



The Norton Lady Jays get ready to return the volleyball during season opening action here on Tuesday. Pictured are, from left, Rachael Lentz, No. 9; Whitney Newell, No. 11; Chelsea Cox, No. 12 and Casey Carter, No. 5. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Norton volleyball begins season

By DICK BOYD

Coach Jill Lively's Norton Community High School volleyball team opened the 2004 season on Tuesday in Norton with a victory over Osborne and a close loss to Colby.

In the third match, Colby defeated Osborne 25-20, 20-25, 25-14.

### Osborne

The Lady Jays defeated Osborne 25-23, 19-25, 25-18. Norton averaged 85 percent in serving. Serve receive was 1.94 on a 3 scale and passing was 2.59.

Team leaders were Whitney Newell, 92 percent; Danielle LeClair, three aces, serving; Amanda Antrim, 2.2; Klaire Mann, 2.08, serve receive; Amber Engelbert, 2.8; Rachael Lentz, 2.83, passing; Becca Ebert, 11 kills, Chelsea Cox, nine kills, hitting; Cox, 2.47; Casey Carter, 2.23, setting; Engelbert, 12 digs, defense.

"I was very pleased with how well our girls worked as a team," said Coach Lively. "It didn't matter what combination of players were in the match, they all gave a great effort and worked well together."

"We served 96 percent in the first game and that was a key to our momentum. Other than the statistic leaders, Pam Foley and Kyle Witt did a nice job of passing and Stacy Reeves contributed a kill and put up a consistent block. All 12 players stepped in during this match and worked hard to help us come away with the win."

### Colby

Norton lost to Colby 25-22, 25-17.

The Lady Jays served 84 percent, were 1.98 in serve receive and 1.5 in passing.

Team leaders were: Engelbert, 100 percent, two aces; Newell, 100 percent, serving; Mann, 3; Kylee Witt, 2.5, serve receive;

Carter, 2.67; Cox, 2.35, setting; Ebert, four kills, Newell and Cox, three kills each, hitting; Antrim, Engelbert, Lentz, six digs each, defense.

"We had several great efforts during this match; however, poor serving and a lack of confidence in serve reception really hurt us against Colby," said Coach Lively. "Players who stepped in off the bench did a good job when the intensity was high. These included Stacy Reeves and Danielle LeClair."

"I saw a lot of things I liked about our play tonight and several areas we need to work on."

### Next action

Norton's second competition of the season will be on Tuesday when the Lady Jay varsity and junior varsity travel to Phillipsburg to play the Lady Panthers and Lady Huskies of Northern Valley. Play begins at 5 p.m.

# Northern Valley cross country team to begin season Thursday at Mankato

The Northern Valley Huskies cross country team will start their season on at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Mankato Invitational.

Sixth year Coach Lonnie Brungardt has nine runners on his team, four are returning letter winners.

Returning from last year are se-

niors Janelle Fritz and Lindsey Jessup, and sophomores Jena Jessup and Jessie Redeker.

New to the team are junior Cody Lowry, and freshmen Amanda Hopkins, Joni Hilburn, Bryce Marble and Blake Johnson.

Coach Brungardt said he's excited to have five new people on

his team.

"We have a mixture of abilities and experiences this year," he said, "but we're dedicated and our team concept is to succeed."

He said their goal is to qualify a boys and girls team for state. To do that, he said they have to have participation, no injuries, hard work and dedication.

A new development this year in the Class 1A division is that the team score will be determined by totaling the points scored by the first four finishers out of the seven that are allowed to run. Because of this, 1A runners will have a separate competition at state.

### Northern Valley Cross Country Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 9 — Mankato Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11 — Greeley County Invitational (JH/HS), Tribune, 9 a.m. (MT)

Thursday, Sept. 16 — Smith Center Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 23 — Hill City Invitational (JH/HS), 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 28 — Oberlin Invitational, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 30 — Hays Invitational, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 7 — Phillipsburg Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9 — Riley County Invitational (JH/HS), Leonardville, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 14 — Wheatland Invitational (JH/HS), 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23 — Regionals, TBA

Saturday, Oct. 30 — State, Wamego, TBA

# Logan's football begins at Ransom

The Logan High School football team will start its season tonight in an away game against Western Plains in Ransom.

Second year Coach Bryce Woodall has eight returning starters this season: seniors — Daniel Ruff, Kyle Burge and Zach Sammons; junior — Wes Riley; and sophomores — Tim McElroy, Kyle Brobst, Lonnie Woods and Kevin Pinkerton.

Other members of the Trojan team are senior — Shannon Diggs; sophomores — Jeff Brown; Kevin Burge, Jake Tien, and Tanner Pabst; and freshmen — Payton Chestnut, Zach Long, Brady Breese, Kodi Wallgren, Garrett Becker, Ethan Gottschalk and Brian Pinkerton.

Joel Lovesee is the assistant coach and Daniel Adams is the team's manager.

"We still are going to be very young this season, but these kids have an excellent work ethic," said Coach Woodall. "This year our kids already are much further ahead than they were last year."

"Kyle Burge and Zach Sammons are seniors this year and will provide much leadership to the team along with much work ethic."

Kick-off is set for 7 p.m. tonight in Ransom.

# Northern Valley begins volleyball season with one win and one loss

The Northern Valley High School volleyball team started its season with one win and one loss on Aug. 27 in Downs.

The Lady Huskies' first match against Lakeside High was won in three games: 19-25, 26-24, 25-12.

Senior Kristin Hardy led serving with three aces, three digs and nine kills.

Senior Lindsey Graham was on top of blocks with six, while Mercedes Hays, senior, took the lead on settings assists with 11.

The second match against Triplains was lost 22-25, 16-25. Graham led serving with a pair of aces. Both Graham and Serena Woodside, junior, each made one dig, while Hardy had three blocks.

Hays had eight setting assists and Hardy made eight kills.

"For our first outing, I felt the girls did very well," said Coach

Christine Eveleigh. "We have some things to work on for the future, but overall, we have the basics down and are ready to start working on more complicated things."

"I am really proud of how they played and am looking towards a good year."

Other members of the Northern Valley volleyball team are: seniors — Kelsey Stupka and Jayme Horacek; sophomores — Kelli Cole, Andrea Lowry, and Alysia Shearer; and freshmen — Amanda Turman, Stephanie Tubbs, Amanda Hopkins, Joni Hilburn, Kelsey Kinderknecht, and Jessica Largent.

Monica Wilson is the assistant coach and Jessica King and Jessica Holmes are the team's managers.

### Northern Valley Volleyball Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 7 — Norton/

Phillipsburg, Phillipsburg, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 14 — Palco/Eastern Heights, Palco, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 21 — Alma/Logan, Logan, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 25 — JV Tourney, Plainville, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2 — Ellis Tournament, Ellis, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 5 — Golden Plains, Rexford, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9 — Hill City Tournament, Hill City, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 12 — Stockton/Western Plains/Eastern Heights, Stockton, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16 — Cheyenne Conference, Palco, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 — Regionals, TBA

Saturday, Oct. 23 — Sub-State, TBA

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 29-30 — State, TBA

# Trojan volleyball team returns seven letter winners, six starters

The Logan High School volleyball team began its season on Aug. 27 in Beloit where they met up with Eastern Heights and Beloit St. John's.

Last year's 24-7 Cheyenne Conference league champs are returning this year with seven letter winners, six of whom are returning starters.

Robin VanLaeys will begin her 13th year coaching the Lady Trojans. Assisting her is Coach Linda Nighswonger.

On this year's team are seniors — Vanessa VanDiest, returning starter, letter winner, 2002 all-league honorable mention and 2003 second team all-league; Lane Webb, returning starter, letter winner, 2002 second team all-league and 2003 first team all-league; and Kati Chestnut, returning starter, letter winner and 2003 second team all-league; juniors — Jenny Noel, returning starter, letter winner and 2003 all-league honorable mention; Melanie Berg, returning letter winner; Lisa Kiser; Megan Brumbaugh, returning let-

ter winner; Darci Goddard; Danen Rundle; Heather Boys; Michaela Berg, returning starter and letter winner; and Kaitlyn Noone; sophomores — Bethany Clements and Anne Hartman; and freshmen — Shelley Kemper, Shaley Van Loenen, Jenny Archer, Leandra Sparks, Aspen Larson, and Savannah Sammons.

"Every year there are new girls who surprise you and step up into leadership roles," said Coach VanLaeys.

She said they have 20 girls out and 14 of them have high school experience. They only lost one starter from last year's team.

As in previous years, Coach VanLaeys thinks that the passing efficiency will have the greatest impact on the team's success.

"We opened the season with early in Beloit," she said. "Early dates are always interesting to go play, setting the baseline for the year. It is nice to know where your focus needs to be."

The Lady Trojans will next play on Tuesday in WaKeeney. The first

match is set to begin at 5 p.m.

### Logan Volleyball Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 7 — Hill City/WaKeeney, WaKeeney, 5 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 14 — Phillipsburg/Stockton, Logan, 5 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 21 — Northern Valley/Alma (Neb.), Logan, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 25 — Osborne Round Robin, Osborne, 8 a.m.

Tuesday Oct. 5 — Kensington/Eastern Heights, Agra, 4 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 9 — Cougar Invitational, Mankato, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 12 — Norton/Golden Plains, Logan, 4 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 16 — Cheyenne Conference League Tournament, Palco, TBA

Tuesday Oct. 19 — Regional Tournament, TBA

Saturday Oct. 23 — Sub-State, TBA

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 29-30 — State tournament, Hays, TBA

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