

Elmwood Speedway busy this weekend

By DICK BOYD

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The United Rebel Sprint Series (URSS), in conjunction with the MBM Motorsports, will celebrate the end of summer with a Labor Day double-header weekend at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton.

This will be a great opportunity to see the best of two periods of history from the past to the present in the Saturday and Sunday

action

The URSS 305 Winged Sprint Cars will be the featured class both nights along with the Vintage Racers from the Kansas Antique Racers, Colorado Vintage Oval Racers and Big Car Racing Association.

The action on the historic half-mile Elmwood Park Speedway has always been fast and furious with the Rebels and this race weekend will be no exception.

Smokey Fairbank, Jon Johnson, Randy Bantam, Mark Bantam, Justin Schwien, Corey Lutters, Darren Berry, Taylor Velasquez, Chuck Lutters, C.J. Johnson, Tim Perkins, Randy Washburn, Jeff Radcliffe, Cody Salem, Tommy Williams, Bill Hayes, Willie Wynn, Reed Bernbeck, Shawn Radcliffe, Ray Seemann, Ken Lutters and Larry Radcliffe are expected to race along with the rest of the best 305 Sprint Car

drivers from the region in a battle for the wins.

The Vintage Cars will showcase the best of the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s year race cars as they were raced at county fairs on countless weekends across the United States. Many of the cars that will be on the track during this two-day race weekend were built by area racers and campaigned at tracks throughout the region in their hey days.

On Sunday, the Vintage Racers will have a static display at the park in the morning with a noon meal for the racers and exhibitors.

The Rebels will resume racing at 7 p.m. along with more vintage exhibitions. Pit gates open each day at 4 p.m. with racing action beginning at 7 p.m. each day.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 11 and children 5

and under are always free.

For more information on the Vintage Racers, you can call Don McMullen, (785)877-3299; Jerry Bantam, (785)877-5353 or Randy Bantam, (785)877-6905.

For information on the United Rebel Sprint Series, call Rick Salem, (785)475-7010, e-mail him at rksalem@eagle.net or visit the series website at www.unitedrebelsprintseries.com.

Volleyball opens season Tuesday

By DICK BOYD

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Second year head coach Peggy Cox has 30 players on the 2008 Norton Community High School girls volleyball team which will open the season on Tuesday with matches versus Colby and Osborne in Osborne.

Both varsity and junior varsity matches will be held, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Varsity matches will be played in the new gym in this order: Osborne vs. Colby, Colby vs. Norton and Osborne vs. Norton.

Junior varsity matches will be in the high school gym in this order: Osborne vs. Colby, Colby vs. Norton, Norton vs. Osborne.

Last year's Lady Blue Jay squad won the championship of the sub-state tournament, which was held in Norton, and competed in the state tournament in Salina.

Six letter winners graduated but six return. They are Hayli Bozarth, 5-foot-9-inch outside hitter; Ashley Colip, 5'5" setter; Katharine Roy, 5'7" libero, seniors; Lacy Keilig, 5'11" opposite; Ashlie Stewart, 5'2" defensive specialist; Shelby Jones, 5'3" defensive specialist, juniors.

Other key players are Charli Lawson, 5'6" opposite; Wiyanna

Paxton, 5'8" middle; Lacey Wallingford, 5'10" outside hitter; Amanda Delimont, 5'8" outside hitter, seniors; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5'11" opposite; Alyssa Thomson, 5'6" middle; Bethany Roy, 5'5" outside hitter, juniors.

Other squad members are: Hannah Waggoner, 5', Bethany Winkel, 5'11"; Kendra Engelbert, 5'10"; Raven Brown, 5'4"; Bekah Streck, 5'6"; Shaylyn Boteler, 5'3"; Lindsey Tacha, 5'4"; Katie Gall, 5'5", sophomores; Erin Terrell, 5'8"; Sady Keilig, 5'3"; Kylie Nuzum, 5'5"; Brae Bigge, 5'3"; Mariah Farber, 5'4"; Alexis Henson, 5'8"; Brooklyn Winkel, 5'2"; Caren Thomson, 5'5", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this year will be Christine (Eveleigh) Thompson and Jill Lively, both NCHS graduates.

Student managers are freshmen Destiny Chastain and Bryan Henry.

Fans will get a good look at the team during the annual food drive scrimmage this evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Pictures can be taken beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the scrimmage scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

Coach Cox is a graduate of Ster-

ling High School and Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in education in 1988. She finished her master's degree in special education in May, 2007.

She was head volleyball coach at Eastern Heights High School for five years and assistant high school volleyball coach at Norton for four years.

After graduating from NCHS, coach Eveleigh played volleyball at Barton County Community College and Missouri Western University. She coached college volleyball for six years, then was head coach for four years at Northern Valley High School.

Coach Lively played for Barton County Community College before finishing her playing career at Emporia State University. She was the NCHS head volleyball coach for four years before taking a break.

Hayli Bozarth is a returning All-Mid-Continent League player. She received honorable mention her sophomore year and was named to the second team as a junior. She was the team's kills leader the past two years. As a sophomore she had 114 kills and last season she recorded 204.

Katharine Roy was the Lady Jays' digs leader last season with

192.

"The connection level between our players has been good and practices have gone well," said coach Cox.

"I think we will be much more consistent than we were last year. We have our core defensive players returning and, while we're missing some hitters from last season, I think that players are going to step up and fill those spots.

"We are looking for at least one more setter as we lost a two-year starter to graduation.

"The Mid-Continent League will continue to be tough. Several league teams made it to the state tournaments last year so you can't take anyone for granted. It would be tough ranking teams in the league but it looks like Trego, Phillipsburg and Smith Center will be among the toughest.

"We'd like to be in contention for the sub-state title again. We gained some valuable experience at the state tournament and would like to redeem our honor in Salina.

"I'd like to see us win some tournaments and show people that we need to be taken seriously and that sub-state last season wasn't a fluke. Day two of the state tournament is our goal."

Blue Jay volleyball schedule

VARSITY-JUNIOR VARSITY

Tuesday, September 2 - Osborne/Colby (V, JV) at Osborne 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9 - Phillipsburg/Northern Valley (V, JV) at Phillipsburg 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 13 - Quinter JV Tournament at Quinter 9 a.m.

Thursday, September 18 - Goodland (V, JV) Here 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 20 - Atwood Quadrangular (V, JV) at Atwood 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 23 - Hill City/Hoxie (V, JV) Here 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30 - Colby/Atwood (V, JV) at Colby 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 4 - Oberlin Tournament (V, JV) at Oberlin 9 a.m.

Tuesday, October 7 - Smith Center/Trego (V, JV) at Smith Center 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 11 - Scott City Tournament (V) at Scott City 9 a.m.

Tuesday, October 14 - Golden Plains/Logan (V, JV) Here 4:30

p.m.
Saturday, October 18 - MCL Tournament (V) at Ellis 8 a.m.

Tuesday, October 21 - Goodland/Ulysses (V, JV) at Goodland 5

p.m.
Saturday, October 25 - Sub-State Tournament (V) TBA

Friday, October 31 - State Volleyball Tournament (V) TBA

Saturday, November 1 - State Volleyball Tournament (V) TBA

C-team

Tuesday, September 2 - Colby/TMP/McCook at Colby 4:30 p.m.

Monday, September 8 - Phillipsburg at Phillipsburg 5 p.m.

Monday, September 15 - Oberlin Here 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 18 - Hays/Colby/Hill City at Hays 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 20 - Phillipsburg C Tournament 8 a.m.

Monday, September 22 - Phillipsburg/Smith Center/Russell at Phillipsburg 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 25 - Smith Center/Colby Here 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 27 - Hill City Tournament at Hill City 9 a.m.

Monday, September 29 - Goodland Here 5 p.m.

Monday, October 6 - St. Francis at St. Francis 5 p.m.

Tennis opens season at WaKeeney

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwks.com
The Norton Community High School girls tennis team will open the 2008 season at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday in the annual Trego Round Robin Tournament in WaKeeney.

Competing teams, in addition to Trego and Norton, will be Colby, Osborne, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Russell, Tribune and Victoria.

Norton native Marianne (Archibald) Wicker is a first year head coach of the Lady Blue Jays. She replaced Lisa Henderson, also a Norton native, who was head coach last year after Jim Green, who is still in the school system, coached the team for 24 years.

Coach Wicker is an NCHS graduate with the class of 1974. She lived in Phoenix, Az., the past 31 years but moved back to Norton recently and married Gregg Wicker.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to be involved in the community, meet new people and get reacquainted with old friends," said coach Wicker.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be welcomed back to Norton with open arms!"

Fourteen players have reported for this year's team and five are returning letter winners. They are: Hannah Fulton, Stephanie Shepard, seniors; Allie Corbin, Emily Juenemann, Kelsey Nu-

zum, juniors.

Other returning players are: Kyra Fulton, Nicquel McVey, Meaghan Peterson, Ashley Millan, Kaitlyn Ross and Katie Scott, sophomores. First year players include Rachel Shepard and Morgan Baumann, both sophomores. Gaia Cazzaniga, a junior who is a foreign exchange student from Italy, is also a first year player on the squad.

Student manager is sophomore Kelsie Griffith.

Nan Smith is beginning her second season as assistant coach. She is also a third grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School.

"I'm fortunate to have Nan helping me this year," said coach

Wicker.

"We've been practicing hard these past two weeks to develop our team. We have an awesome group of girls this season."

Pictures today

Fans are reminded that they are invited to take team and individual photos of the Lady Jays today at the tennis courts in the Swimming Pool Park, beginning at 4 p.m. Following the picture session, some exhibition matches will be played.

Admission to the picture session and matches will be a canned good, non-perishable food item, laundry or dish soap or deodorant for God's Pantry in Norton.

Blue Jay tennis schedule

Saturday, August 30 - Trego Varsity Round Robin (T) 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 6 - Colby Varsity Tournament (T) 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 9 - Phillipsburg High School (T) 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 11 - Trego JV Round Robin (T) 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 13 - Norton JV Quad (H) 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 16 - Goodland Varsity Tournament (T) 3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16 - Phillipsburg Varsity Quad (T) 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 18 - Phillipsburg JV Quad (T) 3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23 - Goodland JV Tournament (T) 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 27 - Trego Invitational (T) 9 a.m.

Saturday, September 27 - Phillipsburg JV Tournament (T) 9 a.m.

Thursday, September 30 - Colby Varsity Tournament (T) 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 4 - Colby JV Tournament (T) 9 a.m.

Saturday, October 4 - MCL at Phillipsburg (T) 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 9 - Regional Tennis (T) TBA

Saturday, October 11 - Sub-State Tennis (T) TBA

Friday, October 17 - State Tennis Tournament (T) TBA

Saturday, October 18 - State Tennis Tournament (T) TBA

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