



Jared Sloan, Norton's senior center, was covered by Thomas More Prep players and looked for an open teammate during the Blue Jays' 50-47 substate tournament loss to the Monarchs last Thursday in Beloit. Sloan did not have his normal good shooting night but had four assists, three steals, three rebounds and two blocked shots in the game, which ended Norton's season at 18-4. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Blue Jay boys fall 50-47 to Thomas More Prep

By DICK BOYD

Another successful season for Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team came to a sudden end on Thursday with a three-point basket by Thomas More Prep senior guard Scott Hoffman at the buzzer to lift his Monarchs past the Blue Jays 50-47 in the semi-finals of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament in Beloit.

Norton was ranked No. 3 in the state in Class 3A and Thomas More was ranked No. 6. The Blue Jays compiled an 18-4 season which included their sixth straight Mid-Continent League Tournament championship and undisputed league championship.

In the other semi-finals game on Thursday, Minneapolis defeated Phillipsburg 73-61. Thomas More and Minneapolis played Saturday for the championship and Minneapolis won 86-64, qualifying the Lions for this week's Class 3A State Tournament in Hutchinson.

The Norton-Thomas More game was a close one throughout. The Blue Jays held several leads but Thomas More always caught up. The score was tied 8-all after the first quarter. Norton held a 15-10 advantage with 3:24 left in the half as senior Jared Sloan fed junior Aaron Overlease and senior Dan Roeder for baskets off the fast break, junior Ryan Maddy followed his missed shot for a basket and senior Jared Foley hit a free throw. The Monarchs went on a 9-0 run, however, which put them on top 19-15. Norton scored the final 4 of the half as Jared Foley swished two free throws and senior Brian Luft hit a basket to make it 19-all at intermission.

Norton outscored Thomas More 18-15 in the third quarter to take a 37-34 lead. Junior Kyle Kats came through big in the third quarter when he hit two three-pointers, a two-point basket and two free throws for 10. Sloan, also did not tally in the first half but added two baskets in the third period.

Norton's other points came on two free throws by sophomore Heath Vincent. Hoffman, Thomas More's lead-

ing scorer, was held to 5 in the first half but he carried the Monarchs in the second half. Hoffman hit three two-point baskets and a trey for nine points in the third period.

Hoffman got Thomas More's offense started in the fourth period with a basket at the 7:30 mark. Maddy hit just his second basket of the game with 6:50 left and Norton led 39-36. Hoffman drove inside and scored, was fouled and hit the free throw for a three-point play that tied the score at 39-all with 6:16 remaining.

The Blue Jays got a big offensive boost from Roeder and Jared Foley, who hit three-point baskets to put Norton ahead by six at 45-39 with 5:16 left but, these were the final two baskets for Norton.

Hoffman continued his assault on the basket with another two points and senior Tanner Lacy hit his only basket to cut Norton's lead to 45-43 with 4:34 left. Sloan was fouled in the act of shooting and hit one of two free throws but Hoffman responded with a jumper to make it 45-45 with 2:25 on the clock. Senior Curtis Leiker followed with his third basket of the game to put Thomas More ahead 47-46 with 2:25 remaining. Maddy was fouled while shooting and hit one of two charities to tie the score at 47-all with 1:58 left.

Both teams missed scoring chances until Thomas More called time out with 8.8 seconds remaining. Coach Joe Hertel set up a play and it worked to perfection. Three Thomas More players set a screen. Hoffman slipped in behind it and launched a shot from the wing with just over a second left. The ball hit to give Thomas More the victory.

"We had the lead and didn't take care of the ball," said a disappointed Coach Reusink. "Their players stepped up and made plays when they needed them.

"We didn't rebound or shoot very well.

"We had a good season and did lots of good things during the season."

Kats led Norton in scoring with the 10 points he hit in the third quarter. He swished 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 1 of 2

two-point attempts for 50 percent and 3 of 7 overall for 43 percent.

Maddy hit 9 points on 2 of 9 from two-point range for 22 percent. He missed his only trey try but hit 5 of 7 free throws for 71 percent.

Jared Foley scored 8 points on 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent and 5 of 6 charities for 83 percent accuracy.

As a team, Norton had one of their poorer shooting nights as the Blue Jays hit 4 of 12 from long range for 33 percent, just 10 of 32 two-point tries for 31 percent and 14 of 44 overall for 32 percent.

Thomas More hit 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent but hit 19 of 37 two-point tries for 51 percent and was 22 of 48 overall.

Norton nearly made up at the free throw line for the points they didn't score from the field. The Blue Jays hit 15 of 19 free throws for an excellent 79 percent accuracy compared to 3 of 7 by the Monarchs for 43 percent.

Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds for 29 total.

Thomas More pulled down 10 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 26 total.

Kats had a double-double in the game as he scored 10 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. He was followed by Maddy with 6 boards; Roeder, Overlease, Sloan, 3 each; Vincent, 2; Jared Foley, Luft, 1 each.

Norton had 9 steals. Sloan led with 3, followed by Kats, Roeder, 2 each; Overlease, Maddy, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 7 offensive assists. Sloan had 4 and Kats had 3. Sloan also blocked 2 shots.

Norton had 10 turnovers and Thomas More lost the ball 11 times.

### GAME STATISTICS

#### Norton boys 47

Kats 1 2-2 10, J. Foley 0 1 5-6 8, Roeder 1 1 0-0 5, Overlease 3 0 0-0 6, Luft 1 0 0-0 2, Maddy 2 0 5-7 9, Sloan 2 0 1-2 5, Vincent 0 0 2-2. Totals 10 4 15-19 47.

#### TMP boys 50

Hoffman 8 3 1-1 26, Lacy 1 0 2-2 4, Prediger 4 0 0-2 8, Leiker 3 0 0-0 6, Bieker 1 0 0-2 2, Thomas 2 0 0-0 4. Totals 19 3 3-7 50.

# Senior signs up with Emporia

By DICK BOYD

Norton Community High School senior Joel Griffiths has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Emporia State University.

Although Griffiths was listed this season as a 6'4", 253 pound offensive tackle and defensive end, Norton coach Bruce Graber said he is now weighing 270 pounds.

Griffiths saw limited action this season due to a hamstring injury but still recorded 30 tackles from his defensive end position where

he was selected to the second team by the Mid-Continent League coaches. He was also a second team offensive tackle selection this year by the MCL.

Griffiths was also named to the All-Area Second All-11 by the Salina Journal and named honorable mention in Class 3A in the Topeka Capital-Journal.

As a junior, Griffiths was chosen as a first team offensive tackle in the MCL.

"Everybody likes his size," said Coach Graber. "Missing the first

four games this season really hurt him as far as recruiting is concerned. A lot of coaches liked him a year ago but it took him awhile to get back to full speed this season.

"His final decision was between Washburn and Emporia State. Both schools did a good job of recruiting him. Coach Weimers has an outstanding Division II football program. They were in the playoffs last season."

Coach Graber said he expects Emporia State to play Griffiths on the defensive side of the ball.

Griffiths is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Griffiths, Norton.



Joel Griffiths

# Garden City snags Norton player

By DICK BOYD

Sean Lauer, a 6'1", 215 pound senior from Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Garden City Community College.

Lauer recorded 71 tackles this season from his defensive tackle position and was third leading tackler on the Norton team.

He was a first team selection at defensive tackle by Mid-Continent League coaches this year and received honorable mention as a junior. He received honorable

mention in Class 3A in the Wichita Eagle both his senior and junior years.

Lauer was voted "Most Valuable Defensive Line-man" by his teammates the past two years. He was also the recipient of the Gatorade "Defensive Player of the Year" Award his junior year.

"Coach Bob Larson at Garden City is as good as you'll find to play for," said Coach Bruce Graber. "He'll give Sean a chance to play.

"Sean will have to get bigger to play in the Jayhawk Conference

but he's gone against bigger people all his life and handles it well.

"Sean struggled with a knee injury this season but still played outstanding for us. Hopefully, he will be 100 percent this fall. No one will outwork Sean."

Lauer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lauer, Norton.



Sean Lauer

# BOWLING

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LADIES

Standings Feb. 18 — New Look Body Shop, 42-12; Pizza Hut, 38.5-15.5; Rural Telephone Service, 30-24; Nex-Tech, 27-27; Western Distributing, 26.5-27.5; Coffin Rock Ranch Bullers, 26-28; DSNWK, 25-29; Bye, 1-53; High Game: Hazel Peterson, 200; Laura Leidig, 183; Dana Knapp, 177; High Series: Cathy Kellerman, 502; Hazel Peterson, 480; Dana Knapp, 478; High Game Handicap: Hazel Peterson, 242; Peggy Ninemire, 230; Dana Knapp, 224; High Series Handicap: Dana Knapp, 619; Hazel Peterson, 606; Cathy Kellerman, 601.

### LADIES INTER-CITY

### Standings Feb. 23 — Superior

Livestock, 24-8; Jamboree, 19-13; Mortensens Computer, 19-13; Land Surveyors, 16-16; Nelson Bros., 10-22; High Game: Laura Leidig, 177, 166; Laura Gilhousen, 166; High Series: Laura Leidig, 476; Ramona McKinley, 453; Laura Gilhousen, 443; High Handicap: Laura Gilhousen, 214; Donna VanKooten, 214; Laura Leidig, 207; High Series Handicap: Laura Gilhousen, 587; Donna VanKooten, 565; Laura Leidig, 565

### TUESDAY HOUSEWIFE

Standings March 2 — Norton Cop, 24-11; D/M Service, 21.5-14.5; Irene's, 15-21; The 4 Dots, 10.5-25.5;

### High Game: S. Smith, 177; C. Gerlits,

176; B. Bruinekool, 165; High Game Handicap: C. Gerlits, 223; G. Persinger, 209; B. Bruinekool, 207; High Series: S. Smith, 509; C. Gerlits, 490; K. Berlier, 448; High Series Handicap: C. Gerlits, 631; S. Smith, 584; B. Bruinekool, 562.

Results February 24 — High Game: S. Smith 179; D. Keiswetter, 179; L. Leidig, 162; High Game Handicap: D. Keiswetter, 227; J. Wentz, 205; S. Smith, 204; High Series: S. Smith, 470; D. Keiswetter, 467; J. Wentz, 443; High Handicap: D. Keiswetter, 611; J. Wentz, 587; S. Smith, 545.

# Booster Club will meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school Cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson will update fans on the Blue Jays' Class 3-2-1A state championship.

Norton girls coach Kevin Jilka and boys coach Doug Reusink will report on the Blue Jays' play in the substate tournament.

Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton sports are invited.

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