

Varsity tennis team takes third Norton JV tennis team takes fourth at Russell tournament

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School varsity tennis team tied for third place in the Colby Invitational Tennis Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 3 in Colby.

Colby won the championship with 22 points, followed by Liberal, 14; Norton, 13; Osborne, 13; Scott City, 10.

"There was quite a change in the weather for the Colby Invitational," said coach Green. "After 109 degrees at the Hays Tournament, we get to Colby and the temperature was 60 degrees with a strong north wind and, at times, there was moisture in the air. The girls were getting cold and the north wind affected the flight of the tennis ball, which created some problems for the girls out on the courts."

Norton junior Tawni Griffey continued her unbeaten streak in No.1 singles. She shut out Kathy Nguyen, Liberal, 6-0; shutout Paige Roopchan, Colby, 6-0 and shutout Kathryn Buehler, Scott City, 6-0, to win the championship.

"Tawni continued her winning ways to remain undefeat-

ed," said coach Green.

"Her best competition during the day came from Paige Roopchan of Colby. Paige is very athletic and hits a very hard first serve; however, Tawni was up for the challenge and won easily at 6-0."

In No.1 doubles, Norton sophomore Haley Wallingford and junior Katie Koch competed for the Lady Jays. They lost to Krista Kucharik and Ameila Vasko, Scott City, 7-5; lost to Jamie Cockerham and Taylor Noel, Osborne, 6-2 and, in bracket play, defeated Norton juniors Ruth Kendell and Carla Jo Robinson, playing mixed, 6-1 to place fifth.

Kendell and Robinson earlier lost to Megan Schroeder and Keanna Keck, Colby, 6-2 and lost to Lauren Harp and Melissa Alvarado of Liberal, 6-0.

"We entered two teams at No.1 doubles, Haley Wallingford and Katie Koch for our varsity and a second team of Ruth Kendell and Carla Jo Robinson. Haley and Katie played well, including a close match with Scott City in which they came up a little short. Most of their games were very close and, with a few

more points going their way, those close matches could be their victories.

"Ruth and Carla Jo were playing in a varsity match for the first time and gave a good account of themselves. It was a good experience that helped to improve their games."

Lady Jay junior Sierra Black played No.2 singles. She defeated Alexa Schindler, Colby, of the mixed team, 6-2; lost to Jackie Nguyen, Liberal, 6-0; defeated Brianna Ermahizer, Scott City, 6-1 and beat Bridgett Bickner, Colby, 6-2, to finish 3-1 and place third.

"Sierra Black had a great day playing singles, losing only one match," said coach Green. "She easily won three matches by scores of 6-2, 6-1 and 6-2. She ended in a three way tie for first and placed third based on percentages."

Norton sophomores Rিকেলে Green and Ashley Hildebrand played No.2 doubles. They lost to Brenna Beeson and Callan Rice, Scott City, 6-3; lost to MacKenzie Cameron and Jenna Dibble, Osborne, 6-0 and, in bracket play, beat Norton's mixed team of sophomore Kris-

ten Burge and freshman Molly Scott, 6-1 to place fifth.

Earlier, Burge and Scott lost to Colby's Sara Lamm and Hana Giebler, 6-3 and lost to Maddie Rees and Madison Martinez of Liberal, 6-3.

"At No.2 doubles, we also had two entries, Rিকেলে Green and Ashley Hildebrand playing for our varsity and a second team, Kristen Burge and Molly Scott," said coach Green.

"Rিকেলে has been working to improve her serve and Ashley has been improving on placing the ball.

"Kristen and Molly gave a good effort and played against Colby and Liberal in very close matches."

Next action

Norton competed in the Phillipsburg Quad today, beginning at 1 p.m. and the Lady Jay junior varsity competed in the Russell Invitational, which began at 3 p.m..

The Norton junior varsity will play in the Phillipsburg Quad at 3 p.m. on Thursday and will compete against Tribune and Greeley County, beginning at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland.

lost 6-4. There were just too many close and important points that didn't go our way in these matches.

"At No.4 singles, sophomore Kristen Burge placed fourth overall. She started in excellent fashion by winning 6-3 over Alex Isernhagen of Phillipsburg. Burge then saw a tough opponent in her next round. She lost 6-3 to Lizzy Rhodes of Concordia. Burge then played for the third place match and lost the closest match of the day at 6-5 against Carolyn Patrick of Russell. Burge has some great tennis strokes so, once she becomes more consistent, she will be a great player.

"Freshman Brooke Sumner also played at the No.4 singles spot. In her first round, she lost to Patrick 6-2. She then had a bye, which allowed her to play for fifth. Brooke was defeated 6-1 by Isernhagen. She improved in each match she played in the tournament.

"At No.5 singles, freshman Molly Scott earned second place. This was Molly's first tennis tournament and she continuously played well throughout the day. She first shutout Lauren Garland from Russell by a score of 6-0. She then went on to defeat Avoree Siler from Russell 6-3. Molly then came across her toughest opponent in the finals. She was defeated 6-3 by Chloe Rohouit of Concordia. Molly's consistency was the key to winning her matches at this tournament.

"Shauna Gibson played No.6 singles for the Lady Jays. She was defeated 6-3 in her first match by Baily Dollison of Russell. Then, she had a very close 6-5 match against Whitney DePoy of Ellsworth. Shauna is quick on the court and can get to several balls that seem out of reach."

"Sophomore Kristen Leibhart played No.3 singles for Norton. She also had some very close matches but wasn't able to get those important points for herself. She lost 6-4 to Mariah Coomes from Phillipsburg. Leibhart then had another exciting match against Payton Stoppel from Russell, which she

work on consistency.

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Lady Jay volleyball splits opener matches

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team split matches in their first home action of the young season on Tuesday evening, Sept. 6 when they defeated Northern Valley 25-18, 25-13 and lost to state ranked Phillipsburg 12-25, 20-25.

In the other match, Phillipsburg defeated Northern Valley 25-12, 25-12.

Phillipsburg

"At times we competed very well with them but we just made too many unforced errors to give us a chance," said coach Jilka.

"If we want to compete with top level teams, then we have to eliminate those errors but we were proud of the way our girls played."

Senior Erin Terrell led Norton in kills with 8, followed by senior Caren Thomson, 2; ju-

nior Alec Melvin, junior Teslee Nickell, sophomore Johnnye Ruder, 1 each.

Nickell was assists leader with 10 while Ruder had 5.

Serving 1 ace each were Ruder and Thomson.

Northern Valley

"We were afraid our girls might let down after the Phillipsburg match but we were very proud of the way they came back and played, especially in the second game. Our girls never let them back in the game and that is something we have been working on.

"In practice, we need to keep working hard and keep getting better.

"We play Goodland here next Thursday so we need to take some steps to improve and be ready for them."

Terrell was kills leader again, this time with 9, followed by Thomson, Nickell, 3 each; Ruder, sophomore Bailey Ambro-

sier, 2 each; Melvin, 1.

Nickell led in assists again with 11, followed by Ruder, 8.

In the serving category, Ruder and Nickell each had 3 aces, Thomson had 2 and Terrell had 1.

Junior varsity

Since Northern Valley didn't have enough girls for junior varsity matches, the Norton and Phillipsburg junior varsity teams played the best three out of five matches.

Norton won the first match 25-21, lost the second match 15-25, won the third match 25-22, lost the fourth match 11-25 and lost the fifth match 9-15.

"Our girls did a lot of good things tonight but we are still making too many mental mistakes," said Norton assistant volleyball coach Jodi Ward. "We can't win matches when we are only serving 67 percent.

"I was proud of the way our girls competed and stayed in the

games. Phillipsburg has a good program but we definitely gave them too many points from unforced errors."

Junior Bri Karnopp and junior Anjelica Pfannenstiel each had 3 kills for the evening and freshman Kaitlyn Bohl had 1 kill.

Junior Juliana Miller had 4 setting assists and freshman Adrienne Hager had 1 assist. Bohl had 1 block.

Karnopp served 3 aces, followed by junior Rachel Slipke, 2 and Miller, 1.

Next action

Norton will host their second home match of the young season this Thursday when Goodland comes to town for matches beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Stull Gym.

Play will begin with the junior varsity three out of five games and will be followed by the varsity three out of five contests.

Husky runners place fourth at Mankato

By Kirk Kasson

The Northern Valley Husky Cross Country team showed improvement across the board at their second meet of the year, the Rock Hills Invitational in Mankato, KS.

Every runner lowered their previous week's time dramatically, in spite of the Mankato Country Club's treacherous hills. This resulted in a 4th place finish, a great accomplishment in a ten team meet, considering two of the Northern Valley runners are freshmen.

Gunnar Hays took home 1st place honors and established a new course record with an impressive time of 17:34. The sec-

ond place finisher was over 40 seconds behind.

Jon Compton took 20 seconds off his Norton Invitational time with a ninth place finish in 19:58.

Philip Rupp was 23rd with a 22:05 followed by Macy Kasson in 28th with a 22:51 run. These were personal records for both runners as they each took over one minute off their previous bests.

Brandon McDowell showed the most improvement, taking 13 minutes off his PR, with a time of 30:46.

"I was very pleased with our showing," said coach Kasson. "Gunnar ran through the course

like it was his back yard. He never looked uncomfortable the entire race. Jon is still getting into racing shape and I expect more good things from him."

"Our younger runners did a tremendous job in their first varsity race. Had I entered them in the JV race their times would have earned them 2nd and 4th place respectively. In hindsight I would have liked to see them receive medals, but this helped me to learn where we stand with some of the bigger schools. Next week in Alma we will compete with schools that would all be considered 1A. I'm hoping our team can do very well there."

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each week. Quinter was a good team and the girls worked hard to return their serves and spikes. We play Damar next week at home."

In B Team action the team won 25-12 and then won the second set 25-14.

The top server was Talia Lowry with 12 points followed by Chaylee Lowry with 11, Michaela Sorenson with eight, Katie Johnson with seven, Kylie Kindernecht with six, Brittany Wright with five and HalLee Linner with one.

Head Coach Kirsten Baird said, "We played much better this week. The girls served well and moved to the ball."

The teams will play again this Thursday at Long Island against Damar at 3 p.m.

BOWLING

Stardust League Week of Sept. 5

Team Standings: Team 1, won 6 lost 2; FSBT 1, won 6 lost 2; Little People Daycare, won 5 lost 3; The PC's, won 4 lost 4; FSBT 2, won 2 lost 6.

High Line: Bev Miller, 193; Cindy Linner, 172; Peggy Sevier, 164; FSBT 1, 353; The PC's, 336; FSBT 2, 313.

High Line Handicap: Bev Miller, 239; Tami LeBeau, 228; Peggy Sevier, 220; FSBT 1, 443; The PC's, 433; Team 1, 404.

High Series: Bev Miller, 468;

Peggy Sevier, 455; Cindy Linner, 448; The PC's, 903; FSBT 1, 858; FSBT 2, 839.

High Series Handicap: Carrie Fentiman, 626; Peggy Sevier, 623; Bev Miller, 606; The PC's, 1194; Team 1, 1190; Little People Daycare, 1156.

Week of Aug. 29

Team Standings: Team 1, won 4 lost 0; FSBT 1, won 3 lost 1; The PC's, won 2 lost 2; FSBT 2, won 2 lost 2; Little People Daycare, won 1 lost 3.

High Line: Cindy Linner, 191; Becky Williams, 188; Janet

Manning, 170; The PC's, 349; FSBT 1, 334; FSBT 2, 296.

High Line Handicap: Cindy Linner, 232; Becky Williams, 216; Tami LeBeau, 215; The PC's, 446; FSBT 1, 424; FSBT 2, 402.

High Series: Becky Williams, 501; Cindy Linner, 454; Janet Manning, 446; FSBT 1, 882; The PC's, 857; FSBT 2, 827.

High Series Handicap: Becky Williams, 585; Janet Manning, 578; Cindy Linner, 577; FSBT 1, 1152; The PC's, 1148; FSBT 2, 1145.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Plainville Cardinals 7 p.m. Friday in Plainville
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Logan Trojans 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
Logan Trojans vs. Northern Valley Huskies 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Logan Junior Varsity 6 p.m. Monday in Logan

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Goodland 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Hill City, Hoxie 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Natoma, Logan 4 p.m. Today in Natoma
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Alma, Logan 5 p.m. Tuesday in Alma
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Northern Valley, Natoma 4 p.m. Today in Natoma
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Alma, Northern Valley 5 p.m. Tuesday in Alma

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Quad 1 p.m. Today in Phillipsburg
Norton Junior Varsity in Russell Invitational 3 p.m. Today in Russell
Norton Junior Varsity in Phillipsburg Quad 3 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Tribune, Greeley County 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland

No matter the sport, you can find it here!