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Blue Jay volleyball season comes to end

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The No.5 seeded Norton Community High School girls volleyball team played No.4 seeded Beloit on Saturday in the Class 3A Substate Tournament on the Lady Trojans' home court and the Lady Jays' season ended with a 21-25, 22-25 loss.

Norton came into the tournament with a 15-14 record and Beloit was 18-14, setting the stage for a close match.

As the points show, it was a advantage may have made the difference.

After the loss by four points in the first game, Norton appeared to be the far superior team in the second game and threatened to extend the match to three games. The Lady Jays jumped into an early 12-4 lead and were still on top 16-8 when the Lady Trojans rallied for the win.

coach Peggy Cox.

that when you have to win it all 25-16, 25-22.

second game when we had the lead. We didn't take advantage when we could have and came home early.'

Hayli Bozarth led in kills with 9, followed by Lacy Keilig, 4; Bethany Roy, 3; Kaitlyn Wolf, 1. a 15-15 record.

Katharine Roy and Bethany Roy each had 1 serving ace.

5, followed by Shelby Jones, Bethany Roy, 1 each.

Assists leader was Katharine close match but the home court Roy with 9, followed by Jones, 6; Ashley Colip, 1.

Keilig led in blocks with 2, followed by Bozarth, Amanda Delimont, 1 each.

In other first round matches, No.2 seed Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays defeated No. 7 Southeast of Saline 25-16, 25-19 and No.3 Herington outscored No.6 Ellsworth 25-21, 25-16.

No.1 seed Phillipsburg drew a "We had our opportunity but first round by e and defeated Beloit couldn't finish," said Norton head 25-20, 25-17 in the semi-finals. In the other semi-final match, TMP-"We did okay but you can't do Marian defeated Herington 16-25,

to go to the state tournament. We In the championship finals,

allowed Beloit to push too many Phillipsburg defeated TMP-Marpoints in a row, especially in the ian 26-24, 25-18 to earn a berth in next week's 3A State Tournament in Salina.

The Lady Panthers will take an impressive 37-2 record into the state tournament.

Norton finished the season with

Senior members of the team were: Lacey Wallingford, Katha-Ashlie Stewart led in digs with rine Roy, Amanda Delimont, Charli Lawson, Ashley Colip, Wiyanna Paxton and Hayli Bozarth.

Comments on season

"Overall, it's been a good year," said coach Cox. "We made our goal of being .500, we were one game shy of being in the championship bracket of the Mid-Continent League Tournament and we matured as a team.

"For the most part, I think the focus in general was much better than last year's.

"Obviously, we're going to have some rebuilding to do next year and, with four starters graduating, some big holes to fill but I feel very confident that our junior varsity players from this year are eager to make a difference at the varsity level next season."



Norton's Hayli Bozarth spiked the ball during the Lady Jay's match with Beloit in the Class 3A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament in Beloit on Saturday. Pictured behind Hayli is Katharine Roy. In the foreground for Norton are, from left, Shelby Jones, Amanda Delimont and Ashley Colip.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Northern Valley volleyball

Substate loss ends season

kies traveled to Ransom for their have believed we would have had first substate volleyball action and did themselves proud on the day, but just ran into a much taller team in Weskan.

our own size in Wilson and even though we started out slow, very slow, we came on to win in three. Our match against Wilson saw us revert back to our free ball mode. We allowed Wilson to have all the fun while we scurried all over the of leadership by showing, on the court chasing their offerings. We were defeated 14-25."

only words spoken in the huddle dangerous as powerful hits and were to get back to what we do being a consistent server is key to well and that is serve and pass any winning team. Megan Cole and the attack will follow — and showed the team that one can be it did. To the tune of a 25-20 win, a triple threat on the court by befollowed by a 25-23 win and the ing a force on serving, a deadly

Well, let's just put it this way, or as gave the team a leadership role one of the officials told me before in not ever giving up on a ball. the match started, 'you could use some height.'Weskan averaged 5-9 for all 12 of their rostered players, all of whom could attack the pass may not have been perfect, net, even their libero (defensive plus she showed the younger girls specialist).

Weskan just hit over us and into the seams of our defense and they hit it hard — no free ball or soft spikes. So, we did lose this substate championship match 7-25, 11-25, but we feel it was to possibly be one of the best teams in play for championships. Alison is the state, not only in our class but our most complete player as she in all the classes," he said.

"This finishes our volleyball season, a season in which when we started no one gave us much hope of ending up where we did conference regular season champions, conference tournament champions, regional tournament champions and substate runnerup. All in all a very good season, a 19-10 overall record with only three losses to Class 1A schools with all the rest at the hands of larger schools. This group of

this successful of a season," coach Zimmerman said.

The coach said the credit for the team's success goes directly "But," said coach Chuck Zim- to the players. "Our senior, Hanmerman, "first we played a team nah Hawks, kept the team striving for improvement as she herself improved her defensive skills and became a very good passer,"

The coach continued:

"Our junior class took on a role court, how we as a team need to play. Karen Wenzl showed "Again," the coach said, "the that controlled attacks are just as the state, 42-0 Weskan for the some defender who rarely passed Anderson became one of the best at delivering a ball to where it needed to be even though the the intensity it takes to play at our "Our players did all they could, level. Alison Cole has shown the team, especially our younger players, what a player does to become a complete player. Alison, as well as the rest on the upperclassmen, has demonstrated how hard you must work if you want to be good and has the ability to do it all and she does it very well."

> The coach said these upper classmen have taken each, 'little sister' under their wings and helped teach them the skills and intangibles that it takes to be successful in the world of sport. "For this, coach Largent and myself thank them," coach Zimmerman said.

As for the sophomores, the coach said, "Our sophomores, Staci Dole and Kenzie Chandler have watched and learned well as ladies finished in the top 16 out they came on strong this season

The Northern Valley Lady Hus- of 130+ schools — no one would and filled roles that were very much needed for us to be successful. Dole became a very good passer and reliable server while Chandler became a dependable attacker and had an amazing block to help us at regional."

> And about the freshmen, he said, "Our freshmen, Katie Stillion, Melissa Hawks, Cassie Field, Kelsey Raburn, Ashley Constable, and Sarah Whitney, who all benefited from the teachers they had, came through like champs. They took in the information, fine tuned their skills to accommodate the high school game and filled very important roles on a team that needed role players so we could compete and they did."

One more person came in for praise. "The final member of our team that I want to thank is assistant coach Kevin Largent, or more attacker who can change speeds importantly to me is his title of "We then played #1 ranked in to confuse the defense and an awe- 'trainer' as used in the volleyball world. Coach Largent has become right to go to the state tournament. a bad pass. Christina Anderson a believer in my scheme and has done a wonderful job of teaching the girls the skills needed to be successful. He is able to identify a weakness and assist the players on ways in which to correct it so that we are successful on every play of the ball that we have. I thank him for this and his tireless efforts on behalf of the girls and myself,"

> said the head coach. He concluded: "On this day at Ransom with the gym packed with volleyball fans we had a great following. That was very appreciated by the girls and coaching staff. We thank all who came out to support us during the season and hope you got to watch us these past 2-3 weeks as we started to come together and played some very fine ball.'

> His parting comment: "We close this season with smiles as we know the future is bright for the Lady Husky sports teams. We lose a valuable senior in Hannah Hawks but we will gain some talented freshmen. So, if our players will work to improve in the off season we hope to have a repeat performance next season — only take it one step further."

Wheatland too much for Huskies

The Northern Valley Huskies lost a 42-26 decision to Wheatland-Grinnell last Friday night in

They were at Sharon Springs last night, but the details of that game were not available for this issue of The Telegram.

Against Wheatland, here are the scores by quarters:

Northern Valley 0-0-12-14

12-18-6-6=42Wheatland The Huskies picked up 262 yards on the ground on 47 carries, Eagleburger completed a 5-yard Kickoff Returns — Jeffries, Wheatland 110.

Northern Valley recorded 12 first downs and Wheatland 9.

In the penalty category, the Huskies were flagged 3 times for 20 yards and Wheatland 6 times for 30 yards.

The Huskies fumbled once and Dusty Eagleburger, 10/59; Hays, Wheatland twice. Northern Valley punted 3 times

for 93 yards (31.0 average) vs. Wheatland twice for 55 yards (27.5 average), and one blocked.

Dusty Eagleburger put Northern Valley on the scoreboard first with a 1-yard run in the third quarter. The PAT pass failed. Justin Jeffries followed up with a 51-yard touchdown run, also in the third quarter. Again the PAT run failed.

Huskies collected 59 yards and fries scored the Huskies' final touchdown in the fourth period passed to Callaway for the 2-point conversion.

Individual statistics

ries, 13 yards; J. Jeffries, 13/149; Gehrke, 7-4-11

12/27; Drew Eagleburger, 5/13.

Passing — Dusty Eagleburger, 19 attempts, 10 completions, 59 yards, 1 TD.

Pass Receiving — J. Gallentine, 2 for 13 yards; Jeffries, 1/19; Callaway, 3/13; Hays, 3/9; Woodside, Punts — Dusty Eagleburger, 3

for 93 yards (31.0 average). Kickoffs — Drew Eagleburger,

1 for 36 yards; J. Gallentine, 3 for In the fourth quarter, Dusty 49 yards (16.1 average).

while Wheatland managed 283 pass to Eric Woodside for a touch- 3 for 21 yards (7.0 average); J. yards on 42 carries. In the air, the down. The PAT pass failed. Jef- Gallentine, 5 for 53 yards (10.6

> Tackles (solo, assists, totals): on a 7-yard run. Eagleburger Herman, 1-0-1; McMillin, 3-2-5; Jeffries, 3-2-5; C. Callaway, 8-3-11; Gallentine, 1-0-1; Hays, 2-2-4; Drew Eagleburger, 15-8-23; Gra-Rushing — J. Gallentine, 6 car- ham, 2-4-6; Woodside, 5-5-10;



Blue Jays and Husky runners to state

Norton Community High School and Northern Valley High School cross country runners will compete in the State Cross Country Meet on Saturday at the golf course on the west edge of

Coach Tom Hehn's Lady Jays will compete as a team for the second year in a row. Running for Norton will be Laura Lee Baird, KaraJo Jones, Taylor Rossi, Kaylen Rossi, Abby Bainter, Dustyna Sprigg and Amanda Ray.

Norton's only boy qualifier was Zach Bainter.

The Norton girls team is ranked No.4 in the state in Class 3A. Laura Lee Baird and Zach Bainter are both ranked in the top five individual runners in Class 3A in the state.

Kayla Field was the only state qualifier for coach Laryl Rous's Northern Valley squad.

The Norton girls will run in the 3A race at 9 a.m. and Zach will run at 10 a.m.

Kayla will run in the Class 1A division race at noon.

Sports news, notes to (785) 877-3361 or 6908

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