

JV tennis team takes win at Norton Quad

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team hosted their own Norton JV Quad on Saturday, Sept. 8 and outscored the other three teams to win the championship.

The young Lady Jays earned 18 points and were followed by Phillipsburg, 16; Hays, 12 and Colby, 12.

Sophomore Brooke Sumner won the gold medal for Norton at No.1 singles.

She defeated Julie Schroeder, Colby, 6-2; outscored Orianna Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, 6-3 and beat Molly Barnett, Hays, 6-4.

"Brooke had another outstanding day," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery.

"She came out with another first place medal for the season. Brooke plays well under pressure and can win the important points during her matches.

"One thing we will want to work with Brooke on is coming up to the net and staying there for the point."

Playing No.1 doubles for the Norton junior varsity were freshmen Hailey Branek and Audrie Burge and they placed fourth. They defeated Olivia Wetter and Morgan Sanguinet, Colby, 6-4; lost to Amy Pugh and Danielle Slack, Phillipsburg, 6-3 and lost to Emily McPherson and Ashley Coesaart, Hays, 6-1.

"Audrie and Hailey played No.1 doubles together for the first time," said coach

Montgomery.

"I've been switching the doubles teams around for every tournament so the girls have the opportunity to play with everyone.

"Audrie and Hailey worked very well together. They were willing to try different strategies and, as coach, that is exactly what I want to see in every match."

Freshman Lizzie Smith played No.2 singles for the young Lady Jays and placed fourth. She lost to Jenni Gray, Colby, 6-0; lost to Kinzie Ratliff, Phillipsburg, 6-0 and lost to Alex Araujo, Norton sophomore who was playing for Hays, 6-0.

"This was Lizzie's first tournament of the season and of her high school career," said coach Montgomery. "Lizzie has a great attitude on the court and tries her best in every match. She had some good points throughout her matches and we will continue to work on her positioning and hitting through the ball."

Playing No.2 doubles for Norton and winning gold medals were freshmen Rachel Jones and Morgan Griffey. They defeated Paige McNinch and Tresta Urban, Colby, 6-3; edged Lexi Chavez and Suzanne Huntley, Phillipsburg, 6-5 (7-5) and edged Shannon Schumacher and Taylor Vredenburg, Hays, 6-5.

"Rachel and Morgan had an excellent day in taking first place in the tournament," said coach Montgomery. "Both Morgan and Rachel returned some great shots and placed

the ball very well.

"They had two matches that went into a tiebreaker. Neither one had any experience playing a tiebreaker but they overcame the pressure and pulled out the wins."

Norton's Alex Araujo played No.2 singles for Hays. She was defeated by Kinzie Ratliff, Phillipsburg, 6-3; lost to Jenni Gray, Colby, 6-1 and shutout Lizzie Smith, Norton, 6-0, to place third.

"Alex also had a great day on Saturday," said coach Montgomery. "Alex has made great improvements from the beginning of the season and, hopefully, she can continue to improve even more."

Overall comments

"Our junior varsity team showed an incredible amount of improvement from the WaKeeney tournament to the Norton tournament," said coach Montgomery.

"They just need practice playing different teams and learning the different strategies of the game.

"Overall, our team took first place and I hope we can continue that success throughout the rest of the season."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity tennis team traveled to Phillipsburg for a tournament on Thursday but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

They will also compete in the Tribune-Greeley JV Tournament in Goodland on Tuesday, Sept. 18, beginning at 3 p.m.



Lady Jay sophomore Brooke Sumner won the gold medal in No.1 singles during Norton's championship of their own Norton JV Quad last Saturday on the tennis courts in the Swimming Pool Park in Norton.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton tennis ties for fourth in Trego Round Robin tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team tied for fourth in the Trego JV Round Robin Tennis Tournament held Thursday, Sept. 6 in WaKeeney.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 33 points, followed by Trego, 17; Hoisington, 16; Norton, 14; Colby, 14.

"Throughout the season, we will need to work on our consistency and placing the ball where the opponents aren't," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery.

"Overall, our team worked hard in this tournament and showed signs of improvement.

"Our girls have a great attitude and never give up."

Sophomore Brooke Sumner won the championship of No.1 singles for Norton. She edged Lindsey Solida, Phillipsburg, 6-5; outscored Tresta Urban, Colby, 6-1; beat Bethany Schneider, Trego, 6-5 and edged Melissa Stout, Hoisington, 6-4.

"Brooke is greatly improved from last year and placed first at the Trego Tournament," said coach Montgomery. "Her consistency and solid strokes were a major factor in winning her matches. She played under great pressure and won the important points needed to win the match. She had several close matches but handled the pressure well."

Lady Jay freshmen Hailey Branek and Morgan Griffey placed fifth in No.1 doubles. They lost to Michaela Gower

and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg, 6-1; lost to Julie Schroeder and Jennilee Gray, Colby, 6-3; lost to Abigail Buchholz and Ellyssa Carr, Trego, 6-0 and lost to Emily Hammond and Kayleigh Bitter, Hoisington, 6-0.

"This was the first tournament for Hailey and Morgan to play doubles together," said coach Montgomery. "Although they lost, they made tremendous improvement each match they played.

"As the day went on, they started to hit the ball with better strokes. Both Hailey and Morgan were aggressive at the net and tried for every ball."

Norton did not have anyone competing at No.2 singles.

Freshmen Rachel Jones and Audrie Burge played No.2 dou-

bles for the young Lady Jays and placed fourth. They lost to Amy Pugh and Alyssa Rogers, Phillipsburg, 6-1; were outscored by Olivia Wetter and Morgan Sanguinet, Colby, 6-5; lost to Larissa Howard and Shawnee Phillips, Trego, 6-5 and shutout Paige

McNinch (Colby) and Mikayla Brackett, Hoisington, 6-0.

"This was also Audrie and Rachel's first time playing doubles together at a tournament," said coach Montgomery. "They played very well together and lost two of their matches 6-5.

We were so close to winning those two matches.

"Hopefully, they will be better at playing those pressure games in the future since they have some experience now."

C-team volleyball ladies post losses to Hill City, Stockton in Hill City

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team played matches against Hill City and Stockton on Monday in Hill City.

Norton lost to Hill City 6-25, 11-25.

"Sabrina Gibson was our leading server, scoring four points,"

said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"Our girls had trouble passing the ball and Hill City served well."

The young Lady Jays also lost to Stockton 13-25, 21-25.

"Our girls did a better job of passing the ball against Stockton," said coach Uehlin. "We missed too many serves when we had a chance to gain points.

"The second set was the best one of the day for us. Our girls did a much better job of communicating and passing the ball."

Next action

The Norton C-team girls next matches were versus Colby, Hays and Wheatland in Colby on Thursday night but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Volleyball team loses in Phillipsburg

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team played matches with Stockton, Osborne and Phillipsburg on Tuesday, Sept. 4 in Phillipsburg.

Norton lost to Stockton 17-25, 25-23, 9-15; split with Osborne 20-25, 25-19 and lost to Phillipsburg 18-25, 15-25.

Stockton

Against Stockton, sophomore Kenzie Esslinger and freshman Lauren Mordecai led in kills with 4 each, followed by freshman Kirstin Georgeson, 2; freshmen Peyton Renner, Casey Ambrosier and Hanna Brooks, 1 each; sophomore Morgan Farber, 1.

Georgeson had 2 assists and Esslinger had 1. Ambrosier had 1 block.

Digs leader was Brooks with 6, followed by sophomore Adrienne Hager, 5; freshman Nickala O'Hare, 3; Ambrosier, Georgeson, 1 each.

Hager, O'Hare and Esslinger each served 1 ace.

Osborne

Brooks had 2 kills versus Osborne and Georgeson had 3 assists.

Digs leader was O'Hare with 5, followed by

Farber, Georgeson, 2 each; Ambrosier, 1.

Phillipsburg

Ambrosier had Norton's only kill against Phillipsburg. Hager had 2 assists and Farber and Georgeson each had 1.

Farber had 1 block. Georgeson recorded 3 digs while Mordecai and Brooks each had 2 digs.

Hager and Farber each served 1 ace.

Coach's comments

"Our junior varsity is starting to show some improvement," said Norton assistant coach Jodi Ward.

"In each match, our girls were ahead or within two points, then they let the opponents go on a 6 or 8 point run. After that we could never recover.

"We had some good rallies but would hit the ball in the net or out of bounds.

"Our junior varsity team has some very athletic players and, hopefully, they will begin to step up so we can win the close games."

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity played Goodland and Dundy County, Neb. on Thursday in Goodland.

Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

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