

Volleyball teams host Smith Center and Trego

By Dick Boyd

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In just their second home appearance this season, the Norton Community High School volleyball teams hosted Smith Center and Trego Community on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym and Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

In varsity competition at the Stull Gym, Norton lost to Smith Center 11-25, 20-25 and lost to Trego 25-15, 21-25, 24-26. In the third match, Smith Center defeated Trego 25-13, 25-13.

"Without a doubt, it was a very disappointing evening," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

"Against Smith Center we didn't pass the ball very well in the first game and, in the second game, we were tied 20-20, didn't even get the ball back over the net and lost.

"Trego was a very exciting match but a match we felt we let slip away. After winning the first game, we let the last two games get away from us. We lost the second game by not serving well and the third game by again making lots of dumb errors down the stretch.

"We are going to keep trying but it gets harder and harder the more of these you lose. Our girls

are just going to have to fight through it the best they can."

Smith Center

Junior Bailey Ambrosier led in kills with 5, followed by senior Bri Karnopp, 2; senior Teslee Nickell, 2; sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 1.

Nickell was assists leader with 7 while junior Johnnye Ruder had 5 assists. Bohl had 2 solo blocks and senior Alec Melvin had 1 block.

Ambrosier led in digs with 3, followed by Karnopp, 2; senior Rachel Slipke, 2; Melvin, 1. Melvin served 2 aces and Karnopp served 1 ace.

Trego Community

Norton had three times as many kills against Trego as against Smith Center. Karnopp was the leader with 11, followed by Ambrosier, 10; Bohl, 4; Nickell, 4; Melvin, 2; Ruder, 1.

In the assists category, Nickell led with 12 while Ruder had 11, Karnopp, Bohl and Melvin, 1 each.

Bohl had 3 blocks, Karnopp had 2 blocks and Melvin had 1 block.

The Lady Jays totaled 23 digs. The leader was Ambrosier with 6, followed by Ruder, 5; Karnopp, 4; Melvin, 4; Slipke, 2; senior Katherine Boteler, 1;

Bohl, 1.

Five different Lady Jays served aces. They were: Melvin, 2; Ruder, Ambrosier, Karnopp, Nickell, 1 each.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost to Smith Center 15-25, 7-25 but defeated Trego 25-12, 20-25, 15-4.

Against Smith Center, freshman Casey Ambrosier and sophomore Morgan Farber each had 1 kill.

Freshman Lauren Mordecai had 1 block. Sophomore Sheridan Dillehay had 2 digs and Farber had 1. Freshman Peyton Renner served 1 ace.

"Smith Center has a good program and a good team," said Norton assistant coach Jodi Ward. "Again, our passing wasn't very good. We had some good attempts at blocking some of their better hitters but we weren't in good position and the ball came down on our side."

In the win over Trego, Renner and Farber each had 2 kills while freshman Kirstin Georgeson and freshman Hanna Brooks each had 1 kill.

Dillehay and Georgeson each had 3 digs and Farber had 2 digs.

Serving 2 aces were sophomore Adrienne Hager and Dille-

hay while Brooks served 1 ace.

"Against Trego, we had better intensity and did better with our fundamentals," said coach Ward. "Our serving was much better and aggressive, which helped us score some much

needed points to get Trego's confidence down."

Next action

Norton hosted Goodland in varsity, junior varsity and C-team volleyball during "Senior Night" on Thursday. The Lady

Jays will compete in the Scott City Varsity Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

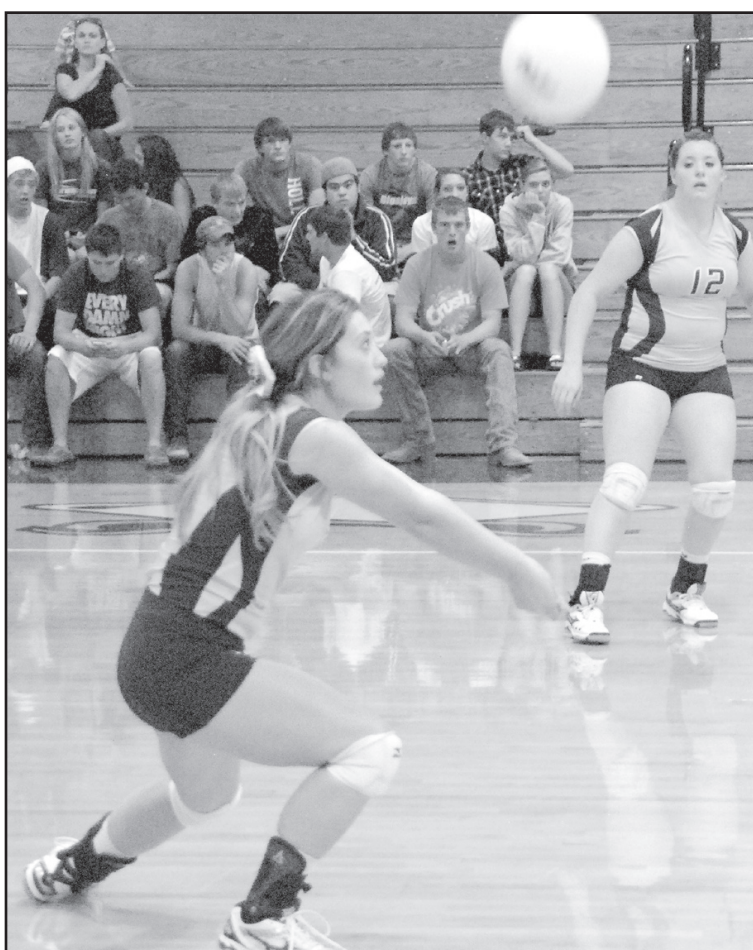
In addition to Norton and Scott City, teams will be competing from Oakley, Wheatland-Grinnell, Holcomb, Leoti, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays and Dodge City.

The tournament format will be two pools with the top two teams from each pool playing for the top four places. Matches will be in the high school and elementary school.

Norton will play in Pool A which will be in the high school. Norton's first match will be versus Wheatland and it will be the second match played. Later in the morning, Norton will play Oakley and Scott City.

Norton junior Johnnye Ruder passes the volleyball as she serve receives during the Lady Jays' match with Trego Community on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton. Also pictured is senior Teslee Nickell, No. 12.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Varsity volleyball team competes in Oberlin Invitational

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team played some of their best matches of the season in the Oberlin Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

They opened play with a 25-8, 25-12 win over St. Francis, were competitive in a 15-25, 22-25 loss to Oberlin and also played well in a 19-25, 25-20, 20-25 loss to Atwood. Their fourth and final match was with Hoxie and it was their poorest showing with a loss of 9-25, 16-25.

"Other than the Hoxie match, our girls played very well," said coach Jilka. "We did a great job in all phases of the game - serving, passing, setting, hitting and blocking. It was by far our best three matches of the year.

"Our intensity level and enthusiasm was great all day and now we want our girls to build on that for the rest of the year.

"These girls have hung in there all year long when things haven't gone quite as we had hoped and we are very proud of their efforts.

"We just have to keep getting better every day at practice and things will turn around."

St Francis

In the win over St. Francis, junior Bailey Ambrosier was kills leader with 6, followed by senior Bri Karnopp, 5; junior Johnnye Ruder, 1; sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 1.

Assists leader was Ruder with

9 while senior Teslee Nickell had 3 and Bohl 1. Ambrosier had 3 solo blocks.

Senior Alec Melvin led in digs with 2 while Ruder had 1. Ambrosier also served 1 ace.

Oberlin

Ambrosier led in kills again with 4, followed by Karnopp, 3; Bohl, 1; Nickell, 1. Ruder was assists leader again with 5, followed by Nickell, 3; Melvin, 1.

Bohl had 1 block. Digs leader was Ambrosier with 3, followed by Ruder, 2; Bohl, 1; Nickell, 1. Ruder served 1 ace.

Atwood

Ambrosier continued to lead in kills with 5 while Karnopp had 1. Once again Ruder led in assists with 4 while Nickell and Melvin each had 1 assist. Bohl and Nickell each had 1 dig.

Hoxie

Ambrosier and Nickell each had 2 kills against Hoxie. Ruder and Nickell each had 2 assists. Ruder, Ambrosier, senior Rachel Slipke and Melvin each had 1 dig.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity was also competitive despite losing three of their four matches. They lost 21-25, 14-25 to Atwood, lost 21-25, 26-28 to Hoxie, lost 23-25, 23-25 to Oberlin and defeated St. Francis 25-9, 25-16.

"Our girls went 1-3 for the day but it could have gone either way against Hoxie and Oberlin," said Norton assistant coach Jodi Ward.

"We can't seem to eliminate mistakes at key moments to

take the win."

Against Atwood, freshman Peyton Renner led kills with 4, followed by sophomore Adrienne Hager, 1; freshman Hanna Brooks, 1; sophomore Morgan Farber, 1.

Hager led assists with 10 while Renner had 2 assists. Digs leader was Farber with 4, followed by freshman Kirstin Georgeson, 3; Renner, 2.

Farber served 6 aces while Renner served 2 and sophomore Sheridan Dillehay 1.

In the close loss to Hoxie, Renner led in kills again with 5, followed by freshman Casey Ambrosier, 4; freshman Lauren Mordecai, 3; Georgeson, 3; Farber, 1.

Again, Hager led in assists with 10, followed by Renner, 7; Mordecai, 2; freshman Nickala O'Hare, 1. Mordecai and Ambrosier each had 1 block.

Farber and O'Hare each had 2 digs and Dillehay had 1 dig.

O'Hare and Renner each served 2 aces.

Versus Oberlin, Georgeson led in kills with 4, followed by Brooks, 3; Ambrosier, 2; Renner, 2; Farber, 1.

Renner was assists leader with 10. Hager had 5 assists and Ambrosier had 1. Brooks and Georgeson each had 1 block.

Renner and Dillehay each had 3 digs while O'Hare and Farber each had 1. Hager, Dillehay, Farber and Georgeson each served 1 ace.

In the win over St. Francis, Renner led in kills with 5, fol-

lowed by Georgeson, 4; Farber, 3; Brooks, 2; Mordecai, 2.

Assists leader was Hager with 8, followed Renner, 4; Brooks, 1; Mordecai, 1; Farber, 1. Dillehay had 2 digs while O'Hare, Renner and Georgeson each

had 1.

Renner served 8 aces, Georgeson 4 and Hager 1.

Next action

Thursday was "Senior Night" for the Lady Jays as they hosted Goodland in varsity, junior

varsity and C team play in the NCHS Stull Gym and Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

They will compete in the Scott City Varsity Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

JV tennis team finishes third in Tribune-Greeley tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team finished third in the Tribune-Greeley JV Round Robin Tournament held in Goodland on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Phillipsburg Blue won the championship with 30 points, followed by Trego, 11; Tribune, 10; Norton, 5; Phillipsburg Gold, 4.

All tennis players for Norton were freshmen. Norton did not have a No.1 singles player.

Audrie Burge and Hailey Branek played No.1 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed third. They lost to Mariah Coomes and Michaela Gower, Phillipsburg, 6-4; lost to Larissa Howard and Elyssa Carr, Trego, 6-5(7-1) and defeated Alex Isernhagen and Danielle Slack, Phillipsburg Gold, 6-5(7-1).

"Audrie and Hailey had a tough day, winning and losing some very close matches," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery. "They need to gain more confidence and stay ahead when they are up and not let the other team come back.

"They lost their first match to Phillipsburg. It was close the entire time but we couldn't get those important points. Then, they played tiebreakers their last two matches. Tiebreakers are good be-

cause they allow us to play under pressure."

Lizzie Smith played No.2 singles and placed fourth. She lost to Taylor Beach, Phillipsburg Blue, 6-0; lost to Annie Aeschliman, Tribune, playing for Trego, 6-0 and lost to Amy Pugh, Phillipsburg Gold, 6-0.

"Lizzie had some tough matches," said coach Montgomery. "The great thing is that she improved throughout the day and that's what I love to see. She was able to get more hits over the net and able to get her serve over more. She started watching the ball more and making contact with the ball."

Freshmen Rachel Jones and Morgan Griffey placed third for Norton in No.2 doubles. They lost to Kinzie Ratliff and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg Blue, 6-0; lost to Shawnee Phillips and Mikayla Cody, Trego, 6-4 and defeated Suzanne Huntley and Lauren Sauer, Phillipsburg Gold, 6-4.

"Rachel and Morgan got off to a slow start," said coach Montgomery. "They picked it up in their second match but lost 6-4. They had opportunities to win but are still very conservative in their play. By their third match, they started hitting the ball better and being a little bit more aggressive. This paid off in a win. They need to play more like they did in their last match and they will be successful."

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