

Blue Jays beat Beloit boys

By DICK BOYD
Coach Doug Reusink's No. 3 state ranked and No. 2 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team opened Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament play on Monday with a 57-44 win over No. 7 seed Beloit in the Norton High gym.

In other first round games, No. 4 state ranked and No. 1 seed Minneapolis rolled over No. 8 seed Russell 82-51, No. 6 state ranked and No. 3 seed Thomas More-Prep Marian of Hays outscored No. 6 seed Belleville 51-46 and No. 4 seed Phillipsburg beat No. 5 seed Oakley 65-45.

With the win, Norton extended its record to 18-3 and Beloit's season ended with a 6-14 record.

The Blue Jays led 15-6 after the first quarter which saw senior forwards Dan Roeder and Jared Foley hit three-point shots, senior center Jared Sloan connect on two jumpers in the paint and junior center Ryan Maddy connect for two baskets and a free throw. Meanwhile, the Blue Jay defense limited the Trojans to just two field goals by sophomore Blaine Crawford, a free throw by Crawford and free throw by sophomore Matt Kelley.

The Blue Jays concentrated their offense on the inside in the second quarter when they outscored the Trojans 11-10 to take a 26-16 halftime advantage. Sloan hit three baskets and Heath Vincent, sophomore center, put in two baskets and a free throw.

Maddy and Roeder joined Sloan and Vincent in the scoring column in the third quarter when Norton lengthened its lead to 17 by outscoring the visitors 20-13 to make it 46-29. Maddy hit three two-pointers and buried a trey, Sloan hit three more baskets and a free throw and Roeder and Vincent each connected for a basket.

Six of Beloit's 10 second quarter points came from beyond the arc and the Trojans kept firing from long range in the third period when they hit 3 of 3 treys for all but four of their points.

The Trojans ended their season by scoring 15 points in the final stanza as Dane Kelley, 6' senior guard, drained his third three-pointer of the game along with a two-point basket and Crawford hit two more baskets and three free throws to finish with a game high 18 points.

Norton scored 11 points in the fourth period on two more baskets by Sloan and 3 of 4 charities and baskets by Maddy and junior forward Aaron Overlease.

The Trojan defense had no way to stop Sloan as the 6'4" senior jumping jack swished jump shots all night long and left the nets smoking with 83 percent accuracy! Sloan finished with a game-high 24 points as he missed just two shots from the field and two from the charity stripe. He was 10 of 12 from the field and 4 of 6 from the line for 67 percent.

Maddy scored 16 points on 1 of 1 from long range, 6 of 13 two-point shots for 46 percent and 7 of 14 overall for 50 percent.

Vincent had a perfect shooting night as he hit 3 of 3 field goal tries and 1 of 1 from the line for 7 points.

Roeder also shot well, although he took just four shots in the game. He hit 1 of 2 from both three-point and two-point range for 50 percent accuracy.

The Norton team averaged 51 percent shooting while the Blue Jays held Beloit to 33 percent.

Norton hit 3 of 8 shots from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 8 of 27 two-point shots for 30 percent and 14 of 43 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 6 of 10 for 60 percent while Beloit swished 10 of 13 for 77 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Trojans 26-21. Norton grabbed 10 offensive and 16 defensive caroms compared to 7 offensive and 14 defensive boards for the visitors.

Sloan led Norton in rebounding with 6, followed by Maddy, 5; Kyle Kats, 4; Overlease, Vincent, 3 each; Jared Foley, Roeder, 2 each; Brian Luft, 1.

In addition to going high for rebounds and to shoot over Beloit

Boys end basketball season

By DICK BOYD
The Norton Community High School boys basketball team suffered a season-ending 50-47 loss to No. 6 ranked Thomas More Prep of Hays in the semi-finals of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament last night in Beloit.

The score was tied 47-all with time running out in regulation when Scott Hoffman, a 6'2" senior guard, buried a three-point shot at the buzzer to give the Monarchs the win. Hoffman scored 26 points in the game, 21 of them coming in the second half.

The score was tied 8-all after one quarter and 19-all at halftime. Norton led 37-34 at the end of the third quarter.

Junior point guard Kyle Kats led Norton in scoring with 10 points. Junior center Ryan Maddy scored 9 points and senior forward Jared Foley scored 8 points.

The complete story of the game will be printed in Tuesday's *Norton Telegram*.

Norton compiled an 18-4 record this season.

defenders, Sloan used his quick reflexes to block five Trojan shots Vincent and Overlease also had 1 rejection apiece.

Norton recorded 11 offensive assists. Overlease led with 5, followed by Kats, 4; Roeder, Sloan, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 8 steals. Kats led with 3, followed by Sloan, Jared Foley, 2 each; Maddy, 1.

Norton turned the ball over just 6 times while causing Beloit to give up the ball 12 times.

"We played better tonight than in our double-overtime win over Stockton last Thursday," said Coach Reusink. "We shot the ball better and our defense played well. We need to be more aggressive on rebounds and we lost some intensity at times in the second half. We still make some silly mistakes in offensive execution that we shouldn't be making this late in the season but the name of the game at this stage is to survive."

Norton boys 57
J. Foley 0 1 0-0 3, Roeder 1 1 0-0 5, Overlease 1 0 0-0 2, Luft 0 0-1 0, Maddy 6 1 1-2 16, Sloan 10 0 4-6 24, Vincent 3 0 1-1 7. Totals 21 3 6-10 57.

Beloit boys 44
Fulhage 0 1 0-0 3, M. Kelley 0 0-2 4, Spangler 0 1 0-0 3, Crawford 6 0 6-7 18, Litton 0 0-2 2, Dronberger 1 0 0-0 2, D. Kelley 1 3 0-1 1, Simmons 0 1 0-0. Totals 8 6 10-13 44.



During Monday's Sub-State Basketball Tournament opener with Beloit, the Blue Jay defenders knocked the basketball loose and players from both sides went diving on the floor after the ball. Senior Jared Foley came up with it and drove down court. His play helped the Jays' win. Also in the scramble were. Aaron Overlease (on the floor) Kyle Kats (No. 11). — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton's senior Anna Berry scored in the paint during the Lady Jays' 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament

Girls fall to Beloit in overtime game

By DICK BOYD
The 2003-2004 season came to an end too soon for Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team on Tuesday evening when the No. 5 seed Lady Jays lost a 56-49 thriller to No. 4 seed Beloit in the Sub-State Basketball Tournament opener in the Beloit High School Gym.

Both teams played hard from the opening whistle and the final score was the largest lead of the game by either team. Norton led by six points late in the first quarter and Beloit led by five points early in the third quarter, otherwise the teams traded the lead with seldom more than three points separating them.

"Our girls played great, we just didn't get any breaks," said Coach Jilka. "I can't fault their effort. The difference in the game was that they made a couple more plays than we made. We played hard and deserved to win. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be tonight."

"Our girls came back from a disappointing season last year. A lot of them grew up and made themselves better players. If they work this summer and lift weights and stay in shape and not be satisfied, they'll be better next year."

"We'll miss our two graduating seniors Anna Berry and Nicole Wolf. They contributed a lot to our team."

Norton took a 13-7 lead in the first quarter on three baskets by Berry, a 5'10" center; two baskets and a free throw by Chelsea Cox, 6' sophomore center, and a basket by Whitney Newell, sophomore guard. The Lady Trojans responded, however, in the final 1:25 of the period as Amanda Krier, 5'11" sophomore center, hit

two free throws and Brandee Reames, 5'3" senior, buried a three-point shot to make it a 13-12 game.

The score was tied at 17-all with 4:07 left in the second quarter and 19-all with 3:00 left. Free throws by Cox and Newell accounted for Norton's final two points of the first half. Beloit scored four points on a free throw by junior Brittany Bean and a three-point basket by sophomore Kayla Kruse. It turned out to be Kruse's only basket of the game but it put Beloit ahead 23-21 at halftime. Cox and Berry hit Norton's only baskets in the second stanza and junior forward Amber Engelbert added two free throws.

Cox scored just 15 seconds into the second half to tie the score but Beloit tallied the next five points to take a 28-23 lead with 4:29 left in the third period. Engelbert hit a three-point shot with 3:40 left and Cox hit a free throw to make it a 28-27 game. The two teams traded baskets the rest of the third stanza, which ended tied at 35-all. Engelbert hit a three-point and two two-point baskets in the period, Cox hit two baskets and a charity and Berry hit two free throws.

The two teams continued to trade baskets in the fourth quarter which was tied at 37-all, 39-all, 41-all and 43-all. With 44 seconds left, Krier scored for Beloit to put the Lady Trojans ahead 45-43. Cox scored for Norton with 13 seconds left in regulation and it was 45-45. Beloit worked for a final shot but it bounced off the rim and the game went into overtime. Cox hit 6 of Norton's 10 points in the fourth quarter on three baskets. Sophomore guard Karlie Jones hit her only basket of the game and Berry added another basket to her

on Tuesday. Other Norton players are Whitney Newell and Chelsea Cox (No. 12).

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

total.

Newell hit her second basket of the game to start the extra period but junior Courtney Cox hit her third three-point shot of the game to put Beloit ahead 48-47. Krier scored and the Lady Trojans led 50-47 with 2:51 left in the four minute period. Neither team was able to score again until Reames was fouled and hit a free throw with 1:23 remaining to stretch the Beloit lead to 51-47. Engelbert hit nothing but net on a set shot from the wing with 1:02 remaining to cut the Trojan lead to 51-49. Courtney Cox was fouled with 28 seconds left. She hit the first free throw and missed the second but junior Ashley Abel rebounded and put the ball back up and in to give Beloit a 54-49 advantage. The Lady Jays were unable to answer with a basket and Krier added two more points to the Beloit total with a basket at the buzzer to make the final score 56-49.

Three Norton players scored in double figures in the game. Cox tallied 19 points on 8 of 16 from the field for 50 percent and 3 of 10 from the charity stripe for 30 percent.

Berry completed her prep basketball career with 12 points on 5 of 16 from the field for 31 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Engelbert finished with 11 points on 1 of 1 from beyond the arc, 3 of 5 from two-point range for 60 percent and 4 of 6 overall for a net smacking 67 percent.

Krier was leading scorer for Beloit with 16 points. Reames scored 12, Abel hit 11 and Cox added 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 4 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 19 of 44 two-point shots for 43 percent and 20 of 48 overall for 42 percent.

Beloit connected on 5 of 13 trey tries for 38 percent, 17 of 46 two-point shots for 37 percent and 22 of 59 overall for 37 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit a disappointing 8 of 18 for 44 percent compared to Beloit's 7 of 14 for just 50 percent.

Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds for 32

total. Beloit grabbed 15 offensive and 20 defensive caroms for 35 total.

Berry was the leading rebounder with 9, followed by Cox, Engelbert, 8 each; Newell, Jones, 3 each; Becca Ebert, 1.

Norton had 14 assists and Beloit had 13. Newell was the leader with 8, followed by Engelbert, 5; Berry, 1.

The Lady Jays stole the ball 8 times and the Lady Trojans had 12 thefts. Cox was the leader in steals with 3, followed by Newell, 2; Jones, Engelbert, Berry, 1 each.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Beloit lost the ball 14 times.

The Lady Jays' season record was 12-9.

In other games on Tuesday evening, No. 9 state ranked and No. 1 seed Oakley defeated No. 8 seed Russell 62-28, No. 2 seed Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays outscored No. 7 seed Minneapolis 34-25 and No. 3 seed Belleville beat No. 6 seed Phillipsburg 62-32.

Oakley will play Beloit and TMP will play Belleville in the semi-finals tonight in Beloit with the winners advancing to the championship game at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Beloit.

Norton girls 49

Newell 2 0 1-2 5, Cox 8 0 3-10 19, Jones 1 0 0-0 2, Engelbert 3 1 2-4 11, Berry 5 0 2-2 12. Totals 19 1 8-18 49.

Beloit girls 56

Reames 4 1 1-4 12, Cox 0 3 1-2 10, Bean 1 0 2-3 4, Abel 5 0 1-2 11, K. Kruse 0 1 0-1 3, Krier 7 0 2-2 16. Totals 17 5 7-14 56.

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