

Lady Jay is runner-up in State tennis tourney

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School senior Tawni Griffey completed an outstanding high school career in tennis with a runner-up finish in the Class 3A State Tennis Tournament played in Hutchinson.

Since moving to Norton her sophomore year in high school, Tawni won the state tennis championship her first time around and placed runner-up her junior and senior year.

Her record in the three years was an impressive 95-2 with her only two losses to the same young lady from Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian, Sara Goodwin, in the championship finals.

Due to rainy weather, the state tournament, which was played at Hutchinson Trinity High School, was delayed from last Friday and Saturday to Sunday and Monday, Oct. 14-15.

Tawni played Sara in the finals on Monday after both players had breezed through the early competition.

"Like Tawni, Sara had no losses and had won all her

preliminary matches 6-0, 6-0, winning without losing any games," said Norton head tennis coach Jim Green.

"The finals were exciting to watch with lots of hard hitting and angled shots. There were a number of volleys at the net, along with quick hitting exchanges between the two players up at the net. Both girls played very well.

"At the end of the match, Sara was the winner 6-1, 6-3. Tawni was the only player in the tournament to win any games against Sara and the only player to give Sara some tough competition.

"Tawni has had a great career playing tennis, three times finishing high in the state tournament. She will definitely be missed as a player but mostly as the wonderful person that she is."

Rain delay

The rain began as the seeding meeting got underway on Friday morning. Sara Goodwin was seeded No.1 and Tawni was seeded No.2. Start of play was delayed because the courts were wet.

The top two seeds don't play until the second round so Tawni waited to play the winner of the Jen Stallbaumer of Sabetha and Cece Robinson of Conway Springs match. Stallbaumer won 6-2, 6-2.

"Tawni played extremely well against Stallbaumer, winning the first set 6-0," said coach Green. "In the second set, Tawni was up 4-0 and the score was 30-30 when the rain came pouring down. It was decided to wait for the rain to stop and see if the courts would be playable. The delay was extended and the weather remained overcast with no wind to dry out the course.

"More rain was showing on the radar. After a long discussion, it was decided to suspend play. Then it was decided that the tournament would be restarted on Sunday at noon and completed on Monday.

"On Sunday, Tawni's match with Stallbaumer was continued from where they had ended on Friday. Tawni closed out the match, winning 6-0, 6-0.

"In the third round, Tawni was up against Cara Anderson, Wichita Independent. "Cara was



Norton senior Tawni Griffey returns the tennis ball during one of her matches in the Mid-Continent League Tennis Tournament held Saturday, Sept. 29 in Phillipsburg. Tawni shutout all of her opponents in the tournament and continued on to win Regional competition and place runner-up in the Class 3A State Tennis Tournament in Hutchinson.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the third place finisher from the Neodesha Regional. Tawni was on top of her game and playing well. Cara was making good returns and played better as the match progressed. Tawni won again, this time 6-0, 6-1.

"This match completed the third round, which left the semi-

finals and finals for Monday.

"On Monday, we waited for matches on the backside of the bracket to be completed. Tawni was on against Dani Schwarz of Marysville, who finished first in the Hillsboro Regional. Schwarz was a very consistent player and created some problems for

Tawni. Schwarz is one of those players who just keeps hitting the ball back and relies on her opponent's mistakes. Tawni being the excellent player that she is won 6-3, 6-2, moving her into the tough finals against Sara Goodwin, who was winner of the Neodesha Regional."

Huskies win over the Stockton Tigers last week

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Huskies griders improved their record to 6-1 this season after soundly beating the Stockton Tigers, 64-14, on Friday, Oct. 12 in Alma.

The Tigers scored first with a six yard touchdown pass from Koby Beougher to Jaden Williams at 4:19 in the first quarter, 6-0 Tigers.

A little more than two minutes later, Huskies junior running back Jordan Baird scored from the 20 yard line. Baird ran in for the conversion as well, 8-6 Huskies.

In the second quarter the Tigers' Beougher cut through the Huskies defense for a 64 yard touchdown run. Beougher passed to Lowry for

the conversion and the Tigers regained the lead, 14-8.

Junior quarterback Hunter Chandler capped the Huskies next drive with a one yard touchdown plunge and rushed for the 2-point conversion, Huskies on top 16-14.

The Huskies closed out the first half with another Baird touchdown, scoring from 17 yards out and giving the Huskies an eight point lead going into halftime, 22-14.

In the second half, the Huskies took control, scoring six unanswered touchdowns.

Beginning of the third quarter, the Huskies defense forced the Tigers to punt and Baird made them pay, taking it the distance, 41 yards for the score. Phillip Bryant rushed for the conversion, 30-14 Huskies.

The Huskies then went to the ground game. Baird blazed through the Tigers defense for a 60 yard touchdown run. Chandler added the 2-point conversion, 38-14 Huskies.

Chandler finished off another Huskies drive with a one yard dive into the end zone giving the Huskies a 30 point lead, 44-14.

Beginning of the fourth quarter, Chandler tacked on a 12 yard touchdown run and it was 50-14 Huskies.

One minute and 15 seconds later Chandler found his way into the end zone again. The six yard run and Chandler's pass to sophomore Clint Cole for the 2-point conversion increased the Huskies lead to 44 points, 58-14.

Sophomore running back

Phillip Bryant ended the contest with a three yard touchdown run at 7:06 remaining in the fourth quarter. Bryant's touchdown gave the Huskies a 50 point lead and a 64-14 win over the Stockton Tigers.

Juniors, Baird and Chandler, led the Huskies offensive assault. Baird rushed 20 times for 161 yards, an 8.1 yards per carry average and four touchdowns. Chandler had 26 rushes for 180 yards, a 6.9 yards per carry average and four touchdowns. Bryant added 44 yards on 13 carries, a 3.4 yards per carry average and one touchdown.

Defensively, Bryant had a big game with 10 tackles and nine assists. Senior Tyson Callaway had eight tackles and six assists and junior Ian Vincent contributed with five tackles

and seven assists.

"We played a pretty solid game on defense. We gave up one long run on a broken play. Other than that we held them to 36 yards rushing. Our defensive line did a good job. Particularly Phillip Bryant at nose guard," said Huskies head coach Chuck Fessenden.

The Huskies racked up 385 yards rushing on the Tigers defense, but completed only one pass on four attempts for three yards.

"We moved the ball well on

the ground again this week. Our line had to do a little adjusting but once we did the ground game clicked," said Fessenden.

"We still need to do a better job in the passing game. This is something we will need to focus on this week. Our last district game is next week against the defending state champion Thunder Ridge Longhorns," said Fessenden.

Northern Valley will travel to Kensington to take on Thunder Ridge tonight and play at 7 p.m.

Lady Jays to compete in Sub-State

Norton senior Teslee Nickell, No.12, digs the ball to the setter during Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament action last Saturday in Phillipsburg. From left, senior Bri Karnopp, No.6 and senior Alec Melvin, No.14.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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The Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team will compete Saturday in the Class 3A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament at Southeast of Saline High School in Gypsum.

Matches will begin at 2 p.m. Norton (8-24) is seeded No.8 and will play No.1 seed Gypsum-Southeast of Saline

(26-8).

The other match in the top of the eight-team bracket will feature No.4 seed Phillipsburg (19-19) versus No.5 seed Minneapolis (14-17).

In the bottom half of the bracket, No.2 seed Ellsworth (23-10) will play No.7 seed Beloit (8-21) and No.3 seed Salina Sacred Heart (21-13) will play No.6 seed Riley County (15-20).

Top bracket winners will play in the semi-finals and bottom bracket winners will also play each other in the semi-finals.

Winners of these matches will play for the championship and a trip to the Class 3A State Tournament the next weekend, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26-27 in the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

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