

Norton volleyball kicks off season this Friday

By Dick Boyd
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The Norton Community High School volleyball team will open their 2012 season this Friday by hosting Northern Valley and Plainville, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Varsity matches will be played in the Stull Gym. Norton will play Plainville, followed by Plainville vs. Northern Valley and Norton vs. Northern Valley.

Kevin Jilka returns this year as head coach of the Lady Jays, following his initial season last year. Jilka had never coached volleyball until last season but has been the head girls high school basketball coach at Norton Community High School for the past 30 years.

His assistant coaches again this year will be Traci Uehlin and Jodi Ward. Coach Uehlin is a former head vol-

leyball coach at Golden Plains and coach Ward is a former Norton Community High School player who went on to play basketball at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. This year's roster consists of 25 girls, including six letter winners and four starters. Returning letter winners are Rachel Slipke, 5'5"; Bri Karnopp, 5'7"; Teslee Nickell, 5'6"; Alec Melvin, 5'7", seniors; Johnnye Ruder, 5'5" and Bailey Ambrosier, 5'9", juniors. Nickell, Melvin, Ruder and Ambrosier were starters. Other squad members are Katherine

Boteler, 5'5", senior; Adrienne Hager, 5'4"; Kaitlyn Bohl, 5'10"; Kenzie Eslinger, 5'5"; Sheridan Dillehay, 5'3"; Morgan Farber, 5'4", sophomores; Shelby Mulford, 5'2"; Hanna Brooks, 5'6"; Lauren Mordecai, 5'10"; Theresa Gallegos, 5'; Nickala O'Hare, 5'3"; Casey Ambrosier, 5'8"; Peyton Renner, 5'6"; Audrey Morel, 5'3"; Lexi Hartwell, 5'1"; Rachel Koerperich, 5'8"; Kirstin Georgeson, 5'6"; Miranda Ohlert, 5'8" and Sabrina Gibson, 5'7", freshmen. "Our practices have gone very well as of right now," said coach Jilka. "We are looking for the right combi-

nations to play at all levels and Friday night against Plainville and Northern Valley should help our coaching staff decide what players can do what we ask. "Hopefully, we can build on what we did last year and keep it going into this year. "Obviously, the Mid-Continent League race will go through Phillipsburg and Smith Center as they are always tough. "We are trying to work hard to get to that level and our players understand that. We are anxious to get going."

LADY JAYS VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

- Friday, Aug. 24** - Northern Valley, Plainville at Norton 4:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Aug. 28** - Colby, Holcomb, Osborne at Colby 4 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Sept. 4** - Phillipsburg, Osborne, Stockton at Phillipsburg 4 p.m.
 - Saturday, Sept 8** - Quinter Tournament, junior varsity, at Quinter 9 a.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 13** - Goodland, Dundy County at Goodland 4:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Sept. 18** - Hoxie, Hill City, at Hoxie 4:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Sept. 25** - Goodland, Wheatland, Wray, Colo. at Goodland 4:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept 27** - Hays Quad at Hays 4 p.m.
 - Saturday, Sept 29** - Decatur Invitational at Oberlin 9 a.m.
 - Tuesday, Oct. 2** - Smith Center, Trego at Norton 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, Oct. 4** - Goodland at Norton 4:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, Oct. 6** - Scott City Invitational, varsity only, at Scott City 9 a.m.
 - Thursday, Oct. 11** - Mid-Continent League play-in TBA
 - Saturday, Oct. 13** - Mid-Continent League Tournament at Phillipsburg 9 a.m.
 - Saturday, Oct. 20** - Sub-State Tournament TBA
 - Friday, Oct. 26** - State Tournament TBA
- FRESHMAN GIRLS**
- Thursday, Aug. 30** - Colby, TMP-Hays, Oakley at Colby 4 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 13** - Colby, Hays, Wheatland at Colby 4 p.m.
 - Monday, Sept. 17**-Smith Center, Phillipsburg, Russell at Smith Center 4:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, Sept. 22** - C Quad at Hill City 8:30 a.m.

Norton team photos have been scheduled

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Fans of Norton school sports will have an opportunity to take team and individual pictures of Blue Jay athletes during special times and locations this week and next week. On Wednesday, the high school volleyball team will be in the Stull Gym for pictures, beginning at 4 p.m. Pictures of the high school dance team and cheerleaders are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday at the Stull Gym. Fans may then travel to the tennis courts to take photos of the high school tennis team, beginning at 4 p.m. The Prairie Dog Recreation Association Golf Course south of Norton will be the location for photos of the high school cross country team at 4:30 p.m. On Saturday morning, fans are invited to Travis Field for pictures of the high school football team, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Fans are invited to remain for the scrimmage to follow. All high school and junior high sports practices began on Aug. 13. Fans attending Saturday's football scrimmage are

encouraged to donate a canned good, non-perishable food item, laundry or dish soap or deodorant for the non-profit God's Pantry in Norton. Boxes for donated items will be placed at the entrances to the scrimmage at Travis Field on Saturday. God's Pantry donations will also be accepted at the other photo locations. It is important to make sure donated food items have not expired. God's Pantry, which adjoins the Trinity Episcopal Church in Norton, is open each Sunday at 3 p.m. Tuesday of next week at 3:30 p.m. is the scheduled time for fans to take photos of junior high football and volleyball teams and individual players, as well as cheerleaders. Location is the Norton junior high gymnasium.

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- Head Start Aide-Thomas County

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Attention: Norcatur

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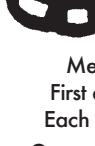
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Curt Archibald, Adjutant



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BBQ & SMOKIN' CHALLENGE

August 24 & 25

Elmwood Park Livestock Barn - Norton

Check-in for Contestants is Friday, August 24 from 6 to 11 p.m., Saturday, August 25, the public is invited to watch the cookin' and judge people's choice. \$10.00 general admission and dinner (8 a.m.-8 p.m./dinner 6-8 p.m.); \$15.00 general admission, dinner and band (8 a.m.-midnight/8 p.m.-midnight)

START YOUR SMOKIN' 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY
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