00; 13 and Under-Free with paid Adult;
2 Day Adult Pass-\$20.00; 13 and Under-Free with paid Adult

For More Information Call Don McMullen, 877-3299;
Jerry Bantam, 877-5353 or Rick Schwab, 871-0851, Randy Bantam, 871-7370

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