

Lady Storm wins championship at Russell

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Lady Storm Fast Pitch Softball Team played an underdog role after the first day and was equal to the occasion to win the championship of the Russell Tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

After losing 3-2 to Colby, 7-6 to the Great Bend Rebels and 15-6 to the Hoisington Heat on Saturday, the Lady Storm outscored Russell, 9-1; avenged the loss to the Heat by an 8-2 score and shutout the Rebels 5-0 to win the championship on Sunday.

"We played a lot of girls in a lot of positions on Saturday," said team manager Darin Campbell. "We have 14 girls on the roster and wanted to give all of them a chance to play on Saturday. "We did not change the lineup much on Sunday. We really came together as a team. We had a tremendous effort on both offense and defense. We were really hustling hard."

Colby 3, Norton 2

In the opener versus Colby, the Lady Eagles led 2-1 after two innings. Norton's run came in the second stanza when Amy Foster tripled and scored.

Norton tied the score at 2-all in the third inning when Ashley Martinez walked, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored.

Colby pushed across the winning run in the sixth inning when Gonzales got on base via an error and made it around the bases due to Norton errors.

Kryski was the winning pitcher. She allowed just four Norton hits, walked three batters and struck out six.

Foster was the losing pitcher, despite allowing just one hit, striking out 10 batters and walking two.

Leading hitter for Norton was Tiffany Long, who singled twice in three times at bat

Rebels 7, Norton 6

Against the Great Bend Rebels, Norton trailed 3-1 after one inning. Norton's run came when Courtney LeClair singled and Chantille Campbell doubled her home.

The Lady Storm took a 4-3 lead in the third inning. Courtney LeClair walked, Kayla Foley doubled, Campbell walked and Foster doubled. LeClair, Foley and Campbell all scored.

In the top of the fifth, the Lady Storm extended their lead to 6-3. Campbell walked, Foster doubled and both tallied.

In the bottom of the fifth, Great



Norton Lady Storm pitcher Amy Foster releases a pitch during the Russell Tournament last weekend. Foster pitched two one-hitters on Sunday to help Norton win the tourney cham-

pickionship. Foster was also the leading hitter for Norton during the two-day tourney. The Norton catcher was Tiffany Long.

Bend scored two runs to cut the Norton advantage to 6-5. With two outs, the Rebels scored two more runs to win 7-6.

Norton had nine hits in the game. Leading hitter was Foster, who doubled twice in three times up.

Courtney LeClair was the losing pitcher. She walked seven batters, allowed five hits and struck out two.

Heat 15, Norton 6

In the third game on Saturday, Norton Lady Storm trailed the Hoisington Heat 6-3 after the first inning. Norton's three runs came in the bottom of the first when Danielle LeClair got on base via an error, Foley doubled, Campbell got on base via an error and Foster singled. LeClair, Foley and Campbell scored.

In the top of the third, the Heat scored another run to make it 7-3 but Norton narrowed the gap to

make it a 7-6 game. Danielle LeClair, Foster, Kylie Cooper and Lacey Roe all singled. LeClair, Foster and Cooper all scored.

Norton was unable to score again and Hoisington added two more runs in the fourth inning and six more in the fifth to win 15-6.

Norton had eight hits in the game. Foster and Cooper each singled twice out of three times at bat.

Losing pitcher was Courtney LeClair. She gave up 11 hits, walked two batters and struck out four.

Norton 9, Russell 1

With the worst record in their pool on Saturday, Norton had to play the team with the best record in the other pool on Sunday and that team was Russell.

Norton scored enough runs in the bottom of the first inning to win the game. Long, Danielle LeClair,

Foley and Campbell all singled and Long and Foley scored to make it 2-0.

In the bottom of the third stanza, Norton added three more runs to make it 5-0. Danielle LeClair singled, Foley got on base via an error, Foster, Cooper and Thea Wiseman all singled. Foley, Foster and Cooper all scored.

Russell scored their only run of the game in the top of the fourth. The Lady Storm clinched the victory by scoring four more runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it a 9-1 contest. Karlie Boyd singled, Long got on base via an error, Danielle LeClair singled, Foley and Campbell both got on base with a fielder's choice and Foster doubled. Long, LeClair, Foley and Campbell all scored.

Norton batters had 14 hits with only three strike outs. Danielle LeClair was leading hitter, going a perfect 3-3 at the plate. Boyd, Long, Foster and Cooper each

went 2-3 with the bat.

Carter was the losing pitcher.

Foster was the winning hurler. She allowed just one hit in the game. Foster faced just 19 batters in five innings and struck out 11. She had no walks.

"Foster did a tremendous job of pitching," said Campbell. "We had a solid defense and offense. Our girls definitely came to win and had a lot of fun doing it."

Norton 8, Heat 2

In their second game on Sunday, the Lady Storm avenged Saturday's loss to the Hoisington Heat with an impressive 8-2 victory.

Norton took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Boyd led off with a walk, Long was hit by a pitch and walked, Danielle LeClair got on base via an error, Campbell walked and Foster singled. Long, LeClair and Campbell all scored.

Three more runs by Norton in

the bottom of the second extended their lead to 6-0. Lacey Roe walked, Boyd was hit by a pitch and advanced to first, Long got on base with a fielder's choice and Foley singled. Roe, Boyd and Long all scored.

The Heat's only two runs came in the top of the third inning to make it a 6-2 contest. Norton scored a lone run in the bottom of the inning to make the score 7-2. Foster doubled and Courtney LeClair singled and Foster tallied.

The Lady Storm's final tally came in the bottom of the fourth when Danielle LeClair got on base via an error and scored to make the final 8-2.

Winning pitcher was Courtney LeClair. She gave up just four hits, struck out seven batters and walked two.

Norton had five hits. Leading hitter was Foster, who had a double and single in three times at the plate.

"Courtney pitched wonderful," said Campbell. "Our defense played really well again; we didn't have many errors."

Norton 5, Rebels 0

The Lady Storm took charge early of the championship game with the Great Bend Rebels who had edged them 7-6 on Saturday. Norton scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning and played great defense to shutout the Rebels the entire game.

The Lady Storm had just five hits in the game but four of them came in the five run first inning. Danielle LeClair got on base via an error, Foley singled, Campbell walked, Foster, Cooper and Wiseman all singled. LeClair, Foley, Campbell, Foster and Cooper all scored.

Foster was the winning pitcher; she hurled a one-hitter. Foster struck out 10 batters and walked just two. She pitched to just 27 batters in seven innings.

Foster was also the leading hitter for the Lady Storm. She had two singles in three times at bat.

"Foster pitched awesome," said Campbell. "We had a tremendous effort on both offense and defense to win the championship."

"We are all really proud of our girls and how well they played Sunday after completing pool play with a losing record."

Next action

The Lady Storm will compete in the Colby Tournament this Saturday and Sunday. They will play games at 9 a.m., 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.



Norton Lady Storm third baseman Lacey Roe fires the softball to first after fielding a grounder hit to her during Norton's championship play in the Russell Fast Pitch Softball Tournament last weekend. At shortstop is Karlie Boyd.

- Courtesy photo by Lori Roe

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