



Creighton University's goalie Brian Holt goes high to grab a corner kick in the first half of the Bluejays' 2-0 soccer win over Kentucky. Holt stopped five shots against the second-highest scoring team in the nation. — Courtesy photo by James R. Burnett/Omaha World-Herald

Creighton's National Soccer Player of the Week has relatives in Norton

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkans.com

Brian Holt, a senior soccer goalkeeper for No.2 nationally ranked Creighton University, was named National Player of the Week by College Soccer News and honored as a member of the National Team of the Week by Top Drawer Soccer. com after his record-setting Sept.18-24 week in net.

He posted two more clean sheets during the week and had played more than 719 minutes without allowing a goal this season, while extending his shutout streak to better than 739 minutes.

Holt stopped five shots against the second-highest scoring team in the nation on Sept. 21 as he and his Bluejay teammates blanked No.22 Kentucky 2-0. The Omaha native then turned away six shots by Saint Mary's to record his seventh solo shutout of the season in the 1-0 win, keeping Creighton unscored

upon through eight matches to start the season.

Holt eclipsed his own school record for consecutive minutes played without allowing a goal. As of that week, he had played 739.47 minutes since last allowing a goal last year. That mark surpassed the scoreless streak of 722.12 he set as a freshman in 2008. The fifth year keeper moved his Creighton University and Missouri Valley Conference shutout record to 34 career clean sheets, while dropping his career goals against average to .069, second best in the school and league history. Holt also captured his 44th career win during the week, trailing only Jay Fitzgerald's 53 victories in school history.

As of that week, the Bluejays were the only team in the NCAA which had yet to yield a goal in 2011. Holt's 0.00 goals against average and perfect save percentage both lead the NCAA. Creighton (8-0-0) and

Connecticut (8-0-0) were the only two remaining undefeated and untied teams in the nation.

For the same week, Holt received his third weekly accolade from the Missouri Valley Conference when he was named MVC Defensive Player of the Week.

The Bluejays' eight-game winning streak was snapped last Friday night, however, when they lost 1-0 to third ranked nationally Maryland. The Terrapins' winning goal not only stopped Creighton's scoreless streak but also ended Holt's school-record shutout streak at 753.34. The eight straight shutouts by Creighton were a school record.

Maryland came into the match having scored 28 goals in its first 10 games to lead the nation.

Brian is the son of the former Claudia Klein of Norton and her husband Dan Holt, Omaha and the grandson of Beverly and the late Glenn Klein of Norton.

Norton Volleyball splits at Decatur Invitational

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkans.com
The Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team was very competitive in the tough Decatur Invitational Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Oberlin, going 2-2 in matches.

The Lady Jays started the day with a win over St. Francis 25-17, 16-25, 25-15. Next, they played No.3 state ranked Oberlin and lost 21-25, 22-25 and then played Atwood and lost 17-25, 26-24, 21-25. Their final match was versus Hoxie and they defeated the Lady Indians 18-25, 25-21, 25-17.

"Overall, it was a great day for our volleyball girls," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka. "We played well and improved a lot as a team and as individuals.

"We did a lot of things we had been working on. Our players were very aggressive and played hard all day.

"We need to just keep improving until the time tournaments roll around."

ST. FRANCIS

"In this match, we opened up very well in the first game and played very well," said coach Jilka.

"The second game was just the opposite as they took control.

"In the third game, we were very proud of the way our girls came out and took it right at them. We served at 97 percent, which is tremendous."

Senior Erin Terrell led Norton in kills with 15, followed by senior Caren Thomson, sophomores Johnnye Ruder and Bailey Ambrosier, 2 each.

Junior Teslee Nickell was assists leader with 11, followed by Ruder, 7; Ambrosier, 1; junior Alec Melvin, 1.

Ambrosier and Thomson each had 1 block.

Lady Jay senior Kylie Nuzum led in digs with 12, followed by

Terrell, 9; Thomson, 7; Melvin, 6; Ambrosier, 1; Nickell, 1.

Terrell, Nickell each had 2 serving aces and Nuzum had 1.

OBERLIN

"This was a well played match by both teams," said coach Jilka. "It was back and forth in both games but it was just a matter of coming up with key points at the right time and they won that battle. Our girls played well again. We served 95 percent, which is tremendous."

Terrell was kills leader again, this time with 9. She was followed by Ambrosier, 2; Melvin, 2; Thomson, 1; Nickell, 1.

Assists leader was Ruder with 6, followed by Nickell, 5; Thomson, Terrell, 1 each.

Nickell had 1 block.

Terrell led in digs with 13, followed by Melvin, 7; senior Mariah Farber, 5; Thomson, 5; Ruder, 4; Nickell, 3; Ambrosier, 2.

Farber and Terrell each had 1 serving ace.

ATWOOD

"This was our most disappointing match," said coach Jilka.

"In the first game, we got down early and just never caught up. We were very flat. However, in the second game we woke up and played very well and got the win.

"In the third game, we led most of the way until late and then we gave up five unforced errors in a row which gave them momentum. Serving really hurt us in this game and we need to be more consistent."

Terrell led in kills with 14, followed by Thomson, Ambrosier, 2 each; Melvin, Nickell, 1 each.

Nickell was assists leader with 8; Ruder had 7 assists.

Thomson had 2 blocks.

Terrell led in digs with 8, followed by Nickell, 5; Ruder, Ambrosier, 4 each; Melvin, 3; Thomson, 1.

Ruder and Thomson each had

1 serving ace.

HOXIE

"This was our best match," said coach Jilka. "Although we came out sluggish and lost the first game, we really played well in the next two games to win the match. Again, we served well in this match."

Terrell led in kills with 12, followed by Thomson, 3; Melvin, 2.

Nickell led again in assists with 9; she was followed by Ruder, 5.

Digs leader was Thomson with 7, followed by Ruder, 6; Farber, 4; Melvin, 4; Nickell, 4; Terrell, 3.

Terrell served 2 aces; Melvin, Thomson, Farber, each served 1 ace.

Next action

Norton's final home competition will be next Tuesday when the Lady Jays play host to Golden Plains and Logan, beginning at 4 p.m.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton.

Varsity matches will be played in the Stull Gym and junior varsity matches in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

Order of matches will be: Norton vs. Golden Plains, Logan vs. Golden Plains and Norton vs. Logan.

The Norton seniors will be honored prior to the Norton-Logan match.

Norton volleyball defeats Trego, loses to Smith Center

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkans.com
Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team defeated Trego Community but lost to No.1 state ranked Smith Center in matches played Tuesday in Smith Center.

The Lady Jays outscored Trego 25-21, 25-18 and lost to the Lady Redmen 10-15, 10-25.

In the other match of the evening, Smith Center defeated Trego 25-10, 25-7.

TREGO

"We did what we had to do to win the match with Trego but it wasn't a thing of beauty," said coach Jilka.

"When we needed key points we got them and that is what we have been trying to improve on each time out."

Norton senior Erin Terrell led in kills with 11, followed by junior Alec Melvin, 4; sophomore Bailey Ambrosier, 3; senior Caren Thomson, 2; junior Teslee Nickell, 1; junior Antjelica

Pfannenstiel, 1.

Assists leaders were senior Kylie Nuzum, Melvin and Nickell, each with 6. Pfannenstiel had 2 assists.

Terrell had 1 block.

Terrell served 4 aces, Thomson led with 5, followed by senior Mariah Farber, 3; Melvin, 3; Terrell, 2; Nuzum, 1.

Terrell served 4 aces, followed by Nickell, 2; Melvin, 2; Thomson, 1.

SMITH CENTER

"We weren't very good against an outstanding Smith Center team," said coach Jilka.

"Our serve receive was terrible against them in both games as we really didn't make them earn their points. We were disappointed the way we approached the game. We aren't sure our girls thought we could play with them.

"Serve receive will be a major focus this week in practice that is for sure. We have three days to prepare for the Scott City tournament where we will get to

see some different teams."

Terrell was kills leader with 7; Thomson and Pfannenstiel each had 1 kill.

Nickell had 4 assists. Ambrosier, Thomson and Pfannenstiel each had 1 block.

Terrell led in digs with 7, followed by Nickell, Melvin, Thomson, Ambrosier, 2 each. Farber served 1 ace.

Junior Varsity
The Norton junior varsity volleyball team lost to Trego 17-25, 20-25 and lost to Smith Center 11-25, 10-25.

"Our girls played very well as a team against Trego and seemed to be gelling," said Norton assistant volleyball coach Jodi Ward. "We had our chances to take the lead and we would miss a serve. You just can't do that.

"Overall, it was a great effort by everyone but as a team we need to get over the hump and do the little things better.

"Smith Center has good athletes that were able to put the ball down if we didn't get a

block on them.

"Our serve receive and passing were terrible. We had more balls go back to Smith Center off the first pass than we did keeping it on our side to set up an attack."

Next action

Norton will compete in the Scott City Invitational this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Norton's final home competition will be next Tuesday when the Lady Jays play host to Golden Plains and Logan, beginning at 4 p.m.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton.

Varsity matches will be played in the Stull Gym and junior varsity matches in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

Order of matches will be: Norton vs. Golden Plains, Logan vs. Golden Plans and Norton vs. Logan.

The Norton seniors will be honored prior to the Norton-Logan match.

Norton JV football edged by Phillipsburg, 12-8

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team lost a hard-fought 12-8 game to Phillipsburg on Monday evening in Phillipsburg.

Neither team scored in the first half. Norton defensive lineman Kolton Harting stopped a Panther offensive drive by sacking the quarterback on the last play of the half.

Caysean Campbell got a good kickoff return to start the second half and Norton moved down-

field. Phillipsburg stopped them short of the goalline, however, and scored the first points of the game. The Panther two-point conversion attempt was stuffed by a swarm of Blue Jays, leaving the score at 6-0.

After the kickoff, Norton drove downfield again and appeared to be going for a touchdown. A counter right to Austin Hager brought the ball within five yards of a score but a turnover kept them out of the end zone.

The next time they got the

ball, the Blue Jays scored. Following a series of option keepers, quarterback Dalton Miller found the end zone on a wedge play. A two-point conversion try was stopped short but Phillipsburg was flagged for a face mask penalty. The second try was successful as fullback Jared Bohl powered into the end zone to put the Jays on top 8-6.

Phillipsburg scored their final touchdown on a deep pass with about five minutes left in the game. The two-point try was stopped by Norton, leaving

the score at 12-8 in favor of the Panthers.

After the kickoff, Norton drove downfield again but got only as far as the Panther 25-yard line before turning the pigskin over to the home team after a fourth down pass failed with 1:24.

Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team will host Phillipsburg at Travis Field on Monday, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Adult Coed Volleyball

Play Begins Sunday, November 5

Teams are forming now.

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