

Lady Jays beat Northern Valley, but lose to Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team defeated Northern Valley but lost to Phillipsburg in matches played Tuesday in Phillipsburg.

After losing to the Lady Panthers 15-25, 24-26 in the opening match, the Lady Jays came back to outscore the Lady Huskies 25-13, 25-19.

"We had a good news, bad news situation in playing on Tuesday," said Norton head coach Chuck Zimmerman. "The good news was we played much better as a team against both our opponents. We served much better, a combined 93 percent, and hit better as we had 29 kills for the evening.

"The bad news was we lost to Phillipsburg in two games."

Phillipsburg match

"What the score in the first game with Phillipsburg doesn't show is we jumped ahead early but did not hold the lead," said coach Zimmerman. "The Lady Panthers came back and won by continuing to attack whenever possible, which is the mark of a good team.

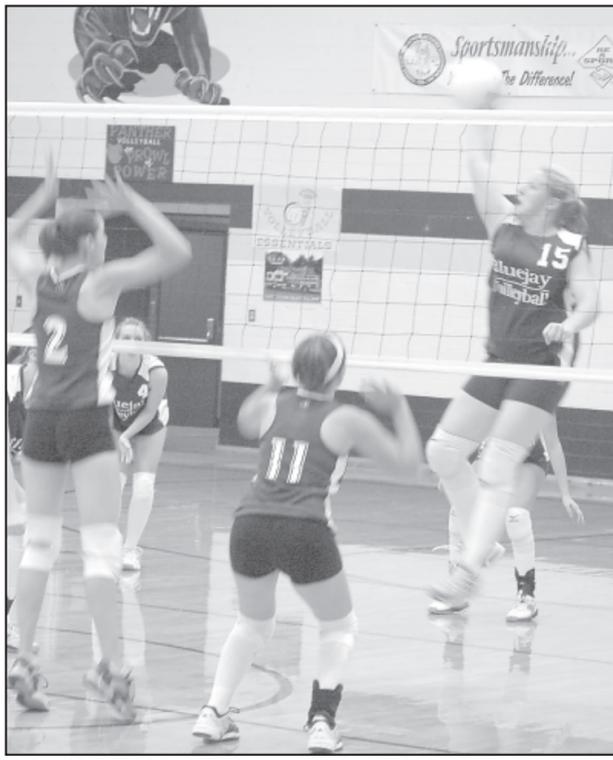
"In the second game, we hung tough throughout and played our best ball of the year. We attacked and had seven kills. Our serves kept the Lady Panthers off balance enough that they were not able to mount as effective an attack, which was to our advantage. We were defeated but fought tough the entire second game."

Courtney LeClair, Courtney Cox, Maggie Nielsen, Brianna Felton, Hayli Bozarth were perfect in serving.

Norton missed just two serves, so averaged 95 percent. Norton setters were credited with 11 assists. Katharine Roy had 6 and Courtney Cox had 5.

Norton only passed at a 1.5 rate with LeClair, Nielsen and Felton at 2 or above.

Lady Jay hitters improved over season opening matches, recording 11 kills with Cox getting 3 and LeClair, Nielsen and Bozarth, 2 each.



Norton's Hayli Bozarth went up to spike the volleyball during the Lady Jays' win over the Lady Huskies in Phillipsburg on Tuesday. Bozarth was the leader for Norton with seven kills.

— Courtesy photo by David Steinle

Northern Valley match

"Against Northern Valley, we played a talented team that is forced to play players out of position because of a lack of numbers," said coach Zimmerman.

"You must give a lot of credit to the Lady Huskies as they never let down."

Norton served at a 90 percent rate with 11 aces. Perfect servers were Bozarth, 11, 2 aces; Felton, 10; Cox, 2. Other servers who recorded aces were LeClair, 4; Nielsen, 3; Sara Lentz, 2.

Lady Jay defenders covered the floor at a rate of 1.7. Those players above the team average were Ashli Hageman, Cox, Lentz, Felton and Lacey Roe.

Norton hitters had 18 kills. Bozarth was the leader with 7, fol-

lowed by LeClair, 4; Nielsen, 3. "To improve, we must continue to attack the ball at all times," said coach Zimmerman. "We must develop a block that will help the defenders by taking away some of the court that they will have to protect."

Next action

The Norton varsity will not play again until they compete in the Atwood Quad on Sat., Sept. 16; meanwhile, the junior varsity will play in the Quinter Tournament this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. and the C-team will play Trego Community here on Monday, beginning at 5 p.m. The C-team will also play Colby and Hays on Thurs., Sept. 14, in Colby, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Junior varsity volleyball goes 1-1

By DICK BOYD

The Norton junior varsity volleyball team opened the 2006 season on Tuesday, Aug. 29 with a win over Osborne and loss to Colby in Colby.

The young Lady Jays defeated Osborne 25-14 and 25-23.

"We came out and played very well against Osborne," said coach Jill Scott.

"In both games, we took early leads and kept them with aggressive serving.

"It felt good to start the season

with a win. Our girls played hard and showed a lot of heart by not letting Osborne come back and get the best of them in the second game.

"I was very happy with the effort level during that game."

Norton lost to Colby 12-25 and 22-25.

"We fell behind early in both games against Colby," said coach Scott.

"In the second game, we fought back and made a run towards the end of the game but still fell short.

"We need to learn to play hard from the very first serve. When we dig ourselves that big of a hole, it will get harder and harder to get ourselves out of it. I hope that is a lesson we learn very fast!"

"Overall, I was happy to get a win. The first one always feels pretty good!"

Due to technical difficulties, statistics for the matches were not available.

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams played Northern Valley and Phillipsburg on Tuesday in Phillipsburg.

Blue Jay junior varsity loses season-opener

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team opened the 2006 season with a 36-0 loss at Smith Center on Tuesday.

The Redmen scored on their first four possessions and were successful on two conversions for two points.

Norton was unable to sustain any offensive consistency in the first half and trailed 28-0 at half-time.

The second half did not get off to a good start for Norton. The Redmen returned the opening fumbled kickoff for another touchdown. From that point in the contest, the Blue Jays were much more active and effective on both sides of the ball. The Norton defense shut out the Redmen offense in the second half and, although they were not able to score, the Blue Jay offense was more productive in this half.

Norton earned six first downs in the second half. Late in the game, the Blue Jays threatened to score

and took two shots at the end zone before time ran out.

Brad Nuzum and Landon Hamel spearheaded the defense. Each had a fumble recovery. The second half offensive charge by the Blue Jays was led by the tough running of Matt Stanley.

David Stover and Jason Jones are the junior varsity football coaches.

"We did not open the game with the effort and intensity we needed and Smith Center really took it to us," said coach Stover.

"I was pleased with the effort we made in the second half and we saw improvement in our play as the game progressed.

"This group will improve if we build on the effort and attitude that was established in the second half of the game."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team's second game of the season will be versus Trego Community on Monday at Travis Field in Norton with kickoff set for 6:30 p.m.



Norton's Hannah Mills returns the ball during No.1 doubles play in the Phillipsburg Round Robin on Tuesday. Mills and Reesa Volgamore placed third.

— Courtesy photo by David Steinle

Norton tennis team takes third

Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School girls tennis team placed third in the Phillipsburg Round Robin on Tuesday in Phillipsburg.

Russell won the championship with 25 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 11; Norton, 9 and Trego Community, 7.

Lisa Jones and Tiffany Marx finished second in No.2 doubles, Hannah Mills and Reesa Volgamore were third in No.1 doubles, Kayleigh Brooks was third in No.2 singles and Brianne Nelson placed fourth in No.1 singles.

In No.2 doubles, Jones and Marx lost their first match 8-5 to Robbie Hadley and Jodie Mongeau of Phillipsburg. They outscored Russell's Kyla Reinhardt and Bailey Driscoll 8-6, then shutout Trego Community's Amanda Gosser and Sheena Schneider 8-0.

Since Norton, Phillipsburg and Russell had 2-1 records, judges

went to percentage of games won to decide the placings. Using this format, Russell was first, Norton second and Phillipsburg third.

"Lisa and Tiffany continue to be our most successful entry," said coach Green. "This success continues because of their accurate placement of the ball and their consistent play.

"Their hard work and hustle resulted in the three-way tie for first."

In No.1 doubles, Mills and Volgamore were shutout 8-0 by Kayla Jarvis and Shayne Runion, Phillipsburg. Next, they lost to Russell's Jessica Gidenkauf and JayCee Gfeller 8-7(7-5) and defeated Trego's Samantha Augustine and Olivia Fabrizio 8-7(7-2) to place third.

"Hannah and Reesa never seem to give up and are in the match to the very end," said coach Green.

Kyleigh Brooks defeated Kady Malmberg, Phillipsburg, 8-7(8-6),

then lost 8-2 to Mallory Mahoney of Russell and lost 8-2 to Cassie Dietz of Trego to place third.

"Kayleigh's rallies are lasting much longer and she is winning more points," said coach Green.

In No.1 singles, Brianne Nelson lost 8-0 to Melinda Schremmer, Phillipsburg; lost 8-0 to Victoria Guede of Russell and lost 8-5 to Julia Albin of Trego to place fourth.

"Brianne continues to improve," said coach Green. "She played an excellent match against Albin of Trego."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity tennis team competed in the Trego Round Robin on Thursday in WaKeeney and will host the JV Quad in Norton on Saturday in the swimming pool park, beginning at 10 a.m.

The Norton varsity's next action will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. in both Phillipsburg and Goodland.

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