

# Northern Valley boys get 62-51 win over Atwood

The Northern Valley boys basketball team opened its season with a win, defeating Atwood 62-51 Friday in Almena.

"After the events of the junior varsity game and the pressure they put on our kids, I told our varsity to be prepared to handle the pressure," said Coach Jason Dibble. "Our kids did just that by coming out and adjusting from our zone offense to executing our man offense all night.

"One of the things that was exciting was the fact we were able to fast break and aggressively looked to go to the basket. This has been one of our objectives was to push the ball under control. The only thing we did not do, at times, was finish the play with some missed layups and short shots, but I told them to keep pushing and the shots would start to fall.

"In the first half we had a few too many turnovers, but eventually settled down and took care of the ball better in the second half. We were able to distribute the ball all night and this resulted in having 4 players in double figures and our 5th starter not far behind. We did an excellent job from the free throw line hitting at an 80 percent rate.

"On defense we played man most of the night and slipped in some press and zone every once in a while. I felt very good about our man defense, mainly due to the fact that one of our concerns was

foul trouble, and we did a good job most of the night of not making silly fouls. We also did a good job of talking and helping on defense drawing a couple of charges.

"We need to make sure and be persistent with boxing out especially with our lack of size, but we did out rebound our opponent which is a plus due to our lack of size. This was a big win for us since it has been about five years since the Northern Valley boys have beaten Atwood and hopefully gives us a needed shot of confidence in the early going that will pay dividends for us later."

Jesse Hilburn and Henry Griffiths led scoring with 14 points apiece and were followed by Cole Kinderknecht, 13; Joey Copper, 12; Avery Thalheim, 7; and Andrew Sheley, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Copper for grabbing 18. Followed by Kinderknecht, eight; Griffiths, six; Hilburn and Sheley, three each; and Thalheim, two.

Steals were made by Copper, four; Hilburn, three; Kinderknecht and Thalheim, two apiece; and Griffiths, one. Hilburn and Griffiths led assists with three apiece, followed by Copper, two, and Thalheim, one.

The junior varsity was defeated 35-28.

"This year we have 17 boys on our squad and 12 of them that will play on junior varsity," said the coach. "With it being the first

game of the year and some of the players learning new plays, you just want them to feel like they can go out and play without having to think too much.

"To our kids' credit we had not spent a lot of time on man offense and pressure because traditionally Atwood has played a two-three half court zone. Andrew Sheley contributed nicely in his two quarters of play with 9 points, four rebounds and two blocks."

Sheley led scoring with 9 points, followed by David Harris, 5; Chase Miller and Cody Lowry, 4 apiece; Richie Kersch, Clarke Nelson, and Scott Shearer, 2 each.

Making rebounds were Sheley, 4; Shearer, 3; Miller, Anthony Simants, Harris, Nelson and Chad Husted, 2 apiece; and Blake Johnson, Lowry, Bryce Marble, and Kersch, 1 each.

**Northern Valley 62, Atwood 51**  
Score by quarters:

N. Valley 14 15 19 14 — 62  
Atwood 6 16 17 12 — 51

**Northern Valley (62)**  
Hilburn 3 0 9-8 14, Griffiths 3 2 2-2 14, Kinderknecht 2 0 10-9 13, Copper 5 0 6-2 12, Thalheim, 1 1 2-2 7, Sheley 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 15 3 29-23 62.

**Atwood (51)**  
Rippe 1 5 7-4 21, Riener 5 0 4-1 11, Finley 4 0 0-0 8, M. Brown 2 0 1-0 4, Green 2 0 2-0 4, Grafel 0 1 2-0 3. Totals 14 6 16-5 51.

# Northern Valley girls take opening loss from Atwood

The Northern Valley High School girls basketball team lost their season opening game to Atwood 69-34 Friday night in Almena.

The Lady Huskies fell behind in the first quarter, and then just couldn't catch up: 18-9, 30-18, 52-28, and 69-34.

Kelli Cole led scoring for Northern Valley with 9 points, followed by Jayme Horacek, 8; Lindsey Graham, 6; Serena Woodside, 5;

and Lindsey Jessup and Jena Jessup, 3 apiece.

The Lady Huskies will face Hill City this Friday on the Ringnecks home turf. The game is set to begin at 5 p.m.

The junior varsity lost 27-15.

**Atwood 69, Northern Valley 34**

Score by quarters:  
Atwood 18 12 22 17 — 69  
N. Valley 9 9 10 6 — 34  
**Northern Valley (34)**  
Cole 1 2 2-1 9, Horacek 3 0 5-2

8, Graham 3 0 0-0 6, Woodside 0 0 8-5 5, L. Jessup 1 0 2-1 3, J. Jessup 0 0 4-3 3. Totals 8 2 21-12 34.

**Atwood (69)**  
Chelsie Kramer 7 0 7-5 19, Bethany Holste 5 0 5-3 13, Emily Timm 2 1 7-1 9, Simone Cahoj 1 0 8-4 6, Megan Cohoj 3 0 2-0 6, Ariel Dunker 1 0 2-2 5, Emily Walters 1 0 2-1 3, Emily Wahrman 1 0 6-0 2, Katelyn Clark 0 0 2-2 2, Miller 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 23 1 41-18 69.



Northern Valley sophomore Kelli Cole attempts to tap the rebound away from an Atwood player in the Huskies' opening game Friday at Almena. Looking on for the Huskies is No. 33 Serena Woodside.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble



The Huskies' Cole Kinderknecht and Henry Griffiths, No. 31, put the rebound up for two points in the game against Atwood on Friday.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble

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