



Norton's Chelsea Cox kills the ball during the Lady Jays' Sub-State Volleyball Tournament match with No. 1 state ranked Lakin on Saturday in Lakin. Norton defeated Thomas More Prep of Hays in a first round match but lost to the top ranked Lakin squad. The other Lady Jays in the photo are, from left, Whitney Newell, Rachael Lentz and Casey Carter. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton spikers win first round; lose in semi-finals to Lakin

By DICK BOYD

Coach Jill Lively's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team was seeded No. 5 in the Class 3A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Lakin and defeated No. 4 seed Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays in the first round before losing in the semi-finals to No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Lakin. Norton brought a 14-14 record into the tournament and Thomas More was 19-11. Lakin came in with a 36-2 mark.

Win over Thomas More

Norton defeated Thomas More 19-25, 25-23, 25-21.

"Our first game against Thomas More was a little below our normal level of play," said Coach Lively. "We continued to communicate and gain confidence, which allowed us to come away with a victory."

"Aggressive serving and net play were keys to winning the match."

"Defensively, we played well together, which frustrated Thomas More and forced them to make several errors. We were excited and worked as a team to win the match."

Team statistics were: serve, 91 percent, 8 aces; hitting, 81 percent, 27 kills; defense, 11 blocks, 32 digs.

Individual leaders were: Amber Engelbert and Whitney Newell, 100 percent; Chelsea Cox, 3 aces, serve; Amanda Antrim and Rachael Lentz received serves well; Klaire Mann passed well during rallies, passing; Casey Carter, 13 assists; Cox, 9, setting; Cox, 12 kills; Pam Foley, 9, hitting; Cox, 7 blocks; Lentz, 8 digs; Newell, 7 digs; Engelbert, 6 digs, defense.

Match with Lakin

Norton lost to Lakin 20-25, 11-25.

"The Lakin match was not our best this season," said Coach Lively. "We played fairly well in the first game after letting Lakin take an early lead with a string of six straight points. Amber Engelbert served aggressively and brought us back from a 12-20 deficit to 17-20 but Lakin was able to finish the game strong."

"The second game was frustrating for us. Lakin really had the momentum from the start and mixed up their attacks, which kept our defense guessing. Unfortunately, we just couldn't get a spark started and Lakin served aggressively and attacked the ball well. Their team is well rounded, both defensively and offensively. Lakin won the tournament and I expect they will do well in the state tournament."

Team statistics were: serve, 88 percent, 5 aces; hitting, 84 percent, 9 kills; defense, 8 blocks, 10 digs.

Individual leaders were: Engelbert, Mann, Cox, 100 percent; Engelbert and Lentz, 2 aces

each, serve; Mann passed consistently to the setter, passing; Cox, 5 assists; Carter, 4, setting; Cox and Lentz, 3 kills each, hitting; Becca Ebert, 3 blocks; Carter, 3 digs, defense.

"This tournament wrapped up our season and I am overall very pleased with our team," said Coach Lively. "We had a few struggles during the season but our girls grew confident in their abilities and used each others' strengths for the good of the team."

"I have never coached a team with this kind of chemistry and understanding of their teammates. They really gained a lot from the experience this season."

"We are very appreciative of the support this team receives from their parents, school and community. I will miss our five seniors because they added a lot to this team, each in her own way. I am very proud of each and everyone of these girls!"

The five seniors on this season's team were Casey Carter, Pam Foley, Stacy Reeves, Amber Engelbert and Kylee Witt.

Boosters will meet earlier

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, one half hour earlier than normal, in the high school cafeteria.

The earlier time is due to the football team's schedule changes to prepare for the district football game at Phillipsburg on Thursday.

Speaking will be football Coach Bruce Graber, volleyball

Coach Jill Lively and cross country Coach Deyton Hager. They will report on their teams' competition last Friday and Saturday.

Following the speeches, Coach Graber will show the video of Norton's district win over Russell on Friday night. Refreshments will be served.

All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend.

Norton cross country team takes fifth at regional meet

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School boys cross country team placed fifth in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Lakin.

Norton girls also competed but did not have enough runners for a team score.

Ellsworth, the No. 1 state ranked team, placed first with 51 points, followed by No. 3 ranked Holcomb, second, 81; No. 7 ranked Lakin, third, 98; Chaparral, fourth, 102; No. 4 ranked Norton, fifth, 116; Hoisington, sixth, 121; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, seventh, 131; Lyons, eighth, 229; Ellinwood, ninth, 236; Cheney, tenth, 299.

The top three teams and top ten runners plus top five individuals from non-qualifying teams if they were not included in the top ten qualified for the State Meet at Wamego this Saturday.

None of the Norton boys or girls runners qualified for the state meet.

Norton senior Derek Volgamore placed 15th in 18-minutes, 39.85-seconds.

Next were sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 16th, 18:45.75; sophomore Kent Mann, 19th, 18:50.77; sophomore Jared Engelbert, 33rd, 19:20.32; and junior Jeremy Harding, 39th, 19:46.08.

Also running for Norton were freshmen David Counter and Andrew Black. David placed 49th in 20:31.67 and Andrew, 53rd with a personal best of 20:57.61.

The first place finisher was Cole Gintner of Thomas More in 16:33.32.

Ellsworth also won the girls

championship with 25, followed by Holcomb, 66; Lyons, 81; Thomas More, 84; Ellinwood, 105.



Derek Volgamore, the only senior on the Norton boys cross country team, turns on a finishing kick in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Lakin. Volgamore was the fastest Blue Jay runner and placed 15th.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Junior Karlie Jones placed 23rd for the Norton girls in 14:32.07. She was followed by junior Amber Overlease, 29th, 14:43.24; senior Crista Rhoades, 41st, 15:40.79; and sophomore Morgan Bailey, 42nd place, 15:41.11.

Cory Christensen, Medicine Lodge, won the girls championship in 12:03.77.

"This regional meet was more than just a regional," said Coach Hager. "It was pretty close to being a state meet with one or two teams not present. We did not have our best day; that is for sure. It was just not the right day for us. I know we can run so much better but we just didn't have it today."

"But, I am so proud of the boys. They have had a great year and they should hold their heads up. We were the only Norton team to win the league in the fall sports this season and we hit some other big goals, too. Winning the Wamego Meet was really good as was the championship of the Norton Invitational."

"Our girls needed to run their best times of the season if they were to go on to the state meet this year. Karlie and Amber didn't get out and run like I know they can. Crista ran a very good time, just edging Morgan at the finish. Our girls also had a good season with some good individual finishes."

"We will lose just Derek and Crista to graduation this year and we will miss both of them. Their leadership has really come out and helped us this season. Derek will be especially hard to replace but I am sure someone will step up and take his spot."

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