



Norton senior Morgan Baumann had a good day on Saturday in the annual Round Robin Tennis Tournament in WaKeeney. She defeated three girls in No.2 doubles before placing runner-up with a close loss to a Phillipsburg player. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays take runner-up at Trego

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School girls tennis team opened the 2010 season on Saturday with an impressive runner-up placing in the traditionally tough Trego Varsity Round Robin Tournament in WaKeeney.

The top four teams were very, very close and Norton came within one point of tying for the championship. Tribune won the title with 27 points, Norton followed in the runner-up spot with 26 points, Trego was third with 25 and Phillipsburg fourth with 24. Fifth place went to Osborne with 15, followed by Plainville, 8; Russell, 6; Colby, 5.

Coach Green indicated that strong winds during the day made play difficult. "The wind was a problem that affected everyone's game," he said. "The wind was the worst on court five and, for awhile, I thought we owned court five because almost all our players were playing on that court."

"Morgan Baumann won a point in her singles match when she hit the ball over the net and, after it bounced, the wind blew the ball back to Morgan's side of the court without her opponent hitting the ball.

"There were a number of balls that were hit into the wind that didn't make it over the net and many balls that were hit with the wind went long.

"Sophomore Tawni Griffey made her debut at No.1 singles in outstanding fashion, going

undefeated for a first place finish. She is an amazing talent with all the skills and strategies of a top player. Not only did she run her opponents from corner to corner, she hit behind opponents recovering to the center of the court.

"In the match for first place, she defeated Shalee Myers of Tribune, last year's third place finisher at the Regional Tournament in WaKeeney."

Tawni shutout Colby's Kiana Keck 8-0, outpointed Trego's Jackie Albin 8-1 and shutout Osborne's Jessica Gregory 8-0 before meeting Tribune's Myers in the finals and defeating her 8-4.

"Senior Morgan Baumann is much improved over last year," said coach Green. "Coach Montgomery has helped Morgan change the way she plays and that has increased her success.

"Morgan had a great day on Saturday, winning a close match against a Trego player and going undefeated in pool play. She also played well against the Phillipsburg girl in the match for first place."

Morgan played No.2 singles for the Lady Jays. She shutout Janessa Williams of Colby 8-0, edged Emily Wyse of Trego 8-6 and outscored Aubrey Geist of Osborne 8-1 to reach the championship finals. Morgan placed runner-up with an 8-5 loss to Chelsey Edwards of Phillipsburg.

"Playing together for the first time, Rachel Shepard and Meaghan Peterson gave a good account of themselves at No.1 doubles," said coach Green.

"Their best match was against

the Osborne doubles team. Trail-ing 1-5 and playing an eight game pro-set, they were able to win seven games in a row to win!"

Rachel and Meaghan defeated Colby's Laura Juenemann and Megan Schroeder 8-1, lost 8-5 to Trego's Amelia Fabrizio and Leah Flax, defeated Osborne's Ashley Oliver and Jamie Cockerham 8-5 to reach the third place match where they lost 8-3 to Phillipsburg's Kim Nguyen and Ember Ward.

"Bringing home third place medals at No.2 doubles were Kyra Fulton and Nikki McVey," said coach Green. "This was their first time to play together and they worked very well as a team. Their only loss of the day was against Trego, which was very close. Then in the finals, they played against Trego's extra doubles team and the Trego entries are always tough. This was another close match but this time our girls were able to get a victory. Kyra hit a number of shots down the alley for winners and Nikki kept the ball away from the net girl with some well-placed shots."

Kyra and Nikki shutout Colby's team of Tomi Miller and Theresa Bassett 8-0, lost to Trego's Kylie Dunn and Bailee Fritts 8-5 and defeated Osborne's MacKenzie Cameron and Jenna Dibble 8-2 to reach the finals. They outscored Trego's Tia Brunswig and Beth Haffiger 8-5 to finish third.

"Last year, we were seventh in this tournament," said coach Green. "Tribune, Trego, Phillipsburg and Osborne have returned the same players from last year.

We have three new players on this year's varsity and we were able to move from seventh place last year to second and were only one point out of first place.

"I was extremely pleased with how our girls played and our runner-up finish!"

Next action

The Norton junior varsity will compete in the Russell High School Junior Varsity All Singles Tournament at 3 p.m. today in Russell.

Competition will be on the courts at the Memorial Park Complex on Copeland Street.

Teams competing in addition to Norton and Russell are Beloit, Concordia, Ellsworth and Hoisington.

Norton will compete in the Hays Varsity Invitational this Thursday at Hays High School, beginning at 3 p.m.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Hays, will be teams from Colby, Plainville, Russell and Victoria.

The No.1 players from each school will compete at the City Courts at Third and Main Streets and the No.2 players will compete at the Hays High Courts at 2300 East 13th Street.

On Saturday, the Lady Jays will play in the Colby Varsity Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m.

Teams competing, in addition to Norton and Colby, will be from Garden City, Liberal, Osborne, Scott City and Plainville.

Matches will be played on courts at Fike Park and Colby Community College.

Norton to host Invitational cross country meet this Thursday

By DICK BOYD
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Second year head coach George Rossi and his Norton Community High School cross country teams will open the 2010 season by hosting the annual Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of Norton.

The meet will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the junior varsity race and will continue with the girls varsity race at 5 p.m. and the boys varsity race at 5:30 p.m.

The boys will run 3.1 miles and the girls will run 2.5 miles.

Team medals will be awarded to the top three boys and girls teams. Individual medals will go to the top 15 varsity boys and girls and the top 10 junior varsity boys and girls.

Teams from Northern Valley, Hill City, Ellis, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Stockton, Trego Community and Wheatland will compete in addition to Norton.

The Lady Jays have won the championship of their meet the past four years and the Blue Jay boys also won the championship last season after placing third two years ago, second three years ago and winning it three years in a row prior to that.

Coach Rossi has nine girls and 12 boys on this year's roster.

Returning girls letter winners are: Abby Bainter, junior, top 2009 time 17:19; Julia Kent,

sophomore, top 2009 time 17:21; Kamilla Jones, sophomore, top 2009 time 17:48; Dustyna Sprigg, senior, top 2009 time 17:57; Kaylen Rossi, senior, top 2009 time 18:14.

Other girls squad members are Astrid Moen, junior exchange student and Darcy Bainter, Kaitlyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, freshmen.

The Lady Jays lost their top 2009 runner when Regan Simpson moved after an outstanding freshman season when her best time was 16:40.

Returning boys letter winners and their top 2009 times are: Troy Bainter, senior, 18:24; Zach Hartwell, junior, 17:24; Bryan Henry, junior, 17:38; Kegan Vanover, senior, 18:42; John Renner, sophomore, 19:52; Cole Archer, senior, 22:45; Ryan Bainter, sophomore, 22:51.

The five freshmen boys on the team are Alec Hager, Marc Miller, Keith Sander, Garret Otter and Chris Chambers.

Norton lost Chris Maddy, Matt Miller and Grant McClymont off last year's team. Maddy's top time last year was 19:00.

After winning the Norton Invitational last season, the Lady Jays placed second in the Wamego Invitational, second in the Hays Invitational, were champions of the Hill City Invitational, runner-up in the Oberlin Invitational and fifth in the Lakeside Invitational.

The Norton girls were champi-

ons of the Mid-Continent League Meet in Phillipsburg, third in the Regional Meet and third in the State Meet in Wamego.

After winning the championship of the Norton Invitational last season, the Norton boys placed third at Wamego, third at Hays, second at Hill City, won the championship at Oberlin and finished fourth at Lakeside. They also won the championship of the Mid-Continent League Meet for the sixth year in a row, placed second in the Regional Meet and 11th in the State Meet in Wamego.

Coaches' backgrounds
Although in just his second year as head Norton cross country coach, coach Rossi is no stranger to Blue Jay athletics. He coached junior high football for 21 years and junior high track in Norton for the past 22 years. He has also been the assistant girls basketball coach at Norton Community High School for the past 20 years.

Coach Rossi has a bachelor's degree in geology from Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo. and his teaching certificate from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

His assistant coach this season is Nicole Satran. She is a graduate of Trego Community High School in WaKeeney. She ran cross country all four years for the Golden Eagles and competed in the State Meet twice. She received her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.

Nicole is also in her second year as the Spanish Teacher at Norton Community High School.

Coach's comments
"Dustyna Sprigg, Kaylen Rossi, Abby Bainter, Julia Kent and Kamilla Jones bring a good deal of experience to our girls team," said coach Rossi.

"Kaylen is battling back from ACL surgery. We also have some quality additions this year. Astrid Moen is an exchange student from Norway. Astrid is adjusting well to our climate and is really running well right now.

"We also have three outstanding freshmen on our team. Darcy Bainter, who set the 3200 meter record in junior high and Katelyn Engelbert and Marisa Maddy, both excellent runners, round out our girls team.

"We hope to improve on our performances from last year. Our girls know that they have to

work to their peak level each and every week in order to reach these goals."

Coach Rossi is also pleased that his top five runners from last season have returned to the boys team.

"Seniors Troy Bainter, Kegan Vanover and Cole Archer have great experience," he said. "Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry, John Renner and Ryan Bainter also return as varsity runners with state meet experience.

"Freshmen Alec Hager, Keith Sander, Marc Miller and Chris

Chambers look to be good additions to our team. There are several runners competing for a varsity spot. The varsity roster could change from week to week because there are several boys that are very close.

"Our boys look to have a strong showing in the league race and do well at the regional.

"This group has a very good work ethic and they are excited about the season. Our boys hope they can improve their positions from last year and return to the state meet."

Northern Valley Huskies open volleyball season in Downs

We opened the 2010 volleyball season in Downs against the Lakeside Knights and the Tipton Cardinals.

We opened against the home standing Knights and our young team played very well as we led the set the entire time until point 22 then we allowed the Knights to have the next three for the loss of the set, 22-25.

We had a lot of positive play in this first set of the new season as all our players served well (no misses in this first set and Erika Chandler serving around seven straight). We passed well, with Staci Dole and Cassie Lowry anchoring this season's defense while Melissa Hawks, Erika Chandler and Ashley Constable passed very well from the corners. Kelli Whittenburg came in as a relief defender

and passed the ball well in her first varsity action.

These passes allowed our two setters, Kelsey Raburn and Haley Graham, to make some fine overhead passes to their hitters, Ashley Constable, Erika Chandler, Melissa Hawks and Staci Dole, who found gaps and holes in the Knight defense to be very competitive in the first set.

Now, in the second set of the first game our inexperience showed. We had just been beat and we allowed that loss to stay in our minds and we just did not look the same in the second set and lost 16-25.

Adding to our list of things that have to be learned before we can be a good competitive team is that you do not let a loss carry over to the next set and let it bother you. You must correct the mistakes and

move on to play well the rest of the night. We did not in the first set against Tipton and lost 12-25.

We did not respond to their hits and when we did send the ball over it was right at a Cardinal player.

In the second set we let the Cardinals take a lead but we regrouped, set our minds right, and started a terrific comeback with good serving, passing, setting and hitting and almost tied the game but lost 23-25.

So, the lessons to be learned in the first day of competition for this very young team is to play with and use the skills they have developed over their years of playing and that they now have to rely on themselves to settle themselves and their teammates when things are not going exactly as they would want.

LODGE NOTICES	
	American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63 Second and Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m. Darren McMullen, Commander Curt Archibald, Adjutant
	Eagles Lodge FOE 3288 Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Larry Hawks, President Secretary, Vacant
	Sons of the American Legion Second Monday 7:30 p.m. Steve VanDerVeen, Commander Doyle Brooks, Adjutant
	Veterans of Foreign Wars Reg. 7:00 p.m. First Mon. of each Month Curt Archibald, Commander Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster
	I.O.O.F. No. 157 Meet at Eagles Club First and Third Thursday Each Month at 7:30 p.m. Geneva Tier, Noble Grand Randy Knoll, Secretary
	The American Legion Riders Post 63 Meet at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month website: www.alr63.org

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