

Lady Jays take third at Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls tennis team placed third in the Phillipsburg Quad on Tuesday.

Trego Community won the championship with 22 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 16; Norton, 11; Russell, 2.

"It turned into a long day," said Norton head coach Jim Green. "We had two rain delays that stopped play and a final rain storm that ended the meet."

Playing No.1 singles for Norton and placing third was junior Brooke Sumner. She lost 8-3 to Orianna Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg; defeated Rhett Brown, Russell, 8-4 and lost 8-1 to Tabitha Wolf, Trego.

"Brooke put on a strong performance," said coach Green. "She continues to hit the ball well and moves her opponents around."

Lady Jay seniors Ashley

Hildebrand and Jessica White won the championship of No.1 doubles, going undefeated for the day. They outscored Mariah Coomes and Brittini Groothoff, Phillipsburg, 8-7; defeated Tristen Hayes and Julia Oste, Russell, 8-3 and won over Ella Sherwood and Allyson Denning, Trego, 5-4.

"Ashley and Jessica continue to be very successful," said coach Green. "They had a close match with Phillipsburg and won by a tiebreaker. This was a big win for them. They now have one loss and two wins over the Phillipsburg No.1 doubles team. They won easily over Russell but had a close match with Trego. It was one of those matches in which every game went to deuce many times and lasted a long time. We were on the court when it rained for the third time. Our girls were ahead 5-4 and, with the best percentage of games won over games

played, they were awarded first place."

In No.2 singles, Norton senior Riekele Green finished fourth. In her first match, she barely lost 8-7 to Macye Witmer, Phillipsburg, then was edged by the same 8-7 score by Carolyn Patrick, Russell. In her last match, she lost 6-1 to Kimberly Day, Trego.

"Riekele was playing singles for the first time this season," said coach Green. "She gave an outstanding effort. She almost came away with two victories. The matches were very close, both went to tiebreakers. Unfortunately, the tiebreakers were won by Riekele's opponents. I was very pleased with the efforts Riekele made in all three of her matches."

Norton sophomores Hailey Branek and Morgan Griffey played No.2 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed third. They lost their opener 8-2 to Lindsey

Solida and Kinzie Ratliff, Phillipsburg; defeated Bailey Dolison and Erin Rischer, Russell, 8-7 and were trailing 1-0 to Cheyenne Phillips and Shaylee Flax, Trego, when rain brought an end to the competition.

"Hailey and Morgan were playing varsity for the first time," said coach Green.

"I was hoping that they would get good experience and be competitive. They were more successful than I expected. Against Russell, they jumped out to a 4-1 lead. They hung on to get the match to a tiebreaker and closed out the match for a victory."

Next action

The Norton varsity will not play tennis again until they return to Phillipsburg next Tuesday for another Quad, which begins at 3 p.m.

In the meantime, the Norton junior varsity played in the Trego JV Round Robin on



Norton senior Riekele Green stretches to hit the tennis ball during her close match with Carolyn Patrick, Russell, in the Phillipsburg Quad on Tuesday. Playing singles for the first time this season, Riekele was edged 8-7 in her Russell match and by the same score in a match with Macye Witmer, Phillipsburg.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Thursday in WaKeeney and will host the Norton JV Tourney this Saturday on the courts in the Swimming Pool Park.

Competing, in addition to Norton, will be teams from Colby, Hays, Phillipsburg and Victoria. Play will begin at 9 a.m.

Junior varsity tennis team competed at Russell tournament

By DICK BOYD

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Norton junior varsity tennis players competed in the JV Tennis Tournament in Russell on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

No team scores were kept. Norton had two sophomores and four freshmen competing.

"Our team is very young," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery. "Five of our players had never played tennis until this season. They made great improvement during their matches and, most importantly, they want to succeed and get better. I was very proud of how they handled themselves on the court and kept on improving."

Sophomore Morgan Griffey played No.1 singles. She lost 6-2 to Kinzie Rat, Phillipsburg; drew a bye, lost 6-1 to Sarah Hilger, Russell, to place fourth.

"Morgan has become a well-rounded player," said coach Montgomery. "She has improved over the summer and should have a successful season."

Playing No.2 singles for Norton was sophomore Lexi Voss. She drew a bye, lost 6-2 to Danielle Slack, Phillipsburg and lost to Kierra Mitchell, Russell, to place fourth.

"Lexi was our most improved player during this tournament," said coach Montgomery. "She is a very coachable player and

worked on her ground strokes during her matches. Her forehand became very reliable for her."

In No.3 singles, freshman Brianna White was the Lady Jay player. She lost 6-1 to Alex Isernhagen, Phillipsburg; lost 6-1 to Ashton Lawrence, Concordia and lost 6-0 to Madison Barry, Smoky Valley.

"Brianna will be a strong player for us in the future," said coach Montgomery. "She is very determined and wants to do well in her matches."

Freshman Kennedy Leibbrandt played No.4 singles for Norton. She lost 6-0 to Maggie Malmberg, Phillipsburg; lost 6-2 to Sadie Mosher, Concordia

and drew a bye in the last round to place fifth.

"Kennedy is another determined player on our team and works hard to improve her tennis game," said coach Montgomery. "She has potential to be a great tennis player as the season progresses."

At No.5 singles, the Lady Jays had freshman Alexandria Aldrige. She lost 6-2 to Alli Redmond, Concordia; lost 6-0 to Suzanne Huntley, Phillipsburg and lost 6-2 to Nichole Crowell, Russell.

"Alexandria had much improvement during this tournament," said coach Montgomery. "She did her best and was willing to try different things."

Freshman Cristine Figurski played No.6 singles for Norton. She lost 6-0 to Jenna Fredrickson, Concordia; lost 6-0 to Amy Pugh, Phillipsburg and shutout Kylie Reddig, Russell 6-0 to place fifth.

"Cristine finished the tournament with a strong win to get fifth place," said coach Montgomery. "She had great serves that her opponents had trouble returning."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity team played in the Trego JV Round Robin Tournament on Thursday but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

This Saturday, Norton will

host their annual Junior Varsity Tennis Tournament in the Swimming Pool Park.

Competing in addition to Norton will be teams from Colby, Hays, Phillipsburg and Victoria. Play will begin at 9 a.m.

Medals will be awarded for the first, second and third places in each division: No.1 singles, No.2 singles, No.1 doubles and No.2 doubles.

Due to major construction of the new swimming pool in Norton, spectators and teams may want to park on the city streets. It is recommended that spectators and players bring lawn chairs.

Norton volleyball C-team wins one and loses two in Colby tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team defeated Oakley 23-25, 25-14, 15-11; lost to Colby 25-21, 21-25, 5-15 and lost to Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays 10-25, 20-25 during season opening matches played Thursday, Sept. 5 in Colby.

Oakley

"It was good for our girls to win their first C-team game," said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"Several of our girls were playing new positions and did a great job."

In the first set, sophomore Lauren Mordecai led serving with 6 points, followed by freshman Jena Risewick, 2 points, 1 ace; junior Erin Archer, 1 point; Mordecai had 1 kill; freshman Kristen Dole had 1 assist.

In the second set, sophomore Lexi Hartwell served 5 points, 1 ace; sophomore Cayanna

Campbell, 5 points, 1 ace; Archer, 3 points, 3 aces; Mordecai, 3 points, 2 aces; Risewick, 1 point; Mordecai had 2 kills; Dole, 1 assist, Hartwell, 1 assist.

Hartwell led serving in set three with 5 points, 3 aces, followed by Mordecai, 1 point, 1 ace; Campbell, 1 point; Archer had 1 kill, Hartwell had 1 assist.

Colby

"We missed too many serves to let Colby win the last set and win the match," said coach Uehlin. "Our team played well the first two sets but just couldn't keep it up in the last set."

In the first set, Campbell led serving with 8 points, 3 aces, followed by Archer, 4 points, 2 aces; Hartwell, 2 points; Mordecai, 2 points, 2 aces; Dole, 1 kill; Mordecai, 1 kill. Hartwell had 1 assist.

In the second set, Mordecai served 5 points, 3 aces; followed by Hartwell, 2 points; Campbell, 1 point; Dole, 1 point; Archer, 1 point. Dole had

1 kill and Hartwell had 1 assist.

Thomas More Prep

"Missed serves were again the culprit for our team in set one," said coach Uehlin. "Playing three games in a row took a toll on our girls. They came back and played well in the second set but fell short on the scoreboard."

Archer led serving in set one with 2 points, 2 aces, followed by Mordecai, 1 point; Campbell had 1 kill; Dole had 1 assist.

In set two, Campbell served 3 points, Risewick, 3 points; Dole, 2 points, 1 ace and Mordecai, 1 point, 1 ace. Campbell had 1 kill and Dole had 1 assist.

Next action

The Norton C-team volleyball team will play next on Thursday, Sept. 19 at Grainfield. Teams competing will include Colby and Hays.

Competition will begin at 3 p.m.

Huskies have a promising first race

A quality field of competitors and sweltering conditions provided the Northern Valley High School cross country team with a challenging launch to the 2013 season in the Norton Invitational last Thursday. In spite of temperatures in the upper 90's as well as several state level runners from other schools the Huskies placed four of their five runners, two in varsity competition and two in the junior varsity races.

In the first race of the day Camden Cox placed 3rd among junior varsity boys to medal with a personal best time of 22:00. Matt Florence finished

his first competitive run with a respectable 27:54 to place 13th amongst 19 runners.

In the girls junior varsity Allison Keith placed 10th of 17 to medal with a time of 26:32.

Brooke Baird medaled in the girls' varsity run with a time of 19:19 to place 14th of 31 athletes. Macy Kasson also medaled, finishing 15th of 40 in 21:36 in the boys' varsity race.

Fast times of the day belonged to Winter Polivka of Decatur County, who ran the girls 4000 meter course in 16:04, and Wyatt Ratzlaff of Phillipsburg, with an 18:05 time in the boys 5,000 meter distance.

All of the runners gave a great effort and their hard work was rewarded. John Towery was unable to compete due to an injury.

The Huskies will run twice in the upcoming days, first at a meet hosted by Stockton at the Plainville Golf Course at 4:30 p.m., September 12, and another meet the following Monday in Alma at 4:30 p.m. Anyone unable to attend the meets can follow the latest news concerning the Husky Harriers on their Facebook page, "Northern Valley Cross Country" or on the schools website at "www.usd212.com".

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Wishing all area athletes a great season!