

# Sisters continue athletic success in college

By Dick Boyd

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Kelli, Megan and Alison Cole, three sisters who were outstanding athletes for Northern Valley High School, continued their sports careers successfully in college and one of the three is still competing.

They are daughters of Monica and Jim Cole of Long Island and granddaughters of Charlene and Keith Ross of Long Island and Bill Cole and the late Dorothy Cole of Youngtown, Ariz.

**Kelli Cole**

Kelli is the oldest of the three sisters. A 2007 graduate of Northern Valley High School, she completed her career as a valuable member of the Ottawa University Lady Braves volleyball team in 2011.

She was co-captain of her team her senior year. Kelli played libero/defensive specialist and led her squad in digs with 348, a 3.6 per game average.

Kelli is also a 2009 graduate of Cloud County Community College in Concordia with an

association of arts degree in business.

As a Lady Thunderbird volleyball player, Kelli played the outside hitter and libero positions for two years.

Kelli graduated in May, 2012 from Ottawa University with a bachelor's in business administration.

She is currently employed by Ottawa University as an Outreach Enrollment Advisor.

**Megan Cole**

Megan is a 2010 graduate of Northern Valley High School and completed her second year as a member of the track team at Cloud County Community College in Concordia in 2012.

She competed both years in the outdoor javelin and indoor high jump.

Her farthest throw in the javelin in college was 118 feet. Megan also excelled in the javelin while in high school.

Megan's performances with the javelin were recognized when she was chosen honorable mention in the javelin by the

Kansas Jayhawk Conference.

She graduated in 2012 and is presently employed as a certified nurse's aide in Manhattan.

She plans to attend Nurse's School at Manhattan Area Technical College next August.

**Alison Cole**

Megan's twin sister, Alison, is also a 2010 graduate of Northern Valley High School and played volleyball for two years and basketball the second year at Highland Community College.

Her 2011 volleyball team compiled a 23-11 record. She was a middle blocker/hitter. Alison led her team in blocks with 104 and was second on the team in kills with 323.

She received the Kansas Jayhawk Conference "Player of the Week" award and was named to

the All-Region first team.

Alison was also a key member of Highland's basketball team in 2011-12.

Her team compiled an impressive 28-4 record which was the best record in Highland College history.

Alison received the "Scottie Award" for leadership and motivation by vote of her coaches and teammates.

She led her team in blocks with 23, grabbed 122 rebounds (4.2 av. per game) and scored 102 points (3.5 av. per game).

Alison also lettered in track for Highland her first season there.

She competed in the indoor high jump and competed in the nationals, where she placed 11th.

She graduated this spring

from Highland with an associate of art degree in business.

With two years of eligibility remaining, Alison has transferred to Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla. to play volleyball. She will be a middle blocker/hitter.

Alison is pursuing a master's degree in sports management.

Her teammates include Lindsey Dusin, a former Phillipsburg

High School standout athlete.

Alison's volleyball honors in high school included being a four-year all-league and all-area selection. She was a Kansas Volleyball Association All-State second team selection as a senior.

Alison was also an outstanding basketball player in high school and was invited to play in three post season games.



(Left) Megan Cole throws the javelin during competition for Cloud County Community College in 2012. (Above) Alison Cole plays defense for her Highland Community College basketball team during their successful 28-4 season in 2011-12. (Above right) Kelli Cole serves the volleyball during a match as a member of the Ottawa University Lady Braves in 2011.

-Photos contributed

## Varsity volleyball team takes losses to Hill City and Hoxie

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity volleyball team played Hill City and Hoxie on Tuesday in Hoxie.

The Lady Jays lost to Hill City 13-25, 11-25 and lost to Hoxie 14-25, 9-25.

In the third match, Hoxie outscored Hill City 29-27, 20-25, 25-23.

**Hill City**

In the loss to Hill City, junior Bailey Ambrosier led in kills with 3 and senior Teslee Nickell had 1 kill. Assists leader was Bohl with 9, followed by junior Johnnye Ruder, 6; sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 1.

Seniors Katherine Boteler and Bri Karnopp each had 2 digs and Ambrosier had 1 dig.

**Hoxie**

Against Hoxie, Karnopp had 3 kills and Ambrosier had 2. Assists leader was Bohl with 5, followed by Ambrosier, 2; senior Alec Melvin, 2; Nickell, 1.

Karnopp, Bohl and Nickell each had 2 blocks. Ambrosier had 6 digs, followed by Ruder, 4; Karnopp, 4; Bohl, 2; Melvin, 2; Nickell, 1.

**Coach's comments**

"Overall, we were just not competitive in either match and we were very disappointed in that," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

"Our overall effort in all areas has to get better. We have to get better in serve receiving and passing the ball.

"Our girls can come back and play better but they have to have some pride in the way they practice and the way they play. We are going to try to take care of that this week."

**Junior varsity**

The Norton junior varsity lost to Hill City 14-25, 22-25 and lost to Hoxie 22-25, 16-25.

In the loss to Hill City, freshman Casey Ambrosier led in kills with 3, followed by freshman Lauren Mordecai, 2; freshman Peyton Renner, 2; freshman Kirstin Georgeson, 2; freshman Hanna Brooks, 1; sophomore Morgan Farber, 1.

Renner was assists leader with 7, followed by sophomore Adrienne Hager, 6; Mordecai, 2. Renner had 1 block.

Digs leader was sophomore Sheridan Dillehay with 2; Hager had 1.

Farber had 1 serving ace.

"Our junior varsity girls are playing with more intensity each week," said Norton assistant coach Jodi Ward. "We just aren't able to recover from our own mistakes and buckle down to win.

"We missed key serves tonight and didn't serve receive very well.

"Against good teams like Hoxie and Hill City, you have to do those things to get a chance to win."

**Next action**

The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball players will travel to Goodland on Tuesday, Sept. 25 to play Goodland, Wheatland and Wray, Colo. Matches will begin at 4:30 p.m.

## C-team volleyball loses three

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The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team played three matches in Smith Center on Monday, Sept. 17.

They lost to Thunder Ridge 16-25, 9-25; lost to Smith Center 9-25, 12-25 and lost to Russell 13-25, 19-25.

"Our passing overall was good but too many missed serves hurt our game," said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"Audrey Morel and Shelby Mulford led the team with two kills each and Lexi Hartwell had four assists."

**Next action**

The Norton C-team will com-

pete this Saturday in the Hill City JV Volleyball Tournament, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Hill City.

Competing teams, in addition to those from Norton and Hill City, will be from Ellis, Plainville, Phillipsburg, Oakley, Osborne and Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays.

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