

Volleyball team defeats Plainville at home

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School volleyball team defeated Plainville in two games on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym to advance to the Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Cardinals 25-22, 25-18.

Junior Bailey Ambrosier led Norton in kills with 6, followed by senior Bri Karnopp, 5; sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 4; senior Alec Melvin, 2; junior Johnnye Ruder, 1; senior Teslee Nickell, 1.

Nickell was assists leader with 6 while Ruder had 4 and Ambrosier had 1 assist.

Digs leader was Karnopp with 5, followed by Melvin, 4; Ambrosier, 1; senior Rachel Slipke, 1; Bohl, 1.

Norton served 2 aces while Karnopp and Ambrosier each served 1 ace.

"This was a good win for our

girls," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

"We didn't play well the first game as we had to come from behind but we are very happy we could do that.

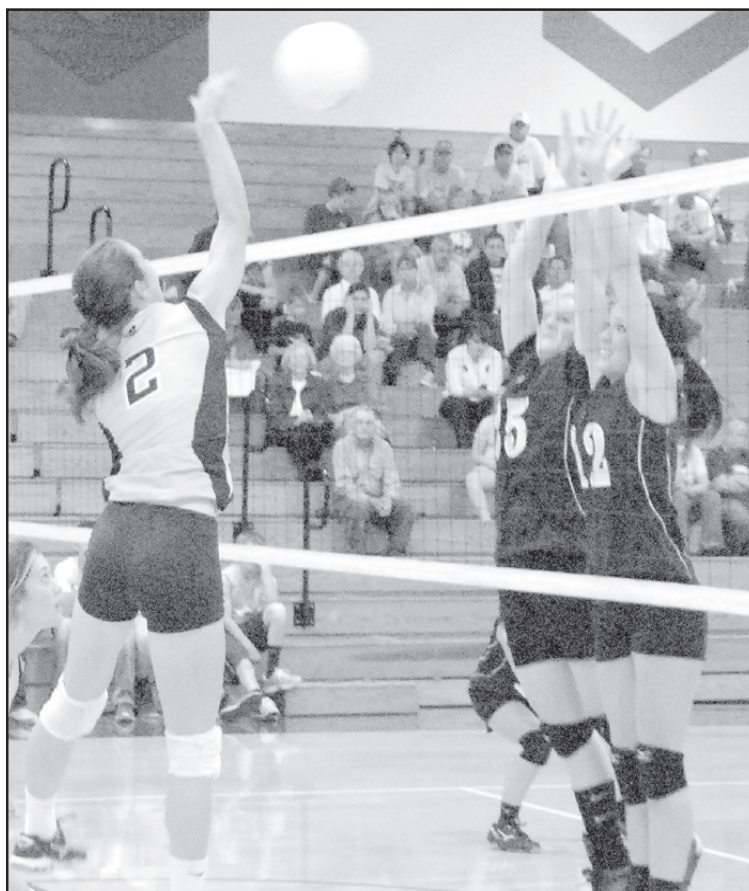
"Our second game was much better as we played much more aggressive and got out to an early lead and then held on for the win to advance to Saturday's league tournament.

"Dumb mistakes are still something we need to fix. Net violations and letting the ball just drop over are two we need to correct by Saturday."

MCL Tournament

The Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday in two gyms in Phillipsburg.

Hill City is seeded No.1 with a 25-2 record, followed by Ellis, 21-5, No.2 seed; Smith Center, 21-7, No.3 seed; Stockton, 15-13, No.4 seed; Phillipsburg, 14-17, No.5 seed; Osborne, 9-17, No.6 seed; Trego Community,



9-18, No.7 seed; Norton, 7-21, No.8 seed.

Two pools will be played. Norton will play in Pool A in the Newlin Gym. Competing in that pool, in addition to Norton, will be Stockton, Phillipsburg and Hill City.

Playing in Pool B in the Auxiliary Gym will be Smith Center, Osborne, Ellis and Trego Community.

In the finals, the winner of each pool will play the runner-up of each pool with the winners playing for the league championship and the losers for

third place.

The schedule in Pool A is: Stockton vs. Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.; Norton vs. Hill City, 10 a.m.; Norton vs. Stockton, 11 a.m.; Hill City vs. Phillipsburg, 12 noon; Norton vs. Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.; Hill City vs. Stockton, 2 p.m.

The Pool B schedule is: Smith Center vs. Osborne, 9 a.m.; Ellis vs. Trego, 10 a.m.; Smith Center vs. Trego, 11 a.m.; Ellis vs. Osborne, 12 noon; Osborne vs. Trego, 1 p.m.; Ellis vs. Smith Center, 2 p.m.

(Left) Norton junior Bailey Ambrosier spikes the volleyball over the outstretched arms of two Trego Community players to score a Blue Jay point during action earlier this season in the NCHS Stull Gym. Both teams will compete Saturday in the annual Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament in Phillipsburg.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

JV football team outscores Hays, 26-18

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team defeated Hays 26-18 and the Blue Jay freshman football team lost a close 16-8 game to Hays on Monday, Oct. 1 at Travis Field in Norton.

The Norton junior varsity scored on their first possession. They drove the length of the field with junior tailback Austin Hager scoring with 6:11 left in the first quarter. No extra points were added and Norton led 6-0.

Hays scored with :03 left in the first period but the Norton defense stopped their extra points try and the score remained 6-6.

Neither team was able to score in the second quarter, leaving the score tied 6-6 at halftime.

Hays took a 12-6 lead with 5:49 left in the third quarter but their extra point kick failed.

Junior Tanner Furbush re-

turned the Indian kickoff over 75 yards for another Blue Jay touchdown! Norton was unable to score extra points and the score was tied again, this time at 12-12.

Hays went to the air and junior defensive lineman Cody Temmel intercepted an Indian pass. With great field position, Norton scored again. Junior fullback Toby Nickell found the end zone with 3:34 left. Tailback Tanner Furbush ran for two extra points and Norton was on top 20-12.

After Norton's kickoff, linebacker Nickell intercepted an Indian pass but the Jays were unable to capitalize. Hays scored another touchdown with 6:56 remaining in the game but the Norton defense stopped their extra points attempt and the Jays still led 20-18.

Not content with a two-point lead, the Norton offense took the kickoff and drove the length of

the field for another touchdown with 5:23 left. Sophomore fullback Stewart Whitney scored on an inside run. The attempt for extra points was stopped but Norton had extended their lead to 26-18.

After the kickoff, the Blue Jay defense held the Indians to four-and-out, then the offense ran the clock out on the ground for the 26-18 victory.

The freshmen contest was held prior to the junior varsity game. Hays kicked off to Norton and held the Jays, forcing them to punt. Hays moved downfield and scored with 6:51 left in the first quarter. They added two points on a pass and led 8-0.

The Indians scored again with 6:50 left in the second quarter, again added two extra points to take a 16-0 lead.

Norton rallied before the half, scoring on a run from freshman tailback Gavin Lively with 2:05 left. A pass from freshman

quarterback Quinton Porter to sophomore tight end Mickey Hahn was good for two extra points, narrowing the Hays lead to 16-8.

The two teams battled on even terms in the second half with neither squad able to score again, leaving the score at 16-8 in favor of the visitors from Hays.

Next action

The Norton junior varsity played at Colby on Monday night.

Volleyball wins against Goodland

By Dick Boyd

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The third time was the charm for the Norton Community High School volleyball team who defeated Goodland for the first time this season on Thursday evening, Oct. 4 in the NCHS Stull Gym.

In two previous meetings this season in Goodland, the Lady Jays had come close but were unable to defeat the Lady Cowgirls. The other scores were 14-25, 22-25 on September 13 and 15-25, 20-25 on September 25.

This time around, they played the best three out of five and no more than three games were needed as the Lady Jays prevailed 25-17, 25-20, 25-21.

It was "Senior Night" and the senior players and their parents were honored. They are: Rachel Slipke, Katherine Boteler, Bri Karnopp, Teslee Nickell and Alec Melvin.

"What a night of volleyball at Stull Gymnasium," said a happy Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "Our girls played awesome tonight!"

"We just did everything so well tonight. It was something we had been waiting for all year. It finally showed up tonight and it couldn't have come at a better time.

"The level of play we displayed was at a high level and we played so hard tonight, especially on the defensive side. We made some outstanding

saves all night.

"Our seniors did an outstanding job and it was well deserved. We've had lots of ups and downs this year but, through it all, they have hung in and stayed after it and we are so proud of them. What a great night for our seniors.

"Hopefully, our team understands what it takes now to play at this level and we hope it continues."

Junior Bailey Ambrosier was kills leader with 11, followed by Karnopp, 5; Melvin, 3; Slipke, 2. Nickell led assists with 12 and was followed by Slipke, Boteler, 3 each; junior Johnnye Ruder, 1; Karnopp, 1. Slipke and Boteler each had 1 block.

Digs leader was Melvin with 8, followed by Boteler, 5; Ambrosier, 4; Slipke, 3; Karnopp, 3; Nickell, 1; Ruder, 1.

Ambrosier and Melvin each served 2 aces and Nickell served 1 ace.

C-team

The Norton C-team also played Goodland and lost 7-25, 24-26, 16-25.

"Our C-team players have shown a lot of improvement this season," said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"They work hard to try to bump, set and spike every time we have the ball on our side.

"We just need to be more consistent with our serves and passing."

Lady Jays compete at Scott City

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School volleyball team competed in the Scott City Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

The Lady Jays opened against Wheatland and lost two close games 23-25, 19-25.

Their second match was versus Oakley, which they won 21-25, 25-21, 25-20.

Norton lost their final match to Scott City by scores of 25-19, 14-25, 12-25.

"We are playing better volleyball right now but are still making just enough mistakes to keep us from that next level," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

"Our serve receive and passing are getting better but we can still improve. Hitting the volleyball for us is getting stron-

ger; we are getting more players involved and that helps.

"The Mid-Continent League Tournament is Saturday but we are going to have to qualify for the tournament by defeating Plainville at home on Thursday so we hope our girls will be ready."

Wheatland

Against Wheatland, junior Bailey Ambrosier led in kills with 5, followed by senior Bri Karnopp, 2; senior Teslee Nickell, 2; senior Alec Melvin, 1. Nickell was assists leader with 4 while senior Katherine Boteler had 3 and sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 1.

Ambrosier had 1 block and also had 4 digs. Melvin served 3 aces and Boteler served 1 ace.

Oakley

In the victory over Oakley, Ambrosier led again, this time with 15 kills.

She was followed by Karnopp, 6; junior Johnnye Ruder, Bohl, Nickell, Melvin, 2 each.

Nickell was assists leader again with 12, followed by Ruder, 7; Boteler, 2; Karnopp, 1. Ambrosier and Bohl each had 1 block.

Ambrosier had 2 digs while senior Rachel Slipke and Karnopp each had 1 dig.

Karnopp served 4 aces and Ruder served 1 ace.

Scott City

Ambrosier continued to lead the team in kills with 12, followed by Karnopp, 7; Bohl, 2; Nickell, 1.

Again, Nickell led in assists with 7 while Ruder had 3 and Bohl had 1.

Bohl had 4 blocks and Ambrosier had 1. Ruder had 1 dig.

Serving aces were Ruder and Ambrosier with 1 each.

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