

Blue Jays to play Stockton in Homecoming contest

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's 2-2 Norton Community High School football team will host 0-4 Stockton in the Blue Jays' Homecoming contest tonight at Travis Field in Norton.

Kickoff of the Mid-Continent League game will be at 7 p.m.

Although Stockton is winless, Coach Graber says that makes them dangerous. "They'll come in here with nothing to lose. They'll have no pressure on them," he told the Blue Jay Booster Club on Wednesday evening. "They have had some injuries but they are getting healthy. Their all-league tight end and defensive tackle Blaize Kriley has been injured but I expect him to play. Smith Center had trouble blocking him all night long. In fact, if Smith Center hadn't returned four kicks for touchdowns, their game with them could have been a different story. They are big physical players."

Kriley is 6'3", 235 pounds and was a second team all-league selection last year on both offense and defense. He was also a first

team punter. Also returning this season for the Tigers are Justin Hall, 6'1", 215 pound running back and linebacker who was honorable mention all-league; Chris Pulec, 6'4", 201 pound defensive end, who received honorable mention last year and Jordan Stithem, 6'1", 190 pound linebacker, who also received honorable mention.

While the Blue Jays were handing Osborne their first loss last Friday, Stockton and Plainville were in their annual slugfest for the Rooks County championship. The Cardinals got a few extra breaks and won 12-6. Stockton Coach Marty Barnett was happy with sophomore Logan Bennett's start at quarterback. "The team really looks to him as a leader and I think that really helped us gel," he said. "Offensively, we moved the ball between the 20s real good. The guys got that boost of morale when he came back."

The Stockton offense may be starting to gel but the Norton defense played their best game of the season against Osborne. The gang-tackling Blue Jays limited

the Bulldogs to two first downs, 36 total yards of offense and caused five fumbles.

Senior tackles Blake Hillebrand and Michael Sprigg and senior linebacker Ryan Maddy are leading the defensive charge.

Offensively, Norton is led by senior quarterback Seth Mills who has completed 29 of 46 passes for 63 percent accuracy and an average of 93.5 yards per game. Norton's senior tailback Aaron Overlease and senior fullback Kyle Kats are both explosive runners who are capable of breaking a long run for a touchdown at any time.

"We're getting better and playing with a lot more energy," said Coach Graber. "Some of our players have stepped up and become leaders. They're challenging their teammates to play harder."

"Our defense ends Paul Juenemann, Justin Shirk and Davvid Stanley are doing a lot better. Some of our backup people are improving and that is giving us more depth."

Junior varsity beats Osborne

By DICK BOYD

Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School junior varsity football team extended their season record to 3-1 on Monday with a 28-0 victory over Osborne at Travis Field in Norton.

The game began with some unusual excitement and ended with some when it was called with about three minutes left in the third quarter due to a thunderstorm which caused lightning near the field.

The excitement at the beginning of the game came when defensive end Nic Lewis made an unusual play for a lineman. Lewis caught a low, short Osborne punt and returned the ball eight yards. The Blue Jays scored after Lewis' return when Blake VanEaton scored

from one yard out on a pitch from quarterback Logan Kats. The try for extra points was no good and Norton led 6-0.

On Osborne's next possession, Brian Sproul caused a fumble and Lewis recovered the ball. The Blue Jays soon scored again. This time, Kats passed to Adam Krebsbach for a 30-yard touchdown. Kats ran the keeper for two extra points, extending the Norton lead to 14-0.

Toward the end of the first quarter, Sproul caused another fumble when he blitzed up the middle. The Blue Jays recovered and scored again. This time Kats connected with Krebsbach for 41 yards and a touchdown. The extra points attempt was short and Norton led 20-0. The half ended with a pass interception by Kats.

In the third quarter, Krebsbach scored his third touchdown of the game on a long run off the option. Tailback Todd Bolt ran for two extra points to make the final score 28-0.

"We played well tonight," said Coach Melvin. "Everyone played hard and our younger players showed a lot of improvement. We had a sustained running attack plus two long passes for touchdowns. Logan Kats did a great job with the option."

"Our defense caused some turnovers and kept Osborne from moving the ball and out of the end zone the entire night."

The Norton junior varsity gridders will play Stockton on Monday evening in Stockton, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tennis team seventh at Colby

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity tennis team placed seventh in the marathon, 10-team Colby Invitational Tennis Tournament on Tuesday in Colby.

Russell won the championship with 37 points, followed by Scott City, 31; Phillipsburg, 28.5; Colby, 27; Osborne, 24; Tribune, 21.5; Norton, 21; Garden City, 17; Colby JV, 9; Goodland, 6.

"We had a great effort from Hannah Mills and Reesa Volgamore who finished second at No. 2 doubles," said Coach Johnson. "Their finals match ended at 12:15 a.m. on Wednesday morning. So, they were 4-0 on Tuesday and 0-1 on Wednesday. It was a very long afternoon and night of tennis."

"Jessi Duscher also played well in winning the fourth place medal in No. 1 singles. She is regularly defeating girls whom she lost to

earlier in the season.

"The meet was very quality competition for us. It will help prepare us for the tough competition in the regional tournament."

In No. 2 doubles, Mills and Volgamore defeated Gudenkauf and Gfeller, Russell, 6-5 (11-9); Vallejo and Latham, Scott City, 6-1; Wendt and Fuller, Tribune, 6-1 and Rasmussen and Barker, Colby JV, 6-1. Their only loss was to Phillipsburg's Dusan and Dusan in the finals by a 3-6 score.

Duscher lost 3-6 to Valerie Mahoney, Russell, then defeated Rachel Funk, Colby, 6-2; Jacquie Fry, Colby JV, 6-1 and Hillary Maynard, Garden City, 6-2. In the third place match with Sloane Hardman, Osborne, she lost 3-6.

Norton's No. 1 doubles team of Keesha Holste and Sara Johnson was 1-3 for the tournament. They lost 0-6 to Katie Lang and Crystal Mannebach, Colby; defeated Megan Stefan and Kali Rietcheck,

Goodland, 6-5 (7-5); lost 3-6 to Brooke Boulware and Bailey Hess, Scott City and lost 5-6 (5-7) to Casey Johnson and Amanda Medina, Garden City.

In No. 2 singles, Norton's Chelle Donovan lost 4-6 to Miranda Appel, Scott City; lost 4-6 to Ellen Huschka, Garden City; lost 0-6 to Katie Coker, Russell, and lost 1-6 to Francesca Moroni, Colby.

The Norton varsity tennis team will compete in the Mid-Continent League Tennis Tournament this Saturday in Phillipsburg. Play will begin at 9 a.m.

The Norton junior varsity tennis team will play in the Colby Junior Varsity Tennis Tournament on Saturday at Colby, beginning at 9 a.m. In addition to teams from Norton and Colby, teams from Garden City, Liberal, Phillipsburg, Tribune and Scott City will compete.

Junior varsity volleyball team beats Stockton, loses to Hill City

By DICK BOYD

Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team defeated Stockton but lost to Hill City in matches on Sept. 21 in Norton.

Stockton

The Lady Jay junior varsity defeated Stockton 25-23, 25-20.

"In this match, we seemed to be playing volleyball and Stockton playing bump-ball," said Coach Cox. "There wasn't much competition from Stockton so it was a matter of us minimizing our mistakes to win the match."

"We struggled in serving where we were only 86 percent and passing. If we had tightened up our game in those areas, Stockton would have scored very few

points."

Serving statistics were: Lacey Roe, 9-11, 3 aces; Lexi Wolf, 9-9; Brianna Felton, 4-4; Laura Delimont, 1-1; Gena Meyers, 1-1.

"Courtney Cox, Maggie Nielsen, Amber Waggoner and Lexi Wolf passed at a consistent rate to keep us in the game," said Coach Cox. "Cox and Wolf both set at the same percentage with four and six, respectively."

Dana Hillebrand and Courtney LeClair both had three kills each, followed by Nielsen and Naomi Streck, two each; Darci Darling and Felton, one each.

Hill City

Norton lost to Hill City 21-25, 19-25.

"It was the second time this season we have played Hill City and,

again, their defense plagued us," said Coach Cox. "We were hitting the ball but were not converting it to kills. They play a five girl-back defense, which made it difficult for us to find holes."

"Overall, we did play better against the Lady Ringnecks but not well enough."

Serving statistics were: Wolf, 13-13, 2 aces; LeClair, 8-10, 2 aces; Myers, 3-3.

"Lacey Roe and Courtney Cox passed at an extremely high rate with some of their passes coming from digs off the Ringnecks' attacks," said Coach Cox.

Wolf and Cox had four and two assists, respectively. Darling and Felton had two kills each and Tiffany Marx and Streck had one each.

Norton runners third at Hill City

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School boys varsity cross country team placed third in the Hill City Invitational Meet on September 23.

Quinter won the team championship with 45 points, followed by Brewster, 74; Norton, 79; Wheatland, 92; Trego, 112; Ness City, 129; and Oberlin, 157.

Jared Engelbert placed highest for Norton. He finished 11th in 19-minutes, 19-seconds. Kent Mann was 17th in 19:31; Logan Keiswetter, 20th in 19:45; Derek Volgamore, 25th in 20:13; and Jeremy Harding, 34th in 20:47.

David Counter also ran for Norton and placed 39th in 21:00. Norton's seventh runner was Jake Kramer who finished 50th in 22:45.

None of the Norton boys ran as fast as they have in previous meets.

"It was just not our day," said Coach Hager. "Our times were very bad. We can do much better."

"There are going to be days like this one. We need rest and time to get our boys' heads back in this sport."

Carlie Jones had the fastest time for the Norton girls. She was timed in 15:04 for the two-mile course and placed 22nd. Amber Overlease was right behind her for 23rd in 15:08. Crista Rhoades placed 48th in 17:02. Rhoades was the only Norton runner to set a personal record. Her previous best time this season was 17:04.06 at Wamego.

The Norton girls were not eligible for a team score because five runners are needed. Natoma won the girls championship with 35 points, followed by Oakley, 43; Wheatland, 77; Oberlin, 92; Osborne, 102; Northern Valley, 157; Trego, 157; Dighton, 208.

"We have to work on some things on the girls' side," said Coach Hager. "Their first mile needs to be much faster."

Two boys ran for Norton in the junior varsity race. Andrew Black placed 11th and Nathan Morse finished in 21st place.



Sophomore Jared Engelbert was the highest finisher for the Norton Community High School cross country team in the Hill City Invitational Meet on September 23. He was timed in 19:19 and placed 11th.

—Telegram photo by Susie Marble

Freshmen girls get wins at home

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School freshmen girls volleyball team defeated Colby and Smith Center on September 23 in Norton.

Colby

Norton defeated Colby, 25-12, 22-25, 15-10.

"It was a sweet victory for us because Colby had defeated us earlier this season," said Coach Bolt. "Our girls did a great job of handling their roles and we played good defense."

Norton passed 2.2 on a 3 scale, attacked with 80 percent accuracy, served 93 percent, set 95 percent and dug the ball an impressive 69 percent.

"We continue to get better as the season progresses, so I see good things happening," said Coach Bolt.

Megan Kats led serving with 16-16, 14 points, 3 aces, followed by

Alyssa Farber, 13 points, 4 aces; Chantille Campbell, 5 points; Thea Wiseman, 4; Sara Lentz, 3; Kylie Morel and Karlynn Kent, 1 each.

Passing leaders were: Farber and Campbell. Kats led setting with 43-44, 11 assists, followed by Wiseman, 23-26, 3 assists; Farber, 2 assists; Lacy Ellis and Lentz, 1 each.

Haley Jones, Lentz, Ellis led hitting with 4 kills each, followed by Rachael Hickman, Farber, Kats, 2 each. Wiseman and Kats had 2 saves each and Lentz and Hickman had 1 each.

Smith Center

The freshmen Lady Jays defeated Smith Center in two games, 25-20, 25-21.

"We did not look as sharp starting this match but we continued to stay with it to come out on top," said Coach Bolt. "Our hitting was

our strong point and we played smart offensively."

Norton hit with 80 percent accuracy with an impressive 36 percent of the hits being kills. Norton served at 85 percent and passed at a 2. Farber led serving with 6 points, 2 aces, followed by Lentz, 4 points; Ellis and Kent, 3 each; Campbell, Morel, Kats, Wiseman, 2 each; Hickman, 1.

Farber, Kats and Hickman led passing. Kills were also a team effort with Campbell, Jones, Lentz, Farber and Ellis with 3 kills each, followed by Kats, 2; Ashli Hagman had 1.

Jones had 2 saves; Lentz, Kats and Farber had 1 each.

Next action

The Norton freshmen volleyball team will play this Saturday in the Plainville Tournament, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Logan volleyball team playing hard

The Logan High School volleyball team has opened the 2004 season with a rocky start of 1-5.

The win came with the first match against St. John's Beloit. Since then the team has lost to Eastern Heights, Trego, Hill City, Stockton and Phillipsburg.

"Each match has presented its own ups and downs, but the girls remain upbeat and determined," said Coach Robin VanLaey. "With each match, we have improved on another aspect of our game. We just have not been able to consistently put things together to capture the wins."

"The girls are still working hard and we will hopefully come through and surprise some people. We played very well against Phillipsburg and I hope to see that level of play be more the norm for us."

Team leaders are:

- Hitting — Michaela Berg, 61 out of 76 with 22 kills; Vanessa VanDiest, 51 out of 65 with 19 kills.
- Tips — Michaela Berg, 16 of 16 with 5 kills; Kati Chestnut, 12 of 15 with 6 kills.
- Blocking — Chestnut, 6 solos, 16 assists; Lanee Webb, 6 solos, 11 assists.
- Serving — Megan Brumbaugh, 47 of 48 with 4 aces; Jenny Noel, 58 of 60 with 2 aces.
- Setting — Noel, 162 of 169

with 25 assists; Brumbaugh, 122 of 125 with 21 assists.

- Defensive Digs — Kaitlyn Noone, 72.7 percent; Webb, 68.2

percent.

- Serve Receive — VanDiest, 39 of 52 for 75 percent; Melanie Berg, 21 of 28 for 75 percent.

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