

Norton's swim team held home meet at Norton Aquatic Center

Norton's home swim meet was held at the Norton Aquatic Center on June 28.

Warm ups started at 8:15 a.m. Presentation of colors by the Norton Legion Riders, and the national anthem sang by Rowan Granberry and Ainsley Nichols followed. The races began at 9:00 a.m. A total of 160 swimmers from nine teams participated.

Norton's area Qualifying Meet will be held in Hoxie on July 12.

The PtSL2025 Championship Meet will be held in Lexington, NE on July 19.

More League info can be found at: <https://plainsunami.com/>

Norton Team Contact: Norton Swim Team on Facebook; Melissa Conn 785-533-1786 or Luke Winge 785-726-1600.

- EVENTS:**
- Event 24 - Medley Relay,** Second place. Swimmers were: Eli Zillinger, Weston Stevenson, Callie Stevenson, and Reagan Lawson.
- Event 25 - Medley Relay,** First place. Swimmers were: Bristol Brooks, Lainee Granberry, Laikyn Granberry, and Aubri Winge
- Event 33 - 50 Butterfly** Lainee GranberryFifth
- Event 35 - 50 Butterfly** Reagan Lawson.....Sixth
- Event 35 - 50 Butterfly** Callie StevensonSecond
- Event 42 - 50 Butterfly** Luke WingeFirst
- Event 45 - 50 Freestyle**

- Maya Peterson..... Eighth
- Event 46 - 50 Freestyle**
- Quaten McKenna Fourth
- Event 50 - 100 Freestyle**
- Eli Zillinger..... Third
- Event 52 - 100 Freestyle**
- Weston StevensonSecond
- Event 56 - 50 Freestyle**
- Jon Granberry First
- Event 58 - 25 Backstroke**
- Elliott Gaede Fourth
- Event 59 - 25 Backstroke**
- Evacy ChestnutSecond
- Ely AitkenFifth
- Laikyn Granberry Ninth
- Event 60 - 25 Backstroke**
- Quaten McKenna Fourth
- Event 76 - 200 Free Relay,** First place. Swimmers were: Eli Zillinger, Callie Stevenson, Weston Stevenson, Reagan Lawson
- Event 81 - 25 Breaststroke**
- Ely AitkenSixth
- Event 82 - 25 Breaststroke**
- Quaten McKenna Second
- Event 83 - 50 Breaststroke**
- Reagan Lawson.....Sixth
- Lainee Granberry ... Seventh
- Event 84 - 50 Breaststroke**
- Logan Stevenson..... First
- Event 88 - 50 Breaststroke**
- Weston Stevenson Third
- Event 92 - 25 Breaststroke**
- Jon Granberry..... First
- Event 93 - 25 Freestyle**
- Alaina Werner..... Fourth
- Aubri WingeEleventh
- Event 94 - 25 Freestyle**
- Elliott Gaede Ninth
- Wyatt Gaede No Place
- Assisted Swim
- Rowdy Winge No Place
- Assisted Swim
- Event 95 - 25 Freestyle**

- Evacy Chestnut Third
- Event 97 - 50 Freestyle**
- Bristol Brooks Fourteenth
- Lainee Granberry .. Fifteenth
- Event 98 - 50 Freestyle**
- Logan StevensonSixth
- Event 99 - 50 Freestyle**

- Callie StevensonSixth
- Event 100 - 50 Freestyle**
- Eli Zillinger..... Third
- Event 111 - 100 Individual Medley**
- Reagan Lawson.....Fifth
- Event 123 - 100 Free Relay,**

Second place. Swimmers were: Ely Aitken, Evacy Chestnut, Maya Peterson, Alaina Werner

Event 131 - 100 Free Relay, Second Place. Swimmers were: Bristol Brooks, Lainee Granberry, Laikyn Granberry,

and Aubri Winge

Event 132 - 100 Free Relay, First Place. Swimmers were: Elliott Gaede, Quaten McKenna, Logan Stevenson, and Luke Winge.



Norton Swim Team held their home meet at the Norton Aquatic Center on June 28. Pictured are, from left, front row: Coach Melissa Conn, Alaina Werner, Elliott Gaede, Aubri Winge, Rowdy Winge, Wyatt Gaede, Maya Peterson, Quaten McKenna, Ely Aitken, Evacy Chestnut; back row: Callie Stevenson, Weston Stevenson, Eli Zillinger, Logan Stevenson, Reagan Lawson, Bristol Brooks, Lainee Granberry, Laikyn Granberry, and Coach Luke Winge.

~ TELEGRAM PHOTO BY VICKI HENDERSON

It's Baseball Season Norton Legion blanks Elmwood-Murdock 9-0 behind Prewos' gem

By Derek White

The Norton American Legion baseball team opened their trip to McCook for a four-game tournament in dominant fashion on June 27, shutting out Elmwood-Murdock Legion team 9-0 behind a complete performance on the mound and at the plate.

Right-hander Ryan Prewo was nearly untouchable, scattering just three hits over six innings while striking out four and issuing no walks. Backed by a clean defensive effort - Norton committed no errors - Prewo kept the Elmwood-Murdock bats quiet all game long to earn the win.

Norton wasted no time putting runs on the board. In the top of the first, Tyler Stewart, Caden Seems, and Owen Hammond loaded the bases with patience at the plate. Hammond drew a bases-loaded walk to score Stewart, then Jack Carter

followed with a single to the left side that brought in Seems. Carter Kendall grounded out to second, but not before plating Hammond to give Norton an early 3-0 advantage.

The offense continued in the fourth, when Zane Shields and Colin Springer set the table with base hits. Prewo helped his own cause, lining a two-run single to right that scored both runners and extended the lead to 5-0.

Norton's bats came alive again in the sixth thanks to a combination of timely hitting and Elmwood-Murdock miscues. Zane Shields scored on a wild pitch, followed shortly after by Colin Springer crossing home on another errant delivery. With two outs, Stewart walked and Hammond smacked a line-drive single to center that allowed Stewart to score. Hammond's aggressive baserunning took him all the way to third on the play. Jack

Carter then capped the scoring with a sharp double to center, plating Hammond for the final 9-0 tally.

Carter and Prewo each finished 2-for-4 with two RBIs, while Hammond also drove in a pair. Shields chipped in two hits and scored twice. Stewart displayed strong plate discipline, drawing three walks and scoring twice. In total, Norton drew nine free passes on the day, displaying a disciplined approach at the plate.

Defensively, Carter led the team with six chances in the field, contributing to the error-free performance.

The win lifts Norton's confidence heading into the following rounds of the tournament, with a rematch against the Smith County Blue Raiders in the next round. Last match up they traded games in their double header on June 11.

Norton Legion falls to Smith County

By Derek White

In a rematch that harked back to their June 11 doubleheader split, the Norton American Legion squad found themselves on the wrong end of a hot inning once again, falling to the Smith County Blue Raiders 11-4 on June 28 in the second round of the McCook Baseball Tournament.

A six-run surge in the bottom of the third inning by Smith County proved too much for Norton to overcome, despite another multi-hit effort from Ryan Prewo, who accounted for three of the team's four runs batted in.

The Blue Raiders struck first in the opening frame, drawing a walk to score one and then

capitalizing on a Norton error to go up 2-0. Norton responded in the top of the third when Prewo delivered a two-run single to right field, scoring Traxton Ragland and Zeke Bloodsworth to knot the game at 2-2. But the tie was short-lived.

Smith County sent a wave of base runners across the plate in the bottom half of the third. A dropped third strike allowed the leadoff runner to reach, followed by an RBI single by Ean Doane and two more run-scoring hits by Isaac Stansbury and Peter Newman. By the end of the inning, the Raiders held an 8-2 lead.

Colin Springer took the loss for Norton, allowing eight runs-seven earned-over three innings.

He struck out four but was hurt by seven walks and a pair of fielding miscues behind him.

Prewo continued his strong tournament showing with a 2-for-3 day at the plate, driving in three runs. He doubled in the fifth to plate Springer, then scored himself when Owen Hammond followed with a deep triple to center, briefly trimming the deficit to 9-4.

Smith County would tack on two more in the fourth and fifth innings and one final insurance run in the sixth, aided by two hit batters and a passed ball.

After the loss, Norton was set to play the Buckley Bombers in the next round of the tournament.

Norton Volleyball gears up for fall with strong showing at CCC Jamboree

By Derek White
Free Press Contributor

Norton High School volleyball hit the hardwood over June 26-27 with intensity and purpose, participating in the annual High School Volleyball Jamboree hosted by Colby Community College. The event, which featured a full slate of exhibition matchups among regional teams, gave the Lady Jays a valuable opportunity to sharpen their skills, build chemistry, and get a preview of the competition before the fall season begins.

Designed as a summer scrimmage-style showcase, the jamboree brought together ten high schools forming 29 squads from Northwest Kansas and Eastern Colorado for a day of nonstop volleyball action. While no official scores were kept, the emphasis was on development, teamwork, and game experience-all of which Norton took full advantage of.

The Lady Jays faced off in five matches during the event, taking on teams from Hitchcock County, Oberlin (twice), Hays, and host team Colby.

Each matchup offered its own unique test. Against Hitchcock County, Norton faced a scrappy defensive team that challenged their offensive rhythm. The two matches against Oberlin allowed the Jays to make quick adjustments and build confidence, while the clash with Hays tested the team's resilience against a fast-paced attack. The day wrapped up with a competitive match against Colby, where Norton's front line and backcourt showed promising synergy.

The event drew a strong crowd of volleyball fans and family members, filling the stands at the Colby Event Center gymnasium. Supporters cheered on each team through

dives, blocks, and long rallies, creating an exciting atmosphere for both players and spectators.

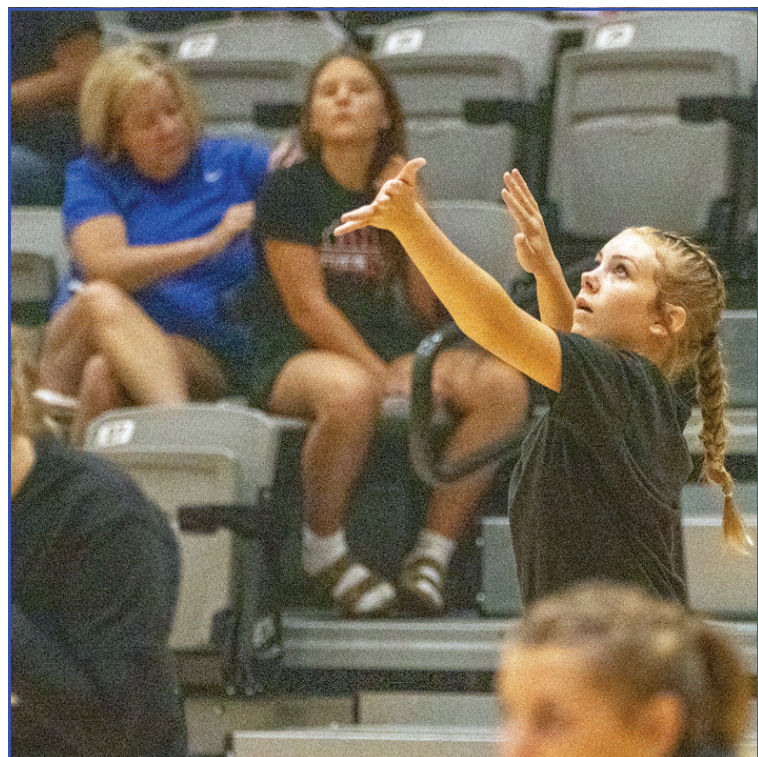
Beyond the competition, the jamboree also served as a fundraiser for the Colby Community College volleyball program. Proceeds from the event will support the Trojans in their upcoming season, helping cover costs such as travel, gear, and training equipment.

For Norton, the jamboree provided far more than just court time-it was a stepping stone toward a strong season

ahead.

The team saw a lot of good things from its players the community should be proud of their effort, and this gives them a great foundation to build on as they head into the rest of the summer and prepare for league play in the fall.

With the CCC Jamboree in the rearview mirror, Norton will continue its summer training and enter the fall with momentum and a clear sense of purpose-ready to compete, improve, and make noise in the 2025 volleyball season.



Kynleigh Poire is shown as she serves the ball.

~ PHOTO BY DEREK WHITE

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