

# Norton Blue Jays host JV tennis tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton JV Tennis Tournament was held on Saturday on the Swimming Pool Park courts with five teams competing.

Victoria won the championship with 38 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 24; Colby, 19; Hays, 10; Norton, 6.

Sophomore Morgan Griffey played No.1 singles for the Lady Jays and placed third. She lost 6-3 to Bailey Hobbs, Victoria; lost in a tiebreaker 6-5(7-1) to Maggie Malmberg, Phillipsburg, won 6-1 over freshman Kennedy Leibbrandt of Norton who was playing as an extra for Colby and won her last round against Abbey Rupke of Hays due to a default.

"Morgan had two close matches," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery.

"She lost in a tiebreaker against Phillipsburg and those are always tough to lose. Morgan still has many ways she can improve but she will be a great asset to us in the future."

Playing for Colby, Leibbrandt tied for fourth place. She lost 6-3 to Bailey Hobbs, Victoria; lost 6-1 to Griffey of Norton; won against Rupke of Hays due to a default and lost 6-0 to Malmberg, Phillipsburg.

"This was Kennedy's second tournament of her career," said coach Montgomery. "She has already made great gains between her first and second tournament. Once she works on her body and feet positioning, she will become a very consistent player."

Sophomore Lexi Voss and freshman Brianna White played No.1 doubles for Norton and

placed fifth. They lost 6-0 to Maegan Karlin and Madisyn Gerhardt, Victoria; lost 6-4 to Jayden Beckman and Madi Mathes, Phillipsburg; lost 6-3 to Olivia Wetter and Morgan Sanguinetti, Colby and lost 6-4 to Alyssa McMiller and Sierra Brown, Hays.

"This was the first tournament that Lexi and Brianna played doubles," said coach Montgomery.

"They had many great points and worked really well together. They had three really close matches that could have gone either way.

"Hopefully, once we get more experienced those matches will go our way. They got many points off their volleys at the net. Both players will be strong for Norton in the future."

Playing No.2 singles for

Norton was sophomore Rachel Jones and she placed fifth. She lost 6-0 to Brianna Leiker, Victoria; lost 6-0 to Liz Leidig, Phillipsburg; lost 6-3 to Jennilee Gray, Colby and lost 6-1 to Joslynn Dinkel, Hays.

"Rachel normally plays doubles for us so this was a different experience for her at singles," said coach Montgomery. "She worked hard in her matches and also made many improvements throughout the day."

Freshmen Cristine Figurski and Alexandria Aldrige played No.2 doubles for Norton and placed fifth. They lost 6-1 to Ashlyn Hammerschmidt and Sienna Hockersmith, Victoria; lost 6-0 to Alyssa Rogers and Lauren Sauer, Phillipsburg; lost 6-0 to Natasha Besser and MaKayla Brackett, Colby and lost 6-3 to Veronica Fuller and



Sophomore Lexi Voss serves while freshman Brianna White prepares to respond to a return hit during the Lady Jays JV Tennis Tournament on the Swimming Pool Park courts last Saturday in Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Taylor Vrendenburg, Hays.

"This was also Cristine and Alexandria's second tournament of the season," said coach Montgomery.

"They had excellent serves and some great volleys. Once again, consistency and getting

in the right position are two things they need to work on to get better for the future."

#### Next action

The Lady Jay junior varsity will compete versus Tribune-Greeley County and Goodland on Tuesday in Goodland.

## Norton tennis team brings home first championship win

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School girls tennis team won their first championship of the young 2013 season on Tuesday when they outscored all other teams in the Phillipsburg Quad.

Norton totaled 20 points, followed by Scott City, 15; Phillipsburg, 14; Concordia, 11.

Playing No.1 singles for the Lady Jays was junior Brooke Sumner and she placed third. She lost 8-2 to Sara Hittle, Con-

cordia; lost 8-3 to Bre Smull, Scott City and defeated Taylor Beach, Phillipsburg, 8-6.

"Brooke gave us a big win at the end of the evening," said coach Green. "She came from behind 1-4 to defeat Taylor Beach 8-6. Beach was undefeated going in to the last round. Brooke gave a great effort to win the match. This match made the difference between getting the first place team finish."

Winning No.1 doubles for Norton were senior Rickele Green and junior Molly Scott.

They defeated Danielle Timme and Rachel Hasch, Concordia, 8-3; outscored Dianna Rodriguez and Holly Wilcoxson, Scott City, 8-3 and finished unbeaten by outscoring Mariah Coomes and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg, 8-1.

"At No.1 doubles, Rickele and Molly had a great evening," said coach Green. "They started out with an 8-3 win over Concordia. They kept it going in their second match with an 8-3 win over Scott City. Their final match with Phillipsburg went

just as well with an 8-1 win. Rickele and Molly played together well and were very consistent."

Sophomore Audrie Burge also won the championship of No.2 singles. She defeated Sadie Moser, Concordia, 8-1; beat Anna Miller, Scott City, 8-3 and edged Macye Witmer, Phillipsburg, 8-6, to finish the day undefeated.

"At No.2 singles, Audrie gave us another first place," said coach Green. "She won easily in the first round 8-1. She won

by default in the second round when the Scott City player dislocated her right shoulder. It was a close fought match with Phillipsburg that went back and forth with Audrie always in the lead. She closed it out at 8-6."

Norton's No.2 doubles team of sophomores Hailey Branek and Morgan Griffey finished third. They defeated Julie Gross and Marissa Morgan, Concordia, 8-4; lost 8-1 to Lea Artz and Emma Price, Scott City and lost 8-1 to Suzanne Huntley and Kinzie Ratliff, Phillipsburg.

"At No.2 doubles, Haily and Morgan gave us a good effort and a win over the Concordia team," said coach Green. "It was nice to finish first and all four entries contributed to the win."

#### Next action

The Norton varsity tennis team will play next on Thursday, Sept. 26 in the Russell Invitational Tournament. Play will begin at 1 p.m.

## Blue Jay junior varsity volleyball team places third at Quinter

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team had a good performance last Saturday with a third place finish in the Quinter JV Tournament.

Wheatland-Grinnell won the championship and Hill City was the runner-up team.

Norton lost to Wheatland-Grinnell but defeated Oberlin and Quinter in pool play to qualify for the championship bracket. They then lost to Hill City but defeated Oakley to earn third place.

"We had a great day at the Quinter Tournament," said Norton assistant coach Traci Ueh-

lin.

"It was quite an accomplishment for this group of girls to make it out of pool play and win third place. They were very excited.

"They played hard all day and worked hard even when they were tired and hot.

"I saw a lot of improvement from this team today. Our serve receive was much better and we had fewer missed serves. Great job, Lady Jays!"

#### Wheatland-Grinnell

Norton lost 25-11, 18-25, 12-15.

Set 1: Serving: Erin Archer, 6 points; Lexi Hartwell, 6 points (1 ace); Miah Melvin, 4 points (2 aces); Hanna Brooks, 2 points

(1 ace); Kills: Brooks, 3; Nick-ala O'Hare, 1; Kristen Dole, 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; O'Hare, 1; Digs: Archer, 2; O'Hare, 1; Blocks: Lauren Mordecai, 1.

Set 2: Serving: O'Hare 4 points (2 aces); Brooks, 2 points; Hartwell, 2 points (1 ace); Cayanna Campbell, 1 point (1 ace); Kills: Brooks, 2; Archer, 1; Mordecai, 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; Dole, 1; Digs: Brooks, 1; Campbell, 1; Hartwell, 1; Blocks: Mordecai, 1; Brooks, 1.

Set 3: Serving: Melvin, 3 points (2 aces); Campbell, 1 point; Archer, 1 point; Kills: Brooks, 3; O'Hare 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; O'Hare, 1; Digs: Brooks, 1.

#### Oberlin

Norton won 25-10, 25-21.

Set 1: Serving: Melvin, 9 points (4 aces); Campbell, 3 points; Archer, 3 points (1 ace); Hartwell, 1 point; O'Hare, 1 point; Kills: Brooks, 1; Melvin, 1; Dole, 1; Assists: Brooks, 2.

Set 2: Serving: Brooks, 4 points; Hartwell, 4 points (1 ace); Archer, 4 points; Melvin, 3 points; Kills: Brooks, 1; Melvin, 1; Mordecai, 1; Assists: Hartwell, 2; Digs: Brooks, 2.

#### Quinter

Norton won 27-25, 25-10.

Set 1: Serving: Hartwell, 9 points, (4 aces); Brooks, 2 points (1 ace); Campbell, 1 point; Archer, 1 point; Kills: Brooks, 3; O'Hare, 1; Archer, 1;

Mordecai, 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; Hartwell, 2.

Set 2: Serving: O'Hare, 8 points (3 aces); Melvin, 7 points (5 aces); Brooks, 3 points; Hartwell, 1 point (1 ace); Archer, 1 point; Kills: Mordecai, 3; Brooks, 1; O'Hare, 1; Archer, 1; Assists: Brooks, 3; Digs: Melvin, 2.

#### Hill City

Norton lost 15-25, 13-25.

Set 1: Serving: Archer, 4 points (1 ace); Melvin, 2 points; Brooks, 1 point; Kills: Mordecai, 2; Brooks, 1; O'Hare, 1; Assists: Brooks, 2; Hartwell, 1; Digs: Melvin, 3; Brooks, 1.

Set 2: Serving: Melvin, 5 points (2 aces); Hartwell, 1 point; Kills: Melvin, 1; Morde-

cai, 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; Hartwell, 1; Blocks: Mordecai, 1; Digs: Archer, 1; Hartwell, 1.

#### Oakley

Norton won 25-14, 25-19

Set 1: Serving: Campbell, 10 points (2 aces); Hartwell, 2 points; Melvin, 1 point; O'Hare, 1 point (1 ace); Archer, 1 point; Kills: O'Hare, 3; Brooks, 1; Dole, 1; Mordecai, 1; Assists: Brooks, 3; Hartwell, 1; Digs: Campbell, 1.

Set 2: Serving: Melvin, 8 points (4 aces); O'Hare, 3 points (2 aces); Archer, 3 points; Kills: Brooks, 1; Melvin, 1; Archer, 1; Assists: Brooks, 1; Digs: Brooks, 2; O'Hare, 1.

## Norton junior varsity football team opens season with a win over Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team opened the 2013 season with a hard fought 18-14 win over Smith Center on Monday, Sept. 9 at Travis Field in Norton.

Norton kicked off to Smith Center to start the game but the

Blue Jay defense held the Redmen to three-and-out.

Norton scored with 1:54 left in the first quarter when sophomore fullback Riley Hager hit paydirt from over 20 yards. The run for extra points was no good but Norton led 6-0.

Defense was the name of the game for both teams on the second quarter and the first half

ended with Norton still leading 6-0.

Smith Center tied the score at 6-all on a 12-yard run with 7:00 left in the third quarter but the Norton defense stopped the two-point try.

With 4:43 left in the third quarter, Norton fumbled a punt and the Redmen tackled the punter in the end zone for a

safety, putting Smith Center on top 8-6. With 3:11 remaining in the third period, Smith Center broke loose on a 45 yard run to the end zone. The Norton defense stopped the two-point try but the visitors led 14-6.

The young Blue Jays cut into the Redmen lead with 1:04 left in the third period when sophomore running back Gavin Live-

ly broke loose on a 45 plus yard run for another touchdown. A two-point pass attempt to tie the score was incomplete, leaving Smith Center on top 14-12.

Norton scored the game winning touchdown on a 38 yard run by Hager with 7:55 left in the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion run was no good but the Blue Jays had tak-

en an 18-14 lead.

The Smith Center offense rallied but a huge sack on fourth down by several Norton defenders with 1:47 remaining ended their chances.

Norton ran out the clock for the 18-14 win.

## Blue Jay junior varsity football team outscores Goodland Cowboys for second win of the season

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team overcame a first quarter deficit to outscore Goodland 52-32 on Monday, Sept. 16 in Goodland.

Norton fumbled the ball away on the opening play.

With 7:22 left in the first quarter, Goodland scored and was successful on the two-point conversion to take an 8-0 lead.

The Cowboys tallied again with 3:20 left but the two-point attempt was no good, making the score 14-0.

Junior running back Derick Campbell put Norton on the

scoreboard with an exciting 60-yard run with 3:03 left in the first period.

Norton tied the score at 14-all with 5:53 left in the second quarter when freshman wide receiver Tyus Henson caught a touchdown pass and the Blue Jays converted for two extra points.

Goodland returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, making the score 20-14.

Hager tied the score again for Norton at 20-all when he ran 25 yards on a fumble recovery with 2:27 left in the half.

Another touchdown before halftime along with two extra points but Norton on top 28-20

at intermission.

Norton scored the only touchdown of the third quarter when Campbell hit paydirt for the second time in the game, putting the young Blue Jays on top 34-20.

Norton extended their lead to 40-20 when junior running back Jared Tallent scored on an exciting 60 yard run with 8:30 remaining in the contest.

Goodland did not give up and scored again with 5:02 left, making the score 40-26.

Tallent scored his second touchdown of the game with 2:03 left on a 34 yard run, making it 46-26.

The Blue Jays added to their

point spread with 1:36 on the scoreboard when sophomore linebacker Mike Kasson scooped up a fumble and ran 43 yards to the end zone. The conversion attempt was no good but the visitors from Norton were on top 52-26.

Goodland scored again on a 52-yard run with 36 seconds remaining but it was too little, too late for the home team and Norton prevailed 52-32 to remain unbeaten for the young season.

#### Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team will return to Travis Field in Norton on Monday, Sept. 23 when they host Oakley. Kickoff will be at 5:30 p.m.

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