

Junior Huskies football takes loss to Osborne

By Mike Stephens
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The Northern Valley Junior High School football team began its 2012 season on Thursday, Aug. 30 with a road game at Osborne. The Huskies lost big to the Bullpups, 50-26.

The game was scoreless until the second quarter, when Osborne's Denton Schurr scored on an 8 yard run and Cullen Grabast converted on the extra points.

The Junior Huskies answered right back with John Towery hauling in a 42 yard touchdown reception from quarterback Drake Shearer.

The Huskies failed on the 2-point conversion and trailed 8-6 going into halftime.

The third quarter saw five touchdowns put up on the scoreboard. Unfortunately for the Huskies, the Bullpups did most of the scoring.

Osborne started the scoring fest with a big 40 yard touchdown run by Grabast, extending Osborne's lead to 14-6.

The Huskies responded with another long touchdown pass reception from Towery. Shearer's pass to Towery was good for 51 yards and cutting Osborne's lead to two, 14-12.

But the Bullpups would score 22 unanswered points, all in the third quarter, and dousing any hope of a comeback by the Huskies.

Grabast broke loose for a 47 yard touchdown run and Schurr scored the

2-point conversion, 22-12 Bullpups.

Then it was Schurr's turn, scoring on a 24 yard touchdown run and Grabast ran in for the 2-point conversion, 30-12 Bullpups.

Then Grabast finished the third quarter scoring frenzy with a 14 yard touchdown run and a 36-12 Osborne lead.

The Huskies went to the well and responded once more with Shearer to Towery.

Towery hauled in another Shearer pass for a touchdown. This time the connection was good from 37 yards out. Shearer also completed a pass to Carson Wallace for the 2-point conversion, and the Huskies closed the gap to 36-20.

Unfortunately the Huskies could

not stop Osborne's rushing attack. The Bullpups added two more rushing touchdowns in the fourth quarter. James Roenne scored on a 5 yard run and Landon O'Dell-Lackey scored the 2-point conversion, 44-20 Osborne.

Lackey then capped the Bullpups night off with a 34 yard touchdown run of his own, and the Huskies trailed 50-20.

Towery recovered a fumble in the end zone late in the game, but it wasn't enough, as Osborne rolled over the Junior Huskies 50-26 in the opener.

Despite the loss Northern Valley had several bright spots to build on. Quarterback Drake Shearer was very sharp, going 9 for 15 passing for 206 yards, three touchdowns and one 2-point con-

version. Receiver John Towery had three catches for 130 yards and three touchdowns.

On defense, Carson Wallace led the Huskies charge with 10 tackles, four assists, an interception and a fumble recovery. Wallace also had an impressive night offensively with six receptions for 83 yards and one 2-point conversion.

Head coach Jim Cole, while disappointed with the loss, looked to the positives from his team's performance.

"The Huskies played pretty well for their first game of the season," said Cole. "We need to improve our tackling on defense and maintaining our blocks on offense."

Junior high volleyball team wins big over Phillipsburg

By Mike Stephens
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The Norton Junior High School varsity volleyball team kicked off its season on Thursday, Aug. 30 with an exciting win over Phillipsburg at the East Campus Gym.

In the first set, the Blue Jays had a battle of nerves but managed to win, 25-23.

"We struggled getting our serves over in the first set," commented coach Cayla Cox. "Our passing and our hustle were what kept us in the game."

With the nerves behind them, the Blue Jays wrote a different story in the second set and took control early. Baylee Miller started the set off serving for seven straight points, five of which were aces.

Phillipsburg tried to make a run, but the solid defense, passing and hitting from the Blue Jays was just too much. Points were traded back and forth until Miah Melvin stepped up to serve.

She served six straight points before Phillipsburg was able to take the serve away.

By that time the set was well in hand for the Blue Jays as they cruised, winning the second set 25-15. The second set was dominated by an outstanding serving performance by the Blue Jays.

They served an amazing 96 percent and they only missed one serve the entire set. Caitlyn Cox and Kara Frack served to perfection, literally, both with a serving percentage of 100 for the night.

"The team played great. They passed the ball exceptionally well. I couldn't have asked for a better start to the season. I was very proud of how hard the girls played, and how they worked as a team," said coach Cox. "I've got a great group of girls."

In the past, the Junior High has been separated into 7th and 8th grade teams, but this year they were allowed to combine both grades. The varsity team includes Jessica Ambrosier (7th), Kara

Frack (7th), Callie Uehlin (7th), Caitlyn Cox (8th), Miah Melvin (8th), Baylee Miller (8th) and Jena Risewick (8th).

B-Team

The junior varsity was rolled by Phillipsburg, losing in straight sets, 10-25 and 9-25.

"The Norton Junior High School junior varsity team struggled against the Panthers in the first game of the year. We are a young team with only one person having had any competition experience. The girls are still getting used to playing volleyball and making all the rotations. The Norton Blue Jays served fairly well at 85 percent but we had no aces in this game. We also had too many out-of-rotation calls, which gave Phillipsburg many unearned points," said coach Peggy Cox.

Serving were Emily Riley- 4/6; Taylor Wahlmeier- 3/3; Nicole Rumback- 4/4; Nicole Thraikill- 2/2; Jena Risewick- 2/2; Macayla

Kent- 2/3.

C-Team

The C Team fared much better against Phillipsburg but in the end came up a little short, losing 25-18, 11-25 and 14-16.

"The Norton Blue Jays had a better match against the C-team of Phillipsburg. We still had too many out-of-rotation calls, which cost us the third game but had a higher percentage in the area of serving. We won the first game and then lost the next two, the third game being very close. Highlights of the game were when Taylor Wahlmeier had a great block during this match and our 12 ace serves." Cox said

Serving were Emily Riley- 8/8 (2 aces), Taylor Wahlmeier- 8/9 (2 aces), Nicole Rumback- 4/7 (1 ace), Nicole Thraikill- 7/8 (2 aces), Jazelle Group- 6/9 (2 aces), Macayla Kent- 9/9 (3 aces).

JV tennis team competes at Russell

By Dick Boyd

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Some Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis players competed in the JV Singles Tournament in Russell on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

All of Norton's players faced Russell players in the first round and lost their matches in the single elimination tournament.

Sophomore Brooke Sumner lost 8-6 to Carolyn Patrick, freshman Audrie Burge lost 8-2 to Sarah Hilger, freshman Hailey Branek lost 8-0 to Kierra Mitchell, freshman Morgan Griffey lost 8-0 to Erin Risher, freshman Rachel Jones lost 8-0 to Alyssa Basgall and sophomore Alex Araujo lost 8-1 to Bailey Dollison.

"We are a young team and still learning," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery. "One of our strengths from the tournament is that we hustled to the ball and made an attempt to get it over."

"Now, we just need to work on being able to hit the ball back over when we get to it."

"This junior varsity team has a lot of potential and we just need to learn something from every match we play and fix our mistakes."

"Unfortunately, the tournament was single elimination so we weren't able to get in as much experience as I would have liked."

"Brooke Sumner had a very close match against Patrick. They both challenged each other and had a good match. It was

fun watching their match as they were both very consistent and hit the ball well."

Next action

Norton will host their only tournament of the season this Saturday when the Norton Junior Varsity Tennis Quad is held on the courts at the Swimming Pool Park.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Hays and Phillipsburg.

Play will begin at 9 a.m.

Medals will be given for the first, second and third places in each division.

Norton also competed on Thursday in a Junior Varsity Round Robin Tennis Tournament in WaKeeney.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Trego Community, were schools from Colby, Hoisington, Phillipsburg and Scott City.

Varsity tennis takes runner-up in quad

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School varsity tennis team continued to play well in early season action on Tuesday with a runner-up finish in the Phillipsburg Quad.

The home team won the championship with 25 points, followed by Norton, 18; Trego Community, 13; Russell, 4.

Senior Tawni Griffey continued her early unbeaten string by shutting out all comers to win the gold medal.

She shutout Arika Aiken, Phillipsburg, 8-0; shutout Rhett Brown, Russell, 8-0 and shutout Ellie Sherwood, Trego, 8-0.

"Tawni Griffey had another outstanding day at No.1 sin-

gles," said Norton head tennis coach Jim Green. "She puts a lot of pressure on her opponents with well-placed ground strokes."

Norton's No.1 doubles team of juniors Rickele Green and Ashley Hildebrand placed third. They lost 8-1 to Brooke Boyington and Kaitlyn Vogel, Phillipsburg; defeated Abby Dreher and Brooklyn Sidebottom, Russell, 8-4 and lost 8-3 to Tabitha Wolf and Kimberly Day, Trego, 8-3.

"Rickele Green and Ashley Hildebrand are becoming more competitive at doubles," said coach Green. "Their matches are always close."

At No.2 singles, Norton senior Sierra Black won all three

matches to earn the gold medal. She defeated Amy Stapel, Phillipsburg, 8-4; outscored Hayle Mader, Russell, 8-5 and beat Cheyenne Phillips, Trego, 8-2.

"Sierra Black had a great day at No.2 singles," said coach Green. "She went undefeated playing great tennis."

"She is becoming more aggressive and determined in her game."

Norton's No.2 doubles team

of sophomore Molly Scott and junior Jessica White placed fourth. They lost 8-1 to Kyla Ellis and Brittni Groothoff, Phillipsburg; lost 8-5 to Lizza Rhodes and Tristen Hayes, Russell and lost 8-1 to Shaylee Flax and Allyson Dennings, Trego.

"Molly Scott and Jessica White had a tough day at doubles," said coach Green.

"Things just did not seem to go their way."



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Lady Huskies take on Alma in volleyball action

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies played Alma, Neb. last Friday in Alma.

"The first set went well," said Assistant Coach Tammy Vincent. "The girls passed, blocked, set and served great. We served 100 percent."

Though the Lady Huskies did not come out on top, Vincent said, the girls were able to keep pace with their opponent and the set ended at 25-23 in Alma's favor.

"During the second and third set, we could not get their hits stopped," Vincent reported. "They hit hard at us or tipped it and we could not get in the right position to stop them. We also missed several serves. We lost 10-25 and 16-25. Brooke Baird had a good game and was our leading hitter getting most of her hits in."

The junior varsity also played. Vincent said the team struggled

with passing the ball and getting Alma's serves stopped.

"Sarah Baird had a good hitting night and Tea VanPatten had a better night at the net," Vincent said. "This week we will work on serve receive. Our scores were 20-25 and 21-25."

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1	3	5	4	9	7	6	8	2
9	8	4	3	6	2	7	5	1
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2	9	8	5	3	1	4	7	6
4	1	7	6	8	9	3	2	5

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Norton Theatre Benefit Run

Saturday, September 8

Open to the public

Registration is at the theatre from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Following the run is a free-will donation hog roast dinner from 2-5 p.m. at the Norton Eagles Lodge.

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