Huskies kick off season with home field victory

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Huskies varsity football team kicked off the 2012 campaign on Friday, Aug. 31 with a hard fought fourth quarter comeback victory, 18-16, over the Alma Cardinals in

The defense put its stamp on the game early on. At 7:37 into the first quarter, the Huskies defense stuffed the Cardinals offense in their own end zone for a safety and a two-point Huskies lead.

For as well as the Huskies defense played they could not stop Alma Cardinals running back Jarrod Bantam on two occasions in the open field. With 4:18 remaining in the 1st quarter, Bantam broke loose for a 37 yard touchdown run. The Cardinals made good on the 2-point conversion with a pass from Brady Stuhmer to Canaan Janicek, giving the Cardinals an 8-2 lead, which they would take into halftime.

The second half got off to a rough start for Northern Valley. Again, Alma running back Jarrod Bantam did the damage. Bantam ripped through the Huskies defense for a 16 yard touchdown run and the Cardinals were good on the 2-point conversion with Terek Molzahn carrying the ball, 16-2 Cardinals extend their lead.

But this was the turning point in the game. It was all Huskies from this point on, on offense and

Still in the 3rd quarter, the momentum shifted to the Huskies with its vaunted running attack. Junior quarterback Hunter Chandler capped a Huskies drive with an 8 yard touchdown run. Chandler would make good on the 2-point conversion as well, and the Huskies closed the gap to 16-10.

In the 4th quarter, Northern Valley methodically moved the ball down field capping the drive with junior running back Jordan Baird muscling his way in for a 2 yard touchdown run and Chandler converted the 2-point conversion with a pass to senior end Jon Compton, giving the Huskies a

To say the Huskies running attack was dominant would be an under statement. As a team the Huskies compiled a total of 328 yards rushing on 56 attempts for a 5.85 yards per carry average. The Huskies passing game, however, was not quite as impressive. Chandler attempted only three passes and completed two of them for negative two yards and one interception.

Individually, Chandler was the Huskies' leading rusher with 19 carries for 117 yards for a 6.2 yards per carry average. Baird had 19 carries as well for 103 yards and a 5.4 yard per carry average. Also, sophomore running back Phillip Bryant had a solid game with 16 carries for 85 yards and a 5.3 yards per carry average.

Huskies head coach Chuck Fessenden was pleased with his team's offensive efforts, but admitted they could have done better.

"On offense we did a good job of moving the ball on the ground. We should have been able to produce more points," said Fessenden. "Our backs ran hard and the line did a nice job of blocking."

Defensively, the Huskies are a solid tackling team. They shut down the Cardinals offense early in the second half, led by leading tacklers Ian Vincent, a junior, and Chandler with nine solo tackles and seven assists each. Callaway and Bryant both finished the game with eight total tackles, as well. Sophomore Matt Stutsman came up with the Huskies only interception of the game and was in on

After the game, Fessenden had good reason to boast about his team's defensive efforts.

"Our defense played a great football game. We had a good goal line stand in the first half and another one in the second half," said Fessenden. "This was a nice way to start the season."

The Northern Valley Huskies will be back in action tonight against Triplains/Brewster in Brewster at 7 p.m.



Huskies junior quarterback Hunter Chandler breaks out for a long run as Cardinals' defender Mitchell Christensen tries to bring him down. The Huskies trailed for most of the game but posted a second half comeback sparked by Chandler's 119 rushing yards, one touchdown and a 2-point conversion. The Huskies rushed for 328 yards on the night as they pulled off the 4th quarter comeback victory, 18-16 over the Alma Cardinals.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Varsity tennis team wins Trego Round Robin tourney

By Dick Boyd

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Head coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School varsity girls tennis team had to wait a week for what would have been their first tennis tournament of the season due to a rain postponement but it was worth it as the Lady Jays won the championship of the Trego Round Robin Tournament last Saturday in WaKeeney.

Norton scored 32 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 25; Trego Community, 19; Osborne, 14; Colby, 6.

"After the postponement due to rain, Tribune and Russell did not make it back to compete so that reduced the field to five teams," said Norton head

tennis coach Jim Green.

"All four of our entries placed in the medals and contributed to our team's first place finish. First place was a great finish. These are the teams that we see week in and week out."

Norton senior Tawni Griffey continued unbeaten and unscored upon to win the No.1 singles championship. She shutout Trego's Tabitha Wolf 6-0, drew a bye, shutout Colby's Haley Wallingford 6-0 and shutout Osborne's Jenna Dibble 6-0.

Wallingford was a Norton teammate last season when she was an excellent player for the Lady Jays.

"Tawni Griffey is such an outstand-

Green. "We are very fortunate to have such a great player."

Juniors Rickele Green and Ashley Hildebrand placed third in No.1 doubles. They lost 6-2 to Trego's Kimberly Day and Shaylee Flax, drew a bye, defeated Colby's Janessa Williams and Sarah Lamm 6-2, edged Osborne's Mariah Coomes and Michaela Gower 7-5 and lost 6-0 to Phillipsburg's Brooke Boyington and Kaitlyn Vogel.

"Rickele Green and Ashley Hildebrand continue to improve," said coach Green. "In the fourth round, they gave us a great come from behind victory. Down 2-5, they began winning game after game to post a 7-5 victory. It was

Senior Sierra Black was the runner-up at No.2 singles. She outscored Trego's Cheyenne Phillips 6-3, drew a bye, shutout Colby's Abigail Buchholz 6-0, lost 6-0 to Osborne's Taylor Noel and shutout Phillipsburg's Victoria Main 6-0.

"Sierra Black continues to give a solid performance at No.2 singles," said coach Green. "She played well in finishing second."

Norton's No.2 doubles team of sophomore Molly Scott and junior Jessica White won all of their matches to win the gold medal. They defeated Trego's Ellie Sherwood and Allyson Denning ing player in singles," said coach nice to see them battle back and not 6-4, drew a bye, outscored Colby's

Madison Rogers and Alexa Schindler 6-1, edged Osborne's Victoria Rall and Samantha Lindberg 7-5 and beat Phillipsburg's Kylah Ellis and Britttni Groothoff 6-2. "Molly Scott and Jessica White are a

nice surprise at No.2 doubles and were undefeated to finish first," said coach

"They just battled hard all day. I know they were hot and tired going into their last match against Phillipsburg. The Phillipsburg team gained the early lead and all the games were close and went to deuce but our girls were able to tip the games their way and win."

Lady Jay volleyball team can't hold on to win road matches

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton Community High School volleyball team was very competitive in playing Osborne, Phillipsburg and Stockton on Tuesday night in Phillipsburg but came up just short of winning matches.

Norton's closest match was versus Osborne where the Lady Jays won the first game 25-23 but lost the next two by scores of 23-25 and 21-25. The week before, the Lady Jays played the Lady Bulldogs for the first time this season and it was also a close encounter with Norton losing 25-27 and 24-26.

In the other two matches on Tuesday, Norton was outscored 21-25 and 18-25 by Phillipsburg and lost to Stockton in three games 15-25, 26-24, 21-25.

Osborne

Kills leaders for Norton were senior Bri Karnopp and junior Bailey Ambrosier with 4 each, followed by junior Johnnye Ruder, 2; senior Teslee Nickell, senior Alec Melvin, sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 1 each.

Nickell had 1 setting assist.

3 while Bohl and Nickell had 1

Ruder and Karnopp had 2 digs each and senior Rachel Slipke, senior Katherine Boteler, Nickell and Melvin each had 1.

Ruder served 2 aces and Slipke and Nickell each served 1.

"Again, we had a very tight match with Osborne but, in the end, our silly mistakes cost us the match," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"We came back in the first game to win but, in the second and third games, we got far behind and worked to get it close but, in the end, we couldn't fin-

Phillipsburg

Ambrosier led in kills with 4, followed by Karnopp and Nickell, 2 each.

Ruder, Ambrosier and Nickell each had 2 setting assists and Karnopp had 1.

Karnopp had 2 blocks and Bohl had 1. Karnopp also had 2 digs while Ruder and Slipke had 1 each.

Karnopp served 1 ace.

"We hung in there in both games but again we continue row and put ourselves in a hole," said coach Jilka. "We fought back but just not enough."

Stockton

Ambrosier had 9 kills in the close loss to Stockton, followed by Nickell, 3; Karnopp, Bohl, 2

Ruder led in setting assists with 6, followed by Nickell, 5; Ambrosier, Karnopp, 1 each. Ambrosier and Melvin each had 1 block.

Digs leader was Karnopp with 6, followed by Ambrosier, Slipke, 3 each, Boteler, Melvin, 2 each.

Slipke served 1 ace.

"This match was mostly the same as the other two matches," said coach Jilka. "We made a tremendous comeback in the second game to win it. We also came back in the third game but again we continue to give up easy points and Stockton even-

tually won the match." **Overall comments**

"Overall, we served much better throughout the night than we had been doing but we just continue to shoot ourselves in

the foot time and time again.

to lose games instead of having the confidence to put people away when we need to.

"Practice is where we can get better and we will keep doing

Next action

The Norton junior varsity will

play next for Norton. They will compete in the Quinter JV Tournament, which will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Tournament teams, in addition to Norton and Quinter, will be Oberlin, Wheatland/Grinnell, Hill City, Trego Community, Oakley and Hoxie.

The varsity will not play again until Thursday, Sept. 13 when they travel to Goodland to play the Lady Cowgirls and Dundy County, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

to give up too many points in a "We just keep finding ways Ambrosier led in blocks with C-team volleyball competes in quad

By Dick Boyd nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Norton Community High School competed in the C-team Volleyball Quad in Colby on Thursday, Aug. 30.

Norton lost to Oakley 24-26, 17-25; lost to Colby 15-25, 19-25 and lost to Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays 8-25, 9-25.

Colby won the quadrangular with a 3-0 record, followed by TMP, 2-1; Oakley, 1-2; Norton, 0-3.

"Our Lady Jays had a slow start in our first match against Oakley," said Norton assistant volleyball coach Jodi Ward. "We missed serves, had poor serve receive and didn't get any good attacks. Lexi Hartwell stepped up and served 7 points in a

row to bring us within 5 points of Oakley. "Oakley did a good job of getting their serves in and we just couldn't pass well enough to keep the ball where we could use it to attack.

"Against Colby, we played them well and started doing the little things like communicating on the court and getting some attacks. Colby is a good team and we weren't able to get ahead of

"We played better against TMP but again it wasn't enough.

"All in all, our girls played hard and I was proud of their effort. We just need to get better at our skills."

Next action

The Norton freshmen girls volleyball team will compete next on Thursday, Sept. 13 when they return to Colby to play Colby, Hays and Wheatland, beginning at 4 p.m.



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