

Norton boys win first game of the season

By DICK BOYD
Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team defeated Holyoke, Colo. 48-28 in their 2004-'05 season opener on Thursday evening in the first round of the 16th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The Blue Jays got off to a slow start in the first quarter when they hit just two field goals and were outscored 10-9 but the first period turned out to be the highest scoring for the Dragons. Norton outpointed them 15-5 in the second quarter to take a 24-15 half-time advantage and 15-9 in the third period to extend their lead to 39-24. A 9-4 fourth quarter in Norton's favor extended the final margin of victory to 20 points.

Ryan Maddy, 6-foot-2 inch senior forward, was leading scorer for Norton. He hit 2 of 5 shots from three-point range for 40 percent, 3 of 9 two-point attempts for 33 percent and 5 of 14 overall for 36 percent and was 4 of 5 from the free throw line for 80 percent and 16 points.

Maddy's points were spread throughout the game. He hit one of Norton's two field goals in the first quarter along with two free throws, added two field goals and two charities in the second period and hit a trey in each of the final two quarters.

Kyle Kats, 5-foot-10 inch senior guard, and Heath Vincent, 6-foot-5 inch junior center, each added 11 points. Kats hit just four free throws in the first half but added a trey and two two-point baskets in the third quarter. He was 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 2 of 3 from two-point land for 67 percent and 3 of 8 overall for 38 percent. He hit 4 of 5 charities for 80 percent accuracy at the line.

Vincent spread his points out. He hit the other Norton field goal in the first quarter along with a free throw, added a basket in the second and third quarters and scored on two baskets in the final stanza. He hit 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent accuracy and 1 of 2 charities for 50 percent.

Evan Murray was leading scorer for Holyoke with 14 points.

"We had a great defensive effort tonight but we could still play with

a lot more energy," said Coach Reusink.

"We played disciplined all night. Offensively, we need to shoot better. We got the ball into the post when he was open. We were a little tentative offensively at times but the right guys were taking the shots at the right time.

"Defensively, we did a good job on their senior post player 6-foot-3 inch Renier Murray. He's a good player and only scored two points.

"I was also happy with the play of our players off the bench."

From the field, Norton hit 4 of 16 trey tries for 25 percent, 13 of 25 two-point attempts for 52 percent and 17 of 41 overall for 41 percent. Holyoke connected on 5 of 10 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 5 of 25 two-pointers for 20 percent and 10 of 35 overall for 29 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 10 of 16 for 63 percent compared to 3 of 8 for 38 percent by the Dragons.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Dragons 26-22. Norton pulled down 20 defensive and 6 offensive caroms while Holyoke grabbed 17 defensive and 5 offensive boards.

Vincent was leading rebounder with 8, followed by Overlease, 5; Maddy, Justin Shirk and Nathan Morse, 3 each; Kats and Jason Green, 2 each.

Vincent blocked two shots and Overlease rejected one.

Norton had 13 steals in the contest. Kats was the leader with 6, followed by Morse, Overlease, 2 each; Green, Maddy, Nic Lewis, 1 each.

The Blue Jays also had 12 assists. Kats led with 6, followed by Morse, Overlease, 3 each; Green, Maddy, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Holyoke had 20.

In the other top bracket contest on Thursday, Ottawa outscored Burlington, Colo. 108-98 to break the tournament record for most points scored.

Norton will play Ottawa at 5 p.m. today in the championship semi-finals.

In the bottom bracket on Thursday, McCook, Neb. defeated Wray, Colo. 70-53 and Goodland outscored Weskan 52-48. McCook and Goodland will play at 9 p.m. tonight in the championship semi-finals.

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team opened the 2004-'05 season on Thursday afternoon with a 44-32 win over Holyoke, Colo. in the first round of the 16th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The Lady Jays trailed 12-8 after one quarter but outscored the Lady Dragons 12-4 in the second quarter to take a 20-16 advantage at intermission. Holyoke came back in the third period to outscore Norton 12-6 and take a narrow 28-26 lead into the final quarter.

Just over two minutes into the fourth period, however, the outcome of the game was no longer in doubt. The Lady Jays hit four three-point baskets to start the period and, with 5:50 still to play, they had outscored the Lady Dragons 12-2 to take a 38-30 advantage.

Karlie Jones, 5-foot-5 inch junior guard, started the fireworks when she swished a three-pointer 15 seconds into the quarter. Kia Kassman, 5-foot-11 inch junior, answered for Holyoke with a two-point basket but the Lady Dragons did not score again until Kassman tallied with 50 seconds left when Norton already had a 44-30 lead.

Amber Engelbert, 5-foot-8 inch senior forward, followed Jones with a basket from beyond the arc at the 7:00 mark, then tallied again from long range with 6:13 remaining in the game. Jones buried another trey with 5:50 left to extend the Lady Jay lead to 38-30. Whitney Newell, 5-foot-6 inch junior guard, stole the ball and drove the length of the court to score with 2:45 left. Holyoke traveled against the Norton pressing defense and Jones scored in the lane with 1:55 showing on the scoreboard clock. Chelsea Cox, 6-foot junior center, hit a jumper in the circle at the 1:25 mark and Norton led 44-30.

"We were a little ragged at times but got better as the game went on," said Coach Jilka. "We made some silly fouls in the first half but played a lot smarter in the second half. Our offense was better at times in the second half.

"I knew we would make some mistakes our first game.

"Switching to a full court man-to-man defense and hitting our three-point shots helped.

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ship semi-finals.

The winner of the McCook-Goodland game and winner of the Norton-Ottawa contest will play at 8 p.m. on Saturday for the championship. The losers will play at 4 p.m. on Saturday for third.

The consolation semi-final game between Holyoke and Burlington will be at 5 p.m. today and the consolation semi-final game between Wray and Weskan will be at 9 p.m. The winners will play at 4 p.m. on Saturday for the consolation championship and the losers will play at 2 p.m. for seventh.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 48

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	MA
Nathan Morse	2	0	0-0
Kyle Kats	2	1	4-5
Seth Mills	0	1	0-0
Ryan Maddy	3	2	4-5
Justin Shirk	1	0	1-4
Heath Vincent	5	0	1-2
TOTALS	13	4	10-16

Holyoke boys 28

Evan Murray	0	4	2-2
Kurt Rumold	2	0	0-0
Preston Bornhoft	2	0	0-4
Zach Kreuger	0	1	0-0
Landon Smith	0	0	1-2
Regan Murray	1	0	0-0
TOTALS	5	5	3-8

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Norton senior guard Kyle Kats brings the ball down court during the Blue Jays' 48-28 win over Holyoke, Colo. in the first round of the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Kats had a good game as he scored 11 points, dished out 6 assists and had 6 steals.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Pittsburg will play in championship

By DICK BOYD

Pittsburg State University, the No. 1 nationally ranked football team in NCAA Division II, will play No. 3 ranked Valdosta State University for the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship on Saturday in Florence, Alabama.

The game will be televised live on ESPN. Kickoff is set for 3:06 p.m. at Braly Municipal Stadium on the campus of the University of North Alabama.

The 14-0 Gorillas are champions of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. They are led by 6'4", 254 pound Neal Philpot, senior quarterback from Norton. Philpot passed for three touchdowns last Saturday when Pittsburg State defeated No. 14 North Dakota 31-19 in the Division II semi-finals in Pittsburg. Entering the game, North Dakota's defense was giving up an average of only 10.8 points per game and 256 yards of offense. The Gorillas rushed for 304 yards and passed for 118 yards for 422 yards of total offense.

North Dakota took an early 7-0 lead but Philpot connected with wide receiver Jermaine Carpenter on an 8-yard pass to tie the score. On their opening drive of the second half, North Dakota settled for a field goal that made the score 14-13. The Gorilla offense then took over, controlling the line of scrimmage and moving 80 yards in nine plays. Philpot hit Carpenter for a 19-yard touchdown pass

and a 21-13 lead and Pittsburg State had the winning momentum.

Philpot passed for 99 yards and rushed for 122 yards in the game and picked up several key first downs on third-down plays to keep drives alive.

Valdosta State (12-1), champions of the Gulf South Conference, posted a 45-21 victory over No. 23 West Chester University in the semi-finals last Saturday in Valdosta, Georgia.

Pittsburg State sports the most prolific offense in the history of NCAA football. The Gorillas have scored 806 points (57.6 per game) and compiled 8,605 yards of total offense (614.6 yards per game). Pittsburg State bested the old scoring mark of 765 points set in 1886 by Harvard University and also surpassed the year-old total offense mark of 7,576 yards set by Texas Tech University in 2003.

While Philpot's bid for the 2004 Harlon Hill Trophy, the equivalent of the Heisman in Division I, was surprisingly derailed by Southwest Region voters three weeks ago, the two-time defending Offensive Most Valuable Player of the MIAA continues to enjoy one of the top individual seasons.

Philpot is averaging 253.8 yards of total offense (106.8 ypg rushing, 147.1 ypg passing). He has rushed the ball 176 times for 1,281 yards (7.3 ypc) and 15 touchdowns and completed 91 of 159 passes (.572) for 1,765 yards and 24 touchdowns.



Norton Lady Jay juniors Chelle Donovan, No. 21, and Rebecca Ebert, No. 22, battle a Holyoke player for a rebound during yesterday's 44-32 Norton victory in the opening round of the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

was nice to win and get to the championship semi-finals."

Norton hit 5 of 13 shots from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 13 of 30 two-point shots for 43 percent and 18 of 43 overall for 42 percent. Holyoke swished 0 of 4 three pointers, 13 of 40 two-pointers for 33 percent and 13 of 44 for 30 percent overall.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 3 of 10 for 30 percent and the Lady Dragons hit 6 of 16 for 38 percent.

Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points on 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and 1 of 3 free throws. Jones added 10 points on 2 of 4 from beyond the arc and 2 of 4 from two-point range

for 4 of 8 overall and 50 percent accuracy. Newell hit 2 of 3 two-point shots for 67 percent, 1 of 3 three pointers for 33 percent and 3 of 6 overall for 50 percent and 7 points. Engelbert also scored 7 points on 2 of 3 treys for 67 percent, 0 for 2 two-pointers and 2 of 5 overall for 40 percent.

Kerrie Schafer was leading scorer for Holyoke with 11 points. Kassman added 9.

Norton was outrebounded 31-28. Cox was the Lady Jays' leading rebounder with 11 caroms, followed by Engelbert, 5; Rebecca Ebert, 4; Jones, 3; Klaire Mann, 2; Newell, Chelle Donovan, Jessi Duscher, 1 each.

The Lady Jays' defense was very aggressive. Norton had 11 steals compared to 6 for Holyoke. Engelbert led with 3 thefts, followed by Cox, Newell, 2 each; Amber Overlease, Donovan, Ebert, Jones, 1 each.

In the other game in the top part of the bracket on Thursday, Ottawa defeated Burlington, Colo. 83-51. Norton and Ottawa will play in the semi-finals at 3 p.m. Central time today and Burlington and Holyoke will play at the same time in the consolation semi-finals.

In the bottom bracket, Goodland defeated Weskan 75-17 and McCook outpointed Wray, Colo. 55-31. Goodland and McCook will play in the championship semi-finals at 7 p.m. and Weskan and Wray will also play at 7 p.m. in the consolation semi-finals.

Winners of the Norton-Ottawa and Goodland-McCook games will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday for the tournament championship. Losers will play for third place at 2 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 44

	FGs	FTs	TP
	3s	2s	MA
Whitney Newell	1-3	2-3	0-2
Chelsea Cox	0-0	5-10	1-3
Klaire Mann	0-1	2-3	0-0
Amber Overlease	0-1	1-3	0-0
Chelle Donovan	0-1	0-1	1-2
Rebecca Ebert	0-0	1-4	0-0
Karlie Jones	2-4	2-4	0-1
Amber Engelbert	2-3	0-2	1-2
TOTALS	5-13	13-30	3-10

Holyoke girls 32

Kendra Knight	0-1	1-5	3-6
Brianne Sprague	0-0	1-8	1-2
Victoria Timm	0-1	1-3	0-0
Amanda Bennett	0-1	1-4	0-1
Kerrie Schafer	0-0	5-8	1-3
Kia Kassman	0-0	4-10	1-1
Kristin Williamson	0-0	0-1	0-2
Kaylie Gomez	0-1	0-0	0-0
Danielle Olofson	0-0	0-1	0-0
Ashley Stroth	0-0	0-0	0-1
TOTALS	0-4	13-40	6-16