

# Norton Volleyball finishes season, looks to improve

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School volleyball team has completed their 2011 season. The Lady Jays were very competitive and continued to improve under first year head coach Kevin Jilka.

Norton's schedule included some of the top teams in the state of Kansas.

"We finished at 13-19 and improved during the season but felt like we left some wins out there," said coach Jilka.

"Our serving was at 89 percent for the year, which needs to improve next season."

"As we go into next year, we lose four great seniors but, on the positive side, we return four starters and several other girls who saw varsity action so we have a chance to improve even more next year."

"To do this, our players are going to have to get in the weight room and work even harder on their game."

## Season review

Norton opened the season on Friday, Aug. 26 in Alma with wins over Lakeside 25-17, 25-10; Plainville 25-18, 25-19 and Northern Valley 25-20, 21-25, 25-17.

"It was a great start of the season for us," said coach Jilka. "Our girls played hard and hustled all night long."

The Lady Jays traveled to Osborne on Tuesday, Aug. 30. They defeated Osborne 17-25, 25-17, 25-18 but lost for the first time when Colby outscored them 14-25, 19-25.

The Lady Jays hosted Northern Valley and Phillipsburg on

Tuesday, Sept. 6 in the Stull Gym in Norton. Norton outscored Northern Valley 25-18, 25-13 but lost to state-ranked Phillipsburg 12-25, 20-25.

"I was proud of the way our girls played but we need to eliminate unforced errors," said coach Jilka.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, Norton hosted Goodland in a best 3 out of 5 match and lost 25-27, 25-19, 20-25, 22-25.

The Lady Jays had their best performance when they hosted No.1 state ranked Hill City and Hoxie. Norton played Hoxie first and lost 15-25, 25-20, 21-25, then Hill City defeated Hoxie. In the final match of the night, the Lady Jays handed Hill City their first loss of the season by scores of 25-23, 24-26, 25-22.

"We had quite a match with Hill City," said coach Jilka. "All three games were nail biters but, in the end, our girls found a way to win."

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, Norton traveled to Colby where they lost to the Lady Eagles 25-23, 14-25, 15-25 and lost to Atwood 19-25, 25-17, 20-25.

Norton competed on Thursday, Sept. 29 in the Hays Quadrangular. The Lady Jays lost to Hays 20-25, 21-25; lost to Abilene 11-25, 7-25, and lost to Salina South 19-25, 19-25. "We need to work on consistency," said coach Jilka following the quadrangular.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, Norton competed in the Decatur Invitational in Oberlin. They opened with a win over St. Francis 25-17, 16-25, 25-15 before losing to No.3 state ranked Oberlin 21-25, 22-25. Next, they lost to

Atwood 17-25, 26-24, 21-25. In their final match they avenged their earlier loss to Hoxie with an 18-25, 25-21, 25-17 win over the Lady Indians.

Norton traveled to Smith Center on Tuesday, Oct. 4. The Lady Jays defeated Trego Community 25-21, 25-18 before facing No.1 state ranked Smith Center and losing 10-25, 10-25.

On Saturday, Oct. 8, Norton competed in the Scott City Invitational. The Lady Jays opened with a 21-25, 26-24, 25-20 win over Holcomb before losing to Oakley 19-25, 17-25 and to Wheatland/Grinnell 26-28, 21-25.

Tuesday, Oct. 11 was "Senior Night" for Norton as the Lady Jays hosted Golden Plains and Logan. Honored along with their parents were senior players Mariah Farber, Kylie Nuzum, Caren Thomson and Erin Terrell and senior manager Alyssa Boser.

The Lady Jays defeated Golden Plains 25-18, 25-14 before outscoring an outstanding Logan squad 27-25, 26-24. Logan had been state ranked earlier. "I'm so proud of the way our girls played," said coach Jilka. "It's the hardest we've played all year long."

The Mid-Continent League Volleyball Tournament was held on Saturday, Oct. 15 in Hill City. The competition was tough as Norton lost to state ranked Smith Center 14-25, 16-25 and to state ranked Phillipsburg 16-25, 18-25 before defeating Stockton 25-18, 19-25, 25-16.

Phillipsburg defeated Smith Center for the league

championship.

Norton traveled to Goodland on Tuesday, Oct. 18. The Lady Jays lost to Ulysses 12-25, 25-23, 14-25 and lost to Goodland 25-16, 21-25, 24-26.

Sub-State Tournament action was held on Saturday, Oct. 22 in Goodland and it was single elimination. Norton played No.3 state ranked Phillipsburg in the first round and lost 10-25, 10-25 to end the Lady Jays' season.

Phillipsburg won the tournament and continued on to the Class 3A state tournament where they placed third. In Class 2A, Smith Center advanced to state competition and placed third. Logan also won their Sub-State title and placed fourth in the state in Class 1A-II.

Erin Terrell was voted by league coaches to the All-Mid-Continent League second team after receiving honorable mention the previous two seasons. Erin was also chosen to play this Sunday in the All-Star Volleyball Classic in Colby.

## Season statistics

Erin Terrell was the team leader in kills with 440 for the year, followed by Caren Thomson, 65; junior Alec Melvin, 49; junior Teslee Nickell, 48; junior Antjelica Pfannenstiel, 47; sophomore Bailey Ambrosier, 35; sophomore Johnnye Ruder, 25; junior Juliana Miller, 1; junior Bri Karnopp, 1.

Ambrosier was the solo blocks leader with 13, followed by Terrell, 7; Thomson, 6; Pfannenstiel, 5; Nickell, 3; Ruder, 1; Melvin, 1.

Leading in serving aces was Nickell with 34, followed by Ruder, 29; Melvin, 27; Mariah



Norton sophomore Bailey Ambrosier, No.5, goes high to block a scoring attempt by Logan sophomore Michaela Girard, No. 16, during volleyball action in the Stull Gym in Norton on Tues., October 11. In the background also ready for a defensive play are, from left, sophomore Johnnye Ruder, No.4; junior Teslee Nickell, No. 12 and junior Alec Melvin, No. 11.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Farber, 25; Terrell, 25; Thomson, 6; Pfannenstiel, 5.

Digs leaders were Thomson with 132 and Terrell with 118, followed by Melvin, 85; Ruder, 77; Nickell, 57; Nuzum, 43; Farber, 39; Ambrosier, 39; Thomson, 10; Terrell, 7; Melvin, 2.

# Superintendent inducted into Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame

By Dick Boyd

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Norton USD 211 Superintendent Greg Mann was inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame as a contributor during the 41st annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Ramada Inn in Salina.

Also honored as Assistant Coaches of the Year were Doug Ray, Shane Miller and Tony Fiscus, assistant coaches to Norton Community High School head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

Coach Ray was also honored for being named Assistant Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

The following information about Greg Mann and the three assistant coaches is re-printed from the program at the banquet.

## Greg Mann



Greg Mann is an ardent supporter of Kansas high school wrestling. No better than an average wrestler himself in high school, Mann is very active in his support of high school wrestling during his career as an educator in western Kansas public schools. He coached wrestling at both the junior high and senior high school levels, served as the Norton Community High School Athletic Director for 10 years and worked to support high school wrestling as the superintendent of schools at Leoti, WaKeeney and Norton.

He was fortunate to work in two school districts well-known in Kansas for their wrestling success and tradition: large school power Garden City and small school powerhouse Norton.

His career has brought him into contact with many excellent coaches who shared with him their knowledge and, more importantly, imparted to him their love for high school wrestling. Among those who had a great impact on Mann are Darrell Nelson, Kyle Mines, Marvin Landes, Rocky Welton, Jake Durham and Bill Johnson.

Wrestling was a family affair in the Mann household. His sons were team managers and statisticians. Mann and his wife, Brenda, were regulars at area wrestling tournaments and the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament.

Also, the Manns have been very active in the organization and operation of Norton's J.R. Durham

Invitational Tournament, the Norton Junior High Invitational Tournament and Regional Wrestling Tournaments hosted by Norton, all activities he has maintained as superintendent.

Mann has also been active in the Kansas State High School Activities Association and served on two special committees that had a great impact on Kansas high school wrestling: the summer coaching committee and the wrestling weight loss committee.

He believes that wrestling, regardless of the talent level of the athlete, teaches all its participants valuable lessons in self-reliance, responsibility, humility, self-discipline and sportsmanship.

## Doug Ray



He is vice-president at First Security Bank in Norton.

Coach Ray has been an active coach with the Norton Wrestling Club for many years. Since the 1999-00 season, he has served as assistant high school coach. He has been a valuable asset with the upper weights.

Coach Ray was honored as Class 3-2-1A Assistant Coach of the Year in 2004.

In the past 12 years, coach Ray has helped Norton to a top-five finish in the state tournament every year. During this time, the Blue Jays have won five 3-2-1A state titles, as well as runner-up, three third places, two fourth places and a fifth place

## Shane Miller



Coach Miller is a graduate of Kinsley High School. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1990 with a teaching degree in biological sciences. He earned a master's degree in counselor education from Emporia

State University in 1998.

He placed second in the Class 3-2-1A state tournament in 1985 and continued his wrestling career on the nationally competitive Garden City Community College wrestling team. He was a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American in 1986 and 1987.

Coach Miller began his coaching career at Eureka High School, where he was head coach for 14 years. He started the USA and junior high wrestling programs in Eureka as well. As high school head coach, he posted a 132-63-3 career dual record. His teams won six regional championships, one regional runner-up finish and several top-10 finishes in the state tournament. He was named Kansas Wrestling Officials Association Coach of the Year in 2001.

Finally, he joined the Blue Jays staff in 2006-07 as assistant high school coach and head junior high coach. During coach Miller's time in Norton, the Blue Jays have won two 3-2-1A state titles, two third-place finishes and one fourth-place finish in the state tournament.

He also serves as the high school counselor.

## Tony Fiscus



Coach Fiscus is a graduate of Fredonia High School and earned his teaching degree in Social Science from Pittsburg State University in 1987.

Coach Fiscus began his coaching career at Norton Community High School as assistant wrestling coach to Kansas Hall of Famer Jake Durham. He remained at Norton through the 1998 season as assistant high school and head junior high coach.

Coach Fiscus were instrumental in bringing Norton back to the top of 3-2-1A with state

runner-up finishes in 1997 and 1998 and third place in 1996.

Coach Fiscus returned to teach and coach at Fredonia High School from 1999-2008. During this time, he served as head or assistant wrestling and football coach as well as head junior high coach for five years.

In 2009, coach Fiscus returned to Norton as assistant high school and head junior high wrestling coach. In this second stint at Norton, coach Fiscus has helped bring home two 3-2-1A state titles in 2010 and 2011 and a third place in 2009.

Coach Fiscus teaches junior high social studies.

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# BOWLING

## Stardust League

Standings as Oct. 31

1. Little People Daycare- 28.5 wins, 11.5 losses
2. FSBT 1- 25.5 wins, 14.5 losses
3. The PC's- 23 wins, 17 losses
4. Team 1- 18.5 wins, 21.5 losses
5. FSBT2- 16.5 wins, 23.5 losses

High Line: Cindy Linner-181, Janice Russell-171, Janet Manning-163, FSBT 1-316, The PC's-307, FSBT 2-297.

High Line Handicap: Janice Russell-231, Carrie Fentiman-221, Cindy Linner-220, FSBT 2-431, FSBT 1-407, Team 1-390.

High Series: Cindy Linner-499, Janice Russell-454, Bev Miller-423, The PC's-848, FSBT 1-843, FSBT 2-787.

High Series Handicap: Janice Russell-634, Cindy Linner-616, Carrie Fentiman-597, FSBT 2-1189, FSBT 1-1116, Team 1-1104.

## Stardust League

Standings as of Nov. 7

1. Little People Daycare- 29.5 wins, 14.5 losses
2. FSBT 1- 28.5 wins, 15.5 losses
3. The PC's- 25 wins, 19 losses
4. Team 1- 22.5 wins, 21.5 losses
5. FSBT 2- 18.5 wins, 25.5 losses

High Line: Cindy Linner-218, Becky Williams-183, Janice Russell-177, The PC's-389, FSBT 2-360, FSBT 1-320.

High Line Handicap: Cindy Linner-257, Janice Russell-233,

Becky Williams-229, The PC's-483, FSBT 2-462, Little People Daycare-415.

High Series: Cindy Linner-558, Becky Williams-485, Sharron Smith-485, The PC's-1043, FSBT 1-937, FSBT 2-937.

High Series Handicap: Cindy Linner-675, Sharron Smith-650, Janet Manning-628, The PC's-1325, FSBT 2-1243, FSBT 1-1213.