

Lady Jays upset No. 1 state ranked Hill City

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team had their best performance of the season on Tuesday evening in the Stull Gym in Norton when they defeated No.1 state ranked Hill City and lost a close, hard fought match to Hoxie.

Norton played Hoxie first and lost 15-25, 25-20, 21-25. Hill City then defeated Hoxie 25-14, 19-25, 25-23.

In the third match of the evening, Norton upset Hill City 25-23, 24-26, 25-22. It was just the third loss of the season for the Lady Ringnecks, who are now 12-3.

In the first game with Hill City, the score was tied 15-all, then the Lady Ringnecks moved ahead 23-22 but Norton tied it at 23-all and scored the final two points for the 25-23 victory.

Norton led by two to three points throughout the second game with the Lady Ringnecks and the score was tied 24-all until Hill City made the final two points to win 26-24.

In the third game, Norton trailed early until junior Alec Melvin served four aces in a row to put the Lady Jays on top 16-14. Norton also had leads of 19-17, 20-17, 21-18 and 21-20 before Hill City tied the score at 21-all. Norton jumped back ahead 22-21 and 23-21. The Lady Ringnecks scored one more point to make it 23-22 but the Lady Jays earned the next two points for the 25-22 win.

HOXIE

"In the first game with Hoxie, we came out very timid and we just didn't think we could play with them," said coach Jilka.

"We got the lead in the second game and they made a run at us



Norton sophomore Johnny Ruder spikes the volleyball for a point during the Lady Jays' impressive upset of No.1 state ranked Hill City in the Stull Gym in Norton on Tuesday evening. Also pictured for Norton are junior Teslee Nickell, No. 12; sophomore Bailey Ambrosier, No. 5 and junior Alec Melvin, No. 11.

but our girls found a way to hold them off and that is something we hadn't been doing.

"We had our chances in the third game and fought back to

make a game of it but couldn't seal the deal.

"Our girls gained a lot of confidence in that match and it carried over to the Hill City

match."

Lady Jay senior Erin Terrell led in kills with 16, followed by senior Caren Thomson, 4; junior Teslee Nickell, 2; sopho-

more Baily Ambrosier and junior Alec Melvin, 1 each.

Sophomore Johnnye Ruder led in assists with 15, followed by Nickell, 7; Ambrosier and

Terrell, 1 each.

Thomson and Nickell each had 1 block.

Melvin had 2 serving aces, followed by Thomson and Nickell, 1 each.

HILL CITY

"That was quite a high school volleyball match we had with Hill City," said coach Jilka. "All three games were nail biters but, in the end, our girls found a way to win. That is something we hadn't been doing but this time we did find a way.

"We are very proud of these girls; they have hung in there and kept believing and it paid off.

"Also, I can't say enough about our crowd and our student body. They were a great help to us with their enthusiasm and it was very well appreciated by our players.

"We still have things to work on and we will keep trying to get better.

"Going to Colby on Tuesday to play Colby and Atwood will be tough and we will need to play as well or better than we did tonight."

Terrell was the kills leader again; this time she recorded 31 kills. Others making kills were Nickell, 4; Ruder, Thomson, 3 each; Ambrosier and Melvin, 2 each.

Nickell and Ruder were assists leaders with Nickell successful on 18 and Ruder on 15. Thomson had 1 assist.

Thomson had 1 block.

Nickell led in digs with 7, followed by Ruder, 6; Melvin, 5; Farber and Ambrosier, 2 each.

Melvin had 6 serving aces, Nickell had 3 and Farber had 1.

Next action

Next Tuesday, the Norton varsity and junior varsity will travel to Colby to take on the Lady Eagles and Atwood, at 4:30 p.m.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The Norton JV tennis team takes runner up

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team placed runner-up in the Phillipsburg JV Quad which was held on Monday after being postponed due to inclement weather.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 26 points, followed by Norton 15; Trego Community, 13; Phillipsburg 2, 6.

"It was a great learning experience for our girls," said Norton assistant tennis coach Crystal Montgomery. "We struggled at times but we also had some great matches throughout the day and pulled out some quality wins.

"I was very proud that we ended up taking second as a team."

Norton freshman Molly Scott played No.1 singles and placed third. She lost to Brittini Groothoff, Phillipsburg, 8-5; drew a bye and lost to Jacy Buchholz, Trego, 8-4.

"This was Molly's first time to play junior varsity No.1 singles for Norton," said coach Montgomery. "She worked hard and learned things as she played. She lost a close one to Groothoff. She was hanging in the match the whole time but just let the last couple of games get away from her."

Lady Jay junior Ruth Kendell and senior Rhees Carlson placed runner-up at No.1 doubles. They lost to Victoria Main and Heather Miller, Phillipsburg, 8-2; drew a bye and defeated Kimberly Day and Cheyenne Phillips, Trego, 8-6.

"Ruth and Rhees struggled in their first match," said coach Montgomery. "We seem to always struggle the first match of the day getting warmed up and ready to play.

"In their second match against Trego, Ruth and Rhees played the best I have ever seen them play. They had amazing intensity and kept it up the entire time. They were moving around the court well and getting a lot of balls back in play. They were able to place second because of that win."

Norton sophomore Shauna Gibson also placed runner-up at No.2 singles. She lost to Tifani Eller, Phillipsburg, 8-4; outscored Danielle Slack, Phillipsburg 2, 8-1 and defeated Bethany Schneider, Trego, 8-7(8-6). "Shauna also started off a little

slow in her first match but she found her rhythm throughout the rest of the day," said coach Montgomery.

"Shauna became more consistent, enabling her to win her next two matches to place second.

"Her last match went into a tiebreaker. She was down 5-6 in the tiebreaker and held off match point for her opponent. She got the next three points to win the match. Shauna did very well dealing with the pressure of a tiebreaker."

At No.2 doubles, playing for Norton were sophomore Kristen Burge and freshman Brooke Sumner and they placed fourth. They defeated Taylor Beach and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg, 8-7(7-5), lost to Alex Isernhagen and Amy Pugh, Phillipsburg 2,

8-4 and lost to Morgan Powell and Crystal Day, Trego, 8-5.

"Kristen and Brooke won an exciting tiebreaker in their first match," said coach Montgomery. "I'm proud of them for not giving up during that match and playing their best during the tiebreaker.

"They ended up taking fourth because of a three-way tie for second. Since they had the lowest game percentage, they placed fourth."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity tennis team played Tribune and Greeley County in Goodland on Tuesday and will play in the Phillipsburg Tournament this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Northern Valley wins one of three

By Dana Paxton

dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Last Thursday the Northern Valley Junior High volleyball team competed against Logan and Damar.

In A Team play, the Lady Huskies won over Damar in two sets, 25-8 and 25-9.

Northern Valley also played Logan and the B Team lost in three sets, 25-16, 23-25 and 15-12.

The Northern Valley C Team also lost to Logan but in two sets, 25-23 and 25-12.

In A Team play against Logan, Damar lost in two sets, 25-23 and 25-22.

The next games will be Thursday at Logan against Osborne starting at 4:30.

Junior Husky team still undefeated

By Dana Paxton

dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Last Thursday the Northern Valley Junior Husky football team took on Damar at Long Island and won 42-6.

The Huskies were the only team to score in the first quarter. Ran Thraikill had a three yard return run off a blocked punt by Regan Kats to score six. Austin Tien then caught a pass from Josh VanLaey and ran it in for the extra points, ending the first quarter 8-0.

The Huskies dominated the second quarter. Austin Tien received a 48 yard pass from VanLaey for the second Husky touchdown. The extra point was no good but brought the score to 14-0. Jesse Courtain had two big plays when he first caught a 49 yard pass from VanLaey and made his first touchdown which brought the score to 20-0. The extra point was no good. Courtain then received an 8 yard pass from VanLaey for another touchdown, ending the first half, 26-0.

In the third quarter Thraikill got his second touchdown of the night on a 40 yard run. Regan Kats then ran it in for the extra points bringing the score to 34-0. Damar got on the score board when Tanner Small had a

nine yard touchdown ending the quarter, 34-6.

The Huskies continued to rule the game and finished out with a nine yard touchdown run by Thraikill, his third one of the night. VanLaey then ran the ball in for the extra points and ended the game, 42-6.

Head coach Jim Cole said, "The Northern Valley/Logan Junior High Football team defeated Damar 42-6 on a cold, rainy night in Long Island. The Huskies played their best defense of the season, tackling very well the entire game. quarter back. Josh VanLaey threw three touchdowns in the wet conditions, with Jesse Courtain catching two and Austin Tien the other one. Ran Thraikill had a great all around game rushing for two scores and recording 12 tackles on defense. Regan Kats had eight tackles and a blocked punt while Carson Wallace intercepted a pass for the third game in a row. The Mean Green will take their 3-0 record to Hill City this week."

Northern Valley had a total of 107 yards rushing. Thraikill led in rushing with seven carries for 56 yards and two touchdowns followed by Carson Wallace with eight carries and 32 yards, Kats with five carries for eight

yards and one two point conversion and VanLaey with six carries and two yards and one two point conversion. Drake Shearer carried the ball twice for three yards followed by Devin Spargo, who had one carry for five yards and Cody Land also carried the ball once for one yard.

Quarter back VanLaey threw the ball eleven times, seven of which were completed for a total of 137 yards and three touchdowns and on two point conversion. Jesse Courtain caught the ball three times for 75 yards and two touchdowns followed by Austin Tien catching the ball twice for 51 yards, one touch down and one two point conversion. Carson Wallace caught a pass for a nine yard gain and Regan Kats also caught a pass for a two yard gain.

Thraikill led the tackles. He had 12 and three assists followed by VanLaey with ten and five assists, Kats with eight and five assists. Matt Florence had six tackles and four assists, Land with six tackles, Wallace had five with three assists and Dalton Smith had two tackles and three assists. Eli Lowry had two tackles and Spargo with four assists, Shearer with three assists, Adam Woomer with two assists and Tien with one assist.



Bob and his wife, Artie

"Generations of our family have received great care at Good Samaritan Hospital."

Bob Hobbs - Kearney, Neb.

Orthopedic care you can *believe* in.

"After a while, things in our body kind of wear out. My doctor and I decided I needed a hip replacement.

"Our family has confidence in Good Samaritan Hospital's medical staff, so we wouldn't have considered going anywhere else for the surgery. After a reasonable healing period, I was doing everything I did before the surgery, including bicycling and skiing.

"My care was excellent. I believe in Good Samaritan Hospital."

Bob Hobbs, Hip Replacement

When orthopedic experience matters, believe in Good Samaritan Hospital.

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Good Samaritan Hospital

Kearney, Nebraska

www.gshs.org

The medical center, centered on you.

See more of Bob's story at www.gshs.org/stories.