



Norton junior Antjelica Pfannenstiel spikes the ball over two Stockton players for a point during the Lady Jays' win over the Lady Tigers in the Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Hill City. Pfannenstiel had six kills in the match.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton junior finishes runner-up in state tennis

By Dick Boyd

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Norton Community High School junior Tawni Griffey had her first loss of the season in the finals of the Class 3A State Tennis Tournament in Dodge City on Saturday to finish runner-up in singles.

Tawni, the returning Class 3A state singles champion after an undefeated sophomore season, finished the year 30-1.

"Tawni had a great State Tournament and played a great match in the finals," said Norton head tennis coach Jim Green. "The State Tennis Tournament starts with a seeding meeting and Tawni was awarded the number one seed. She had a difficult road into the finals. In the first round on Friday, she played the eventual sixth place finisher. In the quarterfinals, she met the eventual fifth place finisher and in the semifinals she played the eventual fourth place finisher. All of these players were talented and accomplished players. With only six singles players qualifying from each of the four regionals, only the very best players make it to the State Tournament."

In her first match on Friday, Tawni played Meggie Hall of Sabetha. Meggie is a senior who had a 19-5 season record entering the tournament. "She liked to hit a short shot and come back with a lob or hard passing shot," said coach Green. Tawni defeated her 6-1, 6-1.

Tawni's second match on Friday was versus senior Miranda Erisman from Shawnee-Marathana Academy. Miranda finished third in her regional tournament. "Miranda is a very

accomplished tennis player with heavy topspin strokes both forehand and backhand," said coach Green. "This was a difficult match to win and much closer than the 6-0, 6-2 score might indicate. Tawni played great and this was a big win that put her into the semifinals."

The semifinals began at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Tawni's opponent was junior Dani Schwartz from Marysville. Dani entered the state tournament with a 26-9 record. "Dani is one of those tennis players who is very consistent and can return every shot that comes over the net," said coach Green. "Again, Tawni was up to the challenge and won the match 6-2, 6-0. Tawni raises her level of play to match her opponent and meets every change of style."

The state finals match between Tawni and Sara Goodwin of Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian began shortly after 11 a.m. Sara entered the tournament with a record of 19-1. Her only loss was her first match of the season to M. Hill of Washburn Rural.

"The championship match was very close with many exciting points," said coach Green. "Most of the spectators seemed to be pulling for Tawni to win."

"In the first set, Tawni came from behind to tie it up and send the set into a tiebreaker. Sara got ahead early in the tiebreaker and won the first set."

"In the second set, Tawni jumped out to lead the set 5-2. It looked like Tawni would win the second set and send it to a third and final set. Sara came roaring back and the set was tied at 6-6 and forced another

tiebreaker. Sara won the first six points of the tiebreaker and only needed one more point to win the match. Tawni dug deep and ran off five straight points. Sara won the next point and the match.

"It was a very close match and could have gone either way."

"I am extremely proud of the way Tawni played and the way she conducted herself during the match and afterwards. She is definitely an outstanding competitor and person."

"Sara's coach commented after the match what a good player Tawni was and that no one had ever played Sara that close. Tawni's season was a tremendous accomplishment."

Ellinwood won the state championship with 30.5 points. Conway Springs was runner-up with 29 and Wichita Independent third with 28. Norton was seventh with 16, Trego tied for ninth with 11 points. Tribune had 4.5 points, Beloit had 4, Osborne had 1 and Phillipsburg .5 of a point.

Area players' finishes

Placing 11th in the state tournament was Shelbi Wiles, Beloit, who was seeded No.2 in Tawni's regional tournament in WaKeeney and finished runner-up to Tawni in the regional.

In state doubles competition, Amelia Fabrizio and Leah Flax of Trego Community placed fifth. They were the champions of the WaKeeney regional tournament.

Kelcy Crittenden and Courtney Nemecek of Tribune, who placed runner-up in the WaKeeney regional, finished 11th in the state tournament.

Lady Jays compete at MCL Tournament

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team competed in the very tough Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Hill City.

The fact that three of the MCL teams are state ranked demonstrates just how tough the tournament was. Smith Center is ranked No.1 in Class 2A and Hill City is ranked No.3. Phillipsburg is ranked No.3 in Class 3A.

Hill City was seeded No.1, followed by Smith Center, Phillipsburg, Osborne, Ellis, Stockton, Norton, Plainville, Trego.

Norton had Smith Center, Phillipsburg and Stockton in their pool.

The Lady Jays played Smith Center first and lost 14-25, 16-25. Next, they played Phillipsburg and lost 16-25, 18-25.

In their final match, Norton defeated Stockton 25-18, 19-25, 25-16.

Phillipsburg won the championship by defeating Smith Center 25-21, 21-25, 25-21.

SMITH CENTER

"We did not serve receive very well at all and just gave them too many easy points," said coach Jilka.

"Our confidence level against those really good teams just isn't there and we need to overcome that and believe we can play with those caliber of teams."

Senior Erin Terrell led Norton in kills with 8, followed by senior Caren Thomson and junior Antjelica Pfannenstiel, 1 each.

Assists leader was junior Tawnee Nickell with 4, followed by sophomore Johnnie Ruder, 2; sophomore Bailey Ambrosier, 1.

Nickell had 1 block.

Junior Alec Melvin was digs leader with 5, followed by Thomson, 4; Nickell, 4; Ambrosier, 3; Terrell, 2; senior Mariah Farber, Ruder, senior Kylie Nuzum, Pfannenstiel, 1 each.

Ruder and Thomson each served 1 ace.

PHILLIPSBURG

"Against Phillipsburg, we played somewhat better, especially the second game, but again we failed to get key points when we needed them," said coach Jilka. "You can't do that against a really good team like Phillipsburg."

Terrell was kills leader again, this time with 9. She was followed by Thomson and Pfannenstiel, each with 4 kills.

Ruder led in assists with 10, followed by Nickell, 5; Ambrosier, 1.

Ambrosier had 2 blocks and Nickell had 1.

Farber, Thomson and Terrell each had 5 digs, followed by Melvin, 4; Pfannenstiel, 4; Ruder, Nickell, 2 each.

Ruder and Thomson each had 1 serving ace.

STOCKTON

"We played really well against Stockton in games one and three but slipped up in game two," said coach Jilka. "But, we did enough to get the win. Again, we did not play very consistently but did enough to beat Stockton."

Terrell led in kills with 19, followed by Pfannenstiel, 6; Thomson, 2; Melvin, 2; Nickell, 1.

Assists leader was Nickell with 16, followed by Ruder, 7; Ambrosier, Pfannenstiel, 1 each.

Ambrosier, Thomson and Pfannenstiel each had 1 block.

Terrell was digs leader with 8, followed by Thomson, 5;

Melvin, 5; Nickell, 5; Ruder, 4; Pfannenstiel, 3; junior Juliana Miller, 2; Farber, 2; Ambrosier, 2; Nuzum, 2.

Nickell served 3 aces and Thomson served 1 ace.

Overall comments

"We just didn't play very well all day," said coach Jilka. "Our intensity and enthusiasm throughout the day just wasn't where it needed to be for this tournament. Hopefully, our players understand what we need to do to get better."

"We go to Goodland on Tuesday for a triangular with Goodland and Ulysses and then will play in the Sub-State Tournament at Goodland on Saturday so our season is possibly coming to a close this week if we don't play like we can."

Next action

The triangular at Goodland today will begin at 5 p.m. with the Goodland vs. Ulysses match. It will be followed at 6 p.m. by the Norton vs. Ulysses match and the Goodland vs. Norton match is scheduled to begin around 7 p.m.

Junior varsity matches will also be played.

Norton will return to Goodland this Saturday to compete in the Class 3A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament, which will begin at 2 p.m.

Matches will be played in the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Goodland, will be teams from Cimarron, Holcomb, Southwestern Heights, Lakin, Phillipsburg and Scott City.

Seedings will take place on Wednesday of this week.

It will be a single elimination tournament with the champion earning a spot in the State Volleyball Tournament.

Girls cross country team edged out for Lakeside Invitational championship

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls cross country team finished runner-up and his boys placed fourth in the very competitive Lakeside Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday in Downs.

Sacred Heart edged Norton for the girls championship. They scored 59 points and Norton tallied 60. In third place was Southeast of Saline with 78, followed by Lincoln, 104; Minneapolis, 153; Pike Valley, 155; Belleville, 157; Oberlin, 170; Ellsworth, 209.

The boys champion was Pike Valley with 81 points, followed by Belleville, 93; Sacred Heart, 99; Norton, 106; Southeast of Saline, 136; Oberlin, 152; Beloit, 174; Lincoln, 202; Minneapolis, 204; Phillipsburg, 244.

GIRLS

Sophomore Katelyn Engelbert was first home for the Lady Jays with a fifth place finish in a time of 16:39. Freshman Sierra Griffith came next for Norton with a tenth place and personal best time of 17:02. Third best for Norton was right on Griffith's heels. Sophomore Darcy Bainter placed 11th in 17:03.

Lady Jay sophomore Marisa Maddy was 17th in 17:38 and junior Julia Kent made up the five-girl team for Norton with a 24th place in 18:08.

Also running for Norton and their places and times were: junior Kamilla Jones, 32nd, 18:45; freshman Jesika Smith, 38th, 19:16.

Junior Steph Hager placed fifth in the junior varsity race with a clocking of 20:30.

"We ran a very good first half of the race in a very tight pack and then we fell apart in the second half," said coach Rossi. "Sacred Heart was able to keep their team together and that was pretty much the difference in the championship. Just one of our girls passing anyone in front of them would have been a dif-

ference maker.

"I am pleased, however, with our girls overall. Sierra Griffith stepped up in a big way and I think her race should prove to her that she is a quality runner and that she can do this all the time."

"Now, how we handle this loss can be a great motivator and I really hope that our girls use this for motivation next week and the week after."

The top ten finishers in the race were: Jenna Farris, Lincoln, 15:48, first; Anna Trahan, Minneapolis, 16:00, runner-up; Eileen Mick, Osborne, 16:21, third; Emma Huskey, Lincoln, 16:34, fourth; Katelyn Engelbert, Norton, 16:39, fifth; Courtney Freed, Pike Valley, 16:56, sixth; Emily Starr, Southeast of Saline, 16:57, seventh; Tracie Thibault, Sacred Heart, 16:58, eighth; Kate Schieferecke, Sacred Heart, 17:01, ninth; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 17:02, tenth.

BOYS

Senior Zach Hartwell was Norton's fastest runner with a seventh place finish in 17:52. He was followed by sophomore Marc Miller, eighth, 18:29; sophomore Alec Hager, 17th, 18:57; junior John Renner, 42nd, 20:03 and freshman Dalton Vanover, 43rd, 20:04 to round out the five team scorers.

Also running for Norton was junior Ryan Bainter who placed 72nd with a clocking of 21:27.

Running in the junior varsity race for Norton were: senior Eric Becker, 20th, 22:55; sophomore Chris Chambers, 27th, 23:32; sophomore Garret Otter, 36th, 24:37; freshman David Smith, 38th, 24:50.

"Our boys ran a good race overall," said coach Rossi. "The difference between us and the second place team was only 13 points and we were without our number two runner Bryan Henry. Marc Miller was the one who ran into the number two spot, finishing a great overall race in eighth place."

Alec Hager also improved

his time from last year on this course. Hopefully, we can get Bryan back and Marc and Alec will keep improving and then if Dalton or John can make a move, we will be tough to beat.

"This was a very quality race with a good number of top runners in the state and Zach and Marc were both in there."

"It is not going to be easy for us to make it to state because our regional is tough but our boys want it bad. They will put all on the line next week."

The top ten finishers in the race were: Cory Donley, Sacred Heart, 16:53, first; Gunnar Hays, Northern Valley, 17:14, runner-up; Tyler Shields, Oberlin, 17:18, third; Alex Conn, Beloit, 17:27, fourth; Caden Callaway, Pike Valley, 17:33, fifth; Trenton Kuhlman, Belleville, 17:48, sixth; Zach Hartwell, Norton, 17:54, seventh; Marc Miller, Norton, 18:29, eighth; Tanner Finney, Beloit, 18:33, ninth; Brandon Zenger, Belleville, 18:35, tenth.

Jon Compton of Northern Valley also placed 30th with a time of 19:35.

Next action

Norton will next compete in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet this Saturday at the golf course in Cimarron.

In addition to Norton and Cimarron, teams will compete from Beloit, Goodland, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Holcomb, Southwestern Heights, Lakin, Lyons, Minneapolis, Phillipsburg, Russell and Scott City.

The girls race will begin at 3 p.m. and the boys race at 3:30 p.m.

The three top teams from each regional will qualify for the State Meet in Lawrence. The top ten runners medal and qualify for the State Meet.

The top five individuals from non-qualifying teams will also qualify for the State Meet if not in the top ten.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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