

Lady Jays lose two close matches

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team hosted Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays and Colby on Tuesday evening and lost close matches to the visitors.

The Lady Jays lost 23-25, 26-24, 23-25 to TMP and lost 11-25, 17-25 to Colby.

"Even though we have not seen much success in the win column, we are doing pretty well," said first year Norton head coach Christine Thompson. "We are playing right along with the tough teams. Both TMP and Colby were very good competitive teams.

"Our only problem is that we are not mentally tough enough to last an entire match yet. Due to the inexperience on the floor, we are struggling mentally and making mistakes, which I hope will not happen later in the season.

"Even though our girls are disappointed that we gained two more losses, I am encouraging them with how much they have grown over the summer and in the last three weeks.

"We are still in the process of trying to find the right combination of girls and working hard on our skill level. I truly believe the mental part of the game

will come; we just have to keep working hard and support each other."

Thomas More Prep

Johnnye Ruder led in serving aces with 3, followed by Baylee Miller and Caitlyn Cox, 2 each; Ruder led setting assists with 18; Cox, was kills leader with 10, followed by Katie Bohl, 6; Ruder, 4; Casey Ambrosier and Peyton Renner, 3 each; Bailey Ambrosier, 1; digs leader was Miller with 7, followed by Cox, 6; Bailey Ambrosier, 5; Adrienne Hager, 4; Bohl, 3; Ruder, 3; Casey Ambrosier, 1; Bohl, Renner and Casey Ambrosier each had 1 block.

Colby

Cox and Hager each had 1 serving ace; Ruder led in setting assists with 8; Bailey Ambrosier, Bohl, Cox had 3 kills each; Bailey Ambrosier led in digs with 11, followed by Cox, 6; Bohl, 4; Miller, 3; Ruder, 2; Casey Ambrosier and Hager, 1 each; Casey Ambrosier led in blocks with 2 while Baily Ambrosier and Renner had 1 each.

In other matches, Colby lost to Holcomb 18-25, 10-25, Colby defeated TMP 25-20, 25-20 and TMP lost to Holcomb 25-23, 9-25, 16-25. Norton did not play Holcomb due to scheduling limitations for matches.

Junior varsity results

According to Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin, the Norton junior varsity lost to TMP 8-25, 20-25 and lost to Colby 23-25, 13-25.

In other matches, Holcomb lost to TMP 11-25, 25-16, 13-25; Holcomb defeated Colby 25-20, 25-23 and Colby outscored TMP 27-25, 25-20.

Thomas More Prep

In the loss to TMP, Lexi Hartwell had 3 ace serves, 6 points and 2 assists; Miah Melvin had 1 ace serve and 2 points; Hanna Brooks had 2 kills and Nickala O'Hare had 1 kill.

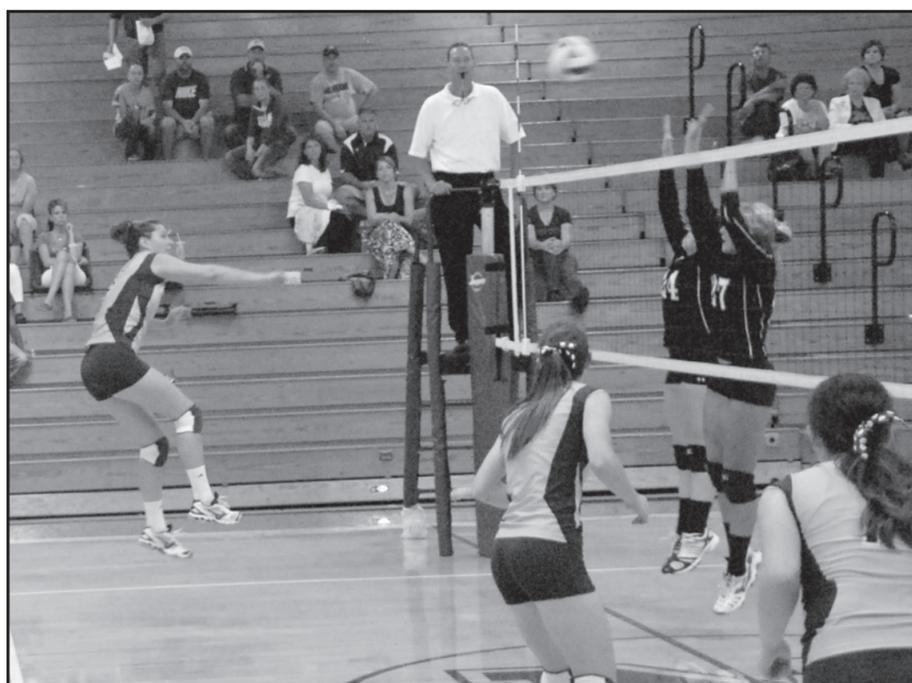
Colby

Hartwell had 1 ace serve, 8 points and 4 assists; O'Hare had 1 ace serve, 5 points; Hanna Brooks had 2 kills, 2 points, 1 assist; Melvin had 2 kills; Cayanna Campbell had 4 points, 2 serve aces; Erin Archer had 1 point; Lauren Mordecai had 1 kill.

Next action

Next Tuesday, Norton will play volleyball in Stockton versus the Lady Tigers, Phillipsburg and Osborne, beginning at 4 p.m. with both varsity in the high school gym and junior varsity in the junior high gym.

Order of varsity matches will be: Osborne vs. Phillipsburg, Stockton vs. Norton, Norton vs. Osborne, Stockton vs. Phillips-



Norton Community High School junior Katie Bohl spikes the ball over the heads of two Colby players for a point during volleyball action on Tuesday in the Stull Gym in Norton. Other Norton players pictured are, from left, senior Bailey Ambrosier and senior Johnnye Ruder,

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

burg, Norton vs. Phillipsburg, Stockton vs. Osborne.

Order of junior varsity match-

es will be: Stockton vs. Norton, Osborne vs. Phillipsburg, Stockton vs. Phillipsburg, Norton vs.

Osborne, Stockton vs. Osborne, Norton vs. Phillipsburg.

Norton tennis team takes fourth at first match

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls tennis team opened their 2013 season on Saturday with a fourth place finish in the annual Trego Invitational in Wakeeney.

Trego Community won the championship with 31 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 24; Osborne, 19; Norton, 15; Russell, 11.

Players battled rain early in the competition, then heat became a problem.

"The day started with rain," said Norton head coach Jim Green. "The start of the tournament was delayed while the courts were being dried out. Heat was also a factor and took a toll on the competitors."

Junior Brooke Sumner played No.1 singles for the Lady Jays and placed fifth with a 1-3 record. She lost 7-6 to Orianna Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, drew a bye, lost 6-0 to Taylor Noel, Osborne; lost 6-0 to Tabitha Wolf, Trego and defeated Rhett Brown, Russell, 6-4.

"Brooke Sumner played No.1 singles for the first time in a varsity match," said coach Green. "She was a little nervous and is adjusting to tougher competition. She gave a good effort and

I expect her to continue to improve."

Norton seniors Ashley Hildebrand and Jessica White played No.1 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed third with a 2-2 record.

They lost 6-3 to Brittini Groothoff and Amy Stapel, Phillipsburg; drew a bye; defeated Ella Sherwood and Allyson Denning, Trego playing for Osborne, 7-5; lost 7-6 to Kimberly Day and Shaylee Flax, Trego; and won 6-1 over Julia Oste and Tristan Hayes, Russell.

"Ashley and Jessica were playing together for the first time," said coach Green. "They are experienced players but are learning to play together. They gave us a great effort against Trego, coming from behind and sending the match into a tiebreaker. Our girls were able to push the tiebreaker to a 5-3 lead but Trego came from behind to close out the set."

Sophomore Audrie Burge played No.2 singles for Norton and finished fourth with a 1-3 record. Audrie outscored Taylor Beacher, Phillipsburg, 6-1; drew a bye; lost 6-2 to Erin LeiVan, Osborne; lost 6-4 to Abigail Buchholz, Trego and lost 7-6 to Carolyn Patrick, Russell.

"Audrie had some trouble

with the heat in her third match and lost that match which she may have been able to win," said coach Green.

"After having problems with the heat, she went on to play her fourth match. This match lasted more than an hour and a half, which put her out in the heat for a long time. She jumped out to a 3-0 lead but the match got really close. At 5-4, she was up in the game 40-0 which gave her three match points but the game went back to deuce and was won by her opponent. Play continued. The match went to 6-all which forced a tiebreaker, Audrie gave

a great effort under terrible conditions but lost the tiebreaker."

No.2 doubles players for the Lady Jays were junior Molly Scott and sophomore Hailey Branek and they placed third with a 2-2 record for the day. They lost 6-3 to Mariah Coomes and Lindsey Solida, Phillipsburg; drew a bye; defeated Jessa Cockerham and Bretton Walters, Osborne, 6-1; lost 7-5 to Cheyenne Phillips and Larissa Howard, Trego and defeated Bailey Dollison and Alyssa Basgall, Russell, 6-3.

"Molly played varsity tennis for us last year and with good

success," said coach Green. "Hailey was making her first appearance on the varsity squad. They showed improvement throughout the day. After losing to Phillipsburg, they won against Osborne. Against Trego, they played a close match with extra games before losing. Their last match was against Russell and they put on a solid performance, winning easily at 6-3."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity is playing in the JV Invitational Tennis Tournament in Russell today, beginning at 3 p.m. Competing, in addition to Norton

and Russell, will be teams from Concordia, Smoky Valley and Phillipsburg.

The Lady Jay varsity's next competition will be in the Hays Invitational on Thursday of this week. Teams competing, in addition to Norton and Hays High, will be Colby, Russell and Victoria. Play will begin at 3 p.m.

This Saturday, the Norton varsity will compete in the Colby Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m. Playing, in addition to Norton and Colby, will be teams from Osborne, Phillipsburg, Scott City, Tribune and Ulysses.

Huskies gear up for cross country season

By Mike Stephens

mstephens@nwkansas.com

The Northern Valley Huskies 2013 cross country team is short on runners but still has high expectations. Head coach Kirk Kasson is in his third year and has four runners for the boys squad and two runners for the girls squad.

The cross country rosters are as follows:

Men's team

Macy Kasson, junior - 2 year letterman

Camden Cox, sophomore

Matt Florence, sophomore

John Towery, freshman

Women's team

Allison Keith, sophomore - 1 year letterman

Brooke Baird, sophomore - 1 year letterman

"We have a young team with

no seniors, but with four returning from last year. We will not have enough to field a team in either division, which is unfortunate because all five of our runners have talent. I anticipate Macy successfully moving up to varsity and earning some medals. I also expect Brooke to improve on her first year where she medaled in a few varsity meets and placed 26 at state. The other four runners will mostly run junior varsity, and I expect them to place regularly. They are a great bunch to work with. They are willing to work hard and are fun kids to be around. We should have an enjoyable year. We have several meets within 45 miles, so hopefully several people can travel to see our team compete," said Kasson.

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