



Norton's Whitney Newell and Amber Engelbert (No. 33) try to intercept a pass by a Stockton player during the Lady Jays' 36-28 league victory in Norton on Thursday. It was the last regular season game for Norton, who tied for second in the league and will open Sub-State play at 7 p.m. today in Beloit.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Girls overcome Stockton

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team struggled for most of their Mid-Continent League game with Stockton here on Thursday but hit the shots and free throws they needed to win 36-28.

The Lady Jays extended their record to 12-8 and their league record to 7-2 to tie for second with Trego. Smith Center was the undefeated league champion.

The Lady Jays scored just 4 points in the first quarter but Stockton rang up just 6. A 9-6 second quarter put Norton ahead 13-12 at intermission. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Tigers 7-6 in the third period to take a slim 20-18 advantage into the final stanza.

It was "Senior Night" for Norton and Anna Berry, 5'10" center, displayed her senior leadership in the fourth quarter. She started by scoring inside and was fouled in the process. She hit the free throw for a three-point play. Stockton did not give up, however, and the Lady Tigers answered with two baskets to make it a 23-22 game with 5:40 left.

Chelsea Cox, Norton's 6' center, took advantage of her height to score inside, then guard Whitney Newell swished two free throws to put Norton ahead 27-22 with 4:23 showing. Stockton scored at the four minute mark, but Berry produced another three-point play as she was fouled as she scored and the Lady Jays led 30-24 with 3:42 remaining. The Lady Tigers scored two more baskets to cut the

Norton lead to two with 2:39 left. It was Stockton's final points of the game, however, as forward Amber Engelbert, Cox and guard Karlie Jones each hit two free throws to extend the final margin of victory to eight points.

"It wasn't very pretty but we'll take it," said a relieved Coach Jilka. "I thought we might have a breakdown after playing so well in our loss to state ranked Colby on Tuesday and, we did, but we hung in there and found a way to win. When we needed them, we made key baskets and free throws down the stretch.

"It is nice to tie for second in the league. Our girls deserve it after last year's disappointing season."

Berry was the leading scorer for Norton with 14 points. She hit 6 of 9 shots from the field for 67 percent..

Cox added 9 on 3 of 6 from the field and 3 of 5 from the free throw line. Engelbert hit 7 on 2 of 4 from the field and 2 of 4 from the charity stripe .

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 11 of 27 two-point shots for 41 percent and 12 of 29 overall for 41 percent.

Norton hit 11 of 17 charities for 65 percent compared to Stockton's 2 of 7 for 29 percent.

Norton grabbed 4 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 20. Stockton pulled down 18.

Berry was leading rebounder with 6, followed by Cox, Engelbert, 4 each; Newell, 3; Amber Overlease, 1.

The Lady Jays had 11 assists. Jones and Cox led with 3 each, followed by Newell, 2; senior Nicole Wolf, Engelbert, Berry, 1 each.

Norton suffered 23 turnovers and Stockton lost the ball 15 times.

Junior varsity won

Norton junior varsity girls defeated Stockton 38-29.

Norton held quarter leads of 6-2, 14-4 and 26-19.

Leading scorer was Stacy Reeves with 12, followed by Amber Overlease, 10; Klaire Mann, 6; Jessi Duscher, 4; Chelle Donovan, Becca Ebert, Maggie Nielsen, 2 each.

"It is great to finish the season with a win," said Coach Rossi. "These girls were very hard workers. They really need to continue to work in the off season to become better players and move to the next level. All of these girls are good team players and I enjoyed working with them. They finished undefeated in the league and had an outstanding 13-3 record."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 36

Newell 0 0 2-2 2, Cox 3 0 3-5 9, Jones 1 0 2-2 4, Engelbert 1 1 2-4 7, Berry 6 0 2-4 14. Totals 11 1 11-17 36.

Stockton girls 28

Cikanek 1 0 2-2 4, Baughman 3 0 0-2 6, Rogers 1 0 0-1 2, Bennett 3 0 0-0 6, Lowry 1 0 0-1 2, Lingg 3 0 0-0 6. Totals 13 0 2-7 28.

Blue Jays defeat Stockton in double-overtime thriller

By DICK BOYD

It took awhile, but Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team persevered to defeat a visiting Stockton quintet 61-58 in double overtime on Thursday to win the undisputed championship of the Mid-Continent League.

Although the Blue Jays have won the past six MCL Tournaments, they have only been undisputed league champions one of those years.

Thursday's win was not an easy one for the favored Blue Jays; it was close the entire way. Junior center Ryan Maddy continued to play outstanding basketball as he put together a double-double with 23 points and 13 rebounds. The Blue Jays also received key points in the first three quarters from senior center Jered Sloan and had key baskets down the stretch from senior forward Dan Roeder, junior guard Aaron Overlease and sophomore center Heath Vincent. Norton trailed 10-7 after one quarter but a 12 point second quarter with Maddy and Sloan leading the way put Norton on top 19-14 at halftime. Stockton scored just 4 points on one basket and two free throws in the second quarter but, with 6'5" Ty Brown and 6'4" Blaise Kriley muscling inside, they scored 13 points in the third period compared to 8 by Norton on two baskets each by Maddy and Sloan to tie the score at 27-all.

Maddy gave Norton the early advantage in the fourth quarter with a rebound and basket but Kriley scored inside, was fouled and hit the free throw to put Stockton ahead 30-29. Two free throws by Maddy were matched by a basket by Kriley with 5:05 left to give the Tigers a 32-31 advantage. Roeder hit his first basket of the night from the wing and Norton led 33-32. The Tigers' Logan Bennett hit his first basket of the game with 4:10 left in regulation but Roeder brought the large, partisan Norton crowd to their feet by draining a shot from beyond the arc to put Norton back on top 36-34. Two free throws by junior point guard Kyle Kats gave Norton a four point lead but Brown scored on a fast break and Jordan Stithem hit his only basket of the game after stealing the ball and driving for a layup. He was fouled and hit the free throw for a three-point play and 39-38 lead for the Tigers.

Sloan hit a free throw and missed the second but Maddy rebounded and put the ball back up and in to make it 41-39. Brown hit a free throw, Vincent was fouled underneath and hit both charities but Brown scored with 49 seconds left. Vincent answered with a basket to put the Jays ahead 45-42

with 43 seconds left. Brown went to the free throw line with 25 seconds showing. He hit his first free throw, missed the second but got the rebound and scored to tie the game at 45-all and send it into the first overtime.

FIRST OVERTIME

Maddy and Kriley matched free throws early in the first overtime but Roeder buried another three-point shot with 2:44 left in the four-minute extra period to make it 50-47. David Earl had not scored in the game but he hit two free throws to cut the Norton lead to 50-49. Overlease had not scored for Norton but he got a rebound and put the ball back up and in for a 52-49 Norton lead. Neither team was able to score again until, as time ran out, Bennett threw up a long shot that hit nothing but net, tied the score at 52-all and sent the game into a second four-minute overtime.

SECOND OVERTIME

Vincent jumped center for Norton in the second overtime, got the tip and Overlease hit his second basket of the game. Two more free throws by Maddy made it 56-52. Earl went to the line and hit his final two free throws. Brian Luft hit a charity for the Jays but Joel Slate made a timely steal for the Tigers and drove down court for two points to cut Norton's lead to 57-56 with 51 seconds left.

Kats drained two free throws with 33 second remaining. Stockton missed a three-point attempt, Maddy grabbed the rebound and was fouled. He missed the first free throw and the second attempt also bounced off the rim but Roeder rebounded and scored to give Norton a 61-56 advantage with 11 seconds left. Slate scored at the buzzer to make the final 61-58.

"We were a little indecisive and not playing with confidence early in the game but we stepped up and hit some big shots when we needed them," said Coach Reusink. "We got some good help from our bench. Vincent did a nice job inside and Roeder and Overlease hit several big baskets. Our players did go to the glass pretty well.

"We haven't been in this situation but we handled it and that should help us down the road.

"I was happy for our players that they were able to win an undisputed league championship."

Maddy hit his only trey attempt, was 7 of 19 from two-point range for 37 percent and 8 of 20 overall for 40 percent accuracy. He also hit 6 of 10 free throws for 60 percent.

Sloan hit 11 points on 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and 1 of 3 from the line.

Roeder also scored 11 points on

2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent, 2 of 5 two-point attempts for 40 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent. He was 1 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Brown was the leading scorer for Stockton with 20 points while Kriley added 17.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 9 trey tries for 33 percent, 18 of 49 two-point attempts for 37 percent and 21 of 58 overall for 36 percent.

Stockton swished 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 19 of 45 two-point shots for 42 percent and 20 of 49 overall for 41 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 16 of 29 for 55 percent and Stockton swished 17 of 22 for 77 percent.

Norton dominated the backboards, pulling down 35 rebounds compared to 25 for Stockton. The Jays had 16 offensive and 19 defensive caroms compared to 4 offensive and 21 defensive boards for the Tigers.

In addition to Maddy's 13 rebounds, Sloan grabbed 9, followed by Overlease, 7, Jared Foley, 2; Kats, Roeder, Luft, Vincent, 1 each.

Norton was credited with 10 offensive assists. Kats and Overlease led with 3 each, followed by Sloan, 2; Roeder and Maddy, 1 each.

The Blue Jays also had 10 steals in the game. Overlease and Sloan had 3 thefts apiece, followed by Kats, 2; Charlie Foley, Vincent, 1 each.

Vincent had 3 blocks and Sloan had 2.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Stockton had 16.

Junior varsity won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Stockton 41-19 in a three-quarter game.

Norton held leads of 12-10 and 27-17.

Leading scorer for Norton was Justin Shirk with 13 points, followed by Vincent, 9; Greg Wilson, Nic Lewis, 5 each; Derek Volgamore, 3; Nick Evans, Josh Jackson and Jared Engelbert, 2 each.

Earl scored 4 points to lead Stockton.

The Norton junior varsity boys compiled a 7-9 record this season.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 61

Kats 0 0 5-8 5, Roeder 2 2 1-2 11, Overlease 2 0 0-2 4, Luft 0 0 1-2 1, Maddy 7 1 6-10 23, Sloan 5 0 1-3 11, Vincent 2 0 2-6. Totals 18 3 16-29 61.

Stockton boys 58

Kriley 6 0 5-5 17, Slate 3 0 1-2 7, Earl 0 0 4-4 4, Bennett 1 1 10-0 5, Stithem 1 0 3-3 5, Brown 8 0 4-8 20. Totals 19 1 17-22 58.

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Norton County Forecast for March 2 nd – 8 th						
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
43/28	45/29	42/27	40/25	46/28	55/35	45/25
Normal High		50		Sunrise 7:01 to 7:11am		
Normal Low		23		Sunset 6:33 to 6:40pm		

.50 to 1" of soaking rain fell across the County Sunday retuning hope that it still can rain in this part of the Country. Will it continue? There are two outside shots for rain or snow tomorrow and Friday, but the main energy associated with these systems will be over Southeastern KS, OK, and TX. So, if we get any rain or snow it would be light. The next storm system coming from the west will be Sunday night and Monday. However, with high pressure producing nice weather over the High Plains this weekend, good Gulf moisture will likely be cutoff from this storm as it passes through.

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